

August 4, 2023

Dear River Oaks Families,

On behalf of the staff at River Oaks Elementary School, we are happy to welcome you to the 2023-2024 school year! We hope that you enjoyed the summer break and had the opportunity to recharge for the upcoming school year. We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility of our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she:

1. Attend school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience.
2. Completes all homework assignments given by teachers.
3. Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills.
4. Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life.

Everyone here at River Oaks Elementary looks forward to working with you and your children to make this a wonderful learning experience for your child. Please reach out to the staff at River Oaks should you need support for your child.

This year we are excited to announce that we have a new assistant principal, Christina Herrera, and administrative intern, Kristin Burton. Mrs. Herrera is joining us as an experienced assistant principal from the county and can't wait to meet the amazing River Oaks students and their families. Ms. Burton is beginning her administrative journey at River Oaks.

Additionally, we have many new staff members joining us at River Oaks. These teachers are coming from all over the world and have varying years of experience.

Kindergarten Screening:

Kindergarten screening will take place on Wednesday, August 9, 2023. Students with a last name beginning with A – M will be screened from 9 – 11am and students with a last name beginning with N – Z will be from 11am – 1pm.

Kindergarten Orientation:

We are excited to welcome our newest dolphins and their families into the building to meet their teachers and learn about River Oaks at our **Kindergarten Orientation on Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 2pm.**

Open House Information:

Open House is scheduled for Friday, August 18, 2023 for our students in Pre-K and grades 1st through 5th grade. Please see the schedule for Open House below.

- Last Names A- I will be 12-12:45pm
- Last Names J – P will be 1 – 1:45pm
- Last Names Q – Z will be 2 – 2:45pm
- Pre-Kindergarten PM students will be 1 – 1:45pm
- Pre-Kindergarten AM students will be 2 – 2:45pm

PWCS Back to School Packet Information

Having up-to-date emergency contact information for our families is vital. We need all families to complete the annual Back to School Packet. **The Back to School Packet is available on August 8, 2023.** Until this packet is complete, parents/guardians will be unable to access important information in ParentVUE to start the new year (including student schedules and bus information). If you do not have an active ParentVUE account, please call our office at 703-441-0050.

First Day of School Information:

The first day of school for students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade is Monday, August 22, 2023. Doors open at 8:30 am and class begins at 8:45am.

Informational Items:

- * School Hours – 8:45am-3:25pm. Tardy Bell rings at 8:45am.
- *Office Hours- 8:00am- 4:00pm
- *Children may not be dropped off before 8:30am.
- *A parent or guardian must accompany and sign in children arriving at school after 8:45am.
- *If you need to pick up your children during school hours, you must present a Government Issued Identification Card and sign them out from the office. The office staff will call for the children to meet you in the office after your arrival and check out. The purpose of this procedure is to reduce disruptions to classroom instruction, as well as for safety reasons. All dismissal changes must be made in writing before 2:30pm. If you are picking up students for early dismissal, you must pick them up by 2:45pm.
- *River Oaks is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the National School Lunch Program for School Year 23-24. Breakfast and Lunch will remain free for ALL scholars regardless of household income.

Arrival/Dismissal



We want to thank you in advance for your cooperation with dropping off and picking up your children safely. The easiest way to eliminate traffic concerns is to have your child walk or ride the bus to school. If you must drive your child, we ask that you follow the procedures outlined below:

Arrival

- **Cars are NOT permitted to enter the bus circle between** 8:00am- 9:15am and 2:30–4:00pm. daily.
- Students arriving by car will be dropped off in the mornings, on the sidewalk, next to Door 9. Students will enter the school through Door 9, into the cafeteria.
- In order to speed up the disembarkation process, please follow the designated traffic pattern marked by cones and use the lower parking lot for turning around. In order to further help the flow of traffic, make sure your children have everything ready, (backpack, lunch money, homework) so all they need to do is give you a goodbye wave.
- Please do not wait for your child to walk all the way up the stairs (and enter the building) before you pull off. This causes a backup in the drop-off line. Staff members will be on duty to supervise the student's entry into the building.
- ***DO NOT DRIVE AROUND OTHER CARS DROPPING OFF STUDENTS.***
- It is extremely dangerous to have students exit from the driver's side of the car.
- Please **DO NOT** drop-off students near the crosswalk at the end of McGuffeys Trail circle and make a U-Turn in the area where buses and cars are coming onto the school grounds. This causes a very dangerous situation, and the safety of our children is very important.

If you wish to walk your child into the building, please park in the visitor spots or the parking lot. Parents must enter through the school office with a Government Issued Identification.

Dismissal

Walkers

Walkers in grades 1-5 will be dismissed from Door 3 at 3:30pm. Kindergarten walkers will be dismissed from Door 9 with a sibling or adult with a Government Issued Photo ID who is listed on the kindergarten transportation authorization form.

Car Riders

All car riders (grades K-5) will be dismissed from Door 10. Cars need to have the tag displayed on the dashboard.

****Parents are asked to respect the Faculty and Staff who are supervising the Morning Drop off and Afternoon Pick Up, by driving slowly and respectfully. ****

Back to School Night

Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 5:30pm. River Oaks will host our annual Back-To-School Night for parents to learn more about their children's educational program this year. Hope to see you! Parking will be available in the staff parking lot. The bus loop will not be available for parking.

Important Dates

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ➤ August 17, 2023 | Kindergarten Orientation at 2pm |
| ➤ August 18, 2023 | Open House for grades 1-5 & Pre-K |
| ➤ August 22, 2023 | First Day of School (doors open at 8:30am, school starts at 8:45am) |
| ➤ September 1 – 4, 2023 | Labor Day Holiday Weekend (School & Offices are closed) |
| ➤ September 15, 2023 | Rosh Hashannah Holiday (Schools and Offices Closed) |
| ➤ September 25, 2023 | Yom Kippur Holiday (School and Offices Closed) |
| ➤ September 28, 2023 | Back to School Night (5:30pm – 7:45pm) |
| ➤ October 9, 2023 | Districtwide Professional Learning Day (No School for Students) |

Car Rider Registration

Car Rider registration will be on Thursday, August 17th from 9:00am-3:30pm and Friday, August 18th from 10:00am – 2:00pm

Car-Rider Registration:

To register, you must show your ID and you will be provided with a card to place on the car's visor (car rider). To register for car riders or for permanent pick up after this date, you must do so in the main office. On the first day of school, if your child does not have a car rider tag, you

must park and come in to complete the registration process. For pick up, please line up along the curb and **do not leave the vehicle**. Car riders will be released out of Door 9.

Your Partners in Education,
Dr. Blackmon, Principal
Mrs. Herrera, Assistant Principal
Ms. Burton, Admin Intern

**River Oaks Elementary School
Afternoon Car Rider Registration
2023-2024**

ONE FORM PER FAMILY

Please complete this form if your child will be an afternoon car rider during the 2023-2024 school year. Return the completed form to the River Oaks Office as soon as possible, and a numbered Dashboard TAG will be issued to new car riders.

Two official Dashboard TAG for River Oaks Vehicle Passes will be sent home with your child (**per family**) unless you mark that you need more than 2 Vehicle Passes on this form.

_____ I **need more** than two official Vehicle Passes. Please send _____ copies of the Vehicle Pick Passes.

1. Write the names of all students who are riding in the car.

Student's Name	Grade/Teacher
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

2. List all persons designated to pick up the students listed above. If someone comes to pick your child and he or she is not on this list and does not have a Car Rider Vehicle Pass, you will be called to grant permission.

Driver's Name	Phone Number
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

If any changes to this form are necessary, please contact the teacher and the front office for a new form. Changes will only be made in writing from the parent/guardian.

Parent Signature: _____ Phone Number: _____

Office Use Only: Tag#

2023-2024 STAFF Roster

Administration

Principal: Dr. Nikisha Gibson
Assistant Principal: Christina Herrera
Admin Intern: Kristin Burton

PRE-K

Lelia Cooke

KINDERGARTEN

Jenalee Smith
Jessica Praino
Tamara Keener
Roxanne Jones
Shayne Gray
Crystal Bidalsee

1st Grade

Amanda Watring
Kimberly Hall
Antonette Pringle
Mae Ryan
Nicole McCoy
Yvonne Holmes Jolly

2nd Grade

Doreen Ennis
Jessica Gilbert
Son Greenwood
Nicola Jackson
Ladonna Gray

3rd Grade

Nichole Carew
Doreen Ennis
Jessica Wilson
Shakira Townsend
Althea Brumskine

4th Grade

Lindsey Speck
Ainslie Shirra
Kamar Heath
Tresha Sinclair Campbell

5th Grade

Rose Francis
Charla Walker
Janet Howard
Camile Renyolds

Autism

Rachel Andrews
Jumana Alghanimi
Vacant - TBD

SPED Teachers

Alieen Burgos
Ann Johnson

ESOL

Julio Parraga
Julia Woodbury
Alvie Limox
Tiana Newman
Natalia Caranza
Elizabeth Tantum

Instructional Assistants

Valria Martin
Daniella Judd
Zakia Quabili
Logan Mellott
Autumn Ross-Winston
Stephania Pena
Zinnat Siddika
Hina Malik
Donald Wing
Aimee Camidge
Leila Black
Lashonda Black

Specialists

Jonathan Stone- PE
Helen Curtis- PE
Amber Seigler- Art
Andrea Whirley- Music
Matt Harman- Strings
Magna Lucas- Spanish
Ashley Johnson- Librarian
Enjoli Williams - Library
Media Assistant

Counselors

Janai Beauchamp (K-2)
Deborah Wells (3-5)

Support Staff

Michelle Percy Best - Reading
Specialist

Alishia Hargrove – Title I
Reading

Akrista Hairston – Title I Math

Safaa Ahmad – Title I Math

Allison Dabu – ITC

Charles Pitts - TSPEC

Bill Nau – Think Big Space

Elizabeth Dela Rosa – Gifted

Patricia Lydon – PALS Tutor

Kelly Dietrick – PALS Tutor

Randall Carlock – Security

Lori Hurd – Finance

Henryette Lang – Admin

Secretary/ Registrar

Oneyda Parada – Office

Assistant

Prya Monda – Nurse

Cindell Santos-Lopez – Parent

Liaison

Tena Warsido – Cafeteria
Hostess

Teresa Lopez – Cafeteria
Hostess

Nyoka Phillips – Custodian

Adriana Pena – Custodian

Maria Garcia – Custodian

Brandon Rankin – Custodian