



Elms Road Elementary School

Parent Newsletter

August 16, 2019

District Mission Statement: Swartz Creek Community Schools is a family committed to excellence, instilling the values of integrity and compassion, and encouraging every individual to embrace challenges.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
August 26	Open House 6pm
August 27	School Starts - 12:30pm
August 30	No School
September 3	Cookie Dough Sale Begins
September 8	School Shirt Orders Due
September 9	PTA Meeting 4pm
September 13	Picture Day
September 16	Cookie Dough \$ Due

This promises to be a year of great change as we welcome the ground-breaking of renovations to our building and grounds. Construction on the front entrance could start in the early fall. Along with the physical changes you are likely to see, we will be joining the rest of the district in teaching the principles of the Positivity Project. Through the positivity project, our staff will be teaching about the character traits that will develop things like wisdom, courage, a sense of Justice and regard for humanity. The ultimate goal is to help each child understand that other people matter. It is for this reason that the tagline on the school shirt reads: “#otherpeoplematter.” It is our hope that you, the parents, will also read up on the character materials that will come home with your child and have positive discussions with them around these topics. Together, we hope to affect positive change in each of the students we serve here at Elms Road.

Principal's Message

Hello and welcome to all of our Elms Road Elementary families, especially those that are joining our school as new families! At Elms Road, our staff have been working very hard to get the building ready for a great year of learning.

This will be my 16th year at Swartz Creek Community Schools and my 3rd year as the principal at Elms Road Elementary. I cannot tell you how wonderful it is to serve the Swartz Creek Community and the families here at Elms Road. For those of you who are new to our building, I'd like to say welcome and we are glad you're here. To our returning families, I'm excited about what this year holds for you and your kids.

For those families who are new to Elms Road, we are family-oriented and host regular family nights throughout the year. Many of these events are free family dinners, dances, reading and game nights.

Please make plans to attend our Open House event on August 26th from 6 - 7pm.

Questions: Please Call Principal Dave Simonsen at (810) 591-1249 or dsimonsen@swcrk.org

PTA News

Our first PTA Meeting will be held on September 9th right after school. The location is still to be decided. Please stop by the PTA table at the open house on August 26th to pick up a calendar of events and see how you can become involved. You can also join the PTA group on facebook by searching: "Elms Road Elementary PTA" on facebook. There you'll receive all the timely updates for PTA events and happenings at our school.

**Our PTA also has a mailbox in the Main Office where messages can be dropped off.*

Parking Lot Updates

Picking kids up from school is not always fun. One of the main complaints from any parent about school is often the pick-up and drop-off process for their child's school. In recent years we've worked hard to organize the end of the day pick-up process to keep our kids safe and make things less hectic for all. To this end, we've been very successful and I'm proud to say that we get our parking lot cleared in less than 15 minutes. This does not happen at a large elementary school anywhere and it only happens when we all cooperate with traffic rules and guidelines and treat one another with civility. Thank you for your help!

This year, we will be implementing a few more changes to try and streamline the morning drop-off process as well. These changes will mainly consist of extra signs to help parents know how the flow of traffic needs to go. Details on this process will be sent home via email next week and will be posted on our website very soon. As with any change, it will be important that all of our parents and students follow the same guidelines in order to ensure the best result and keep everyone safe.

We understand that all new things take time and ask that those of you who were used to old routines give our new routines a chance to take hold and work. We also ask for your continued patience and understanding while you travel through our parking lot. As the new school year gets underway, pay close attention to all traffic markers and please be respectful to our staff and volunteers who direct traffic. Any complaints can and should be brought to the principal directly rather than other staff, volunteers or online forums such as facebook.

School Start/End Times - Transportation Information

Students who will be eating breakfast at school may enter the building as early as 8:20am daily. All other students will be asked to remain on their bus or outside their respective grade level doors until 8:32 at which time staff will open the doors to let students in. If you don't want your child waiting outside in the morning, please plan to drop them off as close to 8:32 as possible. Students riding the bus will be allowed off the bus at the appropriate times so as to minimize time outside each morning.

School starts at 8:40 and students are expected to be in their classroom at that time. Please make all efforts to get students to school on time so they can start their day out right.

School ends at 3:40pm. Buses are generally loaded and leaving the parking lot between 3:45 - 3:50. Parents who transport their students are welcome to park and walk up to meet their students at the end of the day. Alternatively, we have a parent pick-up line where you can wait in your car. We will bring your child out to your car in the order you are parked. We encourage the use of this line as it really helps organize the parking lot and prevent traffic jams. If you don't already have a pick-up line number you can pick one up in the main office at the open house on August 26th.

School Lunch/Breakfast Information

We have an excellent menu for our students and breakfast and lunch are served daily. You can check out nutrition information on the website if you wish and even see the upcoming menu items. The school menu is on our school website under the information tab.

If your family qualifies for free or reduced lunch we do need you to apply each year. The quickest way to apply is to go online at www.lunchapp.com. Alternatively, we have paper forms you can fill out and turn in, but keep in mind, this method takes longer and we ask that you provide lunch money or a bag lunch for your child until your application is approved.

Back to School....for parents

School rules keep students safe and let teachers do their job. Show your youngster that parents can help by following rules -- just like he does. Here are a few examples:

- Check in at the office as soon as you enter the school building, and be prepared to show identification.
- If you drive your child to school, be familiar with drop-off and pick-up procedures. For

instance, stay in your car, obey staff and patrol officers, and help your youngster exit the car quickly and safely.

- Follow rules for sending food to school. Always check with the teacher before bringing in birthday snacks or treats for special events.
- Contact the teacher to arrange visits ahead of time rather than dropping in.

As you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or the office staff. We will do our very best to assist you and get you the information you need. Let's have a great year!!

Elms Road Elementary School

Learning, Leading, Growing

#otherpeoplematter