
CES News

September 2023



A message from Mrs. Moyer

Welcome families to the 2023-2024 school year. We are extremely excited to have our students back in the building and I'd like to give a warm welcome to our new students and our Kindergarteners.

First, I'd like to introduce myself to those who are new to CES. I began my career at JBM, then I moved to Clayton Intermediate, and I landed at Clayton Elementary. I was a 6th grade ELA teacher, a reading specialist, an associate principal at CIS, and Principal at CES for the past 4 years. I have lived in Clayton for 23 years. I have three children... Hunter (23 years old), Halie (22 years old), and Cole (18 years old). My oldest two graduated from Smyrna High School and my youngest son is currently a Senior at Smyrna High School. We are proud Smyrna Eagles!

To begin the year, there are a few important things you should know. First, communication is key to a successful partnership between our school and your home. Please make sure your information is up to date so that we can have clear and effective communication. I often use email and phone calls to communicate with families.

To ensure that parental concerns or issues are heard by the appropriate individual who can resolve the issue at the point of origin and provide a direct response, we ask that parents follow the School's Communication Tree outlined below. It is the intent to resolve concerns and issues during the earliest steps with the individual(s) directly involved with the concerns.

Step 1) In the event of a concern, a parent should contact the teacher, who is directly involved with the concern or situation.

Step 2) If a parent has completed Step 1 and feels that the issue/concern was not remedied, they should contact the building Principal

Another form of communication is our Home Access Center. This application gives important information regarding your child such as attendance, current grades, and report cards. If you do not have your log-in information for HAC (Home Access Center), you can contact our secretaries at 302-653-8587.

Join us on the following social media accounts:

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ClaytonElementarySchool>

Instagram @clayton_eagles

School website <https://www.smyrna.k12.de.us/ces>

I look forward to an amazing year. As always, don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.



A note from Mr. Daws, Associate Principal

Hello CES families, I am Mike Daws, the proud Associate Principal of Clayton Elementary School and I'd like to formally welcome you to the 2023-2024 school year. We are extremely excited to welcome your child(ren) into our classrooms!

For those that do not know me, I have been a proud Smyrna Eagle here at CES for the past 6 years. During this time, I have forged many great relationships with families and students and I eagerly anticipate working closely with you and your family to ensure the utmost success for your child(ren).

As we embark on this new school year together, please remember that an open line of communication is crucial to forging a strong home/school relationship. If for some reason you have a change in how you would like to receive school-based communications, for example your cell phone or email address changes, please contact our front office staff at 302-653-8587. We look forward to a year full of love, laughter, and learning



Important Dates in September:

- 15 Class Tshirt money/form due \$5
- 18 PTO Winter Wonderland Fundraiser due
- 22 No School- Teacher Inservice Day
- 23 District Fall Festival 2-5 pm

Important Dates in October:

- 4 4th Grade Trip to John Dickinson Plantation (Dempsey/Vascellaro)
- 6 4th Grade Trip to John Dickinson Plantation (Bordley/Conboy)
- 12 Mid Trimester
- 13 No School- Teacher Inservice Day
- 14 The Great Clayton 5k 7am-Noon
- 16 Clayton Pride Assembly- Wear your Eagle Pride (Red, White, Black)
- 19 Picture Day
- 20 Homecoming
- 16-20 Bookfair
- 31 Halloween Parade



Karen Jones RN, BSN

Welcome to another fun filled school year. My role here is to work with you and your child to ensure a smooth, healthy transition from the home/preschool setting to Clayton Elementary. I am here to assist you and your child in any way that I can as your school nurse.

The following are some important reminders for the Nurse's Office:

Food Allergies/Asthma/Seizures

- Each school year the nurse must be provided with an updated food action plan for foods, asthma action plan for asthmatics or seizure action plan for those that have a history of seizures from the student's medical provider. Your provider can fax those to my fax 302-653-3419.

Medication Guidelines:

- Students are not permitted to carry any medications.
- All medications must be brought to the nurse's office, in their original containers, with the original prescription label, by a responsible adult (18 or older).

Illness guidelines: Your student should to stay home if they have:

- A temperature of 100.0 or higher
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- A student who returns to school after an illness must be fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medicine, such as Acetaminophen (Tylenol) or Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin). If a student is being treated for a contagious illness i.e. strep, they should be on antibiotics for 24 hours prior to returning to school.
- Itchy, red eyes with discolored discharge or crust upon waking
- Severe Asthma flare-ups that make it difficult to work in school

Consider keeping your child home if they have:

- Headache, cough, sore throat or congestion severe enough to interfere with attention to school work.
- Child is too weak or too tired to take part in normal school activities.

If there are any updates to your students' medical records please send a copy to the nurse so that their records remain current.

Please notify me of any changes to your contact information that could affect the immediate care or treatment of your child while at school.

Hearing and Vision screening will begin soon after school starts for all kindergarteners, second, and fourth graders. A referral will be sent home with the student if they do not pass the screening.

Kindergarten and First Grade, it proves to be beneficial to keep a change of clothes in your child's backpack or cubby for unexpected emergencies.

I promise to give your student(s) the quality care they deserve. I look forward to establishing a relationship with you and your child. If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to call me at 302-653-3147 or email karen.jones@smyrna.k12.de.us.

I look forward to a great year,

Karen Jones, RN, BSN
School Nurse



Sarah Yatskevich, School Counselor

My name is Sarah Yatskevich, also known by the kids as Ms. Y. I am the School Counselor here at Clayton Elementary. I am really looking forward to creating and building relationships with our students and their families. Each month, I will go to all classrooms to present a guidance lesson that focuses on the social and emotional development of students. Some topics include active listening, cooperation, compassion and empathy, career exploration, self-esteem, and more. I will also begin topic focused small groups in October that will be 6-8 sessions long depending on the group focus. Students can be referred for group by teachers, administrators, and/or parents/guardians. Previous group topics have included social skills, making and keeping friends, school readiness, study skills, and anxiety. I also see kids on a one-on-one basis for check-ins and when needs arise. If a student has a need that goes beyond the scope of what I can do here at school, I can refer students and their families to outside agencies. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out via phone at 302-653-8587 or via email at sarah.yatskevich@smyrna.k12.de.us I look forward to partnering with you and your students to build meaningful relationships that will carry forward in the years to come.



CES Reminders, procedures, and expectations

CES Reminders, Procedures, and Expectations

Drop off and Pick-Up Procedures

Every student dropped off by a car must enter through the parking lot on School Lane. There will be NO ENTRY off of Main Street. Administration will contact our walkers individually.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vW3ZY5qKzfxjtXiiST6Z0txlms95ztZF/view?usp=sharing>

Absolutely NO CARS should enter the bus lane if there is a bus present. Even if there is only 1 bus, we still must maintain the safety of our children and we cannot have vehicles moving through the bus lane.

Visitors

All visitors will be required to check in to the office and provide a valid driver's license.

Breakfast and Lunch

The cost of breakfast is \$0.80 and the cost of lunch is \$1.25. To access your child's lunch account, click here and you will be able to add money to their account at any time: <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/getmain?requestAction=home>

To apply for free and reduced lunch click here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13goh2awlyQodl_8SwDRENFECIBP3Xj8N/view?usp=sharing

You can email the completed form directly to the Child Nutrition office at child.nutrition@smyrna.k12.de.us. If you have any questions, call Child Nutrition at 653-3134.

Due to limited spacing, visitors will not be able to join the children for lunch. Please keep in mind, if your child is packing a lunch, it should be from home. Please do not drop off fast food lunches for your child such as McDonald's.

Photography, Newsletter, Website & Social Media

CES has a Facebook account, Instagram account, Website, and School Newspaper that is used to communicate with students and families. Photographs are often taken of our students and posted. If you DO NOT want your child's photograph published, please complete this form: <https://forms.gle/wUHD4dh6Lv63mySQA>

Follow us on Instagram @clayton_eagles and Facebook at Clayton Elementary School or go to our CES website at <https://www.smyrna.k12.de.us/Domain/8>.

The Boys and Girls Club

The Boys and Girls Club will be held in the cafeteria. Students should be dropped off and picked up in the bus lane and enter through the doors under the awning to the right of the stairs. If there are buses in the bus lane, you must wait until the bus lane clears for the safety of our students. You may contact the Boys and Girls Club director of CES at 302-893-9317.

Transportation

The transportation department is working extremely hard to assign all students to a bus. Once the transportation

schedule is complete, the bus driver will call you directly with information regarding pick up and drop off times (The school does not have this information).

If there is a change in transportation throughout the year, the request MUST be put in writing prior to 2:00p.m.

otherwise there is no guarantee the change can be made. Request can be sent to school with your child or you can send an email to both secretaries in the front office (not the teacher) at whitney.hitchens@smyrna.12.de.us and traci.brown@smyrna.k12.de.us.

Communication

Communication is vital. One of the most critical steps is to confirm that we have the most current and up to date information listed in Eschool, such as address, phone number, and email address. We want to make sure all of our families are receiving the information necessary for a successful year. Please call 302-653-8587 or email traci.brown@smyrna.k12.de.us to update your information.

Home Access

All progress reports and report cards will be available through the Home Access Center. Please be sure to have a current username and password to access your child's information. If you do not have a username and password, you can contact our secretary, Traci Brown. <https://hacdoe.doe.k12.de.us/homeaccess>

Standards Based Grading

As you know, the Smyrna School District uses Standards Based Grading. Students receive report cards each trimester showing their progress through the grade level standards using Performance Indicators: Emerging, Progressing, Meets, or Distinction. Please click here for more information: <https://de50000655.schoolwires.net/Page/626>

One-to-One Technology

All students in 1st through 4th grade will receive a Chromebook. Kindergarten students will use Chromebooks in their classroom, but they will not be taking them home. In order to receive your child's Chromebook, you must complete the Chromebook User Agreement

Birthdays

Store bought food items ONLY can be brought into the school for your child's birthday. No balloons or gift bags please!

Absences

A parent note or doctor note is required after your child's absence. 10 parent notes per year are accepted as excused absences. After 10 unexcused absences, a mandatory meeting will be held and a plan will be put in place. 3 consecutive absences will require a doctor's note excusal.

Coats/Jackets/Lunch boxes/ Personal items

Please write your child's name on all personal items. Each year the lost and found items become overwhelming and unclaimed, which leads to a large donation of unclaimed items. Also, recess takes place each day so please dress your child appropriately. We do not have jackets and coats to offer those who do not come prepared during cold weather.

Code of Conduct / Dress Code

The student code of conduct for the Smyrna School District is located on our website at <https://www.smyrna.k12.de.us/domain/465>. Clayton Elementary is committed to the Smyrna School District Code of Conduct. The Dress Code Policy can be viewed here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XH3IP2508M7czx6H5dXmNeqK0_qsYeCE/view?usp=sharing