



The Sunday Stinger



Midway Elementary School



Week of August 30th

We are about a week away from beginning the 2020-2021 school year. Our faculty and staff have returned, and we are preparing for a great year that will combine our tradition of excellent instruction and school culture with new and updated procedures that will keep everyone safe. I take pride in consistent communication with our community to keep you aware of anything you need to know about our school. This document will contain information about our arrival and dismissal procedures, daily routines, safety measures, and PTO information. In an uncertain time, I am certain that our school is prepared for your students next Tuesday, I am certain that our teachers will work extremely hard, and I am certain that our staff will generate the same love and compassion as they have before.

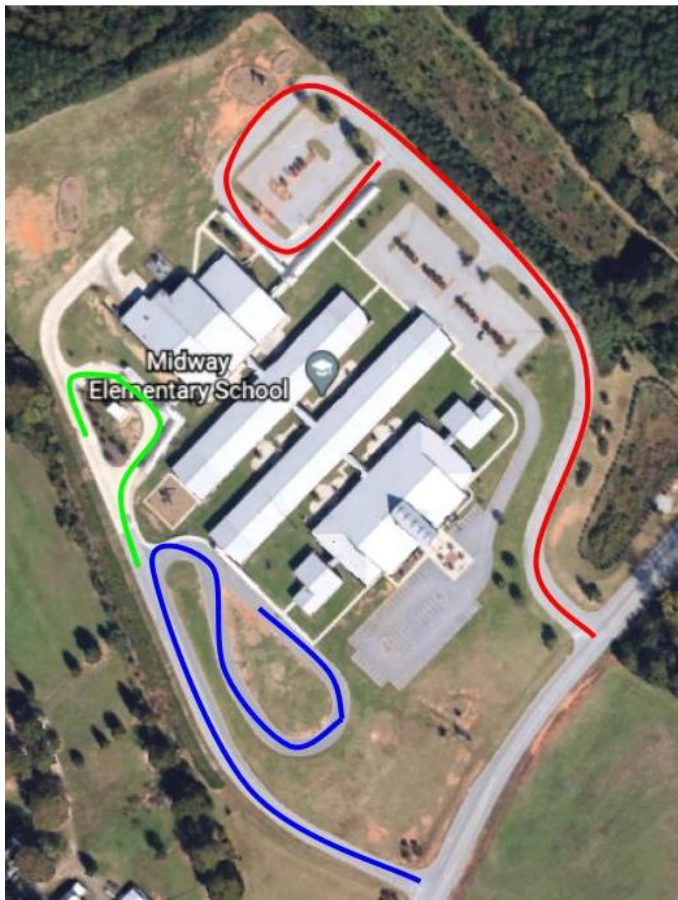
The [Student Handbook](#) is now available on our website. The handbook has a lot of information that you need to review with your students. It does not contain much information about COVID-19 and safety measures since it is a general information document. Please be sure to review it and talk with your student about procedures that apply to them.

Morning Arrival

Our doors will open at 6:50 every day. 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.

VERY IMPORTANT ARRIVAL INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER 8TH

On the first day of school, the second grade car loop will be open for Kindergarten parents only. Anyone who does not have a Kindergarten student will need to drop students off in the main car loop on the first day of school. Kindergarten parents will be allowed to use the second grade car loop to park along the outside of the loop, not blocking the inside lane. Kindergarten parents may walk their Kindergarten student to the back door of their classroom beginning at 7:15 on the first day of school only. Midway staff will be available to assist with directing parents. Please do not park in the bus loop. Beginning on September 9, the second grade car loop will be open for anyone to drop off students beginning at 7:30. We appreciate your help in making this happen.



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

*Will not be unlocked on September 8th due to Kindergarten parent parking.

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.
- 1st grade students and older siblings will be dismissed from the cafeteria to the bus loop with kindergarten students.
- 2nd grade students and older siblings will be dismissed from their classroom to the second grade loop after day care buses have left.
- Learning Lab students and siblings will be dismissed from classrooms at the end of the 2nd grade hallway to the second grade loop.
- 3rd & 4th grade students and older siblings will dismiss from the auditorium to the main car loop.
- 5th grade students will dismiss from their classrooms to the side parking lot.



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

Blue-2nd grade and Learning Lab pickup. Please stay behind cones until day care buses have left.

Red-3rd and 4th grade pickup.

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

Daily Routines

Once students enter the classroom at 7:45, their school day will begin. A student will be counted tardy if he/she enters the classroom after 8:00. Each teacher has their individual schedule that includes related arts, recess, lunch, and the core academic areas of ELA, math, science, and social studies. Students are required to wear masks throughout the day when they are unable to social distance with their peers. Each classroom has given students their individual space during the school day; however, not all of spaces created are distanced six feet apart. Masks will be required most of the time throughout the school day, but teachers will create as many opportunities as possible for students to have a break from their masks. With the help of our PTO, we have purchased individual dividers for each classroom that will be used during small group instruction. Students will be able to remove their masks during small groups because of the dividers. The dividers separate the students to their left and right, and even extend off the tables.



We will begin the first week of school with only a few grade levels eating in the cafeteria. We have a plan in place to see the efficiency of our lunch schedule. If classes are not overcrowding each other due to the transition of the lunch, then more grade levels will be added to achieve our overall goal of all students eating in the cafeteria. Cafeteria tables are separated six feet apart from other tables, but students from the same class will not be able to separate six feet apart while eating their lunch in the cafeteria or the classroom.

Students will enjoy an extended recess break this school year. Classes will stay together during recess and not be with other students from different classes. Our school has purchased each class a set of recess equipment to use. The recess equipment includes rubber balls and jump ropes. After recess, teachers will drop their recess bags outside of their classrooms; this will signal a member of our custodian team to disinfect the equipment. The custodian will hook the bag on the door handle after it has been disinfected. Students will not be allowed to bring recess equipment from home due to additional sanitation. Playground structures will not be used until further notice.

Students will enjoy related arts differently this year. Our related arts teachers will come into the classroom to instruct students during their related arts time. Guidance and art will always come to the classroom or take the students outside. Our school media specialist will begin coming to the classroom with books for students to check out based on their grade level. Students may eventually be able to travel to the library. Students will travel to PE and music. Our PE teachers will use the gym or go outside, and our music teachers will use the auditorium

so that students can social distance. All related arts teachers have a 10 minute transition time between classes that will allow them to gather new materials or sanitize materials between classes.

COVID-19

It is more important than ever for parents and staff to work together for the health of everyone. **If your student is not feeling well before arriving at school, please keep them at home.** Write a note, email their teacher, or email our data clerk stating the reason why your student is absent, **and they will be excused from school.**

If a student is complaining of not feeling well to any of our staff members or showing signs of not feeling well, they will be sent to the school nurse. If a student is showing symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, loss of smell or taste) and the school nurse has ruled out any pre-existing conditions causing the symptoms such as asthma, the student will move to an isolation room outside of the office. The student will wait in the room until a parent/guardian can pick them up. Any student waiting in the room will be monitored by an adult. The parent/guardian will need to contact their health provider for further guidance and possible testing. The parent/guardian will need to share their findings with the school immediately.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, the school will alert our district officials and DHEC. Administration will make the teacher aware of the positive test and alert parents using an approved CDC letter stating what parents need to do for their students. If a member of a classroom does test positive for COVID-19, the administration will consult with the Director of Nursing, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, and the teacher to determine if the entire class would need to quarantine for 10 days. This determination is based on the teacher's account of adequate social distancing without masks and/or students were wearing masks when they were within six feet of the student who tests positive.

When to return to school:

Category 1

- If I think/know I had COVID-19, and I've had symptoms as listed above, then I must meet all of the following before coming back to school:
 - It has been at least 10 school days since the symptoms first started
 - And, no fever within the last **two** days **without taking fever-reducing medicine** and, all other symptoms have improved
 - And, tested negative or medical evaluation determines symptoms were due to another cause

Category 2

- If I tested positive for COVID-19, but had none of the symptoms listed above, then I can return to school when all of the following apply:
 - It has been at least 10 school days since the test
 - And, no fever within the last two days without taking fever-reducing medicine and, all other symptoms have improved

Category 3

- If I tested positive or had COVID-19 and have a weakened immune system due to a health condition or medication, then I can return to school when:
- My health care provider gives written clearance

Category 4

- If I have been around a person (family, friend, acquaintance who has tested positive with COVID-19 (within six feet for more than 15 minutes without a mask within the past two days):
- Then I should stay home for 10 school days after the exposure and monitor for any of the above-listed symptoms.
- Exception: Elementary students and staff follow cohort model below in Category 5

Category 5 - Elementary Cohort Model:

- If I have been around a classmate who has tested positive with COVID-19 (within six feet for more than 15 minutes without a mask in the past two days):
- Sick classmates will remain home 10 school days from the first sign of symptoms.
- The school nurse will **monitor** remaining students' temperatures and symptoms for a period of two weeks.
- If 20% of the class has symptoms of COVID-19, the class may move to eLearning for up to 10 school days.

Students will be given two masks the first day of school. Please provide your student with a mask for the first day of school. Your student(s) should wear a clean mask to school each day. Students are expected to wear their mask while on the bus and in the building. Students may remove their masks if a distance of six feet is observed. Teachers will plan masks breaks throughout the day so that students are not wearing their mask for very long periods of time.

Our custodial team's priority this school year is to disinfect highly touched surfaces. Custodians will wipe door handles, counters, desks, and tables throughout the day. Custodians will prepare disinfectant spray for all teachers to have on a weekly basis. Teachers have been provided paper towels, gloves, masks, and disinfectant spray to keep their rooms sanitized throughout the day.

You can help us by washing/cleaning backpacks, hoodies, jackets, and lunchboxes on a regular basis at home.

PTO

We have the best PTO in the district! With your support, our staff and students reap the benefits of our wonderful PTO every school year. As previously stated, our PTO has helped us purchase small group dividers for all of our classrooms so that teachers and students may remove their masks for small group instruction. We have an [online school store](#) this year that is

selling t-shirts, student and adult masks with lanyards, stickers, koozies, and more items that will be coming soon. Our local business partners have helped to supply us with quality items.

I would like to share a note from our PTO Board so that they can tell you about themselves:

Dear Midway Families:

The Midway PTO would like to invite all students - in-person and virtual to join the PTO. Becoming a member of the PTO involves a small donation and that is it! Volunteer time (while certainly welcomed) is not required!

The PTO uses membership funds (in addition with other fundraisers) to support the school. Recent examples of PTO sponsored projects include: the photo crayon wraps featuring your students in the halls of Midway, the walking track around the playgrounds, the Buddy Benches, the basketball and soccer goals, and playground equipment. This year, the PTO helped purchase plexiglass dividers that will be used to allow small group activities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The PTO also supports teachers by having occasional lunches and special treats to show the teachers our appreciation. Teachers have received Book Fair funds from the PTO to purchase books for their classrooms and in recent years the PTO has given teachers gift cards to buy supplies.

The funds collected from memberships and other fundraisers are used for all of these wonderful activities. In light of the cancellation of Boosterthon last spring, we need your support more than ever.

Please consider joining the PTO and help us support our wonderful school.

#jointhehive

Due to not having a school-wide fundraiser at all last year, we plan to participate in two fall fundraisers. We have moved our main fundraiser, Boosterthon, to the fall this year. We have met with Boosterthon, and they have ensured us that we can still fundraise safely with the new precautions they have implemented. Dancefit will be part of our fall fundraiser and it can be for students within the building or at home attending the Virtual Academy. Boosterthon still has our Fun Run date set for early April so that we can still enjoy that special day, but we will collect the funds this fall. More information will be coming soon.

During the month of September, Midway Elementary is participating in a Charleston Wrap fundraiser. Charleston Wrap is a South Carolina based company notorious for a variety of items, but they are well known for their wrapping paper. This is a very simple fundraiser that benefits students, parents, and our school. All items ordered will be shipped and will not pass

through the school. The more people who order through your student's links, the more free items you receive and the more money our school receives. Feel free to let your family and friends know that your child/children will be selling these items soon! [Check out the registration letter here.](#) This is a great way to stock up for the holidays and support our school at the same time.

We always appreciate our corporate business sponsors. We love to recognize our business sponsors through our marquee sign in the front of our school and throughout the year in the Sunday Stinger. You are showing your support of Midway Elementary to over 1,500 parents and countless people who drive by our school. If your business is interested in partnering with our school, [please complete the form here.](#)

The [Spirit Rock](#) is still available to rent this school year. It is located on the main car loop and you may rent it for two days or a week at a time. The rock can be painted to celebrate a birthday, an occasion, or recognize someone's achievement. Since dismissal is different this year, we are also making our marquee sign available so that everyone can see your student's birthday. Your student's name and birthday will appear on the front sign during the entire birthday month. If you are interested, [check out the information here.](#)

Be on the lookout for more PTO information coming soon. As always, our students, staff, and I appreciate your support of our school!

[Join the PTO HERE](#)

Lastly, we're looking forward to seeing all of our new students this Thursday. If you're planning to meet your teacher this Thursday, please park in the front or rear of the school near the auditorium. We will have staff members available to greet you and show you to your classroom. After you meet your teacher and see your classroom, you will have time to see the school. Our welcome team will give you a map of our school, so feel free to take a look around to familiarize yourself with the largest elementary school in Anderson 5. Be sure to go over arrival for the first day. Our staff will be available to answer any questions, and show you anything your students would like to see. If you are not new to Midway, feel free to contact your teacher for a virtual meeting. Be on the lookout next week for videos on our [Youtube](#) channel of all of our staff members welcoming their students and showing you their classrooms. We are taking our yearly staff photos this coming Friday, so our staff page should be updated on our website by next weekend.

This year will be a great school year! I appreciate all you do to help make our school the best it can be. Check out our [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and Instagram pages to check out all of the great things happening at Midway or email or call me anytime at BrandonMeares@anderson5.net or 716-3800. We will continue to do things the best way...

The Midway.

Looking Ahead

September 1st-Parents may drop off medication to the nurse's office.

September 3rd-New students may tour the building at their appointed time.

September 7th-Labor Day (No School)

September 8th-First day of school; 8:00 AM

September 18th-Fall picture day (Proofs will be emailed to parents this year, then parents may order their photos online)

September 30th-Marco's Pizza Night (More information coming)



Our school has a new school nurse this year. We would like to welcome Nurse Jennifer Arnett to Midway. Nurse Arnett is a Midway parent, and we are all excited to have her. She will do an outstanding job! Nurse Arnett will officially begin on September 8, so one of our district nurses will be available this Tuesday, September 1st during office hours of 8:00-

3:00 for any parents wanting to drop off medication before school begins.

Welcome to our new SRO, Officer Jeremy Brunson. Officer Brunson is an experienced SRO and coming to us from North Pointe Elementary. Officer Brunson says he loves interacting with the students and thoroughly enjoys his work as an SRO. Officer Brunson is a Midway parent, and we are excited to have him.

