

# Oh, the Places You'll Go...

## Let the Journey Begin!



August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Midway Elementary School

### 2022-2023

Parents,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year at the best school in the state of South Carolina, Midway Elementary School! I am honored to serve as principal in my sixth year at Midway. Throughout my career in education, I've never worked at a place like Midway Elementary. We have a beautiful facility combined with a positive and friendly culture. Our staff is second to none, and they consistently grow themselves professionally by working alongside some of the top educators in the state. My goal as principal is to provide a safe, positive, rigorous, and fun environment for our kids. I want you to feel welcome in our building, and I want our kids to enjoy coming to school. Let's work together this school year to maximize results. Please read this letter in its entirety to ensure you are prepared for the school year. I look forward to continuing our tradition of excellence at Midway Elementary School.

Brandon Meares, Principal

#### Teacher Assignments

Our website is ready for you to begin paying your student's material and technology fees. Please use the link below and follow directions on the website. Your child's teacher will be sending this same link to you, this will prevent a separate email being sent with teacher assignments. If you are new to Midway and do not receive an email from a teacher, it may be because your information has not yet been added to the system. You may call the school at 864-716-3800 on Monday morning for teacher assignments.

You will need to pay for Material Fees (\$15), Technology Fees (\$20), and a Processing Fee (\$1-\$5).

All students are required to pay the Technology Fee. Material Fees are based on Lunch Status (Full, Reduced, or Free). If you are unsure of your status or have not been approved for reduced or free lunch for the 2022-2023 school year, pay the full amount.

4K students are exempt from paying school fees.

If you have more than one student at Midway, you will need to add multiple fees to the cart. (Ex. If you have three elementary students at Midway, you will add 3 Material Fees, 3 Technology Fees, 1 Processing Fee that matches the amount in the cart.)

[Pay Material and Technology Fees Here.](#)

### Covid-19 Protocol

Just like last year, we are preparing our school year as we would pre-COVID: planning field trips, Morning STEAM, and various grade level activities. We are planning these events with the understanding that all events may be postponed or cancelled at any time. Please check out the [school calendar](#) for the year.

Masks are optional for students, teachers, and parents this school year. Kindergarten parents will be allowed to walk their student into school on the first day. Unlike last year, we will not contact trace students this school year. If a student or staff member does test positive for COVID-19, they will be required to isolate at home for 5 days from the onset of their symptoms. If they choose to return to school on the 6<sup>th</sup> day after their symptoms began, they must wear a mask through day 10. If a student test positive for COVID-19 in your child's classroom, you will be sent a notification that a student has tested positive. Close contacts will not be required to quarantine. Our district will closely monitor state and federal recommendations. Our goal is for students to enjoy their day in school in a safe and clean environment.

### School Breakfast & Lunch

School breakfast and lunch are no longer free for all students. Please read the student handbook for meal prices. If you believe that your student would qualify for free or reduced meals, it is best that you apply now. All families must reapply for free and reduced lunch each year. Lunch money may be paid online or sent in envelopes to your child's teacher. Please make sure the envelopes are marked with the student's name and amount.

[Apply for Free & Reduced Lunch Here.](#)

[Breakfast & Lunch Prepayment Options](#)

### Kindergarten Staggered Start

All Anderson School District Five schools will participate in a Kindergarten staggered start. This means that your Kindergarten student will only come two days during the first week of school. All Kindergarten students will come on the first day of school, August 16th. The class will be divided into thirds on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> in order for teachers to begin a Kindergarten Readiness Assessment in small groups. Your

child's teacher will notify you via email and/or at Open House which days they will attend. All Kindergarten students will return together on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. If your student is present on August 16<sup>th</sup>, they will be counted present for the other two days they will miss.

### Open House & PTO

Open House will be held on Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-12:00 & 2:00-5:00. This is a drop-in so that we limit the number of people in our building at one time. I recommend bringing school supplies on this day to avoid heavy book bags on the first day of school. You can find the [district supply lists](#) here. The front doors of the school will be open, so please park in the front of the school.

Our PTO will be in the park area just inside the front doors. Be sure to visit their table and pre-order your student(s) a Midway t-shirt, join the PTO, and purchase an Icee package. Shirts are color coded based on their class, and they are very popular for field trips or Field Day. [Please consider joining the PTO](#). The price is \$10 for a family with one student, and \$15 for a family with multiple students. This money allows our PTO to support our students and teachers immediately. Lastly, we are planning to continue "Icee Days" this school year. Once a month, the PTO sells Icees for \$1 during lunch. This happens nine times throughout the year. Prepaying (\$9) for Icee Days is a great way to ensure your student receives the treat. You will be able to prepay at the PTO table.

[What does the PTO do?](#) Last year, we raised money for window wraps and upgrades to our Makerspace classrooms. We are adding another Makerspace room this school year that will provide our students with hands-on technology experiences. This room will include 3D printers, flight simulators, and robotics that provide coding experiences. Window wraps are currently put on hold due to the possibility of using district funds in the future. We are in the process of adding an additional awning and picnic tables in the back. This will give us more room for outside lunch, parent lunch visits, and outdoor classroom activities. Joining the PTO and participating in fundraisers are great ways to help our school!

A Charleston Wrap display will be available at Open House. Our Charleston Wrap fundraiser is a simple way to support our school. It is easy to share online and will be an online fundraiser only. It officially begins on August 18<sup>th</sup> and ends September 2<sup>nd</sup>; however, [you can go ahead and register your student and share the links to support our school](#). People may begin purchasing items after registration. It is a great way to stock up for the upcoming holidays.

[Click Here for the August 2022 PTO Newsletter](#)

## Voluntary Insurance

[Voluntary Insurance](#) is available for you to purchase. This insurance is not related to Anderson School District Five; however, it is offered to cover accidents that may happen on school grounds. District insurance will only cover incidents if the district is found to be negligent, so voluntary insurance is always offered at the beginning of each year and gives parents options.

## Arrival & Dismissal

I will add this information in the first Sunday Stinger on August 14<sup>th</sup>; however, I know some people would like review the arrival and dismissal procedures before they attend Open House.

## **Morning Arrival**

The main car loop will open from 6:50-7:58 daily, and the second grade loop will open from 7:30-7:58 daily. Students arriving to school before 7:15 will report to one of three places: Learning lab students and any student eating breakfast will report to the cafeteria; Kindergarten, first and second grade students not eating breakfast will report to the auditorium; and third, fourth, and fifth grade students not eating breakfast will report to the gym. At 7:15, the teachers on duty will pick up students from their designated areas and walk them to their hallway until 7:45. At 7:45, students will begin entering the classroom. The cafeteria will be open until 7:45 for any student who would like to eat breakfast. This will allow students 15 minutes to eat their breakfast and be in the classroom by 8:00. Do not drop off students in the office unless it is after 7:58.

On the first day of school, **parents of kindergarten students** may walk their student into the building. If you plan to walk your student in the building, you will need to park in the main car loop parking lot and enter at the auditorium. I would encourage you to arrive after 7:15 in order to walk your student to their classroom. Midway staff will be available to assist with directing parents. Please do not park in the bus loop.

### **Red-Main Car Loop**

**Open at 6:50**

**Closes at 7:58**

### **Blue-Second grade car loop**

**Opens at 7:30**

**Closes at 7:58**

### **Green-Bus loop**

**Buses and Learning Labs ONLY in the morning!**



## Afternoon Dismissal

We will begin our dismissal process at 2:20 each day. At 2:20, all bus riders and daycare students will be dismissed. Teachers will review these procedures with students on the first day of school. At 2:20, older siblings will exit their classrooms to join their younger siblings at their car dismissal locations. If a student has a sibling in a Learning Labs classroom, that sibling will join their Learning Labs sibling at the second grade loop. For example, if you have a third grade student and a kindergarten student, the third grade student will be dismissed at 2:20 to sit outside of their kindergarten sibling's classroom. The person who is picking up the car-riding students should know to go to the dismissal location of the youngest student. All teachers will monitor students in their classrooms and hallways. At 2:30, all car riders will be called to their dismissal location:

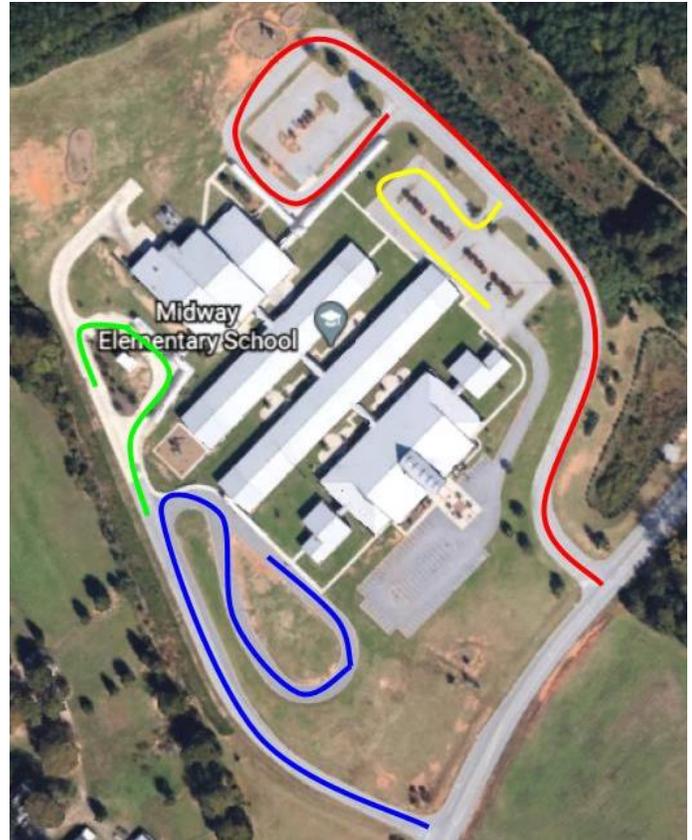
- Kindergarten students and older siblings will be dismissed from their classroom to the bus loop after buses have left.
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade students and older siblings will be dismissed from the cafeteria to the bus loop with kindergarten students.
- Learning Lab students and siblings will be dismissed from classrooms at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade hallway to the second grade loop.
- 4K students and siblings will be dismissed from their classroom at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade hallway to the second grade loop.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade students and older siblings will dismiss from the auditorium to the main car loop.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade has changed from last year.
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will dismiss from their classrooms to the side parking lot.

Green- Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> grade pickup. Please stay behind cones until buses have left.

Blue-4K, daycare, Learning Lab pickup. Parents picking up 4K students, Learning Lab students, and day care buses will use the left lane.

Red-2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade pickup.

Yellow-5<sup>th</sup> grade pickup. Students will exit at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade side entrance/exit.



Want to take a tour of Midway Elementary School before you come on August 12<sup>th</sup>? Take a look at this [drone video](#) put together by one of our former students, Jackson Drennon.

I communicate with parents weekly through an email newsletter called the Sunday Stinger. The first Sunday Stinger will be coming on August 14<sup>th</sup> with more valuable information to prepare your child for a great year at Midway. You may begin reviewing the [Student Handbook](#) about our policies and procedures. Due to a summer knee surgery, I will not be starting the school year at Midway. I plan to return in early September after a full recovery. Mrs. Shirley will have help from Mrs. Martha Hanwell, a retired principal and mentor of mine. I know our staff will be prepared for our students on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if I can assist you in any way this year.

Brandon Meares