

School Board

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Thonotosassa Elementary School
"Home of the Thunderbolts"

July 27, 2022

Dear Parents/Caregivers of Thonotosassa Elementary Students:

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year at Thonotosassa Elementary School! We are looking forward to an exciting and rewarding year as we work with our students and their families—those who are returning and those who are new to our school. Our mission is to provide educational opportunities that empower each student to maximize his/her potential. The Thonotosassa staff dedicates themselves to this mission each and every day.

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2022. School begins at 7:40 a.m. and IT IS A FULL DAY OF SCHOOL. Students will be dismissed at 1:55 p.m. Please be on time on the first day but no earlier than 7:10 a.m. There is no adult supervision prior to 7:10 a.m. If your child will not be in attendance the first day of school, please notify the office at 987-6987. This will hold your child's placement with the assigned teacher. Without this notification, students not in attendance the first day will be reassigned upon enrollment. Even if you personally let the teacher know, the office **must** still be notified for first day attendance procedures. **Daily school hours are Monday 7:40 a.m. to 12:55 p.m. Tuesday thru Friday school hours are 7:40 a.m. to 1:55 p.m.**

MEET YOUR TEACHER

On Friday, August 5th, there will be a "Meet and Greet" OPEN HOUSE" from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Classrooms will be open for visitation during these hours. Please take a moment to come and meet your child's teacher; this is also a great time to share dismissal information with the teacher. There will not be time for conferences during "Meet and Greet". If there is additional information you need to share with your child's teacher, please call and schedule an appointment at another time.

Thonotosassa DRESS CODE POLICY

Our goal is for Thonotosassa students to come to school feeling they are dressed for success and ready to learn. We know how a person is dressed affects his or her attitude and behavior. We adhere to the Hillsborough County Schools Dress Code.

Some key items include:

- Shoes need to be securely fastened to the feet and must be suitable for outdoor physical education classes. Unsafe shoes, such as skate shoes or strapless shoes, are not allowed.
- Clothing that exposes the entire shoulder may be worn only with a blouse or shirt over the top. Clothing that exposes the midriff shall not be worn. Underwear shall not be visible. Miniskirts, mini dresses or short shorts are **not** permitted. Hemlines shall be no shorter than fingertip length.
- Head coverings shall not be worn in the building unless required for religious observance or health-related reasons.
- Wallet chains shall not be worn.

For further information, please refer to the Student Handbook.

Emergency Card Information:

There will be an emergency card in the FIRST DAY PACKET and at the Meet and Greet. Please make sure you complete this with accurate information and return to your child's teacher the following day. It is IMPORTANT that

there is someone available by phone to pick up your child if needed. **Only persons listed on the emergency card will be allowed to sign your child out.** Additional space is on the back of the card to list more contacts if needed.

Visitors:

All campus visitors are required to stop by the office first to sign in and receive a pass/badge that must be worn while on campus. Due to safety, our campus will be a modified closed campus. Our campus will be open for special events such as Meet and Greet, Winter Concert, etc. The instructional day will be a closed campus. You must bring photo ID with you. Safety is our top priority, and we need your assistance to keep our campus safe. **Please understand that instructional time is not to be interrupted only in the cases of an emergency.**

Medication:

If a student takes prescribed medication which must be administered at school, the parent must bring the medication to the school nurse and complete the required authorization papers. DO NOT send medicine to school with your child. Prescription medicines can be administered in the clinic, not in the classroom. It must be locked and kept in the clinic. Please do not send aspirin, antihistamines, cough drops or other non-prescription medications to school. They cannot be given to the child through the clinic unless they have been prescribed by a physician. Written directions from the doctor are required. If your child has a severe allergy including food allergy or other health problem, notify the teacher and the school's health assistant of emergency procedures.

SCHOOL LUNCH INFORMATION

FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH TO ALL STUDENTS. This means that your child can eat breakfast and lunch free every day at school. **You would need to have your child at school between 7:10 – 7:30 a.m. daily. This would allow your child to eat and be in class on time.**

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

During school hours and while on the bus, cell phones and other electronic devices are to be used under the supervision of district staff for educational purposes only. Students must comply with the directives of school/district staff regarding when and where electronic devices can be used. Devices may only be used in approved areas and students must comply with the directives of school/ district staff regarding when and where electronic devices may be used. Cell phone conversations and video recording during the school day are prohibited unless under the supervision of staff/school personnel. For more information please refer to the Student Handbook.

EARLY RELEASE/RELEASE OF STUDENTS

Early Release will be every Monday at 12:55 p.m. for all students. If you wish to pick your child up early on Mondays; **they must be picked up before 12:00 p.m.** Remember to bring your driver's license. We do check identification before releasing students. This is for your protection and that of your children. **THIS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.** Students will not be called to the office until you arrive to pick them up.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES: EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ANYTIME THERE IS A CHANGE IN YOUR CHILD'S REGULAR TRANSPORTATION HOME, **YOU NOTIFY THE OFFICE IN WRITING.** YOUR CHILD SHOULD ONLY HAVE ONE "REGULAR" WAY HOME. ALL OTHER VARIATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED SECONDARY AND WILL REQUIRE A NOTE. WRITTEN NOTIFICATION FROM ALL PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS MUST ALSO BE RECEIVED WHEN STUDENTS ARE GOING HOME WITH ONE ANOTHER.

WALKER, BICYCLE AND SCOOTER PROCEDURES

Students who ride bicycles or scooters are required by law to wear helmets. Students who do not wear helmets after one warning will not be allowed to ride bicycles or scooters to school. Bicycles and scooters should be **locked and stored** at the bicycle rack. Safety rules should be explained at home.

- Please practice the bicycle ride to school with your child if this is a new experience for them.
- Children will be allowed to cross streets when coming to or leaving school only where there is a crossing guard or school personnel to assist them.

IMPORTANT!!!! **Students who ride bikes to school must walk their bikes once they reach the top of the sidewalk that enters the school grounds off of Skewlee Rd. . This sidewalk is elevated and we want to ensure the safety of walkers and bike riders. PLEASE ABIDE BY THIS RULE.**

HOST – AFTER SCHOOL CARE

HOST is offering the After School Care program at Thonotosassa Elementary. The program operates on all regular school days (including early dismissal). The After School program operates from school dismissal time until 6:00 p.m. Activities include supervised homework time, arts and crafts, values sessions, child-directed centers, outside activities, guest speakers, special events and more! Snacks are provided daily. Registration and weekly fee

information can be obtained by calling the HOST office at 223-2895. The school office DOES NOT register students for this program.

CAR RIDER PROCEDURES

The car rider drop off point is in front of the school's administration building on the South side of the school facing Skewlee Road. You must follow the drive to the right and follow the car line to the front of the school. Students should not exit your car until you have been told to do so. **At all times, you must follow the directions of staff members who are on duty directing traffic or assisting students. Safety is our #1 priority at Thonotosassa. You may not agree with our procedures but we ask that you follow them.** If you have suggestions, please contact the front office and someone will arrange to speak with you regarding your concern. We are always open to suggestions that will improve safety procedures for our students---your children.

- **DISMISSAL:** To enter the school drive for dismissal, you will turn into the East entrance off of Skewlee Rd. Follow the drive toward the front of the school. Please be cautious as you enter/leave the drive as other cars will be entering and leaving at the same time. **STAY IN YOUR CAR AND MOVE FORWARD WITH THE LINE. DO NOT WALK UP TO THE SCHOOL TO PICK-UP YOUR CHILD; Safety is our #1 concern for students. ALL CARS MUST HAVE A SCHOOL PICKUP SIGN CLEARLY DISPLAYED IN THE WINDOW FOR STUDENT PICKUP. If you do not have a sign, you will be directed to pull over and go into the office to sign your child out. This is to ensure student safety.**
- **MORNING ARRIVAL:** Enter the drive off (East entrance) Skewlee Road and drop students off in front of the school.
- **PARK AND WALK:** If you would like to park in the school's large parking lot on the West side and walk your child to their classroom prior to 7:35 a.m., you may do so for the first week of school. **Students are to walk to their class after entering the campus on their own after the first week of school.** Do not park in front of the school or on the bus ramp along the cafeteria during this time. An adult will supervise the crossing in that area. After 7:40 a.m., you will need to park in front of the school and enter through the office to sign your child into school. A tardy pass will be issued at that time.
- **NO STUDENTS MAY BE PICKED UP OR DROPPED OFF IN THE BACK OF THE SCHOOL ON THE BUS RAMP.** Students must be picked up and dropped off in front of the school.
- Have all school supplies organized before you leave home. If you remember something at the last minute, please drive to a parking place. **Do not block traffic.**
- **Do not bring your child to school before 7:10 a.m.** No supervision is available prior to 7:10. No student will be dismissed before **1:55 p.m.** unless an authorized adult signs him out in the office **prior to 1:00 p.m.** **Early sign-outs to avoid the car rider line are not allowed.** Teachers will supervise students in grade level groups at car riders until your car reaches them. Students must be picked up by 1:10 p.m. for **ALL** students on Mondays. Tuesdays thru Friday **ALL** students are to be picked up by 2:10 p.m.
- When picking up students, place a large sign in the front window of your car with the first and last name of each child being picked up. Include each child's grade level. **You must move forward as instructed before you stop to let your child out or pick up your child. DO NOT speed or pull around other cars.**
- **DO NOT TALK ON CELL PHONES WHEN PICKING UP YOUR CHILD. This distracts you and may cause a student injury. We also request that you leave your pets at home when picking up your child. This can also cause a distraction and could possibly lead to student injury.**
- **Drive slowly as you approach the school.** There are children who walk and ride bikes to school and they often do unexpected things that require drivers to stop immediately. Please be alert.
- Direct your child not to step out of the car or onto the sidewalk until your car is completely stopped. Drive away from the pick-up area slowly.

It is especially important that you go over these procedures with your children so they can be knowledgeable participants regarding their own safety.

Again, welcome to an exciting year as our teachers, staff, parents and community work together for excellence in education. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Anthony Montoto, Proud Principal
Thonotosassa Elementary
"Home of the Thunderbolts!"

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION
2022-2023
Bus Stop Routing

The Transportation Department wishes to notify all parents of the many mediums by which you can access bus run information for your child before school starts. Bus run information is available at <http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/> or at the school. **All kindergarten students will be issued a GREEN pass that MUST be kept on their book bags. If the tag is not on the book bag, the student will not be permitted to ride the bus. Also parents of kindergarten students must be at the bus stop to receive their child.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us 987-6987, where we will be happy to answer any questions you have

For all students attending Thonotosassa Elementary (This will ensure your child goes home the correct way):

Please complete the tags at the bottom of this page and attach them to your child on the first day!

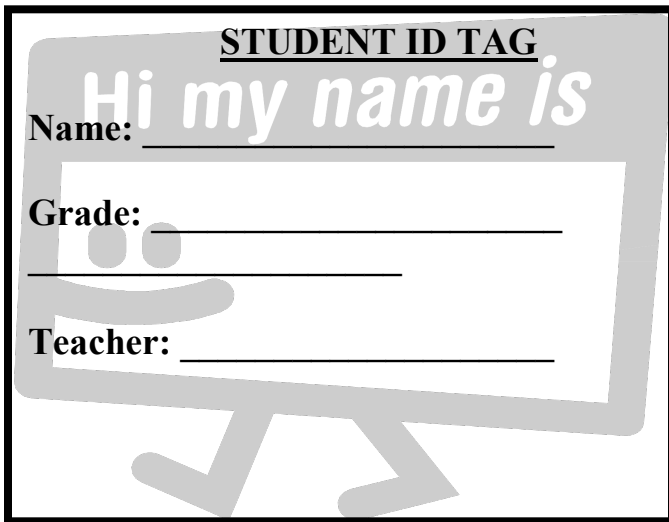
STUDENT ID TAG

Hi my name is

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Teacher: _____



BUS TAG

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Bus Number: _____

Bus Stop: _____

