



STUDENT HANDBOOK

2024-2025

School Phone (757) 925-5782

School Hours 9:25 am - 3:50 pm

Office Hours 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

August 2024

Dear Southwestern Families,

Greetings and welcome to the 2024 – 2025 school year at Southwestern Elementary! We're gearing up for an incredible year ahead. I am eager to hear about our students' summer adventures and to see their joyful faces once again. To our returning families, it's wonderful to have you back, and I am excited to continue serving you and our entire Southwestern Community. For those new to Southwestern, I eagerly anticipate meeting you and your child. Please know that we are all here to support your child as they transition to our exceptional school. Our dedicated staff and school community are committed to providing the finest educational experience for your child here at Southwestern. Please don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything we can do to assist you!

We understand that to thrive in school, our children need support from both home and school. We firmly believe that a strong partnership with you will significantly impact your child's education. You are always welcome at Southwestern, whether to volunteer or simply to get to know us better. Should you have any questions about school expectations, please feel free to contact me directly.

It is a privilege to serve as the principal of Southwestern Elementary School, and I am honored to collaborate with you and your child this school year. If you have any school-related inquiries, please do not hesitate to call me or reach out to Ms. Natalie Karakla, our assistant principal. We eagerly anticipate a fantastic school year ahead!

Thank you for entrusting us with your most precious treasures.

Warm regards,

Lori S. Mounie, Principal

lorimounie@spsk12.net

SOUTHWESTERN ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Mrs. Lori S. Mounie	<i>Principal</i>
Ms. Natalie Karakla	<i>Assistant Principal</i>
Mrs. Jennifer Soriano	<i>Academic Coach</i>
Mrs. Majel Nowell Jones	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Ms. Melissa Tilton	<i>Bookkeeper</i>
Mrs. Emily Wright	<i>School Nurse</i>
Mrs. Sallie Barnes	<i>Guidance Counselor</i>
Mrs. Angela Van Hemel	<i>Head Custodian</i>

SCHOOL HOURS OF OPERATION

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Staff Hours: 8:50 a.m.- 4:20 p.m.

Bus Arrival: 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast Served: 9:00 a.m.- 9:24 a.m.

Student Hours: 9:25 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.

Students arriving after 9:25 a.m. should be signed in at the front counter in the main office by a parent/guardian in order to receive a tardy pass.

Students should NOT be dropped off before 9:00 a.m.

Early Dismissal: 1:15 p.m. (Lunch served)

Bus Changes: Without a written request (no phone requests) from parents, a child will not be permitted to ride a different bus to or from home.

2024-2025 SWES PTA BOARD

Leslie Brennan - President

brittany McIntosh - Vice President

Becky Adams - Treasurer

Chelsie Lee - Secretary 1

Melissa Waltrip - Secretary 2

Ronnie Dixon WatchD.O.G. Community Engagement Officer

GENERAL INFORMATION

School Website: <http://swes.spsk12.net/>

School Colors: Purple and Silver

School Mascot: Mustang

Connect With Us on Social Media:

Facebook: Southwestern Elementary School

Facebook: Southwestern Elementary PTA

Twitter: SWESTangs

SCHOOL MISSION, VISION, & BELIEFS

MISSION STATEMENT

Southwestern Elementary School, in partnership with the students, parents, and the community is committed to creating an active and safe learning environment that encourages student growth. Our school is committed to providing high-quality instruction, nurturing student self-esteem, and respecting individual differences.

VISION STATEMENT

We are a forward thinking school with a vision to create global minded students with the necessary critical thinking skills. We are leading the way and preparing for the future.

BELIEF STATEMENTS

We believe that...

- Every child learns best in a safe and caring environment, where high academic expectations, self-esteem, good character, healthy lifestyles, and an appreciation for the arts are promoted.
- A variety of teaching strategies, meaningful materials, and emerging technology should be used to maximize student potential and individual learning styles.
- Every child should be given a variety of opportunities to demonstrate achievement and application of learning.
- A quality education, continuous improvements, and positive communications are the shared responsibility of the school, home, and community.

SOUTHWESTERN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

STUDENT HANDBOOK

ABSENCES AND TARDINESS

Attendance at school is part of promotion and is tied to accreditation. **If 15% of our students have 18 or more absences (excused or unexcused), SWES will not be accredited.** Being absent from school can affect a student's academic performance and growth. It is important that students be consistent and punctual in attendance. Regular school attendance is necessary for academic achievement. Excessive absences from school hinder such achievement. It is imperative that we also receive written documentation on every absence. Parent documentation for absences must be submitted to the teacher on the day the student returns to school, *or within a period not to exceed five (5) school days, immediately thereafter.*

Every absence is considered unexcused until a written explanation for the absence is received and approved by the principal or her designee. If a student is absent more than 15% of the school year (excused or unexcused), they are considered chronically absent by the state of Virginia. Parents/guardians will receive information if their child is at risk of becoming chronically absent. Parents/guardians must communicate with the school when a student is absent due to an emergency. Attendance meetings will be held with parents/guardians once a student has been absent 7-10 days and an attendance plan will be created.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The instructional day begins at 9:25 a.m. Students may not arrive prior to 9:00 a.m. If a student arrives after 9:25 a.m., he/she is considered tardy. When bringing a child to school after 9:25 a.m., a parent must accompany the student into the building to sign him/her in. All visitors will be required to walk through a metal detector. Visitors are encouraged to leave all personal items in the car. The student will be issued a tardy slip that he/she will need to be admitted to the classroom. Assigned personnel will be present when possible to control traffic in the morning and afternoon. Please do not park in the front loop of the school or Fire Lane. We ask that parents follow the directives of the personnel directing traffic in the morning and afternoon.

We will continue the CAR TAG Pickup process that allows parents/guardians to remain in their vehicle while picking up their child. Parents are required to complete the AUTHORIZATION FOR PARENT PICK-UP Form and provide a picture ID. Once the form is complete, tags will be distributed and should be displayed on the rear-view mirror. The tag will contain a number that will match the student tag that will be attached to the student's book bag. This car tag

service is only available for those students who are picked up at the regular dismissal time on a daily basis.

A lost or damaged car tag will be replaced for \$5.00.

Any adult who **does not** have a student's assigned car tag on their rear view mirror will be required to do the following:

Student Pick-up Guidelines (emergencies or occasional appointments):

- Anyone picking up students, must be listed on the authorized personnel document.
- Parents who pick up their student(s) early will be required to park then sign out their child on a clipboard in a designated area outside. Valid picture I.D. must be presented when signing out a student.
- If picking up a student early, please provide a written request to your child's teacher.

***In order for the afternoon pick-up process to run efficiently, we will be requiring parents that have not picked up a child by 3:30 to park and remain in their vehicle until 4:00pm. This includes, but is not limited to all appointments and bus issues.**

Buses will start departing the building at 3:50 p.m. Children must ride the bus to which they are assigned. **Written notice is required for a student to change his/her bus or if the student will be picked up from school. Bus changes cannot be made over the phone. If a student is to be picked up, he/she will not be called to the office until parents arrive in the building to pick them up.** If someone other than the parent or guardian is to pick your child up from school, a note signed by the parent must be sent that morning to the teacher. The responsible adult must sign the student out in the office, and bring a valid picture I.D. All students will be put on their assigned buses unless we receive written notification prior to the bus dismissal, otherwise students will be required to ride their assigned bus. Parents are not to enter the bus parking lot at any time during the school day. A written note from a parent or guardian must be received before a child can be released, to any adult, whose name is not on the Emergency Card. **It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to keep the school updated on current phone numbers and pertinent information.**

TRAFFIC SIGNS AND PARKING

We are asking that you please obey all traffic rules and observe all **NO PARKING** directives. When you arrive on the Southwestern campus you are required to park in a parking space. Our first priority is the safety of our students, parents, and visitors. Please watch your speed and be cautious of students who may dart out from behind stationary cars. Please be patient during drop off and dismissal, we ask that you not pull around stopped vehicles to ensure the safety of our students. The Suffolk Police Department will periodically monitor traffic and excessive speeding in the neighborhood. We are sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause; however, this is necessary to maintain a safe and orderly environment in which parents can safely retrieve their children.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

AlphaBest provides School-Age Child Care for Southwestern students. Their state-licensed, Before and After-School programs are designed to give parents a piece of mind when students are not in the classroom. Alphabest ensures staff is caring and experienced to aid students in being safe, engaged, and happy. Before-school care is offered starting at 6:30 a.m. until students are taken to classrooms. After-school care is offered from dismissal until 6:00 p.m. **For more information, contact AlphaBest at (866) 300-7750 or visit their website www.alphabest.org/suffolkva/.**

BOOK FAIR

A book fair will be held twice during the school year. Parents and students have the opportunity to purchase books, posters, and other items during this event. Profits from the Book Fair are used to purchase books and/or other school items that benefit the students of Southwestern.

BUS EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES

Riding the school bus is a privilege. This privilege can be suspended or revoked by the principal, assistant principal, supervisor of transportation, or the superintendent for any child who does not conduct himself/herself in an acceptable manner. Because of the potential for danger involved in this part of the school day, violators will be dealt with severely and quickly (see Regulations for Pupils Riding School Buses in the SPS Handbook). All passengers are under the jurisdiction of the driver while on the bus. The driver is to control student conduct and report behavior problems to the principal or assistant principal. Should any child be reported to the principal or assistant principal, disciplinary action will be taken. Failure to comply with the policy dealing with school bus operations may result in suspension or termination of the privilege to ride a school bus. **Should a student be suspended from a bus, it becomes the responsibility of the parent to provide transportation for the child to and from school.**

PARENTS ARE PROHIBITED FROM BOARDING A SCHOOL BUS. Please call school administration for information or to express a concern.

School-wide expectations extend to the bus and bus stop. Specific bus expectations will be taught to students and shared with students and parents the first week of school.

Three suspensions from the school bus in one calendar school year could cause your child to lose the privilege of riding the school bus for 30 days and thereafter for the remainder of the year.

Permission to Ride a Different Bus:

A note signed by the parent/guardian must be presented to the teacher first thing in the morning or turned in to the office in the morning before 10:00 a.m. Fax and email requests are also accepted before 10:00 a.m.

Below is an example of the details that are needed in a bus note:

Please allow my child, **(Student's Name)**, to ride **(Bus Number/Route)** to/from **(Address Where You Want Child Dropped Off and/or picked up)** on **(Days and Dates)**. I may be contacted at the following **(Daytime Phone Number)**.

_____ (Parent Signature)

If received by 10:00 a.m., the request will be sent to transportation by 11:00 a.m. in order to receive the bus pass to ride a different bus if space permits by 2:00 p.m.

***NO student is to ride a different bus without an approved pass from the school office.**

CAFETERIA

Suffolk is a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) district. Due to this, free breakfast and lunch will be offered to all students during the course of the 2024-2025 school year.

Microwaves are not available to heat students' personal food items.

NON-SCHOOL FOOD ITEMS

The district Wellness Policy prohibits both parents and school staff from bringing snacks and beverages such as cupcakes into the school for student classroom parties. All snacks offered to students during the school day must be nutritionally sound. Please contact your child's teacher if sending in a snack for celebrations to ensure that the snacks adhere to SPS nutritional guidelines. For specific nutritional standards, please refer to the SPS District Wellness Policy in the SPS Handbook and SPS Website. Students will not be allowed to receive meal delivery services (i.e., Grubhub, Doordash, etc.)

CELL PHONES

Cell Phone use is prohibited during school hours. Cell phones must be kept in the student's backpack and turned off unless otherwise approved by school administrators. Using a cell phone at an inappropriate time in school can result in the confiscation of the cell phone and or disciplinary action. SPS accepts no liability for any lost, stolen, or damaged cell phones.

CHARACTER TRAITS

Specific character traits are emphasized during the school year. Special school wide activities and projects are held to highlight each character trait. The character traits are listed below by month.

September – Respect

October – Responsibility

November – Self Discipline

December – Kindness

January – Perseverance

February – Honesty

March – Courtesy

April – Cooperation

May – Fairness

June – School Safety

CLINIC

The school nurse, **Ms. Emily Wright**, will conduct vision, hearing, and dental screenings throughout the year. The clinic is open every day during school hours; however, parents must make arrangements to pick up sick or injured children. Emergency cards are due in the office and must be updated as needed. Parents, or emergency contact persons, will be notified in case of an emergency. All medication must be brought in by a parent, and picked up at the end of the year by a parent. If the student becomes ill during the school day, the school nurse will assess him/her and determine the best course of action. Upon determining the need to go home, the nurse or designee will make the proper arrangements by contacting the student's parents. If the parent cannot be contacted, other person(s) on the student's emergency card will be contacted.

The school does not have the staff or facilities to care for children who are sick. In case of illness or accident, parents will be contacted to arrange transportation home. We need your telephone number at home and at work, and the number of a friend or relative if we are unable to get in touch with either parent.

1. MEDICAL TREATMENT: When a student becomes ill or injured, the parent/guardian will be contacted that day by the school nurse. School personnel may not diagnose, give medication, nor administer treatment beyond basic first aid. A note will be given to any child who visits the office with a complaint of injury or illness. The child will be instructed to bring the note home to the parent.

2. MEDICATION: School employees may not administer internal medicine to a student. If routine medication must be taken by a child during the school day, it must be given to the school nurse, or designated office personnel. In these cases a medication form must be completed by the physician and signed by the parent. Do not send medication to school with your child. Over the counter medication such as aspirin, cough syrups, etc. cannot be given at school. ALL medication must be properly labeled with the student's name on the bottle.

COMMUNICATION FOLDERS

Communication Folders will come home once a week and are provided for every student in grades K-5. The Communication Folders will contain samples of your child's work and should give parents some tangible evidence of your child's progress. Parents are asked to review this folder and send it back the following day. The school will send important memos and flyers through the Weekly Communication Folders when possible. Student agendas and communication folders serve as valuable school-home communication tools.

CONFERENCES

Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher throughout the school year when a conference is necessary. **To ensure safety and minimize instructional distractions, we ask that parents contact teachers to schedule individual conferences after school hours or during the teacher's planning period.** The division has set aside November 14, 2024, February 6, 2025, and April 10, 2025 as conference days; however, the parent/guardian, teacher, or administration may request additional conferences. *Please be aware that conference dates are early release days. Students will be dismissed at 1:15pm (lunch is served) and conferences will start after 2:00pm.*

CHILD CUSTODY

If you have legal custody of your child through a court order (or deed of separation), please see that the administration (principal/assistant principal) have a **current** copy of this document. Please do not assume that school employees know about custody issues. Be sure we know if any family member is not to pick-up your child from school. Please make sure that this information is included on the school's Emergency Information Card.

CIVILITY

We encourage positive communication and discourage disruptive, hostile, or aggressive communications or actions. We expect our staff to be treated with courtesy and respect by parents and other adults. Any behavior which disrupts the orderly operation of the school will result in removal from the premises, contacting law enforcement, and/or termination of a meeting, conference, or telephone conversation.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline is the positive direction of behavior towards established standards of conduct, fully understood and based upon reason, judgment, and consideration of the rights of others. It is self-directed and self-controlled. Schools, community, and parents share the responsibility for helping students develop self-discipline.

When students are under school jurisdiction, they are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly, courteous, dignified, and respectful manner. In an effort to maintain an orderly atmosphere, the teacher's authority extends to all students, whether or not the teacher has the student in class. When self-control falters and self-discipline fails, disciplinary action must be imposed to protect the rights of others and to ensure uninterrupted instruction by teachers for students.

Disruptive student behavior is subject to disciplinary action by teachers and administrators. The action may take the form of reprimand, conference, notification of parents, discipline referral, in-school suspension, short-term out-of-school suspension (ten days or less), long-term out-of-school suspension (more than ten days), or expulsion. A discipline referral will be sent to the principal or assistant principal when the teacher feels that the student's improper behavior cannot be corrected through teacher classroom management practices. After consultation with the student and the teacher (if necessary), the administrator will determine the course of action required to provide a safe, secure school.

DRESS CODE

Please refer to the SPS Handbook and SPS Website for the student dress code policy. This policy will be strictly enforced at Southwestern. Students that violate the dress code policy will have an opportunity to change (the office will attempt to contact the parent for a change of clothes). If a parent is unreachable or unable to bring the student a change of clothes, the student will spend the day in ISS.

HOME ACCESS CENTER (HAC)

Suffolk Public Schools is offering a unique service to parents. Home Access Center allows parents to view their student(s) grades and attendance on-line. Grades that appear in HAC are drawn directly from the teacher's grade book and will provide an electronic progress report, available anytime. Parents who wish to sign up for Home Access should contact Mrs. Majel Nowell Jones, Administrative Assistant. It may take up to 72 hours to activate.

INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

All efforts will be made by the office to ensure that instructional time is uninterrupted. The following procedures will be observed:

- A. Parents and visitors will be required to report to the kiosk/office when entering the building.**

- B. Parents/Visitors must sign-in using the Raptor System and wear a “Visitors” sticker to visit any area in the building. Parents or visitors that are not serving as a volunteer are not permitted to visit classrooms once the school day has started.
- C. Parents and visitors who are allowed in the building beyond the kiosk/office must wear a Visitor’s Sticker. For security reasons, it is every staff member’s responsibility to ensure that visitors without stickers are directed to the office. **If parents wish to visit the classroom during instructional time, they must make arrangements with the teacher or administration prior to the classroom visit.**
- Students will not be summoned to the office except in urgent situations.
 - Students will not be withheld from any scheduled class for punishment.
 - Teachers will not be called to receive telephone calls unless it is an emergency. A message will be taken and placed in the teacher’s box.
- D. **Morning Drop Off is in the Main Foyer. In order to keep students safe, visitors will not be allowed past the main kiosk during school hours.**
- As a reminder, instructional hours are from 9:25-3:50. In an effort to maximize instructional time, we ask that parents/guardians schedule appointments and other obligations after 3:50pm if possible.

MORNING MEETINGS

As part of our Social Emotional Learning initiatives, each classroom facilitates morning meetings daily. These meetings are dedicated to initiate discussion and to build relationships as a class/community. This time helps to develop the following:

- Set the tone for respectful learning
- Establish a climate of trust
- Motivate students to feel significant
- Create empathy and encourage collaboration
- Support social, emotional and academic learning

PARTNERS-IN-EDUCATION

Southwestern Elementary is fortunate to have many business partners (current partners are listed on our school website). These partners work with us to enhance academic, instructional, and community programs. Southwestern is always seeking new business partners. Please contact Mrs. Sallie Barnes, Southwestern guidance counselor, if you or someone you know would like to become a partner.

PROMOTION POLICY

Please review carefully Suffolk Public School’s Promotion and Grading Policy (found in the SPS Handbook and SPS Website). Report Cards are distributed every 9 weeks and Interim Reports are distributed every 4 ½ weeks before the end of each reporting period. Look for these reports on the following dates:

- **Interim Reports**
- September 27, 2024
- December 6, 2024
- February 27, 2025
- May 9, 2025

- **Reports Cards**
- November 14, 2024
- February 6, 2025
- April 10, 2025
- June 6, 2025

PBIS EXPECTATIONS

Southwestern Elementary School will continue to implement the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. This program teaches correct and appropriate behaviors while offering positive reinforcement (Ticket System, PBIS Monthly Events and Excellence Referrals) to students when they make the right choices. Students who meet our behavior expectations will have the opportunity to earn tickets. Please review our school-wide expectations with your child(ren). Each classroom will also have its own expectations that relate to our core statements: **Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible**. Classroom expectations will be shared by your child’s teacher. Below you will find the SWES School-Wide Expectations Matrix.



Southwestern Elementary School How do Mustangs Behave?



Expectations	Classroom	Hallway	Cafeteria	Restroom	Playground	Bus
Be Safe	Ask for permission to leave your seat Keep self to self Listen carefully	Walk on the right hand side Walk safely on the stairs Be single, straight, & silent Maintain personal space	Walk silently Eat you own food Remain in your seat Keep self to self	Keep self to self Keep water in the sink	Stay in assigned areas Use equipment appropriately Keep self to self Watch where you are going	Sit bottom to bottom, back to back, facing forward Keep aisle clear Stay in assigned set
Be Respectful	Raise your hand Use an inside voice Speak kind words Listen without interrupting.	Follow staff directions Keep hands and feet to self Remain quiet in hallway Use silent greetings	Use inside voices when seated Say please and thank you Raise your hand for assistance Follow staff directions	Go Flush Wash Exit Clean up after yourself	Share equipment Take turns Use kind words Include others Show good sportsmanship	Keep hands, feet and objects to self Stay in personal space Use an inside voice Speak kind words
Be Responsible	Ask for permission to leave your seat Be engaged Bring all required materials to class	Keep self to self Keep up with your class Go directly to your destination	Get everything you need BEFORE you're seated Know your lunch number	Give privacy to others. Use materials correctly.	Be alert Report problem to adults Put equipment away	Maintain a clean bus Gather belongings Report problems to bus driver

All school-wide expectations will be taught to students and shared with students and parents the first week of school.

Students are not permitted to bring toys, games, gaming devices, mp3 players, cellphones, iPods, sports cards, pets of any kind, Pokemon items, or wear Heelys (shoes with wheels or skates) to school. ***Toy guns and knives will be dealt with as real weapons.*** If items are brought to school, they will be confiscated and kept for parents to pick up. Loss of such items is the sole responsibility of the student. Students are strongly encouraged to leave excess money at home. It is difficult to recover money when it is either lost or stolen.

PBIS INCENTIVES

Our PBIS program focuses on teaching expectations and desired behaviors. When students are able to demonstrate the expectations they can earn incentives.

Tickets: These are given to students by any staff member who catches a student following our school-wide expectations of being safe, respectful, or responsible.

Excellence Referrals/Mustang Mail: These are written for any staff member who catches a student going above and beyond to follow our school-wide expectations of being safe, respectful, or responsible. Students are recognized by having parents contacted, signing the Wall of Excellence, and retrieving a book from the Book Vending Machine.

PBIS Monthly Events: All students are invited to our PBIS events held throughout the school year. Students have the opportunity to purchase items using the tickets earned.

Golden Tickets: These tickets are distributed by bus drivers and monitors to students who are following bus expectations.

PICTURES

School pictures are taken in the fall and spring of each year. Every student will get their picture taken in the Fall for the school yearbook. In the Spring, only students that are purchasing pictures will get their individual pictures taken. However, everyone will be photographed for the group photo.

Fall Pictures are scheduled for October 30, 2024 (Make-Up Date December 3, 2024) and Spring Pictures are scheduled for March 19, 2025.

SAFETY DRILLS

Southwestern Elementary students will participate in various safety drills throughout the school year in order to practice procedures that will keep all students and staff safe in the event of unforeseen circumstances. These drills include bus evacuations, fire drills, lockdown drills, metal detector checks, and weather drills. All drills, with the exception of Code Red drills, will be unannounced. Parents will be notified 24 hours in advance of conducting Code Red drills.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION ACTIVITIES

Recognizing students' achievement is an important aspect of motivating students. Each student is given the opportunity to be recognized for his/her success and or achievement. Some of our special recognition awards for students are listed below.

- **Principal's List-** Students receive this award if they earn all A's (grades 1-5).
- **Honor Roll-** Students receive this award if they earn all A's and B's (grades 1-5).
- **Perfect Attendance-** Students receive this award if they have not missed any school days for the entire nine-weeks grading period.
- **Ruritan Award-** This award goes to the 5th Grade student with the highest academic average for the year.
- **President's Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence (5th Only)** - Awarded to students who maintain A's all year and score a 500 or above on the reading or math SOL.
- **President's Award for Outstanding Educational Achievement (5th Only)** - Awarded to students who maintain A's and B's all year and score a 450 or above on the reading or math SOL.
- **B.U.G. Award** - After the first nine weeks students in grades 1-5 may earn the B.U.G. Award by Bringing Up their Grades. To qualify for the B.U.G. Award, students must raise one letter grade in at least one subject area without the other subject areas dropping.
- **Mustang Award (Student of the Month)** - Awarded to students that demonstrate outstanding character consistently. These students are role models of school and community civility.
- **The Golden Horseshoe-** Awarded to students that consistently demonstrate being safe, respectful, and responsible.

AWARDS CEREMONIES

When time in the schedule permits, students will receive the above awards at an awards ceremony. Dates for the ceremonies will be posted on the school website and published in the Parent Newsletter. **Balloons are prohibited in the school building.**

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are provided free to all students to be used during the school year. If a student has books checked out to them, they will receive a Textbook Distribution Letter explaining what books are checked out to the student as well as the price for each book. When books are distributed, they are scanned out to students based on their student ID number. At the end of the year, books are to be returned in reasonably good condition. If any books are damaged, a fine will be assessed according to the age of the book and the type of damage. Replacement costs will be charged for lost books.

Visitors/Volunteers

Volunteers are greatly needed and much appreciated. Volunteers are required to sign into the building at the kiosk/office. If you are interested in serving as a parent/community volunteer, please contact Mrs. Melissa Tilton, at melissatilton@spsk12.net, or Mrs. Elizabeth Alston at elizabethalston@spsk12.net. You may sign up for the Volunteer Program online at Volunteer Connect on the Suffolk Public Schools webpage by completing the [Volunteer Form](#). The process has been made as simple as possible. **Each volunteer will be required to complete an application and be screened for inclusion in the Sex Offenders and Crimes Against Minors Registry each school year.** The results of the background checks will be held confidential. All new volunteers must be approved and must receive a clear background check prior to beginning volunteer work.

In an effort to protect the instructional environment and avoid liability issues, alternate child care must be secured for students who are not enrolled at Southwestern Elementary School. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to participate in field trips based on need and available slots. Volunteers are not allowed to bring siblings or other students on field trips.

Lunch Guests

Parents/guardians are welcome to enjoy lunch with their child on our reserved days of Tuesdays and Thursdays.

If you choose to bring lunch for your child, please refrain from sharing any items with other students to accommodate food allergies or dietary restrictions.

***The information in this handbook should be reviewed by parents and discussed with their children. Students will be held accountable for all rules and regulations in this handbook.**