



June 29, 2018

Dear Elementary Parent/Guardian:

As a school district, we work to ensure all students receive the required and necessary instructional time needed to effectively teach the North Carolina Standards in preparation for college or careers.

Our first priority as a school district is to ensure that all students receive the amount of instructional time needed to teach the North Carolina Standards and prepare students for college or careers.

School systems throughout North Carolina are required to have a minimum of 185 days or 1,025 hours of instruction covering at least nine calendar months. Instructional time is defined as the time during which students are assigned to a teacher for the primary purpose of instruction.

**Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year**, all elementary schools in the Davidson County Schools district will operate on the same daily schedule; this will require modifying start and stop times for the schools. Instruction at all elementary schools will begin at **8:00 am** and end at **2:35 pm**. This will be effective beginning with the first day of school, **Monday, August 27, 2018**. Bus routes will be adjusted to reflect the new start and stop times for all elementary schools, and all middle schools and high schools in the district will also have an additional five minutes added to their instructional day.

This change will ensure that all schools have more than the 1,025 instructional hours as required by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. With the extra hours built in to the calendar year, Davidson County Schools will have additional hours when dealing with delays/early releases due to inclement weather. Also, the additional time could potentially save students from having to make up instructional days missed for inclement weather.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Southmont Elementary, 336-242-5800**.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Walker  
Principal, **Southmont Elementary School**