

THE PAW PRINT

Mrs. Stacie Everson, Principal

August 27, 2018

www.cfisd.net



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

What a great day we had at Birkes Elementary today! Our staff and students had a busy day settling in for a year of adventure! In order to start the year off establishing consistent routines and procedures, no lunch visitors will be allowed in the building during the first two weeks of school. We will begin allowing lunch visitation on Monday, September 10. Be sure to take a few minutes to look over all of the important first day packet information sent home with your child today. Please return all forms to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Here at Birkes Elementary, we have been planning ways to increase our school safety for 2018-19. We know keeping our students safety is so important. Since our district passed a bond package 4 years ago, our campus has seen a variety of security enhancements, such as our secured vestibule. We want to remind all our visitors to use the call button to be granted access into the campus, and to check in with ID at the receptionist desk. Also, not holding open a door for another visitor isn't rude – it's safe! Stay tuned for a safety video from Birkes Elementary!

Want to stay in the loop with school text reminders regarding late bus notices, curriculum nights, Book Fair reminders, etc.? Sign up for the Birkes Reminders by typing 81010 in the To: line and @Birkesel in the message line. See attached flyer for more details on how to sign up for the reminders. You may also follow us on: Facebook at "Birkes Elementary – School Sponsored Site" and "Birkes Elementary PTO/VIPS", and Twitter @BirkesCFISD.

Our school spirit shirts will be sold ONLINE ONLY. We are offering a short sleeve (\$10.00) and long sleeve (\$15.00). See attached flyer for more details on how to place your order.

We are truly excited about this school year. It's going to be the best school year yet and we are thankful your child will be a part of our adventure! And so, let the Adventure Begin!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

CURRICULUM NIGHT

Tuesday, September 11th

6:00 p.m.

for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades



Tuesday, September 18

5:00 p.m.

Pre-K & Kindergarten

6:00 p.m.

1st and 2nd grades

Please meet in the cafeteria to begin the meeting. This is an event designated for parents/guardians only.

MORNING ARRIVAL

We open our front doors at 8:25 a.m. If you drop your child off before 8:25, **there will be no supervision.**

Students are allowed to enter the building at 8:25 each morning. Instruction begins at 8:45. Please help us begin instruction on time by allowing your child to ride the school bus or by dropping them off in time to walk to class and be in their seat ready to learn by 8:45.

Please be extremely careful when dropping students off at the front door. PLEASE STAY IN THE CAR LINE - PASSING PUTS STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN DANGER. **Students exit on the passenger side of the car only.**

STATE MANDATED NUTRITION POLICY

The State Mandated Nutrition Policy is in effect. The state policy does not allow any competitive foods in the school. Parents may provide food for their own child, but will not be permitted to bring cupcakes, cookies, or food of any kind to school for other children for birthday celebrations, etc.

Please review the new State Mandated Nutrition Policy that is included in the Student Handbook.

BACKPACKS

Due to storage and safety issues, please do not send rolling backpacks to school. We will work to ensure that backpacks are not overloaded for students.

LUNCH VISITATION

Please no lunch visitors the first two weeks of school. You are welcome to make plans to eat lunch in the cafeteria with your child on or after Monday, September 10. During the first week of school teachers are establishing unified routines for our students. In addition, students are making new friends and spending time socializing as they start a new year with their new classmates.

SECURITY SYSTEM

Everyone who visits Birkes will need to have their license scanned. Thank you for helping us keep our campus safe.

Please, no lunch visitors the first two weeks of school.

BREAKFAST

Breakfast is offered to students for \$1.00, adults for \$2.00. Lunch is \$2.25 for students and \$3.50 for adults.

For parent drop-off, we begin serving breakfast at **8:25**. Students dropped off **after 8:45** cannot eat breakfast due to classes beginning at **8:45**. Breakfast is served for bus riders as they arrive to Birkes.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

We want to welcome each of you to Birkes for the 2018 - 2019 school year. We have two counselors, Mrs. Denise Patrick and Mrs. Lisa Sudtelgte who will be supporting our students this year. Please feel free to contact them with concerns about your child at (281) 345-3300. In each newsletter we will share upcoming dates, counseling news, and various parenting strategies to use at home. We look forward to a great year!

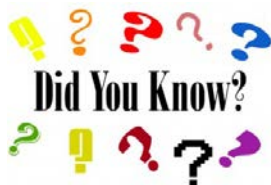
The Role of the School Counselor

- Counsel individuals and small groups of students to meet identified needs
- Deliver the guidance curriculum & assist teachers with the school guidance program
- Participate in planning, implementing, and evaluating a comprehensive guidance and counseling program to serve all students
- Consult with teachers and other staff regarding concerns about students' needs
- Adhere to ethical, legal, and professional standards

INDIVIDUAL PICTURE DAY



Parents, please mark your calendar. Wednesday, October 10th is individual picture day. All pictures must be pre-paid. Please make checks payable to Lifetouch. Money for pictures will not be accepted after the start of school (**8:45 a.m.**).



Important Newsletter Info

Starting this school year, we will be sending our newsletter electronically once a month. Our newsletter will be posted on our website the 1st Monday of each month. There may be some variation due to the school schedule or holidays. **Starting Oct. 1st, you will be emailed when our newsletter has been posted on our Birkes website.** Paper copies will be available at the front desk.

When you receive your Emergency Information & Medical Release Authorization Form/Transportation Form the first week of school, please update your email address on the form, so you will receive newsletters and all important updates throughout the year. Please also provide your email address to the homeroom teacher so that we will be able to communicate with you via email once our systems are updated.

NURSE'S NOTES



Please note, for safety reasons, **all medications must be brought to and from school by an adult.** Students cannot transport medicine. Your help and compliance with this policy will provide a safer environment for all students. Please bring any medications to the clinic. Thank you for your cooperation.



EMERGENCY INFORMATION AND TRANSPORTATION FORMS

Emergency Information/Transportation Forms will be sent home Thursday, August 30th. Please list all emergency telephone numbers, cell phones, pagers, including area code, and sign your emergency cards. **Please return by Thursday, September 6th.** Thanks.

SCHOOL VISITATION



Visitors

Please contact the teacher before coming to school for a classroom visit. This enables the teacher to advise you of any schedule changes or instructional/testing situations that might prevent you from making a visit.

All visitors are required to bring photo identification, sign in and out at the front desk, and wear one of our name tags. This procedure helps us ensure the safety of the school environment for the children.

Cafeteria

After the first two weeks of school, parents may eat lunch in the cafeteria with their child. The lights in the cafeteria will be turned out the last five minutes of your child's lunch and at that time visitation is over. You are asked to help your child follow the rules and routines in the cafeteria. Milk, juice, and desserts may be purchased a la carte. All students have an account with the cafeteria. We encourage you to make a deposit into your child's account for use when lunch or lunch money is forgotten. If your child loses or forgets his/her lunch or lunch money, he/she will be allowed to call home for assistance. Breakfast and lunch are served daily. Kindergarten and first grade students do not purchase dessert.

Remember to check the Birkes website when you need information.

Go to:

- www.cfid.net
- School/Facilities
- Elementary Schools
- Birkes

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION
AND HELP**



There are several students at Birkes who have potentially life threatening allergies to peanut products. Their body will react suddenly and violently when triggered by any peanut product. Our goal at Birkes is to provide a safe environment for all children. Therefore, we ask that no peanut butter cookie, candy or other peanut treat be served at holiday parties. (Example: peanut M & M's, Snickers, any Reese's product, Butterfingers, homemade or store bought peanut butter cookies.) Our food service department does not serve any foods containing peanut products.

**LABEL ALL COATS, JACKETS, LUNCH KITS,
AND BACKPACKS**



Please label your child's coats, jackets, sweaters, lunch kits, and backpacks with first and last name.

PTO NEWSLETTER

Our PTO's newsletter, The Barker, will come home the last Monday of each month.

PTO FUNDRAISER

"Believe Kids" Fundraiser begins Tuesday, September 25 and ends on Friday, October 12, 2018.

Watch for important information coming home soon.

**Would you like to volunteer at Birkes?
Become one of our fabulous Mentors!**

*Do you want to make the difference in the life of
a child?*



Consider being a mentor.

What is a mentor?

A mentor is a person who...

Listens, Encourages and Supports.

Requirements:

1. **Attend an essential 2 hour training**
2. **Submit an application**
3. **Participate for one school year**
4. **Have fun with an assigned student for 30 min/week**
5. **Conduct all mentoring at school**

***For more information, call Denise Patrick
(281)345-3306.***

**IT'S TIME FOR THE ANNUAL PTO
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE AND CONTEST!**

Welcome back Bulldogs! "The Adventure Awaits" for the 2018-2019 school year! Thanks to your generous support of PTO sponsored activities, it is sure to be a successful year - one that couldn't happen without you!

The easiest way to support your Birkes student(s) is by joining the PTO. All that is required is your special donation of \$10 per family! All donations are spent directly on the students, funding activities such as BizTown, Mother Goose reading to the Kindergarten students, guest authors, Little Beakers on campus, and many other wonderful student focused activities.

Go to www.birkespto.com and log in or register - update your family and volunteer interest information and pay online. You are not obligated to do anything else by joining - you don't have to volunteer - but if you would like to volunteer, we'd love to have you join in on the fun!!

If your family signs up and pays their \$10 donation by Friday, September 28, each child in your family will receive a ticket to the "Cookie Celebration" held during a lunch in October. So be sure to sign up so your student gets to join in on the fun!!

As always, thank you for your support!

Kelly Bay, Membership
kellyjordanbay@yahoo.com

CREDIT-BY-EXAM

Students in grades K-5 will have four opportunities during the school year to use "credit-by-exam" to accelerate to another grade level. Students will only have one opportunity to test for each grade level considered.

To apply to take the test to skip kindergarten, a student must be 5 by September 1, and registered in a CFISD school. To apply to take the test to skip grade 1, a student must be 6 by September 1, and enrolled in a CFISD school.

Students who earn scores of 80% or better on each component of the credit-by-exam will qualify to advance one grade. Only one grade level may be "skipped" each year. No retests will be given. If you are interested in getting more information about credit-by-exam, please contact the school counselor at 281-345-3300.

DISTRICT DRESS CODE POLICY

General Guidelines for Student Dress and Grooming

Appropriate student dress and grooming are important factors in the safe and orderly operation of the schools. Each student's appearance should reflect a positive image of the school and contribute to a distraction-free learning environment.

Our district values and needs the support of parents in upholding the district and campus dress and grooming guidelines. The student and his/her parent(s) may determine the student's personal dress and grooming standards provided that the student's dress and grooming:

- shall not lead school officials to reasonably believe that such dress or grooming will disrupt, interfere with, disturb, or detract from school activities; and
- shall not create a health problem or safety hazard for the student or others.

Using these general guidelines and the specific guidelines listed below, school administrators, with the input and support of faculty members, have the final decision in determining and enforcing student dress and grooming standards at school and at all school-related activities. Individual campuses may develop and enforce additional or standardized dress codes and grooming guidelines that meet the standards of the campus (see additional information on standardized dress codes below). These campus guidelines or standardized dress codes may be more restrictive than those established by the district. However, these additional campus guidelines or standardized dress codes must be developed in accordance with the district's procedures and regulations regarding adoption of additional campus guidelines or standardized dress codes and must be publicized to the students and parents in a timely manner, so that students and parents can select the appropriate clothing that will meet the individual campus guidelines or standardized dress codes. All students are required to adhere to the district dress and grooming guidelines, as well as to any additional guidelines developed and approved for the campus. Exceptions will be permitted for bona fide religious reasons. **Parents are expected to be knowledgeable and supportive of the dress and grooming guidelines.**

Specific Guidelines/Restrictions for Student Dress and Grooming

Students should wear garments, shoes, jewelry, accessories and hairstyles that

- are appropriate and modest in length and coverage,
- reflect a positive image of the school and contribute to a distraction-free learning environment, and
- lead teachers and/or staff to reasonably believe that the issue does not interfere with, disturb, or distract from the classroom and/or learning environment.

Students are not to wear clothing that is tight, loose, sagging, baggy, revealing, spaghetti-strap, backless, low cut or short. Students are also prohibited from wearing tear-away type apparel, dusters, overcoats, and trench coats.

Pants– must be worn at the waist or upper hip and must not reveal underclothing.

Shorts and Skirts - must fit at the waist or upper hip, must not reveal underclothing, and must be mid-thigh in length or longer.

Tops, Shirts and Blouses – must not reveal underclothing, midsection, torso, back, chest, breasts or cleavage.

Dresses – must not reveal underclothing, midsection, torso, back, chest, breasts, or cleavage and must be mid-thigh in length or longer.

Shoes – must not detract from or interfere with the learning environment or present a safety or health hazard. Tennis shoes or closed-toe shoes are preferred. House shoes/house slippers of any kind are not allowed.

Head Coverings – no type of head covering is to be worn with the exception of (1) a cap or hat that is part of a uniform worn at a school activity or (2) for religious or medical purposes.

Underclothing – must wear appropriate underclothing.

Pajamas/Loungewear – any and all pajamas/loungewear are prohibited.

Jewelry/Piercings – Noisy, distracting and excessive jewelry or accessories are prohibited (including wallet chains). Jewelry/piercings must not detract from or interfere with the learning environment or present a safety or health hazard.

Tattoos –Tattoos that are gang-related, offensive or distracting or that distract from or interfere with the learning environment of the school must be covered at all times.

Hair/Make-up – Hair must be well groomed, neat and clean at all times; hair style/color and makeup must not detract from or interfere with the learning and school environment.

Backpacks- CFISD requires all high school and middle school students to use clear backpacks. Students participating in a campus-approved extracurricular activity are permitted to carry nontransparent bags to store items pertaining to their particular activity (i.e., band, athletics, etc.). Upon entry into the school, all extracurricular activity bags must be stored in lockers or designated areas. All non-transparent bags are subject to search. Additionally, the maximum size for non-transparent bags that students may carry during the day, such as lunch kits, pencil bags, purses, permitted in grades 6 - 12 is approximately 6" x 9" x 5". Students may carry multiple transparent bags, but will be limited to two non-transparent bags. Elementary school students will be allowed to continue using traditional backpacks. Students participating in school-related activities, such as extracurricular or UIL activities or other special functions, may have a different dress or grooming code required by the sponsor, coach, or administration.

Dress and Grooming Violations

Students who come to school in violation of the district and/or campus dress code will have the option of correcting the violation or being placed in Discipline Management Class (DMC/In-school suspension) for the remainder of the day. School officials may use other appropriate consequences as designated in the Code of Conduct. Parents may be asked to bring appropriate attire to school to assist in correcting the violation. Students who have a question about the appropriateness of an item should discuss the specific issue with the appropriate staff member before wearing the item.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

If you are interested in purchasing accident insurance for your student, please follow the link below.

<http://www.cfisd.net/en/parents-students/registration/student-insurance/>

SPIRIT SHIRT SALES

Our spirit shirts will be sold **only** online. We are offering a gray short sleeve shirt (\$10.00) as well as a gray long sleeve shirt (\$15.00). **Shirts may run small and will shrink as they are 100% cotton.** **The deadline to purchase a spirit shirt is Sunday, September 9th at 11:59 pm.** **This is your only opportunity to place an order.**

Fridays are our designated Spirit Day. We encourage all students to wear their spirit shirt every Friday.

Please follow the link below to place your order.

<https://birkes0818.itemorder.com/sale>



Shirts will be delivered to the school through your child's homeroom teacher.



Sign up for important updates from Birkes Reminders.

Get Information for Birkes Elementary School right on your phone—not on handouts.

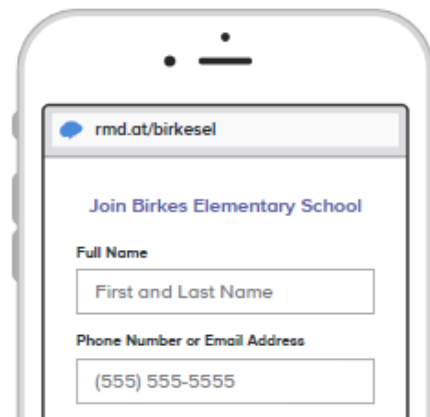
Pick a way to receive messages for Birkes Elementary School:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/birkesel

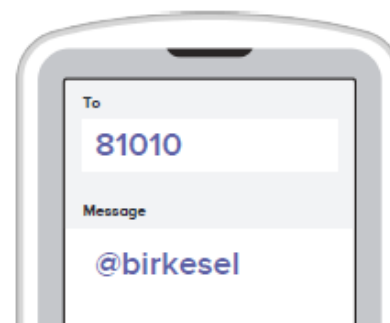
Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @birkesel to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @birkesel to (469) 275-4938.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/birkesel on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

Art, Music & P.E.

We are planning an exciting, fun filled year. In order to maintain a safe and effective learning environment in large group, it is essential that students comply with classroom expectations. The following guidelines have been established and will be used for evaluations in our classrooms.

General Conduct:	Well behaved on a consistent basis. Respects adults and other students.
Listens Attentively:	During instruction, focuses on the teacher without talking. "Signals" when appropriate. Can repeat directions when asked.
Sportsmanship:	Exhibits qualities of fairness, cooperation, and encouragement of others.
Use of equipment:	Proper use of all materials, supplies, tools, instruments, and equipment.
Participation:	Prepared for class and instruction. Actively involved.

In the event that these expectations are not met, and the behavior does not improve, consequences will result as outlined in the Birkes Discipline Plan and the district's Code of Conduct. Inappropriate behavior will also affect conduct and subject grades on the student's report card.

To help your child have a successful and a positive experience in our classes, make sure your child:

- * wears properly fitting tennis shoes with ties or Velcro on PE days. No platforms, sandals, flip-flops, or mules**
- *brings a note if they are to be excused from physical activity. Notes should include the nature of the problem, the date(s) involved, and your signature. If your child needs to be out of physical education for more than three days, a doctor's note is required.**
- *returns signed progress notes the next school day**

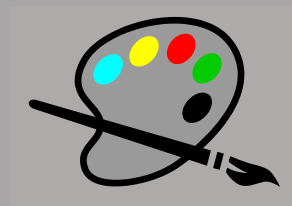
Special events throughout the year will offer opportunities for all students to participate, enjoy, and appreciate physical fitness, art and music. We look forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,

Patti Paine/Renee Bukowski- PE

Peggy Stelly-MUSIC

Kristy Knight- ART



Birkes Elementary




2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Birkes Elem. 8500 Queenston Houston, TX 77095 Ph. #281-345-3300 Fax #281-345-3305	School Hours: 8:45 – 4:00 We open our front doors at 8:25. If you drop your child off before 8:25, there is no supervision.	Lunch Schedule Kdg. 10:55-11:25 1 st 11:25-11:55 2 nd 11:55 – 12:25 3 rd 1:25 – 1:55 4 th 12:55- 1:25 5 TH 12:25-12:55	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Please, no lunch visitors during the first two weeks of school. Thanks!						
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No lunch visitors 1st day of school Don't forget to order your spirit shirt online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No lunch visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No lunch visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No lunch visitors Emergency Information & Medical Release Authorization & Transportation forms will be sent home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No lunch visitors 9:00 PTO Board Mtg. 	
Don't forget to order your spirit shirt at: https://birkes0818.itemorder.com/sale Last day to order your shirt is Sunday, September 9, 2018 at 11:59 p.m.						

Birkes Elementary



2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Birkes Elem. 8500 Queenston Houston, TX 77095 Ph. #281- 345-3300 Fax #281- 345-3305</p>	<p>School Hours: 8:45 – 4:00 We open our front doors at 8:25. If you drop your child off before 8:25, there is no supervision.</p>	<p><u>Lunch Schedule</u> Kdg. 10:55-11:25 1st 11:25-11:55 2nd 11:55 – 12:25 3rd 1:25 – 1:55 4th 12:55- 1:25 5TH 12:25-12:55</p>				1
2	<p><u>Labor Day</u> Student Holiday</p>	<p>4 • No lunch visitors</p>	<p>5 • No lunch visitors</p>	<p>6 • No lunch visitors • Emergency Information & Medical Release Authorization & Transportation forms are due</p>	<p>7 • No lunch visitors</p>	8
<p>9 Last day to order your spirit shirt – see link below</p> 	10	<p>11 • 6:00 3rd, 4th & 5th grade Curriculum Night</p>	12	<p>13 • Chick-fil-A Spirit Night – Copperfield location</p>	14	15
16	17	<p>18 • 5:00 PreK and Kinder Curriculum Night • 6:00 1st & 2nd grade Curriculum Night</p>	19	20	<p>21 • 9:30 – 10:30 VIPS PTO Breakfast in the cafeteria</p>	22
23	24	<p>25 • 5:00 – 7:00 Fundraiser pick up • 6:30 – 7:30 Watch DOG Kick off in the cafeteria</p>	26	27	<p>28 • 9:00 PTO Board Mtg. • Don't forget to join PTO!</p>	29

Last day to order a spirit shirt is September 9, 2018 at 11:59 p.m. Birkes spirit shirts are available to purchase on-line at <https://birkes0818.itemorder.com/sale> \$10.00 (short sleeve) and \$15.00 (long sleeve).

