

Principal's Message on 09/17

Good Evening SFES Families,

We had a great week of learning together! This week we held our first school meet-ups/ assemblies where we talked about the 3 S (Safe, Studios, and Syngertic) and this month we discussed the idea of belonging. We watched a video and did a demonstration that showed the impact of words and why it is important to be kind.

Back to School Night Feedback Needed

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Back to School Night! To help us continue improving the experience, we need your input. So far, we've received responses from fewer than 100 families. If you haven't already, please take a moment to share your feedback with us at <https://forms.gle/ufmBYtfndHk2n5d19>.

Safety Reminders

- Please buzz the front door to be let into the building. We have asked staff not to open doors for anyone and we are asking you to do the same when you are visiting the building.
- If you are coming in for a meeting, a classroom event, etc... you must come through the main office and be signed in through our Visitor Management System.
- If you are dropping off your child, please walk them into the main office and sign them in.
- If you are picking-up your child, please come to the office with your license or identification to sign them out.

New: Spirit Week during the Week of September 23rd

Mark your calendars! To celebrate the first month of school and the start of fall, we will be doing a Fall Vibes Spirit Week during the week of September 23. See below for the days so you can help your kids plan their outfits accordingly!

- Monday, Sept. 23: Pajama Day
- Tuesday, Sept. 24: Color Contest (K - blue, 1st - white, 2nd - purple, 3rd - red, 4th - green, 5th - gray and non grade level - black)
- Wednesday, Sept. 25: Mad for Plaid
- Thursday, Sept. 26: Jersey Day
- Friday, Sept. 27: Snowden Farm Gear

Fall Testing

Students will participate in a variety of beginning year testing during the month of September. There is no need to study or prepare for these tests, but it would be helpful to ensure that all students receive a full night's sleep and a good breakfast, and arrive at school by 8:50 for the month of September to support their focus!

- Grades K-5: MAP M (math) – week of 9/16
- Grades K-2: DIBELS (reading)- month of September within classrooms during instruction

If you have any questions, or if your child will be missing any days in September, please contact your child's teacher.

Safety Drills on 09/16

On Monday, September 16th, we will conduct a fire drill (weather permitting) as well as shelter and lockdown drills. The purpose of this is to practice with students what happens in the event of an emergency. We will conduct more drills throughout the year to ensure they know what to do. Please talk with your children about this and let us know if you have any questions!

Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) Applications Are Now Open

Every year, students must apply and be approved to receive FREE breakfast and/or lunch. The Division of Food and Nutrition Services (DFNS) is excited to provide regular meal services during the 2024-2025 school year.

- Students in Maryland who qualify for reduced-price meals will not be charged for meals! Breakfast: Regular Price: \$1.30; Reduced Price: No Cost, Lunch: Regular Price: \$2.55, Reduced Price: No Cost
- Apply before school starts. One application covers the entire HOUSEHOLD. Translations in other languages are available through the online application.
- Apply now at <https://www.myschoolapps.com/>
- Here is a video about how to apply:
 - English Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJUapGLarBo>
 - Video en Español: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsdCrtCIFJc&t=4s>

Volunteers Needed to Support Our PTA

We need volunteers to chair many of our PTA sponsored events this year. Please visit our [Committee/Volunteers site](#).

Below is a tentative listing of our events for the year, but we need your help! We need chairs and volunteers to organize and execute our events. Without your help, we simply cannot offer the beloved events that our students look forward to.

- Please send an email to info@sfsespta.org to chair an event or non-event.

You will have the support of the PTA board to assist you every step of the way!

- **Event Chairs Needed!**
 - **Trunk or Treat**
 - **Grandparents Day**
 - **Spelling Bee**
 - **Heritage Night**
 - **Geography Bee**
 - **Pastries with Parents**
 - **STEM Fair**

Non-event Chairs Needed!

- **Communications** - Communications are critical in seeking event volunteers and keeping our Stallion families informed of upcoming events and opportunities. We are specifically looking for someone to manage our membership email listing and monthly newsletter.
- **Yearbook** - The Stallion yearbook is a treasure each year to our students and a hot commodity. The PTA needs a yearbook coordinator starting at the beginning of the year. Much of the yearbook work is done at home at a time that's convenient.
- **Photography** - We need photographers to attend PTA and school events throughout the year to take pictures for our yearbook.
- **Spirit Wear** - This is a creative role in that you get to help the PTA design and restock our in-person spirit wear. New ideas are always welcome to help our Stallions stride with pride!
- **Teacher Appreciation**- We need a coordinator for those times where we show our teachers and staff how much they are appreciated. Coordinating breakfast and lunches throughout the year.

Key Dates:

- 09/17- Grade 2 Domain 1 Culminating Event from 2:30-3:00 PM in classrooms
- 09/19- Hispanic Heritage Assemblies sponsored by the PTA
- 09/27- Early Release

With Gratitude,

Mrs. Fortune