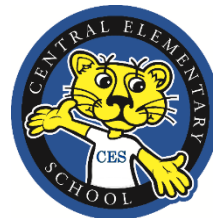


The Cougar News



September, 2017

Central Elementary School, 608 Johnson Road, Central, SC 29630

<http://www.pickens.k12.sc.us/CES>

(864) 397-1400



A model school-wide Title I School

Dear Parent(s),

Central Elementary is a Title I school which means that we receive federal funding based on students who qualify for free or reduced lunch each year. Being a Title I school is important to CES because of the opportunities it provides students and families of Central. We must re-qualify each school year for this funding. With this extra funding we are able to employ additional teachers and personnel which keeps class sizes small, provides additional services which helps your child to reach his/her fullest potential. You can complete an application online at <http://sdpcnutrition.com/>.



If your child is currently on full pay for lunch, your out of pocket expense is \$40.00 per month or \$360.00 per school year. If your child qualifies for reduced lunch, the cost will be \$8.00 per month or \$72.00 per year. If your child qualifies for free lunch, the cost will be \$0! You can qualify 3 ways: (1) income/household size, (2) receiving SNAP benefits, or (3) if you are currently living with someone due to economic hardship. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Burgess @ 397-1455 to assist with this particular qualifier.

IMPORTANT:

- 1) All new K4 and K5 students must complete a new application even if they have an older sibling that older ready qualifies through a letter received from the state.
- 2) If your child(s) qualified for free/reduced last school year you have 30 days to do an application for the 17/18 school year. After SEPTEMBER 28th your child will go back on full pay.

Beginning of the Year Reminders

- Visiting or volunteering at school is encouraged! Always bring your **driver's license** if you are signing in as a visitor or volunteer. We have a new system that requires scanning of your license to print a visitor/volunteer badge.
- For safety reasons, we cannot accept transportation changes over the phone. Please send a written note or come in to the front office to change your child's way home.
- **We have a new attendance policy.** Students who miss 50% of any instructional day, whether excused or unexcused, will have that day attributed to chronic absenteeism. Students will need to be at school for **more than** half the day to be counted present.
- If your child is absent, please remember to send in a **written excuse or doctor's note** within 3 school days.
- Please no dismissals after 2:00.
- Our doors open each morning at 7:25. Breakfast is served starting at 7:45 in the classroom. **Exterior doors** will be closed and locked at 8:00 AM. If you arrive to school at 8:00 or after, you will need to sign-in your child in the front office.

School Improvement Council (SIC)



School Improvement Council is a committee that meets several times a year to review

Central Elementary's strengths and weaknesses in order to improve our school. Nominations for those who would like to serve on SIC are being accepted now through September 22nd. If you would like to nominate someone or if you would like to be considered for SIC, please send a note to your child's teacher or email Mrs. Goode at tishgoode@pickens.k12.sc.us.

Title I News

Central Elementary is a Title I school based on the percentage of students participating in the free and reduced lunch program. Being a Title I school is important to CES because of the opportunities this distinction allows us to provide for the students and families of Central. This distinction allows us to add teaching positions to help maintain lower class sizes, provide additional services for our students, provide unique experiences, provide a Title I facilitator to implement CES's Title I plan, maintain a parent resource room, and provide a family liaison. Central, also, has additional funds to purchase needed student and classroom supplies. We continue to work to build a library of materials for parents to sign-out for use when working with children at home and to provide after school tutoring to children in need of a little extra help.



Did you know that we have a Parent Resource Room? At Central Elementary, we are here to help you with your child's school needs. If your 4Ker is having trouble tying his or her shoes, we can help! If your 3rd grader can't memorize his or her multiplication facts, we can help! Whatever the need, we want to help! Schedule a time to come in and meet with our Title I Curriculum Specialist, Mrs. Ashleigh Cobey. Her contact information is ashleighcobey@pickens.k12.sc.us, (864)397-1400, or send her a message through our school Facebook page. We hope all of our parents will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Title I Compacts



Title I regulations require that we send home a Parent Involvement Policy and Title I Compact outlining the efforts of the school, parents, and students to ensure the success of each student. A draft of these documents was sent home and is due back by September 8th. Thank you for reading over them and sending back any comments and suggestions. We will use your input to create the final compact and send home a final copy for your signature. As always, if you have any questions, please be sure to contact the school office at 397-1400 or your child's teacher. Also, a copy of the school-wide Title I Plan is always available in our front office. You may request a copy from Mrs. Cobey (864)397-1451.

Parents Right to Know

We are pleased to notify you that in accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's teacher. Specifically, you may request the following:

- Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria has been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Central Elementary's Calendar of Events

September

- 4th: No School (Labor Day)
- 5th: Special Person's Day for 4K PM
- 6th: Special Person's Day for 1st, 2nd, & 5th grades
- 7th: Special Person's Day for kindergarten, 3rd, and 4th grades
- 8th: Special Person's Day for 4K AM
- 14th: **Open House; 5:30-7:00 PM**
4th & 5th Grade Parent Chromebook Session; 5:45 PM
Volunteer Training; 6:00 PM
- 15th: Kona Ice at Recess Fundraiser; \$2
- 19th: Interim Reports Go Home
Title I Fall Planning Team Meeting; 5:30 PM
- 22nd: **Duke Energy Show; 8:30 AM**
- 26th: Chick-fil-A Spirit Night; 5:00-8:00 PM (in Clemson)
- 29th: **PBIS Cougar Breakfast**

October

- 10th: **Volunteer Trainings & Parent Room Orientation; 8:30, 10:30, 12:00, and 1:30**
- 11th: Community Meeting at DWD
- 16th: No School (In-service day)
- 17th: School Bus Safety Week
- 19th: **Title I Family Night; 5:30-7:00 PM**
- 20th: **PBIS ROAR Celebration**
- 23rd: Book Fair Begins
- 23rd: 5th Grade GT Trip to Barrier Island
- 27th: **PBIS Cougar Breakfast**
- 30th: Report Cards Go Home

Note: Events bolded are Title I sponsored events.