

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Accredited



1000 Santee School Road Summerville, South Carolina 29150

Telephone (843) 695 2450 Fax (843) 695 2455

RES WEBSITE: <http://res.ddtwo.org>

Mission Statement

William M. Reeves, Jr Elementary School is committed to motivating and challenging each students to chart a course for successful learning.

Reeves Elementary School Administration

Laura Blanchard.....Principal
Dan Farmer.....Assistant Principal
Becky Keegan..... Financial Secretary
Mary Bryce Robbins.....Receptionist
Carolyn Leckie.....BIR/Receptionist
Gerri Singleton.....Records and Attendance Secretary
Christina King..... Guidance Counselor
Kristin Haile..... Guidance Counselor
Sharon Holden..... Nurse
Leslie Morris.....Instructional Technology Specialist
Natalie Hayes..... Title Facilitator

School Board Members

Carolyn Howard Francis Townsend Bo Blanton
Harry Blake Charlie Stoudenmire Gayle Hughes

District Office Staff

Joseph Pye.....Superintendent
Dr. Glenn Huggins..... Director of Curr. /Inst.
Mike Windham.....Dir. School/Comm.Rel.

Important Numbers

Reeves Elementary.....695 2450

RES Cafeteria695 2453
District Office.....873-2901
Transportation Office.....871-7634
Extended Day.....695 2457

OFFICE HOURS 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Board Meetings

The Board of Trustees for Dorchester School District Two meets regularly on the second and fourth Monday of each month in the Conference Room at the District Administration Office, 102 Green Wave Blvd., Summerville. All meetings are open to the public and begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise announced.

Bell Schedule

Elementary Schools 7:25 a.m.-2:10 p.m.
Middle Schools 8:30 a.m.-3:40 p.m.
High Schools 7:25 a.m.-2:55 p.m.
Rollings Middle School 8:20 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

***Students may not arrive at school prior to 7:00 a.m., unless registered in the Extended Care Early Bird Program. We also ask that you not check students out of school prior to 2:10 p.m. Please schedule medical appointments after school hours or as late as possible. Students should be in the classroom by the first bell at 7:20 p.m. Parents must bring their child to the front office and sign them in after the 7:25 a.m. tardy bell.**

Early Dismissal Dates

Sept 10th & 24th Oct 15th & 29th Nov 12th
Dec 10th Jan 14th & 28th Feb 25th
Mar 18th Apr 29th

School will be dismissed at **11:00** on these days.

Title IX Regulations

"Dorchester School District Two does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the educational programs or activities which it operates, and is required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 not to discriminate in such a manner. This

policy on non-discrimination includes the following areas: recruitment and appointment of employees, employment pay benefits, counseling services for students, access by students to educational programs, course offerings, and student activities."



ATTENDANCE

Dorchester School District Two has a strict attendance policy based on state law. A copy of the full policy is printed in the Dorchester District Two handbook distributed to all students upon registration.

Regular attendance and punctuality are critical to a child's success in school and in the future. The earlier children learn that school is their job, the more satisfactory their growth will be. Coming to school late and leaving early interrupts the learning process for your children and their classmates. Parents of students with excessive absences, tardies, or early outs will be required to meet with an administrator and/or attendance supervisor and may be placed on contract.

Excessive absences consist of:

- 3 consecutive or 5 total unlawful/unexcused absences
- 10 or more lawful/excused absences (doctor's note required)

*The Attendance Office may be notified of cases requiring further actions, including DSS and/or Family Court referral.

Written Excuses

When returning to school following an absence, a student must present a note from his/her parent, legal guardian or physician containing the date returning, date or dates of the absence and reason for the absence. The note must be signed by the parent, legal guardian or physician and must include a telephone number where the parent or legal guardian may be reached.

Example of Written Excuse

09/26/08

Dear Ms. Smith,

Please excuse Marvin Marlin in 3A from school on 09/25/08. He had a fever and was not feeling well.

Lawful Absences

The following reasons are considered acceptable excuses for absences:

1. Absences due to extended or chronic illnesses certified by a physician (i.e. asthma, mononucleosis, accident).
2. Absences due to health-related appointments approved by the principal, not to exceed 10 days for the school year (i.e., medical, dental, or clinic appointments). A medical statement from the physician will be required upon returning to school.
3. Absences where attendance in school would endanger the health of the student or the health of others as determined by the principal (i.e., prevention of a flu epidemic, chicken pox, mumps.)
4. Serious illness or death in the student's immediate family.
5. Absences due to recognize religious holidays.
6. Absences due to special circumstances as determined by the principal, superintendent, or Board of Trustees.
7. Participation in a school-sponsored event, provided the student has been absent less than 10 days previously. This includes lawful and/or unlawful absences.

District Tardy Policy

For the convenience of the students, bus transportation is provided for students living more than one and a half miles from their school. Bus transportation is also provided for students who live within one and one-half miles in areas where

hazardous walking conditions exist. Tardies due to bus transportation are not considered unlawful.

According to South Carolina State Law and Dorchester School District Two School attendance policy, daily school attendance and punctuality are critical to a child's success in school. Unlawful tardies are monitored and could accumulate to unlawful absences.

Repeated tardiness greatly affects the educational progress of your child. It also interrupts the teachers, as well as the entire class when he/she enters the classroom tardy after instructional day has begun.

School begins at 7:25 a.m. We encourage car riders to come at 7:05 a.m. **Students arriving late must be signed in at the front office by a parent or responsible person to receive a pass to class.** Please do not drop your child off at the curb, parking lot, or any other undesignated area of school property. Getting to school on time is the responsibility of the parent, and it allows your child to begin his/her day on a positive note.

**Tardy consequences are administered on a semester basis as follows:

First Tardy- The office will issue verbal notification.

Second Tardy- The office will issue written notification.

Third Tardy- The office will issue 2nd written notification.

Fourth Tardy- The office will issue a written tardy notice.

Fifth Tardy- The school administrator or designee will request a parent conference to place a student on a tardy intervention contract.

Sixth-Seventh- The student may be referred to the Attendance Office.

Eighth Tardy- The student may be assigned in-school (BIR) suspension.

Tenth Tardy- The student may be given one day out of school suspension for each additional tardy after the tenth.



ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

The following procedures are designed to keep our children safe and to ensure a smooth arrival and dismissal process. Thank you for your role in making this effort successful.

Morning Procedures

1. School hours are 7:00-2:10. Students are not to arrive before 7:00 a.m. as there will be no supervision, and students will not be allowed to enter the building. **Early Bird care is available.**
2. All car riders should be dropped off between 7:00 a.m. and 7:20 a.m. in the car rider loop by the cafeteria. Parents escorting their child into the building MUST park in the back parking lot, cross at the bridge and then corsswalk, and enter the front doors to attain a visitor pass.
3. All car riders eating breakfast should arrive between 7:00 and 7:15 a.m. and go directly to the cafeteria in order to get to class on time.
4. Parents entering the school near arrival and dismissal times must park in the parking lots. Please do not leave your car unattended in the car rider loop. **Remember: All visitors must enter through the main doors at the front of the school and stop by the office for a visitor's pass. YOU MUST PRESENT I.D.**
5. Students riding buses to school will enter in a single file line in the bus entrance door. If they are eating breakfast, they will go directly to the cafeteria. Otherwise, students will go directly to their classroom.
6. Students riding their bikes to school should use the bike rack provided and enter through the front entrance.
7. Do not enter Bus Loop between 7-7:30 a.m. or 1:30-2:30 p.m.
8. Do not park in handicapped spaces unless vehicle is properly identified.

Afternoon Procedures

1. Students being picked up before the end of the school day must be signed out in the main office by a person listed on the emergency card with picture I.D. **Please do not sign students out during the last 30 minutes of the school day except for emergencies. Students will be picked up in the main office only.**
2. Car Riders will only be dismissed from the first grade hall at 2:20 to cars. Parents must go through the car rider line with the "car rider" signs hanging from the rear view mirror. Parents cannot pick up at the car rider door. Student will be loaded in cars by teachers on duty as quickly as possible.
3. Bike Riders and Walkers will be escorted by a teacher to the bike rack/walk path. Parents cannot park and wait for their Walker to be dismissed.
4. **Any student going home a different way than usual must have a written note from a parent. Students CANNOT ride a different bus home.**
5. **Send a note to the teacher for students to be picked up in the office. Daily pick up needs to be done using the car rider line not the office. Students will not be called down to the office after 1:40 until dismissal.**
6. **Phone calls for transportation changes will not be accepted. Emergencies are handled only by administrators.**
7. Students cannot be picked up from the bus loading area.



STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

Our school system recognizes that good physical health goes hand in hand with good academic performance. Health problems may prevent a child from achieving his/her fullest

potential. Unfortunately, many such difficulties go undetected for years. We are happy to inform you that during the school year, screening tests for vision, hearing, speech, dental, and blood pressure problems, as well as scoliosis and contagious diseases (such as head lice*, measles, chicken pox, impetigo, etc.) may be administered to your child by a trained professional from the district's Special Services Division. Should such screening detect a problem, you will be notified for further follow-up.

*According to Dorchester District Two Policy JLCC: If a teacher suspects that a child has head lice or nits, he/she will notify the school nurse or principal's designee. If the student has an active infestation of head lice or nits, school personnel will notify the parent/legal guardians to come to the school to pick up the child.

Readmission to School

The district prohibits a student who is sent home with head lice or nits from returning to school until he/she meets the following conditions:

- The student shows evidence of treatment as determined by the school.
- The student passes a physical screening by the school nurse or principal's designee that shows the absence of head lice and/or nits.

At no time will a student be allowed to return to school without proof of treatment and a screening.

Required Immunizations

The following immunizations are required or recommended for children entering public school in South Carolina:

- *DTP 4 required, 5 recommended (at least 1 after 4th birthday)
- *Polio 3 required, 4 recommended (at least 1 after 4th birthday)
- *MMR 2 required (CD through 12th grade) both doses received on or after 1st birthday & separated by at least one month.
- * Hepatitis B 3 required (CD through 12th grade)

*Varicella (Chickenpox) 1 required (after 1st birthday or positive history of disease for all children admitted to kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades)

*Hib 2 required, 4 recommended for CD (at least 1 after 1st birthday)

For additional information, call the Dorchester County Health Department, 832-0041.

Health Information

Students having chronic illnesses or conditions that may affect them while at school should make sure that the nurse, guidance counselor, physical education teacher if necessary and attendance secretary are aware of this condition. Parents are required to leave an emergency number where someone can be reached if necessary. A medical health information card should be filled out on each child by the parent and updated as necessary during the school year. They are kept in the nurse's office.

Accident Insurance

The school is able to offer accident insurance to your child. More information will be sent home with your child when school begins.

Medication at School

Dorchester School District Two requires that the parents of all students who need medication during school hours must do the following:

1. Complete a Dorchester School District Two Medication Permission Form. This form now requires both signatures of the physician and parent/legal guardian. Official forms are available at your school's office.
2. Bring the medication in the current prescription bottle properly labeled by a registered pharmacist as prescribed by law.
3. Medication must be brought in by the parent or responsible adult, **NOT THE STUDENT**.
4. Parents are reminded that aspirin, cough medicine, herbs, vitamins and other over-the-counter products will not be

given at school without written prescriptions from a doctor stating the medication dosage, and specific time(s) to be given at school.

5. All medicine not registered with the school nurse will be in direct violation of district policy and dealt with accordingly.
6. Parents are also reminded that medication not claimed at the end of the school year will be disposed of by school personnel.
7. All medication will be handled in accordance with the above guidelines through the school nurse or principal's designee.

Nutrition

Information regarding district policy in accordance with state law will be included in the Marlin Message at the beginning of the school year.



COMMUNICATION

A weekly school newsletter is sent home weekly via email. Paper copies are available. Class newsletters are posted on websites. Parentlink (our schoolwide phone system) will call the home with messages re: events and school happenings.

A. If you have a problem:

The proper and requested method of resolving problems is to begin with the party directly involved. If the problem remains unsolved, persons with the complaint should proceed to the next authority level in the proper manner.

If after meeting with the principal, the supervisor, and the superintendent, in that order, the problem is unresolved, those persons with a concern should contact the superintendent in writing to request a meeting with the school board.

B. Conferences

To schedule a conference, parents should call their child's teacher at least 24 hours prior to the requested date when possible. It is also helpful to state the reason for the conference so the conference can be productive and the team can bring the necessary student data.

C. Telephone calls

Parents may call the school to get information or to discuss concerns. We ask, however, that parents remember that teachers can not take calls during instructional time, nor can we interrupt classes. But you will be able to leave them a message on their voice mail or with the receptionist.

D. Changes in Transportation

Changes in transportation **MUST** be in writing and may be faxed to the school with a photo ID as part of the note. If faxing, call the school to verify the fax was received.

E. Visitors to the school

Parents are encouraged to visit Reeves Elementary. All visitors and parents are to report first to the school office with a picture ID for a visitor's pass. Visitors may not take teachers away from teaching and supervising students to talk. Unauthorized visitors may be subject to legal action under applicable prevailing statutes.



Emergency Closing of School

Bad weather conditions sometimes prevent the operation of school. It is not always possible to determine this until the early morning hours. School closings and/or early dismissals will be announced through the local television and radio stations.

F.Y.I.

Fine Arts

Students in grades K-5 are on a 3-week rotation schedule for fine arts and wellness classes. Classes will spend 5 days in visual art class, 5 days in music class, and 5 days in PE class. The rotation will then begin again.

Media Center

There are over 15,000 books in the Media Center and we are continually adding books to our shelves. However, appropriate hard cover books are always welcome for donation. The Media Center provides each student with the choice of two books. Both books can be part of our Renaissance Program or one can be an optional book. We have choices from fiction, non-fiction, picture books, biographies, magazines, reference books and computers that can be used while at the Media Center. Also we have ITV available for the classrooms. Educational programs are provided through SCETV. Our video collection has been started and we hope to add "Cable in the Classroom" when available in our area. There are eight computers in the Media Center and twenty-five in the adjoining computer lab. Four of the computers have DVD capabilities. Teachers schedule classes or individual students to type papers or information for school projects, to use Internet if the guardian has signed a permission form, and to take various tests.

The teachers schedule class visits and group/individual student visits to the media center. During whole class visits the media specialist sometimes reads to the class. She also works with the teachers to plan and implement lessons that coincide with class work to help reinforce student learning. The media specialist also teaches computer usage and takes an active role in the RES Reading program.

The Morning Show, station WRES, is aired from the Media Center where students anchor the show and operate the camera. The Media Center staff provides assistance. Video footage is collected from school events and classrooms throughout the year. Digital pictures are also taken at special events. These

photographs may be published and/or exhibited unless the guardian has signed and returned a denial form. Forms are provided at the beginning of the school year.

Gifted and Talented Education

Dorchester School District Two strives to meet the educational needs of all its students. In doing so, our school district has designed a gifted and talented program (GATE) to meet the academic needs and unique characteristics of gifted learners. The GATE program's goal is to develop and encourage within each student: a desire for excellence, an awareness and confidence of individual talents and abilities, a sense of individual responsibility to their school and to our changing society, and a love of learning.

In accordance with the regulations stated in the South Carolina Department of Education's Best Practices manual, services for gifted students are implemented through the special class model beginning in the third grade. Third-fifth grade students who participate in the GATE program will receive differentiated instruction with content enrichment in math (nonverbal) and English/Language Arts (verbal).

DESCRIPTION OF ACADEMICALLY GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAM SERVICES

Elementary:

Grades 3 and 4	Content-based: GATE Math & English/Language Arts	*content/curriculum enrichment
Grade 5	Content-based: GATE Math & English/Language Arts	**classes are accelerated by one year

Curriculum

Dorchester Two's GATE program is designed to stimulate and challenge the academically gifted and talented learner through a differentiated teaching approach by incorporating the state curriculum standards and state gifted curriculum goals through

the enrichment and acceleration of content. Our mission is to maximize and foster the learning potential of gifted and talented students through a specialized curriculum that is responsive to individual learning strengths and styles. Caine and Caine (1991) state that "intelligence is fluid, not fixed; thus, it is important to provide students with rich learning experiences." With this concept in mind, Dorchester Two's GATE curriculum offers opportunities for critical and creative thinking while creating a learning atmosphere that encourages and promotes intellectual growth, inquiry, and problem solving.

IDENTIFICATION OF GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

The selection process begins in September and is a multi-step process:

- Screening and Referral
- Assessment of Eligibility
- Placement of "State Identified" Students

Census testing for aptitude is administered to all second-grade students in the state in the fall, and referrals for gifted program screening for grades three through seven can be made by parents, teachers, administrators and students. There are TWO ways a student can be identified as gifted in South Carolina: 1) Score at or above the 96th national percentile on the composite or complete battery on a nationally normed test of academic aptitude (i.e. OLSAT, CoGAT). or 2) Meet the criteria in two out of three of the Dimensions of aptitude, achievement tests and academic performance.

Literacy

Reeves Elementary School follows the School District Literacy Model Plan. Each day, students in all grade levels are instructed in whole group grade level reading, differentiated/flexible instruction, explicit writing, explicit phonics or word study and fluency. Differentiated instruction assures that small groups of students receive instruction based on their reading level. The model is research based and structured to meet the needs of Reeves Elementary School children.

Breakfast and Lunch Program

The cafeteria must meet state standards as to quantity and quality of food served. Complete hot lunches and breakfast including milk are served daily. Parents are encouraged to use the online payment service accessible through www.dorchester2.k12.sc.us or send a check (made payable to RES) the first day of each school week or month. **Breakfast costs \$.85 a day, and lunch costs \$1.40.** Free and reduced forms are sent home the first day of school and are always available in our office. It is the responsibility of the students to keep up with their own money. Carbonated drinks are discouraged.

Students who are car riders participating in breakfast need to arrive by 7:00 a.m. Questions should be directed to Ms. Donna Walker, Cafeteria Manager. (695 2450)

Student Dress Code Policy

In order to provide an atmosphere that is conducive to learning, instills discipline, and avoids safety hazards, Dorchester School District Two established the following dress code guidelines for students:

- **Shorts:** Shorts are appropriate for school in the elementary grades. Generally, the standard for wearing shorts is that when standing with arms hanging to the side, the area on the leg where fingers touch should be the hemline of the shorts. Short shorts are not acceptable school attire.
- **Sunglasses:** May not be worn in the building, with the exception of RX sunglasses.
- **Hats, Head Stockings, Sweatbands, and Bandannas:** May not be worn in the building. If there is a medical reason for a student to wear one of the above listed, a letter from a physician will need to be provided to the principal.
- **Tops and Skirts:** **Tank**, halter, tube, bathing suits, spaghetti strap, midriffs, or see-through tops may not be worn. Fish net shirts or cut off shirts may not be worn.

- **Tennis skirts and mini-skirts** are not allowed. The standards for the length of shorts also apply to the length of skirts and dresses.
- **Shirts and blouses:** Must be appropriately buttoned.
- **Pants:** "Sagging" is not acceptable. Pants must be worn at the natural waistline and may not be made of any see-through materials.
- **Belts:** Belts must be worn at an appropriate level.
- **Suspenders:** Must be hooked and on shoulder in the proper location.
- **Footwear:** Shoes must be worn at all times. No bedroom slippers. Shoes with laces must be tied.
- **Gloves:** May not be worn in the building.
- **Students may not wear** any apparel, attire, colors or insignia which is obscene, vulgar, libelous, slanderous, incites, expresses or advocates racial, ethnic, sexual or religious prejudices that brings attention to a student's involvement or membership in gang-related groups or promotes beer, liquor, wine, cigarettes, or drugs of any kind.

Guidance

Guidance in the elementary school is concerned with the mental, emotional, social, physical, and educational needs of the students. The following services are provided and available as needed.

1. Counseling—individually and in groups.
2. Coordination—New student orientation, coordination of standardized testing programs and special education referrals.
3. Classroom Guidance
4. Parent Education

An elementary counselor is a friend and a helping person for all children, a resource person for the teacher and a liaison with outside agencies. Guidance counselors are available for conferences by calling the school and making an appointment. (695 2450)

Items from Home

Please mark your child's name and class section clearly on all clothing, book bags, lunchboxes, etc. This is important and worthwhile as it will enable us to find lost or misplaced items. Unclaimed "lost and found" items are given to a needy organization at the end of each semester. Electronic games, toys, headsets, etc. from home should not be brought to school. Reeves Elementary is not responsible for lost, broken or stolen toys.

PBIS

PBIS is a proactive approach to school-wide discipline. At RES, teachers, administrators, counselors, and support staff will work together to develop consistent expectations for all students and commit to teaching those expectations. Put simply, students will know exactly what is expected of them and will learn how to demonstrate those expectations through classroom lessons, modeling, and practice. The expected behaviors will also be displayed around the building. Students who demonstrate the expected positive behaviors will be acknowledged. Furthermore, students will know the specific consequences that will result when they choose not to demonstrate the expected behaviors.

Reeves Elementary

School-Wide Expectations

At RES, we expect students to be responsible, to be organized, to show character in all they do, and to work to build knowledge. "ROCK" was developed to help them remember these expectations and make RES a positive and safe place to learn.

Responsibility

Organization

Character

Knowledge



For the safety and well being of all students, teachers have classroom discipline plans. Parents should receive a copy of the classroom plan. When students have exhausted the plan or committed a violation that is severe, they are sent to the office. The administration will then decide what punishment is appropriate. We do have BIR, Behavior Improvement Room, for punishment where students do school work in a separate room and are served a bag lunch with white milk. BIR is only assigned by an administrator. Discipline slips are sent home with the student, and should be signed and returned the next day.

Dorchester District Two has a zero tolerance policy on drug and weapons violations. Weapons violations include such look-a-like and associate items such as toy guns, water pistols, plastic knives, Swiss army knives, spent shell casing, bullets, etc. Students violating these policies will be immediately suspended from school and recommended to the District's Hearing Board for expulsion. Please review the complete policy in the district issued handbook with your child and make sure he/she understands the seriousness of these offenses.

Transfers

Should you need to move during the school year, we ask that the school office and teacher be given at least one week notice. Parents must sign a withdrawal form with the forwarding address to another school to pick up records. Please make sure all your child's textbooks and library books are returned to the school. This time is needed to collect and process a child's records. The child's parent or legal guardian must come to the office and sign for the records in order to hand carry them to the new school.

Grading System and Report Cards

The school year is divided into four (4) periods of nine (9) weeks each. Report cards are given to students following the end of each nine-week period (see yearly calendar for date).

Grading Scale

First, Second, and Third Grades	Fourth and Fifth Grades
A=Excellent work	A=100-93
B=Good work	B=92-85
C=Satisfactory work	C=84-77
D=Needs Improvement	D=76-70
F=Failing	F=Below (70 failing)

Teachers will explain individual grading methods. Interim reports are sent at mid-9 weeks. Any interim report, report card, or test sent by the teacher to the parent or guardian is to be returned within 48 hours with a parent or guardian's signature.

Fine Arts/ Health and Wellness Grading

Grades in Fine Arts/Health and Wellness will be reported as E (excellent), S (satisfactory), N (needs improvement), or U (unsatisfactory). Fine Arts/Health and Wellness grades will be calculated into honor roll status with a grade of E or S qualifying for "A" honor roll. A student receiving N will not be excluded from "B" honor roll. A student receiving U cannot receive honor roll status. The Fine Arts/Health and Wellness curriculum in Dorchester School District Two is standards based and sequential with identified content that is to be taught and learned at each grade level. Grades will be determined by utilizing four tier rubrics that correspond to E, S, N, and U.

Fees

The student fees help cover expenses for workbooks, special materials, art supplies, and other consumable items. Students entering school during the first semester shall pay a fee of \$20.00.

New Students in the District

Students registering in Dorchester School District Two for the first time must present an electric bill, birth certificate, a social security card, and a South Carolina Immunization Form. **All new and returning students must show proof of correct address in the form of a power bill mailed to the parent or guardian at the stated residence.**

In accordance with South Carolina law, children enrolling in Child Development classes must be 4 years old on or before September 1; children enrolling in kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before September 1; and children enrolling in first grade must be 6 years old on or before September 1.

Supplies and Textbooks

Each child is expected to furnish his/her own supplies--pencils, papers, crayons, scissors, paste, etc. These supplies must be replaced periodically. A child cannot do his/her best work if adequate supplies are not available. Specific supply lists are included in the registration packet. All textbooks are provided by the state. Each pupil is responsible for the care of his/her books and will be accountable for loss, damage, or destruction of a book. **PLEASE NO ROLLING BOOKBAGS (grades K-2).**

Bus Transportation and Bus Discipline

In the operation of school buses, our first concern is safety. Good behavior of the students transported is necessary for safe operation. Good discipline on school buses requires the cooperation of both the students and their parents. Therefore, we earnestly request that you remind your child of the importance of following the established rules of behavior while on the bus and heed the instructions of the bus driver.

1. Everyone should sit in his/her assigned seat facing the front, feet out of the aisles.
2. Whisper only to people in your seat.
3. Be courteous to others.
4. Remember that your actions might interfere with the safety and well being of others.
5. Tell the driver if there is a problem
6. Tell an assistant principal if the bus driver cannot solve the problem.
7. Students are to ride only his/her assigned bus.

Failure to follow the bus rules will result in a bus discipline slip.

The consequences are:

- 1st Offense: A warning or suspension from the bus.
- 2nd Offense: Notice to parent and/or suspension from bus.
- 3rd Offense: No less than three days suspension from bus.
- 4th Offense: No less than one-week suspension from bus.
- 5th Offense: Suspension from bus for remainder of school year.

Please talk with your child about the need for following these rules and the consequences. Working together, we can make bus transportation safe and pleasant for everyone.

Concerns about drivers should be addressed with the Transportation Office at 871-7634.

Students CANNOT ride home on a different bus with friends for play or daycare situations. Our buses are too crowded and we are constantly changing routines due to overloaded buses. Arrangements must be made for car rider pickup. See an administrator for Long term arrangements.



HOMework

Kindergarten and first grade teachers give assignments as a follow-up of the daily lesson. Parents are notified of this at the beginning of the year, and a weekly written reminder is sent home. Homework is given in order to review and reinforce skills already taught in class. It is also used to initiate study skills and to encourage self-reliance.

The purpose of homework assigned to second, third, fourth, and fifth grade students is to help children develop independence and a sense of responsibility. Homework should supplement and support our school day through related activities to be completed at home. In addition, it serves the purpose of

acquainting the parent with the skills taught in school. The homework assigned should be no more than 30 minutes per night for 2nd graders, 45 minutes per night for 3rd graders, and 60 minutes per night for 4th and 5th graders, excluding weekends.

Homework is reviewed as a group activity or checked by teachers for completion and accuracy. Completion or non-completion of homework assignments may affect your child's progress and his or her grades. Parents can help tremendously with homework by following a few simple guidelines. Here are some suggestions:

Read with your child at least 15 minutes each day. We recommend that you keep and sign a reading log and homework folder.

Provide a study area. The child should have an area that has good lighting, proper seating and sufficient space to place materials. Distractions such as radio and TV should be kept at a minimum.

Provide a specific time period. Provide your child with a specific time period each day for homework with the understanding that watching TV must wait until homework is finished. It is usually a good idea to allow your child some playtime after school before beginning homework.

Think positively. Homework assists with your child's progress in learning. Try to get him/her to see the value of the knowledge he/she is to acquire. Give as much assistance as needed, but remember that homework is the child's responsibility.

Call the teacher. If your child is having difficulty with homework, a call to the teacher will often clarify or solve the problem. Try not to complain to your child about the homework. This may cause him/her to lose confidence in the teacher or lose interest in schoolwork. If your child seems to have too much homework, or frequently has trouble completing homework, check with the teacher.

Absent. Teachers need a 24-hour notice to get assignments ready to take home.



TESTING

To drive instruction we use data to help identify strengths and weaknesses of our students. Various assessments, in addition to weekly graded classroom assignments and tests, are given regularly to assess student progress. The assessments are given at FDES.

K-gr.3 - DIBELS (Direct Indicators of Basic Literacy Skills),
DRA (Directed Reading Assessment)

Kindergarten/First Gr. - STAR Early Literacy Test

First grade- Readiness testing

Gr.1-5 - MAP (Measure of Academic Progress)

Gr.3-5- State mandated testing will be administered in the spring to follow state guidelines

Each of the above assessments gives a different piece of important information regarding a student's achievement. Teachers and administrators plan together using the data gathered to design instruction that will help our students succeed.

South Carolina Accountability Act of 1998

The South Carolina Accountability Law of 1998 requires that students who score "Below Basic" in the same area, Language Arts and/or Math, on a state mandated test three consecutive times must be retained. Some students may be required to go to summer school if offered or an alternative school year program.

Important Information Found in Your Dorchester District Two 2008-2009 Handbook

Family Rights and Privacy Act
Student Services
Student Sexual Harassment
Curriculum Standards
Student Disciplinary Procedures
Attendance, Truancy Diversion, & Tardiness
Denial of Release of Student Information
Inclusion in Media Coverage Form

Business Partners

ABC Trophies
All Books and Co
CiCi's Pizza
Chick Fil A (Main Street)
First Federal
The House of Bounce
The Ink Spot
Ink To Go
Jason's Deli
Mr. K's Piggly Wiggly
Logan's Roadhouse
The Perfect Wife
Perkins (Trolley Road)
Publix
Scott's Automotive
Mr. Sign
Starbucks



FOR PARENTS

Parent Teacher Association

The PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) is an organization consisting of parents and faculty members at Fort Dorchester Elementary School. The efforts of the PTA provide many valuable services for our students and staff at Fort Dorchester Elementary. With your help and support, we will provide the opportunities necessary for our children to have the best possible education. We invite you to become an active member! Membership for RES PTA is \$5.00.

PTA Board

President	Julie Young
1 st Vice-President	TBA
2 nd Vice-President	Eddie Young
Secretary	Melissa Giordano
Treasurer	Michelle Bentley

School Improvement Council

The School Improvement Council is made up of parents, teachers, and community members. This group meets the third Monday of every month at 6 p.m. to serve as an advisor to administration and a liaison between the community and the school. If you would like to serve in a more active role, please inform the office or contact Mrs. Blanchard directly.

SIC Chairperson- To Be Elected in September.