



Week at the Creek

August 14, 2023

Hawk families,
Our students have jumped right in to the new school year! I have had the pleasure of visiting classrooms and learning environments this week! Our students are engaged and actively learning. This week our biggest focus was building community and learning our routines and procedures. Our teachers took the time to get to know their students via games, morning meetings, and other interactive activities.

Another huge accomplishment this week is our morning arrival car line. We have been very efficient this week! A huge thank you to our families for having students ready to unload safely. Our patrols have been a big help too. They are unloading vehicles, and some are transporting students to their homeroom.

Please continue to visit our [website](#) for the most up to date information. I look forward to another week at the creek!

Mrs. Yvette Cubero-Gonzalez



AUGUST

- 8/10-15 Staggered Start for Kindergarten Students
- 8/16 Kindergarten Parent Social in café @8:45AM
- 8/18 PTO Back to School Bash 5PM-7PM

SEPTEMBER

- 9/4 NO SCHOOL: LABOR DAY
- 9/5 SAC Monthly Meeting @ 4PM
- 9/5 K, 2, 4 Curriculum Night
- 9/7 PK, 1, 3, 5, Curriculum Night
- 9/11 PTO Monthly Meeting @ 8:30AM
- 9/13 Interim Reports
- 9/16 PTO Sponsored: Coffee Social
- 9/22 Picture Day

OCTOBER

- 10/13 First Quarter Ends
- 10/16 NO SCHOOL: Teacher Planning Day

Lunch Menu for week of 8/14

Breakfast is \$1.75; Lunch \$3.25

Monday

- Chicken Slider Biscuit OR
- French Toast Sticks

Tuesday

- Penne Pasta with choice of marinera sauce or meatballs OR
- Chicken Nuggets

Wednesday

- Homestyle Chicken Sandwich OR
- Pepperoni Calzone

Thursday

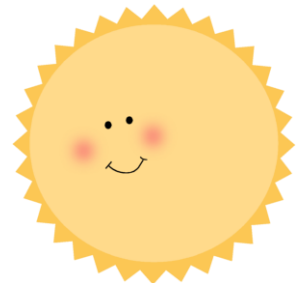
- Cheese Pizza OR
- Pepperoni Pizza OR
- Mini Corn Dogs

Friday

- Hamburger OR
- Max Cheese Sticks



EXCESSIVE HEAT WATCH



The weather forecast continues to indicate an excessive heat warning.

Please be assured that we monitor the weather to ensure safe conditions for outdoor activities. Excessive heat, like storms, may cause outdoor activities to be limited or suspended. In these conditions, students may have PE and recess in indoor spaces. We will continue to monitor weather conditions and adjust our outdoors plans throughout this week.



COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS

Please refrain from emailing our teachers during instructional time. Our teachers are not checking email during this time, because they're focused on teaching. If you need help immediately, please call our front desk receptionist, Ruth Sherwood, (904)547-7451. If it is not an emergency, please note that your student's teacher will get back to soon as soon as possible. Please note it can take up to 48 hours for a response, especially on weekends. We ask that all transportation changes be reported to our front desk. Mrs. Sherwood keeps a list and calls all classrooms beginning at 2pm with transportation changes (this is the reason we ask to refrain from checking students out after 2PM).

ARRIVAL

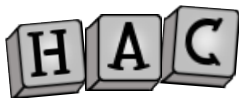
Kindergarten students – will follow staggered start the first four days. Families will sign up for a date at the Meet Your Teacher event. Kindergarten parents can arrive at 8:45AM (after car line is over), park (we will also have the additional overflow lot open to give more space) and walk their child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

Pre-K students – will arrive in the regular car line anytime between 8:00AM-8:25AM. 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 and safety patrols 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 Ms. Tiffany Lo (Assistant 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. 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. Please do not skip in line or drive around another vehicle unless instructed to do so by a staff member. **Parents are not allowed to park and walk their student to the front door. You will be asked to get back in your vehicle and drop off your student via the car line.**



Home Access Center



The Home Access Center (HAC) is a web-based application and where you will find transportation information, student data, student grades, and how you will access your student's report card.

Please visit the website below to access to sign up for an account:

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/>.

Dismissal

Times: Students are dismissed at 2:45p.m. all days except Wednesday. On Wednesdays, students are dismissed at 1:45p.m.

Dismissal will be a work in progress for the first two weeks 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.**

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). Please drive all the way down to the cul-de-sac and back up into the property. Students will be released from their classroom to come to the car line holding area. We have a number of staff on duty throughout the hallways to keep them heading in the right direction. **Please make sure the car tag is visible to all 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. Please do not park in the Swiss Point Parking Lot to pick a student. This lot is not our property, and we need permission to use it. Please note parking in this location is considered trespassing.

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. It is very important that students follow the directions given to them by the bus driver.

Biker and Walkers- Students will be dismissed by grade levels and 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 shared with families. At 3PM, students will meet their team lead at the specified location after school be. Students will have a snack and then will work on their home learning (about 20-30 minutes). Students will also attend recess, weather permitting.

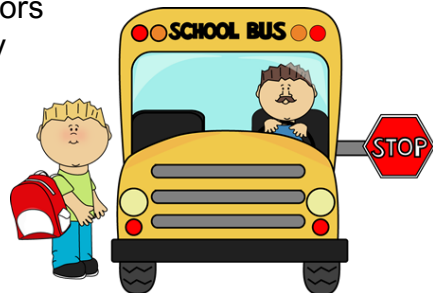
Please note: **Once dismissed, a student cannot come back on campus to retrieve personnel items.** Please talk to your child about retrieving all their belongings BEFORE leaving their classroom. Anything left behind will be there the next morning.

PROVISIONAL TRANSPORTATION WAIVER

Schools are not authorized to issue bus passes or instruct bus operators regarding bus ridership or stops. The Transportation Department may issue provisional waivers for a specific period of time due to extenuating circumstances. Parents may apply for this waiver via the St. Johns County School District webpage:

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/transportation/ptwaiver/> .

Waivers will not be available from individual schools.



ABSENCES

A [written note](#) is needed within 48 hours of returning to school stating the cause of the absence.

Excused absences include: personal illness, illness of an immediate family member, a death in the family, religious holidays of the student's established religious faith, required court or law agency appearances, public functions, state competitions, scheduled doctor or dentist appointments.

Unexcused absences include: shopping trips, pleasure trips, suspension from school, appointments without prior approval except in case of emergency, truancy, and other avoidable absences.

For a complete list of excused and unexcused absences, refer to the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Media Advisory Committee

Please complete the following form should you wish to apply to be on the Media Advisory Committee for the 2023-2024 school year.

<https://forms.office.com/r/RHeRBmJWNd>.

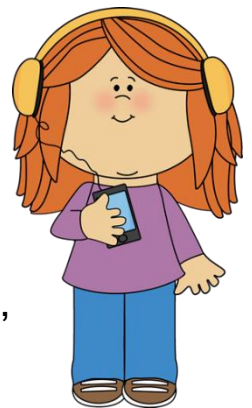


Cell Phones and Other Wireless Devices*

Page 26 on [the Student Code of Conduct](#) states:

*Students may possess cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices at school, on buses, and at school functions. However, **they must be turned off, stored in student's backpack, purse, locker or vehicle. The device shall not be used during the school day without administrative approval or on school buses to and from school.** Upon administrative approval, use is limited between classes and during lunch only. Students may not use a wireless communication device during instructional time, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes. Failure to comply may result in the device being confiscated. Repeated failure to comply will be considered defiance of school rules.*

*Wireless devices include smart watches. All smart watches should be on Airplane Mode while on campus. Texting, making, or receiving calls, and/or recordings on a smart watch are not allowed. Failure to comply may result in the device being confiscated.



Please note, in order to sign-in to our lobby computer as a volunteer, you **MUST** be a cleared volunteer and you **MUST** have a driver's license. Please follow the directions posted on the computer to sign in.

Ruth, our receptionist, can also help.

Please visit our site regarding school access:

<https://www-hce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>



FORTIFYFL
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

#FORTIFYFL
GETFORTIFYFL.COM

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google play

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
fldoe.org

The advertisement features a smartphone displaying the FortifyFL app interface with buttons for 'Report a Tip', 'Call 911', 'My Tips', 'About', and 'Settings'. Logos for St. Johns County, Florida Department of Education, and the Florida Department of Transportation are also present.



WELCOME TO HICKORY CREEK ELEMENTARY PTO

WHAT IS PTO?

Our Parent-Teacher Organization works with parents, administration, teachers and staff to enhance our students educational experience. By becoming a PTO member and contributing to events and fundraising opportunities, you are making quality programs and events happen for ALL of our students. PTO provides funds for many activities at school, some of those are...



Classroom Grants



Teacher and Staff Appreciation



Family Events

Becoming a member of the PTO doesn't sign you up for endless volunteering. It means that you believe in the students, staff and families at Hickory Creek Elementary School!

REGISTER FOR THE PTO

Ensure you're fully connected & register today. Visit www.hcepto.org, click the button to Register/Login on our home page & create an account with our site. If you have previously registered, just update your information.



FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK PAGE...

Stay up to date on the latest PTO happenings by following our PTO Facebook Page @ Hickory Creek Elementary - PTO.

ONLINE RESOURCES...

- PTO Calendar
- Archive of Meeting Minutes
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Hawk Rock Info

...all available at www.hcepto.org

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Our PTO Leadership Team is always available to answer parent questions, email us at hcepto05@yahoo.com

