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# The FAIRHOPE ELEMENTARY PIRATE

**September News ♦ 2019**

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



## ***Afternoon Dismissal Manager Begins September 9th!***

Changing a child's dismissal involves a lot of folks - front office staff, teacher(s), child(ren), Mom, and Dad. The challenge with one transportation change is to make sure that everyone gets the word. The challenge in a large school with over 1000 students is to make sure that A LOT of folks get the word. Welcome to School Dismissal Manager! School Dismissal Manager is an online system that informs all parties of transportation changes with a few clicks of a button. This reduces the chance of error. Beginning September 9, FES will begin using School Dismissal Manager for afternoon dismissal changes. The system is easy. Detailed instructions will be coming to you right after Labor Day. Until then, below is brief overview of how you would make a transportation change using any electronic device.

## **Important Dates**

- Sept. 2** Labor Day Holiday, No School
- Sept. 5** Subway Spirit Night 3-9 p.m.
- Sept. 5** Kona Ice
- Sept. 6** Bike to School Day
- Sept. 9** School Dismissal Manager Begins
- Sept. 10** Fall and Class Picture Day, Out of Uniform
- Sept. 16** Out of Uniform for Those With Perfect Attendance, No Checkouts, and No Tardies
- Sept. 17** Voting Day - 3 Mill Special Tax for Fairhope Schools
- Sept. 19** Frios Popsicle Spirit Night
- Sept. 20** Progress Reports Go Home
- Sept. 23** Blood Drive in the Upper Parking Lot

- **Simply log into the SDM site before 2:00 p.m.** (The site is completely secure as approved by the Data Governance Committee and can be studied in depth under the *Terms and Conditions* link.)
- **Choose the date.** All your children enrolled at FES will appear.
- **Click on each child's 'Dismissal Instruction'** drop down box and select how you would like for them to go home.
- **Click 'Update' and 'Done.'**
- Immediately after a transportation change is made, both custodial parents will receive an email that a change has been made for your child's transportation because each custodial parent will have a separate profile, username and password.
- **If an emergency arises after 2:00 p.m. simply call the front office** and we will make sure your child's transportation change is communicated.
- **If you choose to cancel the transportation change, then log back into the site and 'cancel exception.' Easy!**

More information will be coming to you via your email address on file at FES right after Labor Day. Some of you may have specific custodial situations that will need to be addressed on an individual basis. Please contact Mary Elizabeth Brock or Julie Pierce for assistance. **Mary Elizabeth Brock's email address is mebrock@bcbe.org. Julie Pierce's email address is jgpierce@bcbe.org.** The office phone number is **251-928-8400**. We are here to help and are excited about making transportation changes via email.

## INow Home Portal

*for Keeping Up With Your  
Child's Grades*

If you would like to keep up with your child's grades, then INow Home Portal is for you! INow Home Portal allows you to check your child's grades, attendance, and demographic information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Your username and password is available in the office.



## What is DIBELS?

DIBELS are measures that help teachers and schools determine how students are performing on important reading skills. DIBELS stands for Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills. These measures are designed for students in grades K-2. The critical skills necessary for successful beginning reading include: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. All students in grades K-2 are given the DIBELS test three times each year; usually this occurs in the fall, winter, and spring. Benchmark assessments generally take 2 to 6 minutes to give, depending on the grade of the student and time of year. A student's scores on the DIBELS measures give the school information to determine if a student is on track for grade-level reading success. For more information, please contact your child's teacher. A letter will be sent home during the 1st quarter with more details.



Plan on biking to school Friday, September 6 to earn your first spoke bead of the year plus we'll be giving away Gene's Bean's gift certificates! For more details, visit [Facebook.com/BikeToSchoolFairhope](https://www.facebook.com/BikeToSchoolFairhope). If you are biking home, notify your child's teacher several days before so she/he can secure a walker pass for you. Then change your dismissal to "Walker" and pick up kids at the double doors just west of the Cafeteria with your walker pass. If you forget to get a walker pass, you can pick one up in the office.



### BIKE TO SCHOOL RULES:

Students must wear a helmet (it's the law!) and be accompanied by an adult. Students on bikes should enter the campus by the HOV line entrance on Fairwood, walk their bikes down the big hill and park on the north side of campus near the cafeteria doors. Please do not enter campus from Section St. at the HOV line exit. Bikes should always be walked on sidewalks once on campus.

## Kona Ice is Coming!



**\$2.00 - Tiny**  
Size available for  
PreK Students Only

**\$3.00 - Small**  
Only size available for  
Kindergarten Students

**\$4.00 - Medium**

**\$5.00 - Large**  
Cool Color-Changing  
Collectible Cup  
To be used for refill at later  
events for only \$3!

# Frios

Fairhope Sweet Shop


## Spirit Night

September 19th

3:00 - 8:00 pm

1 South Church St

Come grab a  
sweet treat!



The class with the most participants will win a free popsicle party! A percentage of sales will go to FES/FIS.



Dear Families,

The Box Tops for Education program is changing the way we can earn cash for our school! Over the summer, participating brands have begun to change their packaging from the traditional Box Tops clip to the new Box Tops label.

Going forward, instead of clipping from packages and checking expiration dates, all Box Tops will be earned digitally by scanning your receipt. The Box Tops for Education team has worked hard to build a NEW-and-improved, user-friendly Box Tops mobile app, available now. The new app features state-of-the-art technology that allows you to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our school's earnings online. The new app can be downloaded from your apple store or google play.



If you still have traditional Box Tops clips at home, make sure to send them to school. We will still earn cash for all clipped Box Tops until they expire. Better yet, you can "double dip" during the packaging transition by clipping traditional Box Tops AND scanning your store receipt containing participating products. Thanks for helping the FES library get what it needs!

**The library earned over \$1,000 last year through Box Tops... every little Box Top adds up! Thank you for participating!**

# K-12 Student Accident INSURANCE

If you would like to enroll your child for student accident insurance, enroll at:

[www.studentinsurance-kk.com](http://www.studentinsurance-kk.com)



The Fairhope Junior City Council is hosting a city-wide food drive to benefit Ecumenical Ministries September 9-20. Students may place food items in boxes near the front office.



## 2019-2020 Changes for Birthday Celebrations at School

### STRESS-FREE *Birthday Celebrations*

This year, cupcakes and other baked goods will be discouraged. Drop-offs of cupcakes for birthday celebrations at school have become burdensome. This change will avoid classroom interruptions and decrease stress for everyone. Instead, you may purchase "Birthday Cake Ice Cream Cones" for your child's entire class from the school canteen. The kids love them!

**Here's how it will work:** 1-2 weeks before your child's birthday download the order form found on the FES website and email or send with your child to his/her teacher. On the day of your child's birthday, send a check or cash for \$15 to the school. 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. There will be a non-dairy option for classmates with allergies.



**We hope this change will reduce drop-offs and classroom interruptions.**

# Q and A

## 3 MILL SPECIAL TAX FOR FAIRHOPE SCHOOLS



### Where does the Fairhope feeder pattern rank in state funding?

There are 138 school districts in the state and Baldwin County school system ranks 130 in State funding.

### How much money will our 5 schools receive from the tax?

Approximately \$1.88 million per year will be divided among our schools.

### What will the money be used for?

Schools will use the funds for advancing academic achievement in our classrooms. Examples of these are early intervention programs, reading coaches, math intervention teachers, ACT preparatory programs, college and career coaches, professional development training opportunities for teachers and much more.

### How long will the tax be in effect?

The initial term will be 30 years, after which time it can be renewed by voter approval.

### How do we know the BCBE won't take this opportunity to reduce existing funding?

The contract in place between the city and the BCBE prohibits that from happening.

### Who will oversee the funds?

A Fairhope District School Commission, the school principals and the BCBE superintendent. Distributions can only be authorized by the School Commission.

### How much will 3 mills cost me?

1 mill = \$1 per thousand of a property's assessed value. The assessed value is 10% of a property's appraised value. Example: a home with an appraised value of \$300,000 would have an assessed value of \$30,000. 1 mill would = \$30, so 3 mills would = \$90 per year.

### Is this a step in the direction of forming a Fairhope City school system?

No. The partnership between the City, its Education Advisory Committee (EAC) and the BCBE has never been Stronger.

### Who gets to vote on this referendum?

All registered voters who live in the Fairhope schools attendance zone.

## VOTE

on  
September 17!



fES art, FROM the 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR, IS ON DISPLAY in the YOUTH SECTION OF the FAIRHOPE PUBLIC LIBRARY THROUGH the MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

-Ina Buchanan