

THE FALCON FLYER

SEPTEMBER 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, September 3
SIC Letters go home

Friday, September 4
Spirit Day

Monday, September 7
Labor Day Holiday – No School

Tuesday, September 8
7pm – D2 Board Meeting

Friday, September 11
Spirit Day

Monday, September 14
SIC Nominations due

Wednesday, September 16
SIC Ballots go home

Thursday, September 17
Interims go home

Friday, September 18
Spirit Day

Friday, September 25
Spirit / Hat Day (\$1)
Soaring Readers
Soaring Writers

Tuesday, September 29
Fall Pictures

Wednesday, September 30
Terrific Kid Recognition
SIC Ballots due



HEALTHY & SAFE FALCONS

As we begin the new school year, please keep in mind some of the safety measures that have been put in place to protect our students, staff and families:

- Water fountains have been turned off; however, students are encouraged to bring a bottle of water from home.
- Visitors will not be allowed into the student areas of the building.
- It is essential and required that masks are worn by everyone in our buildings during certain times.

Please continue to screen your student each morning and keep your child home from school if he/she exhibits any of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New or worsening cough
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore Throat
- Diarrhea / Nausea / Vomiting



MES SPIRIT DAYS

MES Spirit Days are every Friday. Students are encouraged to wear a school shirt or our school colors - red and black!

We will also have "Hat Day" once a month. Students may pay \$1 on these days to wear a hat of their choice during the day.

What a great way to show our school spirit!

SEESAW

Seesaw is a digital portfolio and communication tool that gives you real-time glimpses into your child's school day and gives you an opportunity to support your child's learning at home. When your child adds a new post to their journal, or when the teacher / principal sends out a message, you'll automatically get notified. Be sure to ask your child's teacher for instructions on signing up!

FALL PICTURES

Our photographer will be here on **Tuesday, September 29th** to take fall pictures. There will be a day set aside in October for make-up pictures, should there be anyone absent on September 29th. Please remember that pictures taken in the fall are the pictures that appear in the yearbook.



MORNING ARRIVAL REMINDERS



The school doors open at 7:00am. No student should be dropped off prior to 7:00am since there will be no supervision.

- Parents who need to walk in with their child are asked to park in a designated parking space and wait at the orange cones for school personnel to indicate that it is safe to cross.
- Students must be dropped off in the car drop-off line. No student is allowed to be dropped off in the front parking area or in the bus loop at the back of the building.
- Parents are asked to pull all the way down to Pole #1 when dropping off students. This allows for a minimum of 7 cars to unload at the same time.
- Please do not have your student wait for their car door to be opened by school personnel if they are capable of exiting on their own. There is not sufficient time for cars to unload and students to make it to class on time when students wait for their door to be opened.
- Staff on duty will be more than happy to assist any student that needs help getting out of the car. This includes opening doors for younger students, helping with bookbags, and assisting with doors having child-locks engaged.
- Car riders wishing to eat breakfast should be in the cafeteria by 7:25am.
- Students are brought into the classroom and morning routines are started at 7:15am. The first bell rings at 7:30am.
- The front doors are closed and school personnel return to the building at 7:39am. Students arriving after 7:39am do not have enough time to get to class by the 7:40am bell. If you arrive at/after 7:39am, you will need to walk in with your child, sign them in, and get a pass to class for your child.
- At 7:40am, the tardy bell rings. Any student not in their classroom at that time is considered tardy.

Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe and promoting positive attendance habits. Please contact the office if you have any questions or concerns.

2020-2021 COVID Student Handbook Addendum

[MES Student Handbook](#)

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to a new year at Mayo Elementary School! Our faculty and staff are passionate about providing our students with the very best education possible. Our commitment to providing outstanding educational opportunities extends beyond the walls of the classroom, as we strive to prepare our students for a global society. Our children are the leaders of tomorrow, and every moment of learning only makes them stronger.

As we enter this “new normal” for the 2020-2021 school year, there are a few things that will change in regard to policies and procedures found within our handbook. All changes are to ensure the health and safety of our students and faculty as well as our families. Since the pandemic is a fluid situation, our policies and procedures are subject to change based on the latest guidance from DHEC, CDC, SCDE, as well as District Two. We have added this addendum to inform you of policy changes to our normal routines and procedures. As always, thank you for your understanding and flexibility as we strive to best serve you and your children.

- If someone in your home or someone you know exhibits symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, please contact the school nurse, or an administrator as quickly as possible.
- Do NOT send your child to school or visit the school office if you are sick.
- We will utilize SeeSaw, School Messenger, as well as the MES Webpage and Facebook Page for communication between home and school.
- There are no changes to our bell schedule in the morning or afternoon. Please be patient as we work through dismissal the first few weeks.
- No visitors will be allowed into the instructional areas of the building. This means parents and guardians cannot walk students to their classrooms, visit a classroom, or eat lunch with their child at this time. Visitors can come into the front office following our new policies and procedures:
 - Visitors must sanitize hands
 - Visitors must wear a mask
 - Visitors must complete the COVID questionnaire
- When students are late to school, parents should pull to the front of the school, walk their student to the door and the receptionist will assist you in signing in your student.
- If your child needs to dismiss prior to the 2:15pm dismissal, you must arrive by 1:45pm. If you arrive after 1:45pm, you will be required to go through the car line. This policy is to avoid large gatherings of people in the front office area where we have limited space.
- All large group events such as literacy night, math night, grade level programs, awards days, etc. are suspended until further notice.
- No off-campus field trips will be planned at this time. We will strive to plan high quality, on-site learning experiences for our students.

- We have suspended Perfect Attendance awards until further notice to encourage student to stay home when sick.
- The school nurse is trained in current proper protocols and procedures. We will follow SCDHEC guidelines when making decisions regarding sick students. Sick students will be isolated with supervision by school staff until picked up by a parent or guardian.
- Since Tylenol may mask symptoms of illness, the nurse will not be able to dispense Tylenol from the health room.
- Gifted Art and Mayo Singers will not meet at this time. Additional information will be sent to parents when these programs resume.
- Water fountains will be turned off, so please send a water bottle with your child each day.
- Within the classroom family, students and teachers will social distance to the extent possible by eliminating large gathering areas. Students are expected to wear a mask when moving about in the school building. If a doctor has requested your child wear additional personal protective equipment, please communicate that with our school nurse and your child's teacher.
- Please be patient and flexible if your child is a bus rider. Our transportation department will be adhering to the guidelines put out by the State Superintendent of Education, which may change the traditional routes that we run.
- All food from our cafeteria will be pre-packages "grab and go" style. There will be one hot and one cold lunch entree option each day. We will begin the year with 1st – 5th grades eating lunch in the cafeteria.
- Students will be unable to share school supplies; therefore, it is critical that all students have their own school supplies to use throughout the course of the school year. Please click here for the [MES School Supply List](#).
- Families are encouraged to utilize phone and video conferencing when meeting with teachers. When necessary, face to face conferences can be conducted in small groups with proper protocol.
- Homework will be more limited in nature than what we have implemented in the past. However, please dedicate time to studying for assignments, completion of short assignments for reinforcement, and daily independent reading of at least 30 minutes.
- At this time, we cannot allow birthday treats to be brought in at lunch.
- Additional information regarding District Two's *Return-2-Learn* Safety Protocols ~ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kBOsp1AG5nr60FeNaa86LgfdpkfCev7w/view>

Again, welcome to Mayo Elementary. We promise to do all that we can to provide a nurturing environment that encourages positive self-esteem, promotes responsible citizenship and fosters educational success. We look forward to a great school year and thank you in advance for your support and partnership in your child's learning.

Cassandra L. Davis, Principal