

Greetings Sunset Hills Elementary (SHE) families. I am looking forward to seeing all of you again and getting to know our new families. If you have not heard, because of your support and our dedicated staff our school earned an "A" for the second year in a row. However, we are not resting on our laurels; we are looking for a "three-peat". We have been preparing for the challenges that come with each new year.

When it comes to school safety, significant changes have been made at the state, county and school level. As a result of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act the following safety measures have been put into place in all Pinellas County Schools:

- All staff must participate in safety training.
- A full-time School Security Officer (SSO) will be placed on each campus.
- All exterior school doors must always remain locked.
- All visitors must have a valid ID and be cleared to enter the secure area of the school through Badge Pass.
- Visitors who do not have a JLA (Jessica Lunsford Act) Level 2 clearance must be escorted by school personnel
- Parents are not permitted to walk students to class except for the first three days of school

Due to the aforementioned mandates, Sunset Hills has implemented the following changes to our volunteer and visitor process:

- Officer Billy Volker, of the Tarpon Springs Police, will serve as our full-time SSO.
- Volunteers with JLA Level 2 clearance will be granted access to campus only on school scheduled volunteer opportunities.
- As we do not have supplemental staff to act as escorts, parents who wish to have lunch with their child may sign them out and eat with them in a designated area outside of the school gates. (Please note parents are only permitted to eat lunch with their child)
- Parents will no longer be able to join their students for breakfast or wait with them inside of the school campus
- When you have a scheduled parent conference, the teacher will meet you in the office and escort you to the classroom or to a school conference room.

Sunset Hills is a community school and considering the necessary changes to our school environment, I look forward to working with our School Advisory Council, PTA and School Safety Team to find ways to keep parents engaged while providing a safe learning environment.

Visit <http://pcsb.org/safety> for the latest district safety updates.

**Mark your Calendar!**

**Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup>:** Teacher assignments will be available through the Parent Portal. You can register for Parent Portal access at any Pinellas County School with your photo ID. Assignments are subject to change.

**Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup>:** ***Meet the Teacher:*** Stop in to meet your child's teacher from 1:30-3:00 pm, this is a great time to drop off school supplies, check out volunteer opportunities, and meet other parents!

**Monday, August 13<sup>th</sup>:** Note new school hours are 8:45 am until 2:45 pm

**Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>:** Open House

We will have two duplicate sessions for Open House to allow families the opportunity to meet with teachers when you have more than one child attending SHE. The first session is from 5:30 until 6:15pm and the second session will be from 6:15 until 7:00pm.

### **Arrival, Dismissal and Parking**

Students may enter the campus at 8:15 am through the doors at the front of the school, bus circle and car circle. All visitors must have a valid I.D. and enter through the front office. The car circle, located behind the school, is the safest place to drop off your child. If you choose to walk your student to and from the front gate, you must stay in the car line and park in the main parking lot.

#### **Parking**

1. Parking spaces located in the bus circle and carline pick up/drop area are for staff only.
2. Parking spaces located at the front of the school or the main parking lot are for parents and guest only.

#### **Student Arrival**

1. Students will report to the cafeteria for breakfast at 8:10 and will be dismissed to class at 8:30
2. Announcements will begin at 8:35 and the instructional day will commence at 8:45

#### **Student Dismissal**

1. Staggered release:
  - a. The first dismissal includes car riders, gate pickup and YMCA students at 2:45pm.
  - b. The second release includes bus, walkers, bikers, and vans at 2:50pm.
2. To provide optimal efficiency and safety for all stingrays:
  - a. Students will be released from their classrooms via teacher-guided dismissal directly to their dismissal area

- i. car circle for car riders
- ii. the multipurpose room for YMCA
- iii. the front gate for gate pickup
- iv. Bus circle for all walkers, bus riders, bike riders and van riders.

### **Birthday Celebrations**

Items brought in for birthday celebrations will be shared during recess and remain in the front office until then.