

# W.B. Patterson Elementary School

"Excellence is the Expectation"



## Weekly Parent Update

September 23 - September 27, 2019

Volume 8, Bulletin 5



### Monday, September 23, 2019

- Regular School Day
- Afterschool Programming, 3:15pm - 6:00pm

### Tuesday, September 24, 2019

- Regular School Day
- Afterschool Programming, 3:15pm - 6:00pm

### Wednesday, September 25, 2019

- Regular School Day
- Afterschool Programming, 3:15pm - 6:00pm

### Thursday, September 26, 2019

- Regular School Day
- Afterschool Programming, 3:15pm - 6:00pm

### Friday, September 27, 2019

- Regular School Day
- Afterschool Programming, 3:15pm - 6:00pm

Breakfast begins promptly at 8:10 and ends at 8:35! Please make sure you are on time to receive breakfast in the cafeteria for grades K-5. The cafeteria doors WILL CLOSE PROMPTLY at 8:35 a.m. Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten students eat breakfast and lunch in their classrooms.

### Instructional Start Time:

**8:45 a.m.**

**Please ensure your child is here on time to receive valuable instruction!**

### School Dismissal Time:

**3:15 p.m.**

The staff at Patterson wants to ensure the safety of your child(ren), so we ask that you not send your child(ren) to school prior to the

**8:10 a.m. door opening time.** No staff will be available to provide supervision until then. Thank you!!!

### Attention

**Afterschool Programming is for registered students ONLY!**

**3:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

**Please ensure your child is picked up on time or before 6:00 p.m.**



### Principal and Assistant Principal Office Hours Monday - Friday

7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Please schedule an appointment with Ms. Angela Wright or Ms. Monica Bibbs in the main office either in person or by phone at 202-939-5280 to conference with Dr. Thomas and/or Mrs. Johnson-Avery.

# "NO CELL PHONE POLICY"



This year, Patterson will be instituting a "No Cell Phone Policy" while students are in school. Students will be required to:



1. Turn in their cell phones when they arrive to school. Phones will be signed by the student, stored and locked up in the main office by a school administrator.
2. Phones will be returned to students prior to their leaving at the end of the school day.
3. Should a student need to contact their parent, they may utilize the phone in the main office.

If a student is found to have a cell phone in their possession during the school day, it will be:

1. Confiscated by an adult and turned in to a school administrator.
2. Cell phones will not be returned to the student.
3. Cell phones can **ONLY** be picked up by the parent. Family members (e.g. Older Siblings, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, etc...) **WILL NOT** be permitted to pick up a students' phone on behalf of the parent.

Students caught videotaping fights, etc..., in accordance with the DCPS Chapter 25 Discipline Policy, will be suspended from school for their actions.

OR

Parents, you may elect for your child NOT to bring a cell phone to school at all.

Please remember not to send balls, toys, games, cellphones or personal items with students. Staff WILL NOT be responsible for any loss, stolen or broken items!!!



### Breakfast in the Cafeteria from 8:10 am-8:35 am!

Grades Kindergarten-5 will be served breakfast in the cafeteria.

Pre-School, Pre-Kindergarten will be served breakfast in the classrooms.

Please do not send students prior to 8:10 a.m.

Breakfast will end promptly at 8:35 a.m.!! Kitchen doors CLOSE at 8:35 a.m.



### **Attendance Matters at Patterson!!**

Please make sure your child is present and accounted for each day!!  
If your child is late or going to be absent, please provide a note to excuse your child for the day.

Questions? Please see the main office.

### **Student Safety Matters at Patterson!!**

Please note that no student will be released to an adult for pick-up who is not listed on the SY 2019-2020 Annual Enrollment Form. Please update your child's annual enrollment form if there are any changes pertaining to phone numbers, parental contacts and emergency contacts. Parents **MUST** come into the school add names of person approved to pick up child to emergency form.

Questions? Please see the main office.



## MEDICATION AND MEDICAL NEEDS!

- Many of our students for various reasons (e.g. asthma, allergies, etc...) may require the School Nurse to administer medication during the school day; as a result, it is **VERY IMPORTANT** that we not only have the necessary completed Doctor's Order on file, but also the medication that can be administered to your child.
- If your child requires an inhaler for asthma, has food allergies and requires an epipen, etc... please make sure that the School Nurse is made aware of this.
- **Please note that students CAN NOT self-medicate while they are in school.**
- **We want to ensure their medical wellbeing and MUST have the necessary documents and medication on file in order for the School Nurse to administer the medication.**
- **Please note that if we DO NOT have the necessary documents and medication on file and it has been determined that your child requires IMMEDIATE medical attention outside of the local school, we will call 911 and have your child transported to the nearest medical facility.**
- Please contact the school nurse to secure the forms that your child's doctor will need to complete, as well as, if you have questions or concerns.
- **ALL medication MUST be brought in by the parent and given DIRECTLY to the School Nurse.**

### Parents

**Patterson is going green! You may access the Parent Weekly Bulletin online using the link below.**

**Patterson's School Website: [pattersonelementary.online](http://pattersonelementary.online)**



**WE NEED  
YOUR HELP**

Parents and guardians we are asking your assistance with minimizing the disruption of instruction during the school day. As a result, students will not be dismissed from school during the instructional block after 2:45 pm but will be available for pick-up during the normal dismissal time of 3:15 pm. Thanking everyone in advance for your cooperation with this matter.



## ATTENTION FIELD TRIP CHAPERONE PROCESS



Patterson Parents, did you know that DCPS has a policy as it relates to anyone wanting to volunteer in the school, as well as, accompanying their child on a trip? All persons that wish to volunteer in the school or go on field trips with students, MUST complete and clear the volunteer application process. Please know that we want you to join in and support ALL of our school-wide efforts, so we ask that you take the time to complete the Volunteer Application Process. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Monica Bibbs at 202-939-5280. Thank you!

Please go to this link to complete your chaperone application:

<https://octo.quickbase.com/db/bg37a864v?a=dbpage&pageID=26>

or [dcps.dc.gov](http://dcps.dc.gov) (About DCPS > Human Resources > Fingerprinting & ID Badges).



## Before-School Drop-Off Request

We are noticing that a number of students are playing on the playground unattended before school opens at 8:10am. To ensure the safety of our students, we are asking parents assistance to make sure that students are under their supervision up to 8:10am when school opens and Patterson staff members are in place to receive their students. Thank you!

## Kids Ride Free Program SY19-20



Students who are District residents and who attend a District public, public charter or private school, between the ages of 5 and 21, or a ward of DC through the foster care system can enroll in the Kids Ride Free program.

The KRF SY 2019-2020 SmarTrip cards will be a unique design in green, black and white, and will have the words "Kids Ride Free 2019 - 2020" on it. Each student requesting to participate in Kids Ride Free **will be assigned one SmarTrip card with a unique serial number**. Students who lose their card will be responsible for paying their fare until they receive a replacement KRF SmarTrip card.

## What Is the Out-of-Boundary Attendance Policy?

K-12 out-of-boundary students with more than **10 unexcused absences** or **20 unexcused tardies** can be asked to return to their neighborhood schools at the end of the school year, provided the out-of-boundary school has implemented and documented ALL of the required DCPS attendance interventions. This policy does not apply to students in preschool or pre-kindergarten.

## What Are Attendance Expectations For All Students?

- **Arrive on time** to school and to class every day.
- **Bring books** and materials to class.
- **Ask the teacher** for missed work or make-up assignments.
- **Provide documentation** for missed days of school to local school within 5 business days.
- **Ask school staff for help** if you have academic or other concerns (i.e. safety or lack of transportation) preventing you from



## What Should I Do If I Lack Stable Housing and Need Assistance?

The DCPS Homeless Children and Youth Program (HCYP) provides students who are in temporary or transitional housing with the following supports:

- Enrollment in school;
- Transportation assistance;
- Personal necessities (uniforms, school supplies and more).

For more information, please contact the school-based homeless liaison at your school or call the DCPS HCYP Specialist at (202)-576-9502.



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## Who Do I Contact For More Information?

District of Columbia Public Schools  
Office of Youth Engagement  
Student Attendance & Support Service  
1200 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
T 202-727-0488  
F 202-535-1338



**ATTEND TODAY  
ACHIEVE TOMORROW**



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



# First Day, Every Day

At DC Public Schools (DCPS), it is our goal to ensure that every student achieves academic success by being present at school **every day** and **on time**. Students who have regular school attendance learn more and are more successful in school.

DCPS has shifted focus from monitoring *only* unexcused absences to *all* absences by tracking **In-Seat Attendance** (ISA). Some absences are unavoidable, but when children miss too much school - **excused** or **unexcused** - they can fall behind.

**A missed day is a lost opportunity for learning.** Let's make regular attendance a priority!

## Is Attending School Required?

**Yes, attending school is required by law!** All students who reach five years of age on or before September 30<sup>th</sup> of the current school year must attend school every day until they meet high school graduation requirements or reach their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## What Is Truancy?

Truancy is the unexcused absence from school by a minor (5-17 years of age) with or without approval, parent knowledge or consent.

## Which Absences Are Excused vs. Unexcused?

**Excused absences** are when school-aged students are absent from school with a valid excuse and parental approval. Excused absences include:

- Student illness (a doctor's note is required if a student is absent for more than 5 days);
- Death in the student's immediate family;
- Necessity for a student to attend a judicial proceeding as a plaintiff, defendant, witness or juror;
- Observance of a religious holiday;
- Temporary school closings due to weather, unsafe conditions or other emergencies;
- Medical reasons such as a doctor's appointment (a doctor's note is required);
- Failure of DC to provide transportation where legally responsible;
- Visiting a parent in the military;
- Emergency circumstances approved by DCPS.

**Excuse notes must be submitted within 5 school days in order to be processed.**

**Unexcused absences** are when school-aged students are absent from school without a valid excuse, with or without parental approval. Examples of unexcused absences include:

- Family Vacation
- Babysitting
- Shopping
- Doing errands
- Oversleeping
- Cutting classes
- No clean uniform
- Parent's illness

**Students who miss 20% of the day will receive an absence for the full day.**

## What Happens When A Student Misses Unexcused Days?

