



Royersford Elementary Back to School Newsletter August 2023



Welcome Back RES Families!



Hello RES Families!

I hope that you are all enjoying the summer break and had plenty of time to relax and refresh. As summer comes to a close, I certainly feel the excitement of starting a new school year and can't wait to see all of you as we WELCOME the 2023-2024 school year!

We are very appreciative of the hard work and effort that went into preparing our building for the first day of school. Our playground received a refresh with new equipment and shaded areas including an outdoor seating area for an entire classroom. We have also upgraded our lighting and HVAC system throughout the entire school. We are ready and prepared to open our doors for the first student day on Monday August 28, 2023. Be sure to wear your best SMILE!

We have a solid year planned with fun and meaningful learning activities to allow each individual child to explore and grow within the school community. We are here to create and sustain a positive learning environment for each child where they can grow and learn to their best potential. I am confident that we will work together as parents and teachers to support each other and make this year filled with growth and opportunities. The goal is to make sure that all students LOVE school.

Our school theme this year is *"It is Cool to Explore our Dreams at RES"*. Our entire school will unite by reading the book *Mr. Popper's Penguins* by Florence and Richard Atwater as part of annual One School, One Book Program. Teachers will guide students and explore the themes of family, loyalty, and commitment. We thank our PTO and all of you for your fundraising efforts in helping us host programs such as One School, One Book.

Please stay involved and join us during PTO meetings. It is a great way to connect with other parents and explore a committee or event you can join or co-chair. If you would like to volunteer and help out for school events, please visit the Spring-Ford Volunteer Page for more information on how to obtain your clearances.

We will continue to promote compassion and kindness each day across all aspects of our school community. Compassion is a vital element in society and has the power to increase coping, healing, and happiness. Compassion counteracts depression, increases self-confidence, reduces health related issues, and increases social connectedness. There are many ways in which we can all practice and promote compassion both at home and at school. Be grateful, avoid placing judgement on others, forgive, solve problems peacefully, and find the good in others each day. Compassion Matters!

I look forward to our partnership to ensure that our children have a fun, rewarding, and meaningful school year.

Sincerely,
Dr. Teresa M. Carboy

BACK-TO-SCHOOL UPDATES

Skyward Update

The Skyward system involves access for parents and students to attendance, assignments, grades, and food service information. Be sure to update all information in Skyward so that you can continue to access and receive information for your child.

It is extremely important that you make any changes to your information as it occurs. We rely on the information in Skyward provided by you in case of any emergency.

You can access Skyward on the Internet at our website: spring-ford.net

Simply click on "**For Parents**" then "**Skyward**" then "**Family Access Login.**" Please contact the school office at (610) 705-6005 should you need assistance with your Login and/or password.

First Day Verification

REMINDER: First Day Verification is Open!

Parents/guardians may log into Skyward Family Access to complete the First Day Verification process. Families may complete the First Day Verification on a desktop or laptop computer, a smartphone, or a tablet. [Click here to learn more.](#)

STEP 1: Log into your parent/guardian [Skyward account](#)

STEP 2: Click on First Day Verification

STEP 3: Complete all steps for each student attending a Spring-Ford school

STEP 4: Kick back and relax. You're all done!

If you do not already have a Skyward password, or if you do not have access to a computer, don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's school office for assistance. If you have moved within the district, please complete the [Change of Address Form](#) before the first day of school.

Royersford Elementary Class Lists

On August 15, 2023, after 3:00 PM, you will be able to access your child's teacher assignment through Skyward. **To see your child's teacher assignment, you will first need to complete the district's first day verification.**

Staff Update: New to RES! Please Welcome:

Kacie Vargo-Grade 1

Erin Marcellus-Grade 3

Lisa Michener (Mrs. Brooks)-Grade 3

Suzanne Thompson-Grade 4

Kathy Pencak- Autistic Support Teacher

Danielle DeFrancesco-Autistic Support Teacher

Kelly Coughlin- Instructional Assistant Autistic Support

Diane Vogt- Instructional Assistant

Colleen Lui – Building Substitute

Sapna Shekar – Building Substitute

Don't Miss the Bus: Bus Status App



Wondering if your child's bus is running late? Download the new Bus Status App for iOS and Android to receive bus notifications straight to your phone!

The Bus Status app displays up to date bus information for schools and school districts. The app sends out push notifications for cancelled, delayed, or early buses, keeping parents and students updated throughout the day. Select your bus route as a favorite to receive notifications for special announcements and late bus information.

Q: Does Bus Status App track my child's bus?

A: No, Bus Status App does not have GPS tracking.

Q: Does Bus Status App keep private information like my address or name?

A: No, Bus Status App does not hold any private information. It does not hold names, street addresses or bus routes. The app simply pushes notifications based on the information you've requested.

Q: When will I see my child's bus?

A: Bus schedules will be uploaded to Bus Status App after August 15, 2023 after 3:00pm.

Food Service Update: SFASD Breakfast & Lunch for 2023-2024

Free Breakfast in 2023-2024

The Pennsylvania Department of Education announced the universal free school breakfast program will continue for the 2023-2024 school year! All students will be eligible for a free breakfast at school. Spring-Ford offers a variety of breakfast items daily including fruits, sugar free juice selection, cereal, and daily menu items like french toast sticks, waffles with syrup, egg and cheese sandwiches, and more.

Free Meal Program - Apply Today

Families who [qualify](#) are encouraged to participate in the Free Meal Program to help offset the cost of daily lunch. It's easy to find out, easy to apply, and risk free. Income eligibility guidelines are available online and are based on your household size and income level. Be sure to apply for the financial support that your family may be eligible to receive.



- [Click here](#) to learn if your family qualifies for free meals.
- [Click here](#) to apply online.
- [Click here](#) for an English PDF/printed packed with additional information.
- [Click here](#) for a Spanish PDF/printed packed with additional information.

Elementary Meal Prices:

Breakfast cost \$1.60 ... reduced price .30

Lunch cost \$3.05 ... reduced price .40

SNACKS AND A LA CARTE: There are limited snack offerings specific to each school. Snacks are not free and will need to be paid for at the point of sale.

IMPORTANT DATES + TIMES

Thursday, August 24, 2023: Kindergarten Open House

This evening is for **Parents and Kindergarten students**, hosted by Mrs. McCormick and Mrs. Novia.

Kindergarten AM Session, begins promptly at 5:00pm

Kindergarten PM Session, begins promptly at 6:30pm

Each session should last about 45–50 minutes.

Thursday, August 24, 2023: Classroom Visits/Meet the Teacher

We are opening our doors for RES students to visit their classroom
and to share a warm hello with the classroom teacher!

- **Grade 1-4, please visit between 2:30pm-3:15pm**
- **Kindergarten will meet their teacher at Open House**

Monday, August 28, 2023

First Student Day – Welcome!

Doors Open at 8:45 am

Upon arrival to school, students should report directly to their classrooms.

Staff members will be on site to escort the children and ensure all students arrive and dismiss safely.

[Please do not leave students unattended while waiting for school doors to open.](#)

[All parent drop off students must remain in the car with the driver.](#)

[Walkers may not arrive prior to 8:45 am](#)

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Open House Grades 1 – 4 Come hear what you can expect in the classroom this year from your child's teacher. This event is for Parents only! Parents report directly to their child's homeroom

Two identical sessions:

6:00pm – 6:45pm

7:00pm – 7:45pm

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSALS

Please do your best to ensure consistency with your child's mode of transportation each day. The consistency in schedule helps to ensure safety to and from school and minimizes confusion for both student and teacher.

Traffic can become congested in the morning, so we ask that you please consider having your child ride the bus if bus transportation is offered in your area.

Please be patient and cautious in the morning during parent drop off if you plan on driving your child to school. Our doors open at 8:45 am where students enter through the front main entrance on 4th avenue and can go right to their homeroom.

Students Grade 1-4 9:00 AM- 3:40 PM

Parent Drop off: AM student arrival

- Front doors open at 8:45 AM for all students (4th Street Entrance)
- All students must enter through the front main entrance doors.
- Students report directly to their classrooms
Parents are NOT permitted to park in traffic circle – please pull all the way around the circle for drop off, to enable maximum number of cars in circle and continuous flow of traffic.
- Children must exit passenger side of the vehicle
- Vehicles may never be left unattended in traffic circle

Please note: Doors will remain open and supervised from 8:45 AM to 9:00AM. If your child is not in homeroom and seated by 9:00 AM, the child must be accompanied into school by a parent and will be considered tardy.

Students may not be on school property prior to 8:45 AM, including the playground without parental supervision, as there is no staff on duty.

Parent Pick-up: PM student dismissal

- Dismissal for parent pick-up students begins at 3:40 PM
- Wave one will be for all students in grade K-2 and their older siblings.
- Wave two will be for students in grades 3 and 4.
- Parents must park their car in a legal parking spot on either Fourth or Fifth Avenue. Parents are not permitted to park in the traffic circle at any time during dismissal – this is not a legal parking spot
- Parents must report to front of the building with their ID to sign their child out of school.
- Students will only be released to people listed on student dismissal form

Please note: Parents picking up their child at dismissal may **not** utilize the Fifth Avenue staff parking lot. The Fifth Avenue will not be accessible for use, as this lot is for staff only.

Walkers: Arrival and Dismissal

- Arrival - Doors open at 8:45 AM
- Arrival - All walkers must enter through the front main entrance upon arrival to school and report to their classroom
- Dismissal - All 4th Ave walkers will report to the cafeteria at dismissal when announced
- Dismissal - All 5th Ave walkers will report to the back stairwell when announced
- Dismissal - All walkers will be escorted and dismissed by staff to the corner of Fourth Ave. and Spring St. OR to the 5th Avenue side of the building (top of school steps).



Bus: Arrival and Dismissal

- All bus students report directly to homeroom upon entrance to building at 8:45am
- Bus students will utilize the Fifth Avenue entrance/exit doors for both arrival and dismissal

AM Kindergarten Students ONLY ---9:00 AM – 11:40 AM

Parent Drop Off – Student Arrival:

- Front Main Entrance Doors open at 8:45 AM (4th Street Entrance)
- AM Kindergarten Students must enter through the main lobby
- AM Kindergarten Students report directly to their classrooms
- Staff is on duty to escort students to their classroom
- Parents are NOT permitted to park in traffic circle during AM Arrival – please pull all the way around the circle for drop off, to enable maximum number of cars in circle and continuous flow of traffic.
- Children must exit passenger side of vehicle
- Vehicles may never be left unattended in traffic circle

Please note: Doors will remain open and supervised from 8:45 AM to 9:00 AM. If your child is not in homeroom and seated by 9:00 AM, the child must be accompanied into school by a parent and will be considered tardy.

AM Kindergarten Students may not be on school property prior to 8:45 AM, including the playground without parental supervision, as there is no staff on duty.

Parent Pick Up – Student Dismissal:

- Dismissal for AM Kindergarten parent pick-up begins at 11:40 AM
- AM Kindergarten students are to be picked up no later than 11:45 AM from Front Main Entrance
- AM Kindergarten Parents can use the traffic circle to pick up their kindergarten child from the AM session
- Parents must report to main entrance doors with their ID, to physically sign their child out of school upon approval from a staff member on duty
- Students will only be released to people listed on student dismissal form

Bus: Arrival and Dismissal

- All bus students report directly to homeroom upon entrance to building
- Bus students will utilize the Fifth Avenue entrance/exit doors for both arrival and dismissal

PM Kindergarten Students ONLY ---1:00 PM- 3:40 PM

Parent Drop off –Student Arrival:

- Front Main Entrance Door opens at 12:45 for PM Kindergarten Students
- PM Kindergarten students must enter through the Front Main Entrance (4th Street)

- Staff will be on duty to escort PM Kindergarten students to classroom
- PM Kindergarten Parents can use the traffic circle from 12:45 PM-12:55 PM to drop off their kindergarten child for the PM session.

Students MUST remain with a parent until a staff member opens the door. As a safety precaution, please do not allow your child to play tag or run with other students while waiting for doors to open.

Please note: If you child is not here by 1:00 PM for the PM Kindergarten session, the child must be accompanied into school, utilizing the front main entrance door, by a parent, and will be considered tardy.

PM Kindergarten students may not be on school property prior to 12:45 PM, including the playground, without parental supervision as there is no staff on duty.

Parent Pick-up Student Dismissal:

- Dismissal for PM Kindergarten begins at 3:40 PM
- Wave one will be Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd and any older siblings.
- All students must be picked up promptly at 3:40 pm
- Parents picking up their child at dismissal will be required to sign their child out of school
- Parents must park their car in a legal parking spot on either Fourth or Fifth Avenue
- Parents are not permitted to park in the traffic circle at any time during dismissal – this is not a legal parking spot
- Parents must report to front main entrance of the school with their ID, to physically sign their child out of school upon approval from staff member on duty
- Students will only be released to people listed on student dismissal form (attached)

Bus: Arrival and Dismissal

- All bus students report directly to homeroom upon entrance to building
- Bus students will utilize the 5th Avenue entrance/exit doors for both arrival and dismissal

TO AND FROM SCHOOL



Walkers + Crossing Guards

If your child walks to school unescorted by a parent or another adult, please be certain to emphasize safety when crossing streets and walkways. Walkers will be dismissed through our Front Main Entrance. Students will only be escorted to 4th Street at the end of our school driveway or to the top steps on the 5th street side of our school.

Since many of our students walk to and from school, adult crossing guards, employed by the Borough of Royersford, are posted at key intersections within the borough. Work with your child to establish the

safest and most direct route to and from school. Also, please encourage your child to listen to and respect the crossing guards.

Spring Street Traffic Circle

The circle around the flagpole on Spring Street at the front of the building is intended for use by parents in cars who are dropping off students.

In the morning at arrival time there is absolutely no parking in the traffic circle. When you arrive in the circle, please pull around as far as you can go to leave room for cars entering behind you. When your child has exited your vehicle, please exit the traffic circle immediately to keep the flow of traffic moving. You may NOT park or leave your vehicle for any reason in the morning in the traffic circle.

ALWAYS ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD EXITS THE VEHICLE ON THE PASSENGER SIDE OF THE CAR WHEN UTILIZING THE TRAFFIC CIRCLE FOR DROP-OFF.



Bicycles

Only students in fourth grade are permitted to ride bicycles to school. Helmets, as required by law, must be worn by all students who ride bicycles to and from school. A bicycle lock is also a must.

It is best for students to walk their bikes on school property at both arrival and dismissal times, as there are many walkers during these times. Students who fail to follow proper bike-riding procedures will have their riding privileges revoked.

Bus Stops

It is recommended that students be at their bus stops five minutes prior to their assigned time on the first few days of school. Please remember that school bus safety begins at the bus stop. It is recommended that an adult accompany students to the bus stop if possible.

FOR PARENTS

Royersford Contact Information

The school's main phone number is 610-705-6005. Please save this number in your contact list. This number provides "one stop shopping" for contacting the school as well as the Absentee Phone Line. In addition, by calling this number you can access the voice mail for all school staff. When you phone the school, your call will be answered by the automated system. Listen for options and instructions. If you need the main office, simply press "0". The school's fax number is 610-705-6250.

You can access school information on the Internet at our website, spring-ford.net. Simply click on "**Our Schools**" then "**Royersford Elementary**" on the drop-down menu.

Please continue to stay informed by visiting our webpage frequently. We will post a monthly Newsletter on the Royersford Elementary website.

Volunteer Policy

The Office of Human Resources has begun accepting Volunteer applications for the 2023-2024 school year. The volunteer process will be automated through Raptor's Volunteer Management. Please visit the [Spring-Ford Volunteer Page](#) for more information on volunteering!



All volunteers and visitors must be scanned into our Raptor Security System and need to have their license accessible during your visit to school.



Mrs. Rachael Schauder, our school nurse at RES will carry out state-mandated health services. This includes vision and hearing screenings, height and weight measurements, and emergency first aid.

Please be aware that the services that we are equipped to provide only address emergencies or students who become ill while at school. If your child is sick, or if you suspect that your child may be sick, please do not send him/her to school. Instead have your child attended to by a doctor or other health care professional.

All medication that your child must take during the day is to be accompanied by a Medication Request Form (available from the school nurse or on our school's website). School nurses store and administer ALL medicine. This includes over-the-counter medications.

School Wide Theme

Our year-long theme for 2023-2024 is **It's Cool to Explore your dreams at RES!**

This theme will be evident in many activities and events throughout the school year. The students will also be reading Mr. Poppers Penguins in each grade level.

Student Absences and Adult-Sponsored Trips

If it becomes necessary for you to take your child out of school before dismissal time, you must report to the office and sign your child out using the building's log. No child may be taken from the school premises without following this procedure, and you may be asked to show identification. Please schedule non-emergency doctor, dentist, and other appointments after school hours.

Whenever a child is absent, an excuse card or parent note is required. Please provide the reason for absence as well as the date or dates your child was absent from school before signing the excuse card or note. If an excuse card is not received within three days of a student's absence from school, the absence will become "unlawful".

Current district policy provides for limited absences related to a family trip or vacation. The request form for this type of absence must be completed at least five days prior to the start of the trip. Please consult the elementary handbook for additional information regarding adult-sponsored trips. Trips for 3rd and 4th graders will NOT be approved during PSSA state-wide testing. Keep in mind that after 10 total absences including trips, a doctor note will be required for the absence to be considered excused.

Absence Reporting

Parents should notify the school's attendance office by phone using the absentee phone line if your student will be absent or tardy from school. This way, both the school and parents can be assured that all students have either arrived safely at school or are absent with parents' knowledge. Please provide the following information:

- Students Name
- Grade
- Teacher
- A **detailed** reason for the absence/tardy (i.e., if sick, stomachache or if late, doctor appointment, etc.)

Email: strai@spring-ford.net

Absentee Phone: 610-705-6005 x 4 (operational 24 hours/7days)

And please remember that our District requires that a written note be sent in to school within three days of your child's return.

Visits to the School During the Day

To preserve instructional time and maximize the safety and security of our students and staff, as well as minimizing disruptions during the school day, we have implemented a "forgotten items" table that is located inside the vestibule of our school. We ask that you label the item with your student's name and teacher, and we will have a 4th grade student deliver the forgotten item(s) around 11:00am. Thank you for your cooperation with this new process.

We do have many opportunities for parents to get involved but we ask that you help us preserve our instructional school day by reducing interruptions. This means ensuring that your child has everything they need before they come to school so that we do not need to disrupt teachers and students during the day. Be sure to call the school office prior to any visit.

Birthday Celebrations

As a reminder the observance of a child's birthday can be celebrated with non-food items (pencils, stickers, book of choice for teacher to read, erasers) due to the number of students with severe allergies and to focus more on making healthy choices. We do not allow whole class food treats for a child's birthday. Exceptions to this rule will only be made for District recognized celebrations



such as Valentine's Day, Halloween, and Winter Holidays. Due to the Healthy Choice Initiative, we ask that you do not bring in food from fast food restaurants.

District policy does not allow invitations for parties to be distributed at school.

Emergency School Closings

Should school have to be closed because of weather conditions or a building-related problem, it will be closed only by official notification from the district superintendent. A recorded announcement will be made via the Skylert System. **Please do not call the school office.**

Please note: If school is delayed for two hours, there will be a revised schedule and doors will open at 10:45 a.m.

There is also a modified schedule for kindergarten in case of a 2-hr. delay:

AM kindergarten will operate from 11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.; and PM kindergarten will operate from 1:55 p.m. - 3:40 p.m. This will enable both sessions of kindergarten to be held on days when there is a two-hour delay. If schools close early there will be no afternoon kindergarten classes.

If schools close early due to weather conditions, it may be necessary to dismiss students early without advance warning. Now is the time for parents to make prior arrangements concerning where their children should go if no one is home. This information should be shared with your child. Parents should make certain that their children understand what they are to do in the event of an early dismissal.



Inclement Weather

As winter weather increases in its intensity, it will be necessary that our students, many of whom are walkers, are dressed properly for the weather. Please be certain to check with your child to make sure that he/she is dressed appropriately for the weather. On almost all days, our students spend some time outside for exercise and recess.

ABOUT THE RES SCHOOL DAY

Six Day Cycle

Special subjects, (Art, Music, Library, Physical Education and Ram QUEST), operate on a six-day rotational schedule instead of a Monday through Friday schedule. This schedule is in place for all grades.

A six-day schedule designates the first day of school as "Day 1." The next day will be "Day 2," and so on, through "Day 6." The rotation will continue for all school days. "Day 1" will always follow "Day 6." Snow days, in-service days, vacation days, etc. will not interrupt the rotation. In this way all classes will receive an equal number of special subject classes.

Clothing Considerations

When considering clothing and how to dress for school, please monitor the weather. Royersford Elementary is air conditioned. An effort is made to be certain that rooms are not so cool as to be

uncomfortable for students in shorts. In an effort to be comfortable within the air-conditioned building, students considering wearing shorts to school should wait until the outside temperature is at least 70 degrees.

For safety reasons, sandals, flip-flops, open-toed footwear, open-backed or clog-type shoes/sneakers may not be worn to school. Clothing that distracts from learning, such as tube tops, tank tops and tops that leave the midriff exposed, as well as clothing with inappropriate slogans or symbols may also not be worn to school. Sneakers or athletic shoes must be worn on our playground. Open-backed or clog-type sneakers are not permitted on the playground.

Field Trips

Educational trips are taken by each grade during the school year. Information regarding each trip will be sent home to parents by classroom teachers. Funding for field trips comes from the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). Additional charges to students may be necessary. If you are experiencing financial difficulty and are unable to pay for your child to attend a field trip, please contact your child's teacher or the principal. It is our desire that all students attend to benefit from the field trip experience.

School district guidelines specify the maximum number of chaperones permitted. Unfortunately, this does not permit all parents who wish to serve as a chaperone to serve in this capacity. Keep in mind that field trips are not intended to be family trips but educational experiences.



Important Dates to Remember

- **August 15**

Homeroom/Busing info becomes available after 3:00pm for those who completed the First Day Verification

- **August 24 Kindergarten Open House**

Kindergarten AM Session 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Kindergarten PM Session 6:30pm - 7:30pm

- **August 24 – Classroom Visit/Meet the Teacher**

Grades 1 thru 4: 2:30pm – 3:15pm

- **August 28** - First Day of the 2023-2024 School Year

- Sept 4 - No School for Students

- Sept 6 - RES Open House for Grades 1-4

There will be 2 identical sessions: 6:00 PM – 6:45 PM and 7:00 PM – 7:45 PM

- Sept – PTO Welcome Back Social 5:00pm – 7:30pm

- Sept 14 - PTO Meeting -7:00 PM Media Center
- Sept 20 – Picture Day
- Sept 25 - No School for Students
- October 16 – No School for Students
- October 25 – Picture Re-take Day
- December 11 – Winter Concert

PTO Board Members for this school year!

President – Jen Bulson
Vice President – Nicole Roberts
Secretary – Brittany Gefvert
Treasurer – Kat Williams

First Meeting, September 14 at 7:00pm Media Center

Please come out and get involved! We look forward to seeing you!

