



— SOUTHWEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL —

COYOTE CLASSIFIED



SEPTEMBER 2021

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

WELCOME BACK!

It is so hard to believe our summer is over and we are already back in school. We have had an excellent start to the year and I really appreciate all who were able to attend our Pre-K Orientation, Kindergarten / 1st Grade Kick-off. I hope you spent some time getting to know your children's teachers and learning about their classroom expectations. I appreciate your support and your willingness to partner with us to educate your child. Please come back and join us at our future Family Councils. We will continue to share information about what we are implementing and new initiatives we have with you at Skate Nights.

Please make note that we will be reviewing crisis drills with all SW students this month and they will then be participating in those practice safety drills throughout the month/year.

We will continue to promote college and career readiness through our AVID program. All teachers continue to implement AVID strategies in their daily lessons to help ensure the success of all students.

News From the Library

We are very excited to say that after a year and a half , the library is open for our students. They will be allowed to come into the library to check in and check out books. Please encourage your students to read every day for at least a few minutes. You as parents could also spend a few minutes reading with your child. Accelerated reading test taking will also start soon. We will keep you informed.

8/26 2nd-4th Open House

5pm

8/30 IAR testing for 4th grade

9/6 No School

9/8 Board Meeting

6:30PM@ Fields Building

9/22 10:45 dismissal for K-4

9/22 No School for Pre-K

9/22 BOE Meeting

6:30 PM @ Fields Build

9/23 Family Council

@skateland 5pm-7pm

9/24 No School for Pre-K

9/24 Student Birthday Celebration day

9/29 Early Dismissal 1:15pm

K-4th grade

10/5 Fall Pictures

10/7 Fall Pictures

Southwest Coyotes Gear

We are currently working with BSN Sports to create some new Southwest Coyotes spirit gear. When we get the shop up and operational you will be able to place an order for items you would like with our new logo. A portion of the purchase price will go back to the school.

~~~~~Pre-K~~~~~

Welcome back! The preschool program is excited to start off the year with in-person learning this year! We are so excited to see all the joy and excitement that the children bring when they get to go to school! All of the classrooms will spend the first few weeks teaching and learning about the rules, expectations, and routines, but most importantly, getting to know one another. We will be following various Creative Curriculum studies throughout the year which are geared towards the children's interests. Much of the learning in preschool is done through play and hands on experiences. We are looking forward to a fun year of learning and growing. If you are interested in our program or would like to know how your child is doing developmentally, you can sign up for a free screening located throughout the county by calling 444-3525 or 444-3266. Children are eligible for our program as soon as they turn three years old.

KINDERGARTEN

HELLO KINDERGARTEN PARENTS! WE ARE OFF TO A GREAT START. WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FAMILIES THAT ATTENDED OUR KINDERGARTEN KICK OFF. WE WILL HAVE SEVERAL CONTESTS THIS YEAR BETWEEN THE KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS. OUR FIRST CONTEST WILL BE SHOE TYING. PLEASE WORK ON THIS SKILL WITH YOUR CHILD. PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR STUDENT'S FOLDER NIGHTLY. DO NOT FORGET TO COMPLETE THE HOMEWORK AND SIGN THE LEARNING LOG. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US. WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT.

Ms. BURELSON, Mrs. HOLYCROSS AND Mrs. TOLER

FIRST GRADE

FIRST GRADE CAME BACK TO SCHOOL READY TO LEARN! THIS MONTH WE WILL BE LEARNING ABOUT SCHOOL RULES AND PROCEDURES, HOW TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN AS WELL AS REVIEWING OUR LETTERS AND SOUNDS, BLENDING WORDS, TEN FRAMES, AND PART-PART-WHOLE. SOMETHING YOU CAN BE WORKING ON AT HOME TO HELP YOUR STUDENTS IS TO PRACTICE COUNTING TO 120, IDENTIFYING AND WRITING NUMBERS, REVIEWING KINDERGARTEN SIGHT WORDS, AND WRITING THEIR NAMES AND LOWERCASE LETTERS.

ALSO, WE ARE THRILLED TO WELCOME OUR UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS STUDENTS Ms. HUGHES, Ms. MILESKI, AND Ms. RHODES. THEY WILL HELP TEACH IN OUR ROOMS EACH MORNING ON MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND THURSDAY. ON WEDNESDAY, THEY WILL HELP TEACH ALL DAY.

Second Grade

We are so happy to be back in school and are starting off second grade right by talking about the power of positivity and growth mindset. In class we are working on routines and procedures for the next couple weeks. We hope that this will give us a good start to the school year. We are so excited to have students back in person after last year. We hope to see many of you at Open House August 26th at 5 pm. In math, we are ready to jump in with our first topic; fluently add and subtract within 20. As always, continue to read and practice math facts at home with your student. Your help and support is appreciated.

Third Grade

Welcome back to our 3rd grade families! Our students are off to a great start already! We are starting off with some review from last year before we get into full swing. We will be practicing some reading skills and addition/subtraction review. Please check and sign your student's agenda each night. We will use our agendas this year to keep the students organized and to stay in contact with our families. Please begin reading a bit each night to increase fluency and practice those facts. Hope to see you at our Open House on Thursday!

Mrs. Lehman and Mrs. Roach

Fourth Grade

Welcome back to school! We are excited to have students back in the classroom. We will be busy reviewing skills, getting into a routine, and learning the expectations. We are taking the IAR (Illinois Assessment of Readiness) test starting August 31st. This is the test they were supposed to take at the end of third grade. We will test every day until September 3rd. Please make sure your child is getting to bed early. The first couple of weeks of school are very tiring. We are looking forward to a great school year.



Tips for the Start of the Year!

Starting a new school year can be an exciting but stressful time for you and your child. Here are some tips to make sure your child gets the most out of his or her school year (Scholastic.com):

- Sleep for school.** Setting up a regular bedtime and wake-up routine is a crucial step to prepare your child for class and a practical way to cut down on stress at the start of the year.
- Connect.** Communicating with your child's teacher on a regular basis is an essential part of caring for his or her education. Teachers can alert you to any emotional, social, or academic difficulties they perceive in your child at school. The same works in reverse: notify teachers about changes that might affect your child's behavior in school.
- Look up to learning.** If your child is feeling a bit anxious about going back to school, keep a positive attitude. Recall the fun and exciting events, field trips, projects, and so on from years past, and show excitement about the opportunities for learning new things in the upcoming year.
- Talk it out.** Asking your child about school is important. It shows him that you value his or her education. Try to avoid general questions, like "How was your day?" These will most likely produce one-word answers. Instead, be specific.
- Go farther.** Getting involved in school events, if you have time, is a great way to show support and enthusiasm for your child's learning experience. Participating in school activities is also a valuable way of connecting to the school community.
- Bring it home.** Helping your child with his homework is an effective way to show concern for what she learns at school. Displaying your child's projects around the house also helps to keep learning excitement high.

Data Driven

Welcome back! This year we will be using a screening tool to test K-2 students. The program is called Fast-Bridge. Students will be screened three times this year: once this fall, once after Winter Break, and once at the end of the school year. This test will help us determine which students may need extra support and which students we need to offer enrichment to. The test gives us baseline data on each student's academic levels in Reading and Math. We will begin testing when we return from Labor Day weekend. Our team looks forward to working with your students and you again this year to help them achieve academic success!

AVID

Welcome back from Mrs. Mickna, Mrs. Spencer, and the rest of the AVID team!

Southwest is an AVID School! AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. Here at Southwest, we show that we are AVID students by doing our best in writing and reading, by inquiring for more information, collaborating with peers, and staying organized. The main focus of AVID is College and Career readiness. During the month of September students will be working on Goal Setting in their classrooms. Please ask your child about the academic goals they set at school and think about setting some personal goals to work towards at home!!

Always prepared, Very respectful, Intentionally safe, Determined and responsible

A Note from the Nurse....

Special Health Needs

If your child has any special health needs or problems, this should be communicated to me. This information is kept confidential and it can be very important to a successful experience in school. Examples of such needs are:

1. Food Allergy
2. Bee sting allergy
3. Allergy to any other substance
4. Difficulty with vision, hearing or speech
5. Need for medication during the school day

Need for special aids such as crutches, walkers or wheelchairs, either on a temporary or permanent basis.

If your student has any of the following symptoms, please keep your child at home and call the school right away for further instructions:

Sore throat, Moderate to Severe Headache, cough, fever, vomiting, or diarrhea.

