



Families,

It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at our Meet and Greet at Publix. I cannot wait to officially start the 2021-2022 school year! Our teachers are working hard to get classrooms and instructional areas ready to welcome our students. Please know that our teachers are just as eager to start this school year as your children. This newsletter is being published before school in order to communicate some procedures and other information families need to kick off our school year. We will continue to publish “Week at the Creek” weekly. Week at the Creek will be shared with our families every Friday and will contain information pertaining to that upcoming week. Our first official Week at the Creek will be published on Friday, August 13th. I am so excited to be part of the Hawk Family and cannot wait to welcome you back to our building. Please make sure that you continue to visit our website for the most up-to-date information regarding our school: <https://www-hce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>.

Mrs. Cubero-Gonzalez
Principal

**FIRST WE LOVE THEM
THEN WE TEACH THEM**

Save The Dates:

8/12 PK and K Meet Your Teacher
8/13 Grades 1-5 Meet Your Teacher
8/16 First Day of School
8/16-19 Staggered Start for Kindergarten
8/27 PTO Back to School Bash*

**More information to come*

School Supplies

School supply lists can be found on our school website: <https://www-hce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>

We encourage all families to bring school supplies to the Meet Your Teacher Event.



Meet Your Teacher

Please find the staggered times for Meet Your teacher [here](#).

Arrival

Parents will not be able to walk students in the building on the first day of school. We understand that many of our students are new and do not know exactly where to go on the first day. We have a number of staff members stationed all along the entrances and hallways to assist our students. Staff members will have class lists and room numbers to help them get where they need to go. In addition, all students will receive a backpack tag to place on their backpack at the Meet Your Teacher event. The tag will state their name, grade, and teacher's name. This tag should remain on your child's backpack all year. The Meet Your Teacher event is a perfect time to have students practice walking to their classroom.

Kindergarten students – will follow staggered start the first four days. Families will sign up for a date at the Meet Your Teacher event. Kindergarten parents can arrive at 8:45 (after car line is over), park (we will also have the additional overflow lot open to give more space) and walk their child up to their classroom. For our instructional day to begin on time we ask that drop be brief.

PreK students – will arrive in the regular car line anytime between 8:00-8:25. Our PreK teachers will be stationed outside during the first week of school to help get PreK students out of car seats and safely into the building. After the first week, our PreK paraprofessionals will help with this process.

PreK parents – please have your car tag visible for quicker recognition.

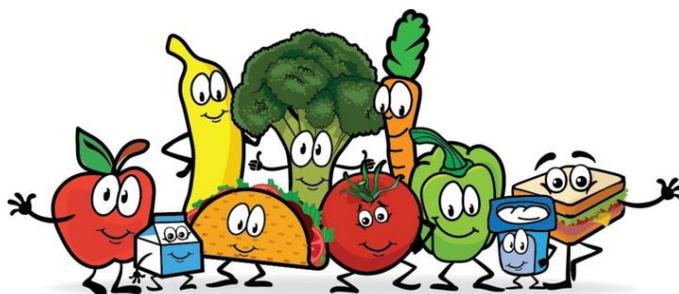
All other students – School Bus riders and Daycare Van/Bus riders will be assisted by Ms. Gary-Donovan (Assistant Principal) and select staff. Bikers and Walkers will be directed to enter the building through the car line loop. Car Line students will be assisted by Mrs. Gonzalez (Principal) and select staff.

Car Line Protocol for arrival: Students will exit the car on the passenger side only. This is very important to ensure the safety of everyone. Please take time to review the [car line map](#). Car line student vehicles need to travel all the way down Hickory Creek Trail, go around the cul-de-sac and back up into the school entrance gate. There will be safety cones set out to assist with this traffic pattern. Please **STAY IN THE LINE** and once your child(ren) has/have safely exited the vehicle, continue to stay in line until you are through the car loop and out the other gate.

Lunch

School lunch (and Breakfast) will be at no cost this school year. Students will have the opportunity to purchase additional lunch items, such as chips and snacks, at a cost. You can add funds to your child's account online through the PayPams system: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/food/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2020/08/PayPAMS-Flyer-English.pdf>. Students are also allowed to bring their lunch if that is your preference.

Week at the Creek will have the daily menus published weekly.



Dismissal

Dismissal will be a work in progress for the first week or so as we learn everyone's regular mode of dismissal and transportation. We ask that your student begin the school year following their regular, daily mode of dismissal. We will use an app for "mobile student checkout" called School Dismissal Manager.

Car Line – Please have your car tag clearly visible (for those who did not get one at Meet Your Teacher, they should receive one from their teacher sometime during the first week). Follow the [Fastlane Car Line Instructions](#). Please drive all the way down to the cul-de-sac and back up into the property (as is directed on the Car Line map). Students will be released from their classroom to come to the car line. We have a number of staff on duty throughout the hallways to keep them heading in the right direction. Please make sure the car line is visible to staff members helping load students in cars. *PLEASE BE PATIENT* as this process will take a bit of time initially to learn a new routine. **PLEASE DO NOT SKIP IN LINE OR DRIVE AROUND** a stopped car, unless directed to do so by one of our car line staff members. These directions also pertain to PreK and Kindergarten students.

Bus- Bus students will be dismissed by grade level to load the buses. Kindergarten is always dismissed first in order to seat the kindergarten students at the front of the bus. Bus drivers will have seating charts for COVID contact tracing. It is very important that students follow the directions given to them by the bus driver.

Biker and Walkers- Students will be walked out by staff members at about 2:40PM. It is important that bikers follow Bicycle Safety, please take a moment and review some safety tips with your child. View these videos: [Pedestrian Safety](#) and [Bicycle Safety](#).

Extended Day- Staff will follow the procedures share with families. Students will meet their team lead at the specified location after school. Students will have a snack and then will work on their home learning (about 20-30 minutes). Students will also attend recess, weather permitting.

We want to be efficient, but most of all, we want to be safe!

Please note: Once dismissed, a student cannot come back on campus to retrieve personnel items. Please talk to your child about retrieving all their belongings BEFORE leaving their classroom. Anything left behind will be there the next morning.



Volunteers

Anyone (parent, guardian, friend, neighbor, aunt, uncle) wanting to volunteer in our building must have school access; this includes attendance of any event at Hickory Creek Elementary School, and/or attendance of an awards assembly. If you have not already done so, please complete the [School Access Form](#). The process for approval may take up to 4 weeks, so please fill out the application sooner rather than later for any guests that would like to have school access. Once the application is approved, school access will be valid for three years.

Until further notice, only essential volunteers are allowed on campus. An essential volunteer is one that assists with the instructional day. Teachers will have sign up opportunities for families. The office will have a weekly schedule of volunteers they will follow. If you are not on the schedule, you will need to sign up for a volunteer opportunity. Volunteers will be limited, therefore when signing up for opportunities please be mindful that other families may want to volunteer as well.

Per district communication, parents and/or guardians cannot eat lunch with their student at this time. Once this changes we will notify our families.