

SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Student/Parent Information 2019-20



Welcome to South Elementary School where families and faculty work together as a community for the success of all students. Your support and open communication enable us to work as a team to provide academic and social opportunities for our students...a place of learning and fun. Being a South Sabre Cat family, parents and guardians become a Supporter of South (PTO), part of our invaluable PTO. We welcome volunteers and your involvement at school. Together we can share the love of learning with students and promote the PBIS ideals of respect, responsibility, and safety.

Below we have included information on frequently asked questions, to provide you with a quick reference.

GENERAL GUIDELINES TO PARENTS

1. Encourage your child to come home immediately after school is dismissed.
2. Please leave messages for your child during school only when there is an emergency.
3. Children are to leave dangerous or distracting articles at home such as guns, knives, water guns, toys, spinners, radios, roller blades, scooters, skateboards, etc.
4. Place names on all articles of outer clothing - coat, hats, caps, sweaters, raincoats, etc.
5. The school maintains a lost and found in the cafeteria. Please feel free to look if your child loses or misplaces something. These are cleaned out monthly. Articles are donated to charity.
6. Instruct your child to never converse with a stranger, never accept a gift from a stranger, and never to get into a car with a stranger.
7. Your child needs plenty of sleep each night for him/her to do well in school.
8. We encourage open communication, so if a question or concern arises, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher via email or phone to talk/set-up a time to meet. Working together, we are better able to provide a safe, productive, and engaging learning environment for your child.
9. Any opportunity you have to volunteer at school and participate in building community events is encouraged!

DRESS CODE

The appearance of a student is primarily the responsibility of the student and the parents. We expect students to maintain an appearance which is not distracting to teachers or other students in any way or disrupts the instructional program of the school. Clothing which is not appropriate for school includes: shirts with offensive language or language which promotes drug or alcohol use as referenced in D47 Parent/Student Handbook.

VISITING/VOLUNTEERING AT SOUTH

Once you are buzzed into the building through the main entrance, report to the main office. Here you will sign in, have your driver's license scanned through the Raptor System and be provided with a visitor badge. If volunteering, we ask that on your first volunteer visit, that you be sure you have the emergency information form and District 47 volunteer guidelines sheets completed and turned into the main office. At the end of your visit or volunteer time, please return your badge to the main office and sign out before exiting the building. Thank you for following these safety procedures.

PTO/SOS PARENT GROUP

Supporters of South (PTO) is a very active and integral part of our school. We have five officers and various committee heads that meet to plan upcoming events for the year. Activities include fall fundraisers, roller skating outings, dining out nights, and many other fun events. All proceeds from the parent group go directly back to our students and school. We urge you to become involved in our parent group to help provide our students with extra programs and equipment and also to give you a chance to meet some fellow neighbors. Be looking for an important information concerning SOS/PTO to come via email and hard copies.

BIRTHDAY TREATS/INVITATIONS

Birthdays are an exciting time for our students. It is another opportunity for each student to have a few special moments of recognition during the school day. We want to continue to celebrate student birthdays with an alternative that is both healthy and safe for all the students. **Due to health and medical concerns, the South Elementary School practice is to accept only non-food item alternatives to traditional "birthday treats".** We appreciate that our families will honor the request to choose an alternative to food items. Please remember, bringing in a "treat" of any type is certainly not a requirement for birthday recognition. Each student will have his/her birthday announced over the public address system at

the beginning of the day when announcements are made. Birthday students are then asked to come down to the office and pick out a Birthday Book in recognition of their special day. Additional non-food alternative treat ideas include: donating a book to the class or library in your student's honor for all to enjoy (we will add the child's name on a nameplate inside of the book), special pencils/erasers for each student, stickers, or miscellaneous school supply items donated to the classroom. **Please note that birthday invitations may not be passed out at school.** You will have the opportunity, electronically, to sign up for a voluntary school directory that is coordinated by our PTO. Be looking for sign-up information the first few weeks of school.

RECESS

It is the responsibility of the parents and their children to make sure that children are dressed appropriately to participate in the daily 15 to 25 minutes recess breaks. If a child needs to stay in for recess due to illness, a parent note will be necessary. After 3 days, a doctor's note is required. Students may play pick-up games of soccer and basketball. NO football play is permitted.

PBIS

This refers to our Positive Behavior Intervention System that is utilized throughout District 47. We teach the ideals of respect, responsibility, and safety. PBIS includes several elements that balances rewards and consequences, focusing and shaping behaviors to foster productive students and citizens. Some elements of the program include character/behavior posters, Sabre Cat cash, prize cart, class parties, student referrals and lessons to improve behaviors, rewards and consequences. For those families new to our PBIS system, more detailed information will be provided to you and your student at the start of the school year

COMMUNICATION via EMAIL/SOCIAL MEDIA

We continue our efforts of going green as a District and school by utilizing the District 47, South School, and teacher websites as well as classroom SeeSaw to provide information to our families. You will also receive periodic email blasts through our "Blackboard System" to give you up to date information. Various information can be obtained through the websites such as lunch menus, school calendars, PTO calendar of events, links to staff emails/websites, as well as links to resource tools, to name a few. Student report cards, class placement, and individual information on your child can be obtained through the Synergy system on-line. By following our District/School Facebook and Twitter accounts, you can see current happenings going on at the schools and in the community. We appreciate you continuing to support our efforts of "going green" in District 47 and at South Elementary. Please visit our website at www.d47.org/sou, South twitter at <https://twitter.com/SouthD47>, and South Facebook at www.facebook.com/southD47.

SAFETY PATROL/SAFETY PROCEDURES

Our safety patrol, directed by a member of our staff, is part of our school safety program. Respect and obedience of patrol rules are expected at all times for the safety of your child. Many of our students walk to school and many have to cross busy streets and intersections. We ask parents to encourage their children to use all safety precautions. No jaywalking; it's dangerous and against the law. Parents who drive their children to school should be aware of and observe the special signs around the school.

- Parents should have specific talks with their children about the hazards of talking to strangers while going to and from school.
- Students or parents should report to the principal any strangers who are parked around the school or cruising the area.
- Students are instructed each day to go directly home from school before going anywhere else in the afternoon. Parents should reinforce this idea with their children so that we can avoid needless anxiety on the part of parents and staff

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

As we continue to promote student safety, we ask that you read our arrival/dismissal procedures document that was sent via mail to new families and electronic to our returning families. Thank you for working to keep our students safe.

HEALTH EXAMINATION/MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

All students entering an early childhood program, kindergarten, 6th grade or 9th grade are required by the state of Illinois to have a health exam performed and signed by a licensed physician. The physical exam must be completely filled out, including the parent portion, to be considered in compliance.

The students' physical and immunization records must be complete and filed in the home school health office by the first day of school. School District 47 has adopted the policy of first day exclusion. All students are required to show proof of having met the minimum immunization requirements for DtaP/DTP, IPV/OPV, Varicella, MMR and MCV4.

Drop your completed forms off at the school as soon as they are completed. Do not submit completed physical forms, dental forms or vision forms to the District 47 Administration Center.

The state of Illinois has adopted a mandate that requires:

Dental Examination prior to May 15th of the school year.
Vision Examination within the previous year due by October 15

SOUTH SCHOOL SONG

Cheer, Cheer for South Sabre Cats
South is Superior that is a fact,
Shout it through the universe,
Here at South School kids come first,
Whether the odds be great or small,
South has the best kids roaming the halls,
With the greatest teaching staff,
They'll lead us to victory!

SOUTH SCHOOL PLEDGE

Here at South School, kids come first,
We try our best, never our worst,
Our rules are followed, and promises kept,
We treat each other with respect,
South is superior, where learning is fun,
That's why South is number one!

*Written by, Ali Rokusek
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