



Sunnyside Elementary School

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Amy Yost, Principal



Dear Sunnyside Families,

Welcome back Sunnyside students and families. I hope that you were able to find some time to rejuvenate and spend some well-deserved quality time with family and friends. As summer comes to an end, it is time to gear up for another outstanding school year. On behalf of our faculty and staff, I would like to offer a warm welcome to all of our returning families, as well as those families entering Sunnyside for the first time.

We are eager to have students back on campus bustling around the building, while engaging in innovative, educational experiences. We invite you to experience this learning first-hand by attending our **Back-to-School Night on Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 6:00pm.**

Please join me in welcoming the following new teachers and staff to Sunnyside School:

Meredith Carusone - Kindergarten Teacher

Elizabete Soares - Academic Tutor Team.

Brittany Catale, Lauren Pepe & Jessica Welsh - Special Education Tutors

Carolyn Sama - Paraprofessional

We are excited to have these new educators part of our Sunnyside family and confident that each of these new members will make positive contributions to the Sunnyside community!

As we prepare for the 2018-19 school year, we are constantly brought back to our mission at Sunnyside – to empower confident, life-long learners through rigorous instruction and experiences, while creating a climate of acceptance and open communication to support students' social and emotional needs. We strive to build upon the learning and successes of previous years. Staff will be concentrating on the revisions to the curriculum during their Professional Learning days prior to the launch for the first day of school. This includes continuing to provide students with a variety of skills and content knowledge that promote higher order thinking, creative problem solving and self-exploration. And as always, we will focus our energies on fostering a nurturing and safe school environment through our "Tiger PRIDE" philosophy.

Sunnyside is proud to again participate in the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge. We are hoping to surpass last year's **92%** participation level to achieve **100%** this summer! We hope you have enjoyed reading with your child and taking this on as a family. We thank you in advance for supporting this program. Please assist your child with recording all of the books he/she has read this summer on the challenge sheet. If that sheet is full, you can record additional titles on a separate sheet of paper. The more books read and recorded, the better! **Please remember to place your child's summer reading information in his/her book bag no later than Thursday, September 14th...feel free to send in on the first day of school.**

As Principal, I welcome and value your input. My door is always open, so feel free to stop in or make an appointment to discuss any concerns, suggestions or ideas to help make this a successful year.

Enjoy your last week of summer vacation...see you all on Tuesday, September 4, 2018.

Warm Regards,

Amy Yost

Important Information and Dates

Please keep this information handy to refer to throughout the school year.

School start date: September 4, 2018

School hours are from 9:00am-3:45pm

Aug 31	Kindergarten Bus Safety Day @ 9:30am
Sept 4	First Day of School – WELCOME ☺
Sept 4	PTO Spirit Wear Sales Begin
Sept 14	PTO Welcome Back Picnic
Sept 14	Governor's Summer Reading Challenge Logs Due
Sept 17	PTO Meeting @ 6pm in the Learning Commons
Sept 17	PTO Believe Fundraiser begins
Sept 19	Fall Picture Day
Sept 20	Back-to-School Night
Sept 27-28	Scholastic Book Fair
Oct 3	Grandparent/Grandfriend Day – more information to follow
Oct 11	PTO Parent/ Student Paint Night
Oct 15	PTO Meeting @ 6pm in the Learning Commons

Back-to-School Night is scheduled for September 20th at 6:00pm. The PTO is looking for assistance chairing different events. It is essential to have parent involvement to better our school community. Please consider volunteering your time. After visiting your child(ren)'s classroom(s) and meeting his/her teacher(s), please stop by the PTO table to hear about their amazing events and get involved. Due to time constraints associated with Back-to-School Night, we would appreciate your scheduling conferences for future dates if you would like to discuss more in-depth questions or concerns with your child's teacher(s). This is a night intended for parents, so we kindly request that children NOT attend.

Registration for our Infinite Campus Parent Portal, our on-line student information system, can be done through Ms. Flaherty in the main office on Back-to-School Night. Please be sure that you have identification with you. It takes only a few minutes, and the information you receive here throughout the year is certainly worth the time.

Absence Verification:

Children's consistent school attendance supports continuous learning progressions and active participation in classroom activities and planned learning. Shelton's Board of Education policy requires that parents call the school when their child will be absent. This is especially important in light of the current State Truancy Law.

The following are general guidelines that the district and school follow when tracking attendance throughout the year...

- ✓ All late arrivals (after 9:00am) and early dismissals (before 3:45pm) are considered unexcused. A doctor's note can excuse a late arrival and/or early dismissal.
- ✓ An absence is considered excused when a doctor's note is received by the school within ten (10) days of the child's absence.
- ✓ A student is considered truant when he/she has accumulated four (4) unexcused absences in a month or ten (10) in a school year.
- ✓ A student is considered chronically absent when they have missed ten percent of their enrolled days.
- ✓ The parent / guardian should call in all absences each day that a child will not be school. A voice mailbox **(203-922-3021)** is available for calls at night or early morning for your convenience. The voice mailbox is available until the office staff arrives in the morning. Note – calling in the absences do not mean that it will automatically become an excused absence.
- ✓ If a child is absent and no parental notification has been obtained, the parent will receive an automated call at home, cell phone *or* their place of work. Upon returning to school after an absence, students are required to bring a note. If a child visits a doctor, please provide that note; the absence is then excused.

Lunch & Breakfast Prices for 2018-19

Elementary Breakfast	Elementary Lunch
\$1.50	\$2.75

Student Items and Belongings:

- Students are NOT permitted back into the building for forgotten items.
- If your child brings a cell phone to school, it must remain in their backpack and in the off position.
- **Label** all student items.

Birthdays Celebrations are recognized in the following manner:

Birthdays are special days for our students. If you wish to celebrate your child's birthday at school, you have two options:

- 1) Parents are welcome to have lunch with their child, read a book to the class and/or collaborate with the teacher for a fun art activity.

-OR-

- 2) Send in a non-food item for the entire class. Some examples of non-food items include bookmarks, erasers, pencils, pens, markers, stickers and bouncy balls. Food items are not allowed for birthday celebrations.

Recognition of birthdays at school, while important, should not disrupt the learning process or endanger the health or well-being of any student. We have an increasingly growing number of students who have food allergies. These students, along with other students whose health conditions require dietary restrictions, need close monitoring. We thank you for helping make our school a safe and healthy environment for all students and staff by following these guidelines.

Bus Information:

We encourage you to send your children to school by bus (if eligible). Parents are not permitted to drive in the front of the building (bus drop-off) prior to 9:15 am or between 3:20 pm and 4:00 pm (bus pick-up). Parking in front of the school during these times is reserved for buses only. This will provide a safe and secure environment for our bus drivers and our bus transportation students. Bus stop runs are posted on Shelton Public Schools district website under ***Departments - Transportation*** - <http://www.sheltonpublicschools.org/transportation>. If parents have transportation issues or questions contact Durham Bus Company at (475) 269-9448, or the Bus Line at Central Office (203) 924-1023 x310, or email bus@sheltonpublicschools.org. Appropriate behavior is vital to provide a safe and enjoyable ride for our students and driver. Inappropriate behavior may result in suspension from the bus.

If changes in dismissal are needed, please inform the school immediately (note to office or classroom teacher) in **writing**. If during the day an emergency arises, you must call the school NO LATER than 1:00 pm. We will need something in writing, either a fax or an email to dflaherty@sheltonpublicschools.org. Do not email the classroom teacher. Due to instructing their class, teachers may not be able to check their email, thus creating a safety issue for your child.

Unplanned Early Dismissal:

In the event of an unplanned early dismissal due to inclement weather, we ask that you ***DO NOT*** call the school or radio/television stations. It is imperative that these phone lines be kept open for communication purposes during an emergency. Please review with your child(ren) alternative arrangements regarding where they should go if you are not home on an emergency early dismissal day. Information regarding emergency delayed openings/early dismissals may be obtained from various radio (WICC 600AM) and television (WTNH Channel 8) stations or by checking the district website (www.sheltonpublicschools.org). Please refer to our website for planned and unplanned early dismissal times.

Student Drop – Off Procedure:

If it is necessary for you to bring your child(ren) to school in the morning (either by car or walkers), they must be dropped off at the lower back door near the basketball courts. A staff member will be stationed there each morning from 8:45 am until 9:00 am to ensure the safety of your child(ren). Children will enter the building through the back recess door and proceed directly to their classroom. *Parents should not accompany their child into the building through this entrance.* If you must accompany your child into the building prior to 9:00 am, please park in a space, enter via the main entrance front doors, and sign in at the office. Any child(ren) arriving to school after 9:00am, **MUST** be accompanied by an adult to the main office to be signed-in and receive a tardy slip.

Student Pick-Up Procedure:

Parents picking up their child(ren) at dismissal are to park on the side of the building and enter/exit through the cafeteria. You are asked to wait in the cafeteria away from the entrance, where children will be sent at dismissal time, and a staff member will dismiss your child to you. Parents **MUST** sign their child(ren) out daily. Any change in the going-home process (i.e. bus student being picked up by parent, after-school activities such as religious education, Boy and Girl Scouts, early dismissal for a doctor's appointment) must be written in a note to the classroom teacher. If a note is not received, the parent or guardian must report to the main office to pick up your child(ren).

Please remember when entering or exiting our school parking lots that **BUSES AND PEDESTRIANS HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY**. Passing a bus with its lights flashing is a \$465.00 fine.

Appropriate Dress:

Please be sure that your child(ren) are appropriately dressed for the day's weather. Flip flops and wedges are not allowed in school. Students will be outside for recess as much as possible, weather permitting.

Fire Drills/Lockdown Drills/Shelter in Place Drills:

Over the course of the school year, students and staff will take part in various drills to help familiarize them with safe practices during emergency situations. Drills include fire evacuation, lock down, and off-site evacuations.

Visitors:

While visitors are always welcome at Sunnyside, the Board of Education has a policy in place regarding visitors that must be followed. In the interest of the safety of all our children and the educational process, all visitors **MUST** enter the building through the front doors at our main entrance and sign in at the office. Each visitor will be issued a visitor's badge which should be worn at all times while visiting the school. Please remember to sign out in the main office upon leaving the building. This will ensure that we account for you in case of a building emergency. **You may only visit the room(s) in the school which you have designated on the sign-in sheet. This is for the security of our entire school community.** If you wish to visit your child's classroom, please make arrangements in advance with your child's teacher.

School Medication Policy:

To insure the safety and well-being of all our students, specific guidelines have been established for the safe distribution of medications. Students are not allowed to carry medications without a doctor's order. All medications are kept in the nurse's office and administered by the school nurse or the designated staff in her absence. All medications administered in school must be:

- Brought to school by a parent or responsible adult
- Packaged in the original pharmacy container with the name of the student, doctor, name of medication and dosage
- Given to the school nurse or, in his/her absence, an administrator or teacher
- Accompanied by a signed authorization from the physician and parent/guardian with the time to be taken, reason and duration
- Over the counter medications such as Tylenol **MUST** follow the same procedure. The medication must be in a new, unopened container
- No more than a 45-day supply will be accepted
- A parent or responsible adult must pick up any discontinued medication or it will be destroyed after one week

Reward Programs:

Please consider joining our Rewards Programs. These programs help support funding and materials in the classroom and field trips. We encourage sharing with family and friends of Sunnyside School...every bit helps! Thank you!

Stop and Shop

Visit <https://stopandshop.com> and select SIGN IN at the top right to log into your rewards account. Once logged in, select MY ACCOUNT, MANAGE MY ACCOUNT, then REWARDS AND SAVINGS. When your card is scanned, a percentage will be donated to Sunnyside School. This does not interfere with your gas points.

Big Y

Visit <https://www.bigy.com/rs/educationexpress> to log in and register your card noting Sunnyside School. When your card is scanned, a percentage will be donated to Sunnyside School.

Shoparoo

Visit the the app store or Google Play to download the Shoparoo App...it's free. Then go to <https://app.shoparoo.com/> to establish your account. **Shop-Snap Receipts in App –Sunnyside earns Cash** at the end of the year.

