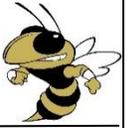
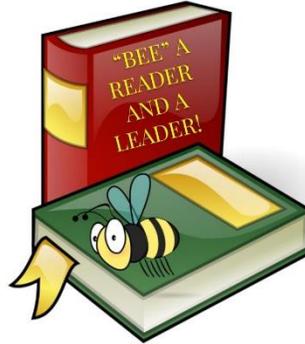




# The Sunday Stinger



## Midway Elementary School



Week of August 15<sup>th</sup>

It's time! School is back in session beginning this Tuesday at 8:00. Our faculty and staff are prepared for a great year that will continue our tradition of excellent instruction and school culture. 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. A year ago, uncertainty was an understatement; however, our year was successful and students were able to learn safely. As we begin a new year with uncertainty once again, I ask for your patience, trust, and cooperation as we all work together to give our students the best education possible.

The [Student Handbook](#) is now available on our website. The handbook has a lot of information that you need to review with your students including dress code for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, attendance information, the code of conduct, and policies.

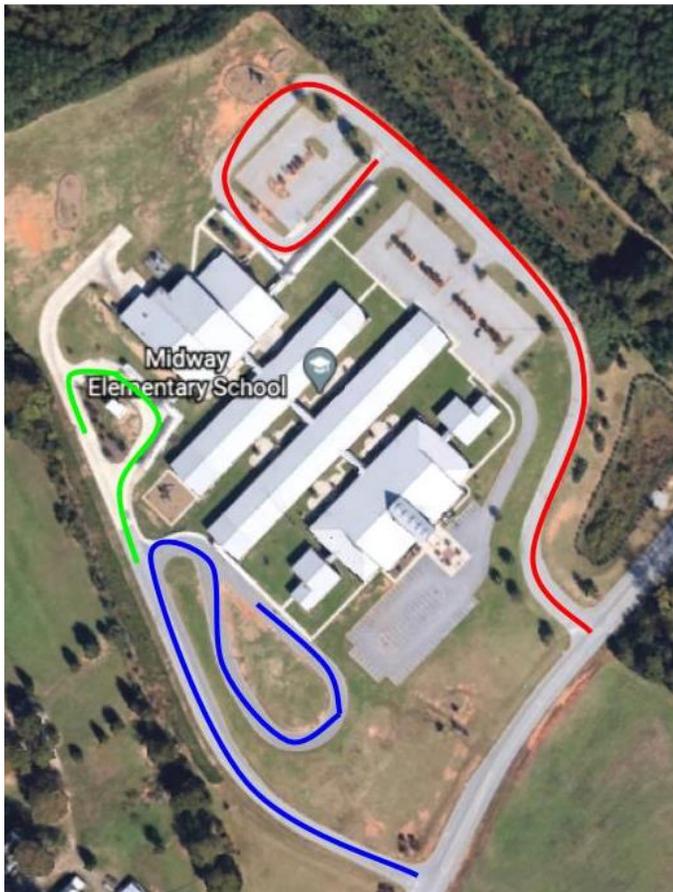
Our [school calendar](#) is available on our website. These events were planned before the increase in COVID-19 in our area. All events on the calendar are subject to change or cancellation.

### **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. Unfortunately, our PTO breakfast will need to be cancelled this year. Please remember that we are requiring all outside visitors to wear masks in our building.



### **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**

[Last year's video that is still relevant this year.](#)

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.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> grade hallway to the second grade loop.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade students and older siblings will dismiss from the auditorium to the main car loop.
- 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-**2<sup>nd</sup> grade and Learning Lab pickup. Parents picking up Learning Lab students and day care buses will use the left lane. Parents picking up 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will need to stay in the right lane until all cars in the left lane have moved.

**Red-**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.

## 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. Each classroom has given students their individual space during the school day; however, not all of spaces created are distanced three feet apart. Dividers will be present in some rooms to separate the students to their left and right, and even extend off the tables. Students will be assigned seats throughout the day in order for teachers to contact trace if necessary.

Cafeteria tables are separated three feet apart from other tables, but not all students from the same class will be able to separate three feet while eating their lunch in the cafeteria.

Students will enjoy related arts in the related arts classrooms. Related arts teachers will follow the same guidelines as homeroom teachers by separating students in the classroom as much as possible, assigning seats, and sanitizing after each class. Students will be able to enjoy makerspace rooms once every two weeks as a part of their related arts rotation. The makerspace rooms contain items that allow students to create, build, make, explore, and play. Be sure to ask your students about the makerspace rooms after their visit.

## 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 which

students from class would need to quarantine for 10 days. This determination is based on the teacher's account of adequate social distancing of the student who tests positive.

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. Teachers have been provided disinfectant wipes and sanitizers by our district. It will be replenished throughout the school year when needed.

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 each school year. Our PTO has already distributed Target gift cards to our teachers so they can add supplies to their classrooms. Joining the PTO and supporting their initiatives is the best way you can financially support Midway Elementary.

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 this form.](#)

The [Spirit Rock](#) is available to rent this school year. It is located in the main car loop and you may rent it for two days or one week at a time. The rock can be painted to celebrate a birthday, an occasion, or recognize someone's achievement. We 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.](#)

If you were unable to join the PTO or order a t-shirt at Open House, information will be coming home during the first week of school. As always, our students, staff, and I appreciate your support of our school!

## Orientation

Orientation is a great time to find out more about your child's classroom for the year. Teachers will be reviewing their schedule, expectations, and daily procedures with parents. You are not required to attend orientation, but it may be helpful information and a chance for any questions to be answered. Kindergarten, first, and second grade orientation will be held on Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM and third, fourth, and fifth grade orientation will be held on Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. Students may attend orientation; however, this is a time for parents to gain information and may be better if parents are able to attend alone.

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](mailto:BrandonMeares@anderson5.net) or 716-3800. We will continue to do things the best way...

The Midway.

Brandon Meares

## Looking Ahead

- August 17<sup>th</sup>: First day of school @ 8:00 AM
- August 20<sup>th</sup>: [Charleston Wrap Fundraiser](#) begins
- August 24<sup>th</sup>: K/1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Orientation @ 5:30 PM
- August 26<sup>th</sup>: 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Orientation @ 5:30 PM
- August 26<sup>th</sup>: Wendy's Spirit Night 5:00-8:00
- August 26<sup>th</sup>: PTO Board Meeting @ 8:15 AM
- August 27<sup>th</sup>: Icee Day
- September 3<sup>rd</sup>: Charleston Wrap Fundraiser ends
- September 6<sup>th</sup>: Labor Day, No school

Happy Birthday

Pamela DeCaprio-August 17th

## Welcome to Midway!

Midway was able to gain two new employees since our last introduction of new employees:

Hi! My name is Ashlei Greene, and I am so excited to be joining the 3rd grade team at Midway! I grew up in Anderson, and I am proud to be a product of District 5! I attended Anderson College where I received my degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education with a minor in Psychology. My husband, Seth, and I have two children who attend Midway Elementary. We have always known this is a special place! Ella will be in 5th grade next year, and Adams will be in 1st grade.

I previously taught 1st grade in District 4 at LaFrance Elementary for 6 years. I took some time off to be with my children, and I am very happy to be back in the classroom again!

Our family loves going to the lake on the weekends and taking trips to the mountains to visit family. We also love going to plays and the movies!

I am looking forward to a great year at Midway Elementary!



Hi! My name is Liza Dickson and I am very excited about working at Midway this year as a Speech Language Pathologist. I have been working in this profession for 14 years now predominantly in the medical setting but am very excited about the transition to the school system. I am a wife to Evan who is the children's minister at Concord Baptist Church. I have two children, Noah who is going into the 8th grade and Lainey who will be in the 5th grade here at Midway. We have lived in Anderson for the last 8 years. We enjoy this community and have loved Midway as it has been home for both of my kids' elementary years.



My family and I love vacationing, board games, escape rooms, and all thing sports. I am looking forward to a great year!

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