

# Starkey Elementary School

*An Award Winning School*

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Audrey Chaffin, Principal

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## WELCOME TO STARKEY!

We are excited you will be joining us! Here is some quick information for you, as you prepare for the new school year.

Starkey's school hours are **8:45 AM – 2:55 PM.**

**COVID-19:** We continue to prioritize the safety and health of our students and staff. We will follow CDC guidelines of wearing masks and social distancing by all to the best extent possible. We are limiting access of others on campus to minimize exposure, handwashing and sanitizing will be done frequently, and lessons will be conducted to help students understand the reasons and importance of these practices.

**Communication:** We will keep you informed with robo calls, posted messages on the marquee, school website, social media (Twitter, Facebook), flyers, agenda planners and phone calls. It is critical your child's information is updated on the parent portal in Focus. Please call the office if you need help accessing it for changes. It is especially important to do so during this pandemic in case immediate information needs to be shared with you.

**Arrival:** Gates open at 8:15 am. Please do not drop your students off before 8:15 am as there is no adult supervision before this time and we must avoid gathering of groups for social distancing. Students can enter the classroom immediately upon arrival. Students need to be seated in their classroom ready to begin the day by 8:45 am. Classes begin promptly at 8:45 am with morning announcements.

**Bus Transportation:** A postcard will be mailed to your home address with bus stop information on it a few weeks before school starts. Students who ride the bus will come home with a wrist band on their backpacks. This helps us to identify which bus they ride to and from school. Please keep the wrist band on the backpack for the first week. Please help your child learn which bus is his/hers, to social distance at the bus stop and to line up by their assigned seat (which will be loading back to front and unloading front to back to avoid even more exposure to others). Please follow the bus driver and bus assistant's directions to help keep everyone safe. Masks must be worn on the bus.

**Absences:** Pinellas County Schools uses the School Messenger system to notify parents when an absence is recorded by the school. Please report your student's absence by 9:15 am at [StarkeyES.Absence@pcsb.org](mailto:StarkeyES.Absence@pcsb.org) or by calling the office. The Student Code of Conduct has other important information regarding absences. You will receive a copy of this the first day of school.

**Dismissal Time:** Dismissal can be very hectic. Please make sure your child knows how he/she is getting home every day before coming to school. Have a plan ahead of time including rainy days. Any changes to a student's way home needs to be written in the child's agenda notifying the teacher of the change. For the safety of your child, please avoid last minute changes to their routine. Early Dismissal should be avoided. We ask that parents make doctor/dentist appointments

after school whenever possible. Due to the congestion in the office and parking lot, early dismissals are discouraged.

**Breakfast and Lunch:** Meals are provided at no charge for all students thanks to federal funding through the community eligibility option. Bagged breakfasts will be available to your student near the car circle and the bus circle. Students will eat in the classrooms upon arrival. Students are still welcome to bring a packed lunch from home.

**Visitors/Volunteers/Mentors:** All visitors have been suspended from being on campus due to COVID-19 until further notice.

**Car Rider Pick Up and Drop Off:** Many of our students are car riders. If you are heading west on 86th Avenue toward Starkey Elementary **you will not** be able to make a left hand turn into the parking lot. Please go beyond the school and turn around in one of the neighborhood streets to approach the school coming from the west. You may also make a right hand turn onto 92<sup>nd</sup> Street then make an immediate left onto 87th Avenue, turn left onto 94<sup>th</sup> Street. This will bring you back to 86<sup>th</sup> Avenue west of our school. Turn left on 86<sup>th</sup> Avenue and you will be set to make a right hand turn into the parking lot. A name card will be given to you at the car circle to display your child's first and last name in your left windshield to help us identify your car.

Due to changing of practices during COVID-19, we are only doing curbside drop off/pick up for all students. At dismissal, all cars except PreK will be held back by the cafeteria to allow only PreK to load, then Kindergarten, then grades 1-5. Students will be dismissed from classrooms in that order as well. We ask that you load as quickly as possible to avoid a back up and longer wait time for others. Thank you in advance for your patience.

**Personal Items:** Please make sure you have your child's name on personal items, such as lunch boxes, backpacks, jackets, sweatshirts, water bottles, etc. When items get left behind, we can return them when they have a first and last name on them. Unclaimed items are sent to charity organizations.

**Dress Code Policy:** Uniforms may be purchased during the summer time at local stores such as Wal-Mart, Target, Beall's, Old Navy, JC Penney, and Burlington Coat Factory, just to name a few. There are also websites on-line to order uniforms. French Toast is a brand name of uniforms and you may order on line at [frenchtoast.com](http://frenchtoast.com). Please make sure to buy long pants before school starts. It can be difficult to find long pants when you need them. *Not all supplies in a store's uniform department are appropriate for our school. Please take the uniform letter with you as a reference.* Online learners are also expected to wear a uniform when seen by others online.

**YMCA:** We offer before and after school care at our school through the YMCA. Applications must be completed online at [suncoastymca.org](http://suncoastymca.org). Their main office number is (727) 467-9622. Our YMCA is located in the school cafeteria before and after school. Students can be dropped off as early as 6:30 am and picked up at late as 6:00 pm if they are participating in the YMCA Program. Curbside drop off/pick up is required with a YMCA staff member meeting your child at the car outside the cafeteria. They will electronically sign your child in for you at that point.

\*Please be advised that some items listed above may change due to any updates from Pinellas County School Board.