



TO: Dr. Graff, Superintendent
Members of the Board

FROM: Jana Sykora

DATE: August 6, 2026

RE: 26-27 South Student-Parent Handbook

Attached is the 2026-2027 South Elementary Student-Parent Handbook.

The contents of the handbook are reviewed each spring and summer by the South Elementary Building Leadership Team. This year's review resulted in the following changes:

Updated Principal Welcome Letter

Section 1: Academics

- **Conferences** – Updated conference dates for the current school year.
- **Report Cards, Grades & Assessments** – Updated to say we will send hard copies of report cards home with students Q1, Q2, and Q3. Quarter 4 report cards mailed home. Report cards also available online in the parent portal.
- **Title I** – Added a section to the handbook providing information about our status as a title I school, the school-parent compact and parent rights regarding Title I services (compliance with Title I policy)
- Added a section titled **Importance of Practice at Home** to reinforce the importance of reading daily with kids at home and completing practice activities provided by teachers.

Section 2: Attendance

- Updated language around principal prior approval. We are now calling the form "Excused Absence Request" instead of "Principal Approval."

Section 3: Student Behavior

- Updated our PBIS model to reflect the language used with our SEL curriculum (Character Strong).
 - Respectful- Responsible - Safe → Kind - Well - Strong
 - New Pledge: At South Elementary, we are kind in our words and actions, strong by trying our best, and well by taking care of ourselves and others.

- Replacing: At South, we treat each other with respect, take responsibility for our learning, and strive for a safe school for all.
- Updated our PBIS chart to reflect new and consistent language
- Updated school bus behavior guidelines and consequences to match school board policy.

Section 4: Guidelines and Procedures

- **Visiting School** – Clarified that lunch visits do not include recess; added a request that parents avoid bringing food to share with other children due to allergy risks.
- **Field Trips** – Added “To help ensure student safety during field trip experiences, school board policy requires background checks for all of our field trip chaperones” to be transparent about policy.
- **Visitors** – Clarified that we cannot accommodate guests at breakfast.
- **Bikes, Scooters & Skateboards** – Added “Students riding bikes or scooters to school are expected to follow all state safety guidelines and age requirements.”
- **Treats** – Added that we would like parents to notify teachers in advance
- Removed section about Crisis Prevention Institute Training
- **Partners In Learning** – Formerly known as “parent council.” Expanded this to include engagement and collaboration for Title I services.

Section 5:

Technology

- Clarified that students are not assigned devices 1:1 but that may use a device in the classroom for instructional purposes

Section 7: Policy: Updated to reflect current school board policies.