

September 8, 2020

Dear Birkes Families,

We were so excited to finally see our 2020-2021 Birkes Bulldog face-to-face and connect learners today. Birkes staff members have been busier than ever preparing hybrid, face-to-face, and virtual lessons to make this unique year as seamless as possible. Without a doubt, our theme this year, "Team Birkes – Stronger Together" could not be more fitting as we prepare for a year like no other.

This year's enrollment projection is approximately 1,040 students with less than half of our learners attending school face-to-face. We currently have 115 staff members going above and beyond to ensure your child has opportunities to grow and feel safe and successful whether learning face-to-face or virtually. Please be sure you have previewed the CFISD LEAD SAFELY 2020-2021 PLAN. You may download a copy in [FULL COLOR](#) or [PLAIN TEXT](#).

In order to follow the CFISD Lead Safely protocols, no visitors are allowed on campus, at least for the first semester of school. Please work with us and limit drop-offs to student eyeglasses and/or medications. Student lunch drop-offs and/or lunch kits will not be delivered to students this year. All students will eat in the school café if they forget their lunch at home.

Please remember school hours are 8:40 – 4:10. Students are allowed to enter the building beginning at 8:20 each morning. Instruction begins at 8:40. 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 8:40.

Beginning September 8, 2020, Birkes spirit shirts (children and adult sizes) are available to purchase on-line at <https://birkes19.itemorder.com> for \$10.00 (short sleeve), \$12.00 (long sleeve), \$15.00 (3/4 sleeve), and \$18.00 (sweatshirt).

As I mentioned in an earlier summer newsletter, my biggest request is to provide grace as we work to navigate the kinks of teaching students both face-to-face and online simultaneously. While we are truly blessed to have exceptional staff members on our campus, this is something new that none of us have done before. All of our teachers are working so hard to learn, plan, and brainstorm ways to connect with our students to help them to be engaged and excited about learning this year. We know there will be hiccups and kinks to work out. Please be patient as we work through these little problems, and remember that all Birkes teachers want your children to get the best possible education whether in the building or tuning in from home. It's going to be a great year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Stacie Everson  
Principal



# THE PAW PRINT

Mrs. Stacie Everson, Principal

September 8, 2020 [www.cfisd.net](http://www.cfisd.net)



## SCHOOL VISITATION

Due to our CFISD Lead Safely protocols and procedures, no visitors, including lunch visitation, are allowed on campus, at least for the first semester of school. Please work with us and limit drop-offs to student eyeglasses and/or medications, as needed.

Student lunch drop-offs and/or lunch kits will not be delivered to students this year. All students will eat in the school café if they forget their lunch at home. All breakfast and lunch items are free to all students through December 31 pending funding availability in accordance with USDA regulations.

Please note when dropping off and/or picking up a student for an appointment, please ring the front door bell. Our receptionist will assist you through the system monitor. Please have your ID ready to show our receptionist upon arrival. Once your ID has been scanned and verification of ID has been made in the system, your child will be released to you at the front entry of the building.

Thank you for working with us to maintain the safety of our teachers and students.

Together, we will make a difference!

## CHANGES IN TRANSPORTATION DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

If you need to change your child's transportation during the school day, please email the request for change to your child's teacher and [Birkes@cfisd.net](mailto:Birkes@cfisd.net).

**Changes requested after 3:00 p.m. can only be made in extreme emergencies. Please call the school if a change in transportation request is after 3:00 p.m.** Our goal is to have each child reach their destination correctly and safely, by the proper mode of transportation. We can ensure your child will get home correctly only if you change transportation prior to 3:00 p.m.

## NURSE'S NOTES

Please note, for safety reasons, **all medications must be brought to and from school by an adult.** Students cannot transport medication. Please email our nurse, Vanessa Montalvo, at [Vanessa.montalvo@cfisd.net](mailto:Vanessa.montalvo@cfisd.net) or call 281-345-3300 to arrange a time for medication drop off.

## Label Personal Belongings

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

## Breakfast and Lunch

Cy-Fair Nutrition Services will provide breakfast & lunch at no cost to ALL children 18 & younger, beginning September 8. Meals will be at no cost through December 31 pending funding availability in accordance with USDA regulations.

All children 18 & younger who are not attending school on campus may receive Curbside CONNECT grab and go meals. Children do not need to be enrolled in school or of school age. Children are not required to be present to receive meals, but parents/guardians **MUST** have an approved form of ID for each of their children to receive meals.

Students who attend school on campus are not eligible to receive Curbside CONNECT meals. Receiving the same meal at multiple campuses on the same day is not permitted.

Meal Sites: Service is 4PM-6PM, Tuesday and Thursday at following sites:

Elementary: Bane, Bang, Emmott, Hancock, Reed, Willbern

Middle: Anthony, Aragon, Arnold, Bleyl, Campbell, Cook, Dean, Goodson, Hopper, Kahla, Labay, Salyards, Spillane, Thornton, Truitt, Watkins

High: Bridgeland, Cy Creek, Cy-Fair, Cy Falls, Cy Lakes, Cy Park, Cy Ranch, Cy Ridge, Cy Springs, Cy Woods, Jersey Village, Langham Creek

### COUNSELOR'S CORNER

We want to welcome each of you to Birkes for the 2020 - 2021 school year. We have two counselors, Mrs. Denise Patrick and Mrs. Romicka Johnson 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

Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> 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 (**8:40 a.m.**).

#### Important Newsletter Info

**We send our newsletter electronically once a month. Our newsletter will be posted on our website the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month.** There may be some variation due to the school schedule or holidays. **You will be emailed when our newsletter has been posted on our Birkes website.**

**Remember to check the Birkes website when you need information.**

Go to:

- [www.cfid.net](http://www.cfid.net)
- School/Facilities
- Elementary Schools
- Birkes

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

Welcome back Bulldogs! "Team Birkes – Stronger Together" for the 2020-2021 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. You will have access to an online directory and all that is required is your special donation of \$10 per family! All donations are spent directly on the students' activities.

Go to [www.birkespto.com](http://www.birkespto.com) and log in or register - update your family including students' grade level, teacher name and volunteer interest information, then 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!!

As always, thank you for your support!

Roiann Baskin, Membership

### PTO NEWSLETTER

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

### STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

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

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

## **SPIRIT SHIRT SALES**

Our spirit shirts (**in red**) will be sold **only** online beginning September 8 through September 20, 2020. Birkes spirit shirts (children and adult sizes) are available to purchase on-line at <https://birkes0920.itemorder.com/> for \$10.00 (short sleeve), \$12.00 (long sleeve), \$15.00 (3/4 sleeve), and \$18.00 (sweatshirt). **Shirts may run small and will shrink as they are 100% cotton.**

**The deadline to purchase a spirit shirt is Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

- **Face-to-Face Learners - Spirit shirts will be sent home with your student.**
- **Connect Learners – A day will be designated for a drive-thru pick up once the shirts have arrived on campus.**

<https://birkes0920.itemorder.com/>



## 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 HB-44 General Guidelines for Student Dress and Grooming (continued) 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. HB-45 Specific Guidelines/Restrictions for Student Dress and Grooming (continued)

**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. **ID Badges** – The badges and the unique student number will be used to account for students utilizing transportation services, checking out library books and textbooks, purchasing food items from the cafeteria, providing a means for easy identification of students in common areas of the school and for other uses as determined by campus administration. All secondary students grade 6- 12, shall wear a student ID badge, visible, on school-approved lanyards, during the instructional day. 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.

**School Uniforms or Standardized Dress Code**

Campuses may, in accordance with district regulations and procedures, develop and publish a standardized dress code or adopt a school uniform. Campuses implementing a standardized dress code are required to re-survey their communities, school staff and CPOC committees every 5 years to obtain a favorable vote for standardized dress. Compliance with a standardized dress code or a school uniform is expected every day, including the first day at that campus. Students who are new to the campus, or students with extenuating circumstances, will be expected to be in compliance after a reasonable grace period. The students at these campuses are expected to follow the HB-46 School Uniforms or Standardized Dress Code (continued) appropriate district dress and grooming guidelines as well as the specific campus guidelines. Exceptions to school uniforms will be permitted for bona fide religious and philosophical reasons. Campuses that have adopted a school uniform include Frazier, Owens and Sheridan elementary schools and the secondary DAEP campuses.

# 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 on PE days. Please teach your child to tie their shoes. 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**

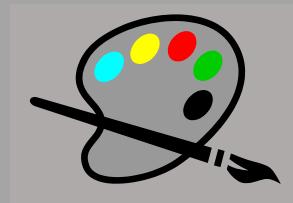
Special events throughout the year will offer opportunities for all students to participate, enjoy, and appreciate physical fitness, art and music. We look forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,

Patti Paine/Renee Bukowski- PE

Vacancy -MUSIC

Kristy Knight- ART





# Birkes Elementary



## September 2020

Last day to order your Birkes spirit shirt is Sunday, September 20 at 11:59 p.m. Birkes spirit shirts are available to purchase on-line at <https://birkes0920.itemorder.com/>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Birkes Elem. 8500 Queenston Blvd. Houston, TX 77095 Ph. #281-345-3300 Fax #281-345-3305</p>	<p>School Hours: 8:40 – 4:10 We open our doors at 8:20. If you drop your child off before 8:20, there is no supervision.</p>	1	2	3	4	5
<p>6 <u>Lunch Schedule</u> PK 11:00 – 11:30 Kdg. 11:00-11:30 1<sup>st</sup> 12:00 – 12:30 2<sup>nd</sup> 11:30 – 12:00 3<sup>rd</sup> 1:30 – 2:00 4<sup>th</sup> 1:00 – 1:30 5<sup>TH</sup> 12:30 – 1:00</p>	<p>7 <u>Labor Day</u></p>	<p>8 • 1<sup>st</sup> day of school</p>	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<p>20 • Last day to order a spirit shirt – see link above.</p> 	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 10px;"> <p>Parents, you can access our newsletters, PTO newsletters, calendars and flyers by going to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.cfid.net">www.cfid.net</a></li> <li>• Click Schools &amp; Facilities</li> <li>• Click Elementary Schools</li> <li>• Click Birkes website</li> <li>• School News at top right</li> <li>• Click Newsletters or calendar</li> </ul> </div>		