

August 2, 2024

Dear Holland Families,

It is with great excitement that we get ready to welcome all of our students and families for the 2024-2025 school year.

This year our school-wide theme is Holland Hawks Rock!.

To kick off the year, we have a lot of exciting events coming up! Listed below are events coming up in August and September.

August:

- 4** - Sunset Church of Christ student shoe shopping (2-5)
- 11** - Back to School Bash @ South Haven (5-7)
- 12** - Post Class Lists on Front Door (noon)
- 15** - 1st-5th Meet-the-Teacher (3:30-5 pm)
- 16** - Kindergarten Meet-the-Teacher (4-5 pm)
- 19** - **First Day of School! Begin 1st Quarter**
- 22** - Drills @ 8:00 am
- 26-Sept 6** - Galileo BOY Testing (2nd-5th)
 - Galileo Dyslexia Screener (1st-3rd)
 - Benchmark Assessment System
- 26-Sept 27** - Kindergarten Observation Form (K)
- 29** - Health Fair (K, 1, 3 & 5) 7:30-10:30

September:

- 2** - Labor Day: School System Closed
- 5** - SPS University/Open House (4:30-6:00)
- 11** - PTA Meeting (5:30-7) in Holland Library

Communication:

This year all SPS elementary schools will be utilizing the communication platform, SeeSaw. Teachers will be using SeeSaw as the primary way to contact families. Your teacher will have more information when you come to Meet-the-Teacher and/or the first days of school.

You can expect to hear from your child's teacher biweekly. I will also be sending out a family newsletter, Holland Happenings, at the 1st of each month with important school-wide updates. The Holland Happenings include a [Family/Community Hub](#). This link includes tons of information such as how to make a 504 request, menus, Calendar of Events, media block form, the Student Handbook, and much, much more. If you have an idea of how to improve our Hub or information you think would be supportive of other Holland Families, please let me know. This is an evolving document, so check back frequently!

School Supplies:

This is the [School Supply List](#) for the upcoming year based on each grade level.

Our generous community partners at South Haven Church are inviting Holland and Mark Twain students for a fun-filled event where backpacks and school supplies will be available August 11, from 3-5 pm at South Haven! Please fill out [this online form](#) for each of your children entering Kindergarten - 5th grade if you'd like to attend the event. If you have any questions, contact:

Colton Conrad

cconrad@south-haven.org.

South Haven Baptist Church

2353 S Campbell Ave FLC Gym (door 4)

Springfield, MO 65807

Start time:

We will open our doors at 7:00 am. Students will be counted tardy if they arrive after the 7:20 am starting bell. We will begin each morning spending approximately 5 minutes connecting as a Holland family before dismissing to the classrooms and having breakfast. During this time we will share announcements, connect through our Holland Pride Pledge, unite together saying the "Pledge of Allegiance," celebrate students and staff, and review expectations as needed.

Attendance will once again be one of our primary focuses for the upcoming year. Please reach out to the office if your child will be absent for any reason, and let us know if we can do anything to support your family to ensure they are in attendance and on time each day.

Dismissal:

School ends at 2:20 pm.. We will dismiss bus riders and walkers prior to calling car riders-- this ensures students are safely across the street and buses are able to get out of the car line. We strive to ensure a speedy, yet safe dismissal. Our staff works diligently to make sure students are accounted for prior to leaving the building. Our teachers will be reaching out to find out how your student will be getting home.

If your child is going home a different way than usual, please call the office so that it can be communicated to the classroom teacher and all other adults assisting in the dismissal process.

Additionally, we will be putting color-coded tags on backpacks for the first week or so of school to ensure your child is getting home according to the plan you have indicated to their teacher.

If you need to pick your child up early, please do so prior to 2:00 pm. It gets very busy in the office at the end of the day. Please refrain from coming in after 2:00 pm to pick up your child and plan to go through the car line or park your car and walk to the side door to pick up your student. If your child has an appointment or a specific reason to be picked up early, please call the office and speak with our Office Manager, Michelle Peak, at (417) 523-4100.

Class Lists:

Class lists will be posted on the front doors at noon on Monday, August 12. You are also welcome to see them at the 1st-5th Meet-the-Teacher, August 15 or Kindergarten Meet-the-Teacher, August 16.

Lunch:

Parents/guardians are welcome to join students for lunch. Please be sure you check in at the front office to receive your Visitor's Pass. Your child's classroom teacher will communicate lunch times with you at the beginning of the year.

PRIDE/Student Expectations:

Each student will receive a SPS student handbook to provide clarity to all staff, students, and families.

Additionally, we have been modifying our PRIDE behavior matrix to better reflect the needs of our school. Just like we use MO learning standards to drive our instructional curriculum, we also recognize the need to have behavior standards that are taught and implemented throughout our building. Although still in draft form and subject to change, PRIDE will likely represent students who are/demonstrate:

Problem Solvers
Ready
Integrity
Dependable
Effort

Staff will be recognizing students who demonstrate these traits throughout the building including in the classrooms, at lunch, during recess, in the hallways and bathroom, and on the bus.

The new PRIDE matrix will be shared by the start of school and is consistent with Holland's Mission Statement:

to provide the academic, social, and emotional development of each child in a safe environment

Volunteers/Visitors:

Are you a volunteer or a visitor? If you plan to do any of the items that would make you a volunteer (or are even just thinking about it), be sure to submit your volunteer application as soon as possible in the new school calendar year (beginning July 1). Reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator, Michelle Peak, if you have any question.

I am coming to school to...	I am a...
Have lunch with my student	Visitor
Watch the Rally of the Dolphins	Visitor
Attend a holiday party	Visitor
Help with Field Day	Visitor
Attend an afternoon music performance	Visitor
Attend the book fair with my student	Visitor
Read or present to students in the classroom	Visitor
Work at the book fair	Volunteer
Make copies/laminate/cut items for the teachers	Volunteer
Work with/Tutor a student	Volunteer
Work in the library	Volunteer
Chaperone a field trip	Volunteer
Help in the lunch room/lunch duty	Volunteer

I'm so excited to see all of our returning families and welcome our new families. Holland is a special place, and I can't wait for the year to begin Aug 19!!! Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions at (417) 523-4100. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and please join us as we Rock this School Year together to support your child and our Holland community!

Best wishes,

Dr. Rachal E. Tarrasch

Holland Principal
(417) 523-4100
retarrasch-scholz@spsmail.org

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