



HOME OF THE *Wildcats*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

August 2023 | Vol. 4, Issue 1

Dear Students and Families,

My name is Ginette Hoze, and I am thrilled to write this letter as the new Principal of Witter Elementary! It is with great enthusiasm that I extend a warm welcome to each one of you. I am honored to join this incredible school community and embark on a new academic year filled with learning, growth, and success together.

Our dedicated team of educators are committed to creating a safe and nurturing environment that empowers students with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to thrive. We are committed to academic excellence, while also fostering creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. At Witter, we recognize that education is a collaborative effort involving parents, teachers, and the community. I firmly believe that open lines of communication and strong partnerships are essential to the success of our students. I encourage you to actively engage in your child's education, share your insights and aspirations, and be a part of our school community. Your support and involvement are invaluable, and together, we can create an extraordinary educational experience for your child.

To ensure effective communication throughout the school year, we will provide you with regular updates via our school website, social media, newsletters, and Parent Link. We encourage you to actively participate in these channels and stay engaged in your child's social and academic progress. As we begin this exciting new chapter together, it is a privilege to serve as your new Principal and to be a part of your child's journey. I look forward to getting to know each of you and your child(ren).

Go Wildcats!

Warmest regards,

Ginette Hoze, Principal



Witter is on Twitter!

Download the app, create your profile, and follow us

@WitterWildcats!

#WitterOnTwitter



***"Like" us on
Facebook!***

[https://www.facebook.com/
WitterWildcats/](https://www.facebook.com/WitterWildcats/)



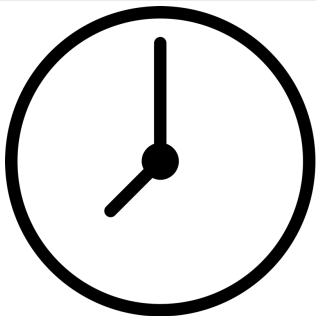
***School Office
813-975-7383***

Fax

813-631-4447

IMPORTANT!

Witter Elementary is a CLOSED CAMPUS. This means that parents are NOT permitted to walk students to class. These procedures are in place in order to better control the access points to our school that ensure student and family safety. This process will ensure we know who is always on campus in the event of an emergency. We are grateful for your support with this effort.



SCHOOL HOURS

TUESDAY-FRIDAY

Gates Open: 7:10 am

Breakfast: 7:10-7:35 am

Instruction Begins: 7:40 am

Dismissal: 1:55 pm

Early sign-out until: 1:30 pm

MONDAY

Early Dismissal: 12:55 pm

Early sign-out until: 12:30 pm



TRANSPORTATION

If your child is eligible to ride a school bus, please visit our school district website for information on stops and times.

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

AM Walkers/Bike Riders- Walkers and bike riders should always use sidewalks and will need to enter the Witter Elementary campus through the gate by the cafeteria, North Gate, or Back Walkers Gate (see map). **Parents will need to drop off students at the gates. ALL BACK WALKERS WILL BE DROPPED OFF AT THE EXTERIOR GATE NEAR THE CHURCH (This gate will be the stopping point for parents).** For safety reasons, students and parents should not go to gates prior to 7:10 am.

AM Car Riders- The car line is in front of school on 22nd St. **The parking lot on the 109th St. side of the school is reserved for BUSES AND DAYCARE VEHICLES ONLY during arrival. ALL STUDENT DROP OFF (including Head Start/VPK and PEEPS) will occur in front of the school.** All parents dropping off in a car must remain in the car and form a single line in the car loop in front of the cafeteria. Cars will pull all the way to the end of the sidewalk before students exit the right side of vehicle next to the sidewalk. Teachers and patrols will be on duty to assist beginning at 7:10 am. Under no circumstances should students be dropped off in any other location, including other lanes of the parking lot or outside the fenced area of the school along the sidewalk. Students cannot be safely supervised outside the designated drop off area.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

IMPORTANT: IF YOUR CHILD'S WAY OF TRANSPORTATION NEEDS TO CHANGED, A WRITTEN NOTE MUST BE SENT TO THE TEACHER. FOR SAFETY REASONS AND PER HCPS POLICY 5230, CHANGES CANNOT BE ACCEPTED OVER THE PHONE.

PM Walkers/Bike Riders- Students will be dismissed from one of the three walker gates (see map). Parents will NOT be permitted to park on 22nd St. or the Main Office parking lot to pick up their child. If this occurs, students will be sent to the car rider line to be picked up.

PM Car Riders- The car line is in front of the school on 22nd St. The parking lot on the 109th St. side **is reserved for BUSES AND DAYCARE VEHICLES ONLY during dismissal.** All parents picking up in a car must remain in the car and form a single line. Do NOT double park, as we will not allow students to cross over to the inside lane. Students will be held in a designated area until their car arrives, and an adult or patrol will bring your child to the vehicle. **Display the hang tag containing your child's information when picking up your child(ren) to speed up the dismissal process.** If you do not have your hangtag, staff will ask for identification to confirm they are on the Emergency Card prior to releasing students. **Parents will not be permitted to park and walk up to the gate or cafeteria. No child will be dismissed unless the parent pulls up in a car.**

PRE-K ONLY: Head Start, VPK, and PEEPS families will enter from 22nd Street. Cars will be directed to form a line down the center parking lot lane. A staff member will use the crosswalk to bring your child to your vehicle.

These procedures are put in place to be sure that we have the safety of all students in mind. Please be patient and think only of student safety during these few minutes of the day. **Traffic will be heavy during the first few weeks** as everyone adjusts to the arrival and dismissal procedures. Thank you for your patience and cooperation!

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL LOCATIONS



SIGN IN & SIGN OUT PROCEDURES

Tardy Sign-In:

Any student arriving to school after 7:40 am **MUST** be signed in by an adult. No student should be dropped off in front of the office and left unattended.

The door is locked, and the driveway is full of traffic. These conditions create an unsafe environment for children. Parents must park in a "Visitor" parking spot while signing in their child. Any student will be marked tardy that is not in their assigned class by 7:40 am.

Student Sign-Out:

A valid picture ID is required for all student sign-outs.

During school hours, the principal or designee shall permit a child to leave school only to the following adult(s):

- Legal guardian of the student
- Person listed on Emergency Card



ADMINISTRATION

PRINCIPAL

GINETTE HOZE

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

CHELSEA OLSON

STUDENT SUPPORT

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

TRACY CRENSHAW

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

NANCY LEBRON LEON

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

JORREL BRINKLEY

ELL RESOURCE TEACHER

CHERYLYN SOTO

RtI RESOURCE

SAMANTHA STONE-HAMILTON

ESE SPECIALIST

GARRICK PIMIENTA

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

OFFICER CREECH

OFFICE STAFF

PRINCIPAL'S SECRETARY

NATOSHA BAGLEY

FRONT OFFICE SECRETARY

PAULETTE UPSHAW-WELLS

DATA PROCESSOR

SEAN EGIZIO

SCHOOL NURSE

LYNN & FELICITY

MANDATORY UNIFORM SCHOOL POLICY

Please dress your child in uniform **daily**. If students are out of uniform, they may be asked to call home or be given a uniform to wear for the day. On Fridays, students may wear Witter Elementary T-shirts. Our uniform allows for many student choices while ensuring that students are neatly and appropriately dressed for learning.

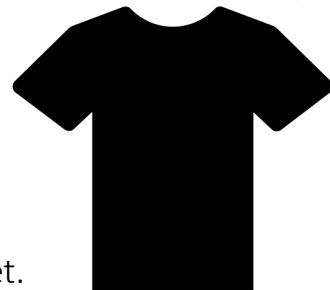
Witter uniform code is as follows:

TOPS, SOLID COLORS ONLY: Polo shirt in red, white, or black.

BOTTOMS, SOLID COLORS ONLY: Khaki pants, shorts, skirts, capris, and jumpers.

FOOTWEAR: Regular shoes or sneakers with a rubber sole are acceptable.

The entire foot must be covered, and the shoe must be securely fastened to the feet.



These items can be found at very reasonable prices at stores such as Walmart, Old Navy, Target and any department stores. You are not limited to any brand of clothing. Denim or jeans must be reserved for Fridays and must be plain and free from decoration. No holes or tears in jeans are allowed.

SCHOOL MEAL BENEFITS

**A NEW FORM IS
NEEDED EACH YEAR!**



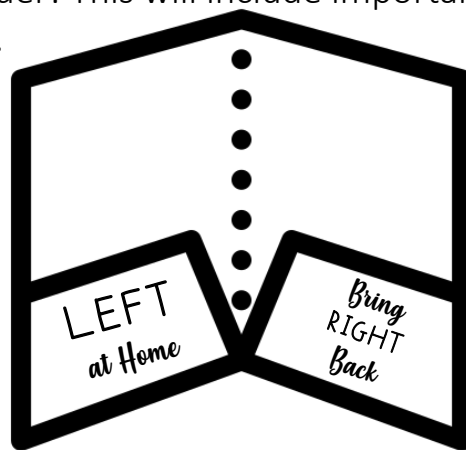
Children need healthy meals to learn! Hillsborough County Student Nutrition Services offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast is **FREE** for all students. Elementary lunch costs \$2.25. **Your child may qualify for free or reduced-price meals!** A new application is required each school year to validate your child's eligibility.

Please complete the online application at <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application> or visit hillsboroughschools.org and choose Departments > Student Nutrition Services > Meal Application | School Meal Benefits.

NEW! TUESDAY FOLDER

SCHOOL-TO-HOME COMMUNICATION

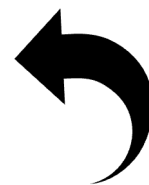
Each Tuesday, check your child's backpack for a **RED** Tuesday Folder! This will include important communication from Witter.



IMPORTANT SIGN OUTS

For the safety of our students, there will be **NO student sign-outs or changes to dismissal after 1:30 pm each day** (12:30 pm on Mondays). Parents are encouraged to schedule their child's appointments around school hours.

SCHOOL WEBSITE



Scan here to visit our school website or visit

<https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/witter>