



Summer 2023

Dear Coyote Students,

Get ready for an AMAZING year! Our team has been working hard to continue our goal to be **a school where students love to attend each and every day**. The start of school will be here before you know it so enjoy these last few weeks of summer and get excited!

I hope that you have had an amazing summer thus far. My summer has been filled with a lot of fun activities and experiences. I've ridden waves, read books, visited cities and college campuses, played basketball and even taught art classes at a summer camp. This summer has been awesome!

What did you do this summer? I look forward to hearing all about your experiences.

Ms. Mustipher, Mrs. Todd, our team and I have been working really hard to prepare for your arrival and we hope that you have an eventful last few weeks of summer. Please be sure to read, read and then read some more as you get ready for the start of school. I challenge YOU as a Carolina Park Coyote to be a LEADER of the PACK.

Your teacher looks forward to meeting you on Monday, August 21st and I look forward to seeing you soon at Carolina Park Elementary School.

Your Friend (and Head Coyote),

Mr. Antonelli



Dear Carolina Park Elementary Families,

It is with great excitement that I write to you this summer with plans for another amazing school year. We are looking forward to moving into a new school year and returning many of the events and practices that make Carolina Park Elementary an excellent school!

I hope that this letter finds you well and that your summer has been filled with enjoyable family experiences. As we begin Carolina Park Elementary School's seventh year, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the families who helped make our past year such an incredible success. I also want to welcome the many new families to our school and Coyote Nation! We look forward to seeing you and your children in the coming weeks as we work together throughout the year to provide the best possible learning environment.

We are excited to have our new building addition constructed this year. Construction fencing and some site work has already been completed and we are scheduled to open our new, 2-story, 8-classroom wing next August. The wing is located behind our library. Please know that student safety has been a consistent discussion and a very detailed plan has been put in place for this year as we have an active construction site on campus. I look forward to providing updates throughout the year on this project.

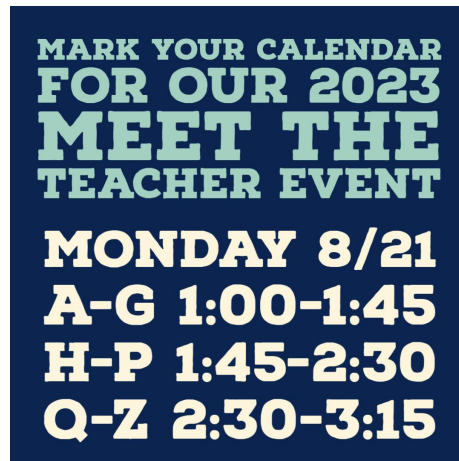
My expectation for your family's experience at Carolina Park Elementary is nothing short of excellence. I am proud and honored to lead our school and I look forward to collaborating with our families and parent groups. We have formed an amazing faculty at Carolina Park Elementary and my promise to you is a phenomenal learning environment for your child each day. We have great plans for your children this year, and I encourage and challenge you to be an active part of their educational career.

Important information is included in this packet and I ask that you please read through everything carefully. If you have questions about any of the contents in this packet, please do not hesitate to contact the school at 843.856.8060. I wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable remainder of the summer vacation.

Sincerely,

Michael Antonelli

MEET THE TEACHER EVENT & POSTING OF CLASS ROSTERS



The rosters for all classes will be posted in the main hallway of our school beginning at 1:00. The roster process is a very complicated system in which we take into account a number of factors while specifically placing each of our (nearly 1000) children. If you are unable to attend on this date it is recommended that you either have a friend check the list for you, or email charlene_milson@charleston.k12.sc.us, on Tuesday 8/22 and she will let you know the name of your child's teacher.

During this afternoon, you and your child will have the opportunity to meet your child's teacher, visit the classroom, pay student fees (\$40), learn all about and join our PTO, pick up placards, purchase Carolina Park attire, and conduct self-guided tours of our amazing facility. You will have 2 options for paying school fees this year.

1. You will have the ability to **pay online** through RevTrak. Simply click on this QR code for information.



2. If you choose to **pay with cash or by check**, we will have a separate (short) line as we will write you a receipt at the time of deposit.

Since this is not a school day, overflow parking for this event is available across the street in Wando High School's back parking lot. If possible we encourage you to walk or ride your bike to this event as parking will be a challenge.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23RD

How will arrival for the first day of school operate?

In an effort to alleviate traffic congestion on our first day, we will offer a staggered arrival for all children as follows (with the exception of bus riders):

Last names beginning with **A-M will arrive between 7:00-7:30**

N-Z will arrive between 7:30-8:00

If this adjustment presents a hardship in any way for you or your family please arrive at the normal time. The bus pick-up times will be the same as any other school day. If your child will ride the bus on the first day of school, his/her arrival will NOT be staggered. A list of bus times and stops will be posted on the CCSD website, www.ccsdschools.com prior to the start of school.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24TH AND BEYOND

DAILY ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL OPTIONS

Important note regarding golf carts:

The Mt. Pleasant Police Department has given clear direction that golf carts are considered vehicles. Golf cart use and parking should follow all rules and procedures outlined for vehicles. Under no circumstances should golf carts be driven on sidewalks or other areas not designated for vehicles.

MORNING ARRIVAL:

Bus riders:

Buses will arrive to the bus loop. Buses will unload at 7:00 and students will enter the building through the Kaleidoscope entrance.

Car riders:

We run two car rider loops. The main loop is located at the front of the building and the side loop is located in the bus area. We have two lanes in the main loop which allow us to stack additional vehicles if needed. In the main loop, as you approach the building the two lanes merge to one lane for drop-off. The unloading area is along the full length of the sidewalks. Please be sure to pull all of the way forward and make sure that your child is ready to exit in the mornings when you stop. We have raised crosswalks in both loops. Please do not park on these crosswalks. It is also important that parents remain in vehicles at all times while in our car rider lines. Car rider drop-off will begin at 7:00 and end at 7:25 each morning. Please do not release your children from your vehicle until the bell rings at 7:00. If you arrive at school after the 7:25 bell has sounded, please park and walk your child to the main office for sign-in as they are considered tardy to school.

Walkers and Bike Riders:

We are so excited to provide the opportunity for many of our students to walk and/or ride bikes to school. Please ensure that your children use sidewalks leading up to our campus and our sidewalks once on campus. We have bike racks available for students to use. Walkers and bike riders will enter the school through our back entrance near the gym (if they enter from Darrell Creek Trail) or our main entrance (if they enter our campus near our library).

Parent Drop-off:

Morning parent drop-off is for parents who wish to walk their child to the school's entrance in the mornings. Parents will park in either the front or side parking lot and use the sidewalks leading to the raised crosswalk in that area. Parents are to escort students all the way across the crosswalk and to the front doors at either the main entrance or the Kaleidoscope entrance. Under no circumstances are students allowed to walk unescorted at any point in our parking lot, nor cross traffic at any point other than the raised crosswalk.

AFTERNOON DISMISSAL:

Bus riders:

Buses will depart from the bus loop between 2:35-2:45.

Car riders:

We will begin car rider dismissal at 2:30 each day. Just like in the morning, we will run two car lines in the afternoon. You are welcome to use either line. The main line is Zones 1-4. The bus area line is Zone 5. We have created unique, school-issued placards for you to use. You may pick up placards at our Meet the Teacher Day on August 21st or you may request them through our main office. The most efficient way to let us know who you are picking up is to simply hold and show your placard to the individual calling names as you pass them in the line. **If you forget your placard when picking up your child, you may be asked to bring your driver's license to our main office in order for us to dismiss your child.** When your child's name is read from the placard, they will be told in which zone to meet you.

Walkers and Bike Riders:

By choosing this mode of dismissal (Biker/Walker) for your child you are giving them permission to exit campus with or without an adult. Our ability to supervise students ends once children exit our campus.

We have 2 different biker/walker areas and it is important that you, your child, and your child's teacher are all on the same page to ensure that they are dismissed to the correct location of our campus.

MAIN Biker/Walker Area: Safety is our top priority and we have designed an access point and path in the back right corner of our property (along Darrell Creek trail). The path leads students to the back entrance of the school where multiple bike racks are located. We encourage students who walk and/or ride bikes to use this entrance/exit in the mornings and afternoons. If parents wish to meet walkers and/or bike riders in the afternoons they will meet them on the side of the sidewalk outside of the gate at Darrell Creek Trail. Please do not block the sidewalk.

LIBRARY Biker/Walker Area: We have additional bike racks located at the front of our school near our library for students who enter campus from that direction.

Kaleidoscope (After-school program):

Students are dismissed directly from their classroom to Kaleidoscope. We have a well-designed access point for afternoon/evening Kaleidoscope pick-up. Parents may park in the front parking lot right outside of the Kaleidoscope entrance.

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I walk my child all the way to the classroom if I wish?

Parents may walk their child to their classroom on the first day of school. Parents of kindergarten students may walk them to the classroom during the first week of school (until Friday 8/25). We will have faculty members on duty throughout the building every day to assist your child (if needed) as they walk to class. Any parents entering the building will have to enter through the main entrance and check in at the main office.

What happens if my child forgets something at home?

In an effort to limit the amount of interruptions to the classroom, please do everything possible to have your child bring everything needed when they arrive each day. We recognize that on occasion students will forget something and, if it is essential (backpack or lunch for example), you are welcome to bring them to our front office. If your child forgets his/her water bottle they will have opportunities to use water fountains here at school. We will not accept water bottles and other non-essential items at our front desk as this causes an

unnecessary disruption to the classroom.

How can we stay current regarding school updates?

Please follow us on Facebook. Our Facebook page, Carolina Park Elementary, is the best way to stay informed. We will also use the automated phone call system and email for updates and announcements. This system pulls information from our database for the calls and emails. If you do not receive the messages please contact our main office to update your contact information. Please [use this link](#) or the QR code below to access our school's Facebook page.



[School Facebook Page](#)

Where should I park when I visit the school during the day?

Parking for all visitors will be in the front parking lot. Under no circumstances should anyone park on the grass, the street, or any other area not designed for parking at any time.

How can I receive information about the PTO?

Our PTO website can be accessed [using this link](#) or first QR code below. Registering for this website will allow the PTO to more easily communicate about all PTO events, spiritwear, fundraising, and volunteering. PTO membership is free and a great way to stay involved! Please [visit this link](#) or scan the second QR code to join the private Carolina Park Elementary Facebook PTO page.



[PTO Website](#)



[PTO Facebook Page](#)

PARENT ORIENTATION AND OPEN HOUSE

This event will give you an opportunity to hear a presentation by your child's teacher about all of the exciting plans for the school year. This event is designed for adults and we ask that, if possible, you make other arrangements for your children.

**PARENT
ORIENTATION
& OPEN HOUSE**

WEDNESDAY 9/6
KINDERGARTEN @ 5:30
2ND GRADE @ 6:15
4TH GRADE @ 7:00

THURSDAY 9/7
1ST GRADE @ 5:30
3RD GRADE @ 6:15
5TH GRADE @ 7:00

PARENT / STUDENT HANDBOOK

The handbook will be placed on our website prior to the first day of school for your review. Hard copies will also be available in our office if needed. I've listed below two important policies from the handbook that I would like for you to familiarize yourself with at this time.

FOOD POLICY

Carolina Park Elementary is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all of our students. We place a high priority on our school food policy as we recognize its power to fuel learning. A vast body of research shows that improved nutrition increases a student's focus, attention, and classroom behavior. These beliefs have resulted in the following food policy for our school:

- We limit the amount of food sent to school, also known as 'outside food'.
- Outside food will only consist of daily lunch, daily snack, food for occasional instructional lessons and scheduled classroom parties (ex. Valentine's Day, end-of-year party, etc.)
- Outside food is not permitted to celebrate children's/faculty member's birthdays. Instead, classrooms have a list of fun, non-food options for children to select in an effort to celebrate their special day. (ex: appear on the morning news show, have a parent come in and read to the class, extra recess for the class, etc.)
- Items to be eaten in the classroom during daily snack shall be healthy. No junk food please.
- Candy will only be used for rare, educational purposes.

If your child has a life-threatening food allergy, please e-mail amanda_kalinsky@charleston.k12.sc.us with specific information prior to August 23rd.

DRESS CODE

The goal of our dress code is to provide parents and students with a wide variety of clothing options, while ensuring that student attire does not interfere with instruction. All students are expected to wear appropriate clothing that complies with the CCSD Code of Conduct. Carolina Park Elementary T-shirts are available for purchase and event shirts will also be sold throughout the year. Fridays are Spirit Days and we ask that all faculty and students wear Coyote Gear on Fridays. House Spirit Days will also occur each month and students will be asked to wear their House colors. Thank you for ensuring that your child adheres to our dress code policy.

- Shoes with a closed toe are required (backless shoes and those with greater than a 1/2" heel are not permitted).
- Athletic shoes should be worn on PE days.
- Shorts and skirts must be at least as long as the child's pinkie fingertips when arms are fully extended beside the legs.
- When leggings are worn, the accompanying top must be an appropriate length.
- Halter tops and tops with spaghetti straps are not allowed. Shirt straps must be at least the width of two fingers. Please help us instill this early, as it is difficult to say that younger students can wear these items and older students cannot.
- Shirts must cover the midriff, back and chest.
- Hats, bandanas, or headgear are not allowed (hats may be worn at recess on cold days).
- Hoods may not be worn indoors.
- Clothing must fit properly: not oversized or too tight, and pants must fit at the waist.
- Clothing and accessories may not display profanity, suggestive phrases, weapons, and/or offensive/inflammatory graphics or statements.
- Any attire, bracelets, necklaces, accessories, etc. that are determined to be unsafe or a distraction to the learning environment are not allowed.
- Perfumes and colognes should not be worn as some students can be highly sensitive to them.
- Students not in compliance with the dress code may be supplied a change of clothes by the nurse.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this important packet of information. If you have any questions please feel free to contact our school. We look forward to an amazing start to the 2023-24 school year!

***CAROLINA PARK ELEMENTARY is the school where TEACHERS choose to teach,
FAMILIES want to send their children, and most importantly,
STUDENTS love to attend each and every day.***