

Parent Announcements
September 1, 2017
D. Todd Fox, Superintendent
www.southeastern337.com

3:15 Dismissal Starts Tuesday, September 5

There will be no school on Monday, September 4 (Labor Day). When we return on Tuesday, September 5, we will be on our 3:15 dismissal schedule.

3:15 Dismissal Times

Junior/Senior High School

- 3:10 = Mr. Tobias Bus / Students Leaving Campus Within 5 Minutes.
- 3:15 = Everyone Else Dismissed.

Elementary

- 3:05 = Mr. Knight Bus / Mr. Lingenfelter Bus / Mr. Daniels Bus.
- 3:10 = Mrs. Harris Bus / Mr. Neill Bus / Mr. Hurt Bus / Everyone Else Dismissed.

School Finances

The Governor signed SB1947 into law yesterday. This is truly an historic moment for Illinois schools. At last, Illinois has a school funding formula that is fair, equitable, and eventually leads to full funding. Even though I do not agree with all elements of SB1947, it clearly provides the two things I have been talking about from day one: 1) Consistent and reliable revenue from the state of Illinois. Not for one year, but for the next 10 years and beyond. Consistent, reliable revenue which allows us to plan...to be proactive not reactive. It allows us to take care of kids. AND 2) An evidence based funding formula. A formula where the neediest students are taken care of first; where what actually works in the classroom is taken into account; and where we are not only headed in the direction of full funding but, where we don't go backwards regardless of my unpredictable demographics. We should start receiving money from the state of Illinois in the next ten days.

New Special Education Teachers

Southeastern Community Unit School District #337 hired two new special education teachers for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Chad Griswold was hired to teach at the junior/senior high school and Ms. Brandy Kelley was hired to be our Pre-K/ECE teacher. We are very excited about them joining our team. Both of our new hires are Licensed/Highly Qualified General Education Teachers and are currently taking classes that will enable them to become Licensed/Highly Qualified Special Education Teachers (LBS1). Federal law requires me to notify you of this. If you have any questions, please contact me at 217-392-2172.

Immunizations 2017-2018

According to state law, every student must meet all vaccination requirements by October 15, 2017. According to state law, students who do not meet these requirements must be suspended from school. There are only two acceptable exceptions. The first acceptable exception is based on a medical reason. This must be written by a healthcare provider and it is through the Illinois Department of Health. The second acceptable exception is based on a religious reason. This must be written by a healthcare provider and it is through the Illinois Department of Health. Therefore, students will be suspended from school beginning October 16, 2017 unless they have: 1) provided proof of required immunizations, 2) provided written proof of medical exception through the IDPH, or 3) provided written proof of religious exception through the IDPH. Please take care of this. Thank you for your attention to this important legal requirement.

Air Condition in the Bowen Building

At the May 15, 2017 board of education meeting, the board decided not to take action on installing air conditioning in the Bowen building. As you know, we have spent this past year working with our architects and working on the details to install air conditioning into the Bowen building. Matter of fact, the game plan was and is ready to go. However, due to the combination of the state not paying us (they owe us over \$300,000) AND the county facilities tax not passing in April (this would have generated over \$100,000 in extra revenue), we are not in financial position to move forward with this project at this time. In a nutshell, it would be fiscally irresponsible to move forward on this project during this perfect storm. With that said, we are committed to installing air conditioning in the Bowen building. Thank you for your understanding. As always, I will keep you updated and informed.

Importance of Attendance

Nothing is more important than the education of your child. And attendance at school is a vital part of your child's success. Our school calendar is provided to our community months in advance. What am I getting at? I understand emergencies, but taking your children out of school for vacations, trips, etc. hurts your child's education and nothing is more important than the education of your child. There is no way collecting homework for the week can replace the educational value of being in class with their teacher.

Unpaid Meal Policy

The following procedures will be used to address unpaid meal charges:

1. Parents/guardians will be notified on a daily basis if their child's account has a negative balance. The communication will be a text message and the approximate time of the text will be 6:00 p.m. daily. There will be no phone calls; however, any amount of deficit will prompt a daily text message.
2. All students (including students eligible for free and reduced meals) will not be allowed to charge extra milk or seconds on their account. Only cash will be accepted for extra milk and seconds.
3. Parents/guardians who are not eligible for free and reduced meals, but are struggling to pay for their child's meals, should contact the district superintendent to set up an acceptable payment plan. All unpaid meal charges must be paid completely by June 30th. This option should be initiated by the parent.
4. If a student has unpaid meals charges, amounting to \$50 or more, AND the parent/guardian has not set up an acceptable payment plan with the superintendent, the student will be declared ineligible for extra-curricular activities (All parents have to do in this situation to avoid their child being declared ineligible is to come in and see me and set up an acceptable payment plan).
5. If a student has unpaid lunch meals, amounting to \$50 or more, at the end of the fiscal year (June 30th), the charges will be turned over to the collection agency.

Text Messages from District Office

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts, and more. You can participate in this free service just sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number, 67587. Please take advantage of this great communication tool.