

**Julie Pierce**  
Principal

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Assistant Principal

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Assistant Principal

# The FAIRHOPE WEST ELEMENTARY PIRATE

**AUGUST News ♦ 2021**

*"Learning and Leading to Empower Our Genius!"*

## MEET THE TEACHER CHECKLIST

- Bring student**
- Bring school supplies**
- Pick up prepaid School Supply Kit in the gym, if you purchased one**
- In gym, pay opening school expenses**
- Pick up or purchase school t-shirts**
- Secure transportation**
- Learn about how to volunteer at the 4:00 or 5:30 Volunteer Informational Meeting in the cafeteria**
- Join Walking School Bus**
- Visit with the nurses**
- Pay for lunch or apply for free/reduced lunch**

## Important Dates

- Aug. 5** Meet the Teacher 3:00-6:30 pm  
Prekindergarten through Sixth Grade
- Aug. 5** Volunteer Informational Meeting with  
Parent Teacher Partnership, 4:00 pm  
or 5:30 pm Cafeteria
- Aug. 11** First Day of School! 7:40 am
- Aug. 20** PTP Back to School Bash 6-8

**SCHOOL HOURS**  
**7:40 am - 2:50 pm**  
**Tardy Bell - 7:50 am**

## Week 1 and 2 Reminders

- ▣ Parents are not allowed to walk students to the class, including the first day.
- ▣ Parents are encouraged to follow car line procedures and drop students off in the car line and not walk students to the school doors to help ease traffic issues due to lack of parking. Please review the map in the Student Handbook.
- ▣ Except in case of emergency and approved by administration, no checkouts are allowed after 2:00 p.m.
- ▣ If you send a lunch to school with your child, please send it with your student in the morning. Late lunch deliveries are not allowed. All students will receive free lunches this year. In the event your child forgot his/her lunch, a hot lunch is available.
- ▣ Due to the small space of the cafeteria and continued COVID risks, parent lunch visits are limited to one visit per year, preferably a birthday month. Summer birthdays please choose a time convenient for you. Parents may begin eating with students after the first two weeks of school.

**Easy Way to Pay**

*and*

*Avoid the Wait and Lines  
at Meet the Teacher*

**eSchool Payments**

Payments Made Easy



**HARRIS**  
School Solutions

**eSchool Payments are  
open for 2021/2022!**

*Avoid long lines at  
Meet the Teacher and pay online at:*

[www.bcbe.org/fairhopewestelementary](http://www.bcbe.org/fairhopewestelementary)

Scroll to the bottom of the webpage,  
its located under "Resources."

# Car-Rider Line SURVIVAL

## Morning car rider suggestions:

- Have your child dressed, shoes on feet, fed, and ready to exit the car upon arrival. If you need extra time, please pull off to the side before getting close to the drop off point so others may proceed.
- The first car should pull up to the end of the covered sidewalks. Others should pull up as far forward as possible. PULL UP!!
- K-3 students exit the car on the passenger side. Grades 4-6 students exit on the driver side. HOV students exit on the driver side. Please have students exit independently as quickly as possible.
- Limit kisses and goodbyes so others can proceed in order to avoid the tardy bell at 7:50 a.m.



## Afternoon car rider suggestions:

- Get your car rider sign for your car from your homeroom teacher. HOV and walker passes will be issued from the gym on August 5 and in the office afterwards.
- The first car should pull up to the end of the covered sidewalks. Others should pull up as far forward as possible. PULL UP!!
- Have your child's name visible until your student is loaded.
- Remain in your car, please.
- Bring a book, magazine, or something to keep you busy while you wait on five years olds to maneuver the car rider line. Lots of emotions are in play for both you and the children. They are all convinced you have forgotten to pick them up!
- Be kind and patient as we try to move the car line along. It will move more smoothly and quickly with time.
- Arrive a bit later to avoid the congestion. If all else fails, have your students ride the bus!

See the Student Handbook for more details.

[www.bcbe.org/fairhopewestelementary](http://www.bcbe.org/fairhopewestelementary)

# FREE/REDUCED LUNCH

Fill out your application online at:  
[www.bcbe.org/applyforlunch](http://www.bcbe.org/applyforlunch)

Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity. The application is easy, and the cafeteria staff will be happy to assist you at Meet the Teacher in the gym on August 5, 2021.



# UNIFORM POLICY

In addition to the shades of blues and white polo shirts, students may wear any t-shirt purchased from Fairhope West Elementary, including past FWES t-shirts, on any day, Monday through Friday. Fairhope Fridays continue when students may wear any shirt that supports Fairhope community or pirate pride including PTC clothing. BCBOE policy requires khaki, navy, or denim, or blue bottoms.



**Students may not wear athletic shorts that are shorter than mid-thigh.**

Costa Print is selling our Extra Fairhope West Pirate Gear online at [fwes.costaprints.com](http://fwes.costaprints.com)



## BE THE CHANGE FIELD TRIP T-SHIRT

Because each teacher has a different color, the Be the Change field trip t-shirts are not for sale until after Meet the Teacher.



## STEAM FAIRHOPE WEST T-SHIRT



The STEAM Fairhope t-shirt, designed by our students, Avery Wren and Aly Rains, will be available for purchase at Meet the Teacher on August 5th from 3:00-6:30.

The students did a great job encompassing the STEAM vibe of FWE.

## Snacks Available to Purchase in the Canteen!

Fairhope Elementary School continues to offer snack foods that comply with the Health and Wellness policy. Below is a list of items that will be sole in our canteen. Simply send money to school in an envelope with your child's name and snack order clearly marked.

Fruit Rollups .....	50¢	Goldfish Crackers.....	75¢
Frosted Fudge Poptart .....	50¢	Ritz Bits Cheese Crackers .....	75¢
Lay's Plain Potato Chips.....	75¢	Rold Gold Pretzels.....	75¢
Lay's Baked BBQ Chips.....	75¢	Lorna Doon Shortbread .....	75¢
Hot Baked Cheetos.....	75¢	Cookie Crumble Cones .....	\$1
Doritos Nacho Cheese .....	75¢	Blue Raspberry Popsicle .....	\$1
Doritos Cool Ranch.....	75¢	Fruit Punch Popsicle.....	\$1

# News from the PARENT TEACHER PARTNERSHIP (PTP)



## Who is the PTP?

YOU! Every parent of children enrolled at FWE is a part of the partnership between the school and home.

## How much does it cost?

No membership cost when you enroll your child at FWE. All parents are partners, and that is **FREE!**

## How can I get involved?

Contact [FairhopeWestPTP@gmail.com](mailto:FairhopeWestPTP@gmail.com) or Facebook page Fairhope West Parent Teacher Partnership to get on a specialized email list to help with volunteering.

## What is the purpose of the PTP?

To support teacher needs so our children can receive the best instruction possible and help families feel comfortable and have a presence at the school. After a year of COVID rules, we are all anxious to be back on the halls of the campus! The PTP will match your skills and interests with the needs of the school.

## When is the next PTP meeting?

Meet the Teacher on August 5, 2021 in the cafeteria at either 4:00 or 5:30 whichever suits your schedule. Committee chairs and FEEF will explain the various volunteer opportunities and classroom needs. Sign up will be available afterwards.



**FAIRHOPE WEST**  
PARENT-TEACHER PARTNERSHIP

Leadership Committee ..... Terri Thompson  
Anne Dorman  
Annie Dixon  
Appreciation Committee ..... Katie Robertson  
On Campus Crew ..... Elizabeth Jones  
Outreach ..... Jamie Breaux  
Events ..... Brittan Cryar

## Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents,

Welcome the 2021-2022 school year! We are thrilled that you have chosen to partner with us at Fairhope West Elementary to educate your child.

Research has proven a student's success in school is dependent on the strength of the partnership with you, our parents. How can you partner with the school? Well, once you enrolled your child, you automatically became a member of our PTP with no membership fee! The mission of the PTP is *Connecting Our Community : Supporting Our School : For Every Child*. The PTP helps in organizing volunteers to connect with the classroom and providing information on how to help your child at home to be successful at school! Please drop by the cafeteria during Meet the Teacher at either 4:00 or 5:30 for more information.

FWE believes that social emotional learning comes first. Significant adult relationships are key to academic success. Students learn more easily in safe classrooms where they are loved, mistakes are okay, and peers are kind and respectful. Leader in Me, based on the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, is how we teach and encourage social emotional learning. Students know their mission every day at school is Learning and Leading to Empower Our Genius. Students strive to take responsibility for their learning through goal setting, controlling their reactions to situations, and synergizing together to solve problems.

FWE believes that reading is the key to success in all subjects including STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math). **Connecting each child to books they love to read so they will read A LOT** will be very important. This willingness to read because it's interesting will lead to volume reading. Volume reading at home is the key! Research proves over and over that the amount of time students spend reading *out of school* is the biggest predictor of reading achievement. In addition, reading volume is the single greatest factor in reading achievement – greater than socioeconomic status! *This means that getting kids to read at home at a level that is easy for them in a high-interest book is the biggest predictor of reading achievement.* We hope that you will partner with us every day by reading to your child, reading with your child, and encouraging independent reading! **Reading at home can be a game changer!**

For more detailed information about procedures check out the *Fairhope West Elementary Student Handbook* online at our school website. The handbook contains a calendar, procedures, and policies.

If you have any concerns or questions, please know I am available! You may email me at [jgpierce@bcbe.org](mailto:jgpierce@bcbe.org). The school is very large so give me a few days to get back with you. Again, we are super excited about the upcoming school year, and we know it's going to be one of the best ever!

Julie Pierce

# STRESS-FREE *Birthday Celebrations at School!*

Birthday celebrations are back! Birthday ice cream cones are available for sale for your child's class from the school canteen. Your child has a choice between Birthday Cake flavor or Cookie Crumble cones. Cupcakes and other baked goods will be discouraged.

**Here's how it works:** 2 weeks before your child's birthday download the order form found on the FWES website under the "Families" tab, under "Forms." Please fill out the form, print and send to the school with a cash or check made out to FWES for \$15. The teacher will forward the order form and payment to the office where it will be filled and kept cold until the teacher sends for it.



If you forget to plan for the birthday, no worries, we can still accommodate you if supplies allow. Simply call the front office and ask if inventory is available. There is a non-dairy option for classmates with allergies.



## NEW FACULTY & STAFF

**Mrs. Ashley McPhillips** has 25 years of experience teaching 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. She is married and has 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren. She enjoys gardening, reading, and playing with her grandchildren.

**Mrs. Sherri Shutt** will be joining the 4th grade team, teaching math and science. She has over 10 years of teaching experience and is very excited to become a pirate! She loves to read, cook/bake, make crafts, and spend time with friends and family.

**Mrs. Lisa Keenan** is returning to Fairhope public schools as a 6th grade teacher. She has 7 years of experience in upper elementary and is excited to jump back in. She is married and has one daughter. She enjoys baking, the beach, and spending time with her sweet family.

**Shamika Bracy**, a 20 year veteran teacher and native of Fairhope, will be teaching 2nd grade. Mrs. Bracy loves being a full-time mom to her son. They love to eat at Waffle House on Saturday mornings and go to the beach.

**Mrs. Rachel Culbertson** is from Missouri and will be teaching 2nd grade. Her experience has been in Japan teaching English.

**Mrs. Julie Leazott** is returning to Fairhope West. She will be teaching Special Education. She is originally from St. Louis, MO and has been working in special education for 14 years. She enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband and 2 daughters.

**Ms. Kendra Johnson**, a counselor for three years in Mobile County, completed her counseling internship with us at Fairhope West. She is excited to return to Fairhope West as our new counselor! She enjoys spending time with family and Alabama football.

**Mrs. Sydney Hoffman** will be teaching 3rd grade. She taught last year at the Baldwin Virtual Elementary School.

**Mrs. Summer Fisher** recently moved back to Fairhope after teaching in Tuscaloosa City for the past 4 years. She has 18 years of experience in Elementary Education. She and her husband Troy enjoy spending time with their 6 month old baby boy.

**Mrs. Suzanne Loper** and her husband of 35 years live in Fairhope after living in Mobile for over 50 years. She has 22

years of experience with an Educational Specialist Degree in elementary education. She has 2 grown daughters, a stepson and 7 adorable grandkids. She loves all kinds of sports, music, learning, playing with her grandkids, and exploring new places.

**Ms. Mary Frances Boston** just moved to Fairhope from Birmingham. She will be a kindergarten teacher. While in Birmingham she taught 2nd grade.

**Miss Krista Ann Sumner** comes to Fairhope from Nashville, TN with 5 years of education in Special Education Pre-K. She enjoys crafting, outside adventures, and reading on the beach.

**Mrs. Rebecca Newman** is from Virginia and will be a special education teacher for our 2nd graders. She enjoys gardening, being outside, hiking, and watersports.

**Mrs. Stephanie Janes** will be starting her 20th year teaching. She has taught K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, Special Education, and ESL in Georgia and Alabama. She loves teaching English Language Learners and is looking forward to being the ESL teacher at Fairhope West. Having a mom from Spain, who speaks Spanish fluently, Mrs. Janes has always had a special place in her heart for her ESL students. She has been married for 17 years and has 2 children, Isabela, who will be a freshman at FHS and Gunnar, who will be in 4th, here at Fairhope West!

**Ms. Molly DeCardenas** will be a new paraprofessional for us! She is working on a teaching degree in special education and comes to us from Pensacola where she has served as a paraprofessional.

**Mrs. Christine Sparks** moved from Spring Hill, TN to the Fairhope area this summer with her husband Eric and 11-year-old son Anderson. She is so happy to be at Fairhope West serving as an instructional paraprofessional and to be back with family. Mrs. Sparks enjoys the outdoors, kayaking, reading, playing croquet, and spending time with her family and their cat Rosie.

**Emily Hemphill** is from Slidell, Louisiana. She is married and the mother of two children, Ryan and Alana. She enjoys crocheting and cooking. She will be working in our cafeteria. Mrs. Hemphill has been a permanent substitute for our cafeteria all last year!

**Mrs. Melissa White** will be the band teacher for Foley Elementary, Fairhope West and Fairhope East.