

October 12, 2011

Dearest Parents/Guardians,

The children, staff and I at SPE need your help! We have been given the challenge this year of raising our children's and school's academic achievement scores as measured by standardized testing. I have great confidence in our staff and children that they can deliver for themselves and the school, but we need your help. There are four (4) critical areas where we need your cooperation. They are:

- Attendance – daily student attendance is a State mandate (law). To date we have 27 students who have missed five (5) or more days of school. We can't teach them if they're not here. Please send your child to school every day. I promise that if they are feeling unwell we will call you. The only reason a child should miss school is if he/she is running a fever.
- The school day begins at 8:15. Once your child is at school, please leave them here the entire day. All appointments must be scheduled after school hours. I would be willing to speak with any doctor, or organization that does not comprehend or appreciate the importance of a full day of school attendance. Please let me know if you need that assistance. You may not realize that each time there's a disruption of instruction (calling children for early dismissal or acclimating a child who arrives late) it takes up to 15 minutes to refocus the children in their learning process. We must stop disruptions to instruction.
- Car dismissal has improved greatly, and I thank you. However we still are putting our children in dangerous situations by parents who don't remember to bring their car student locator information and clearly display it on the dashboard. I will not allow children to cross to the parking lot anymore. It places everyone in a dangerous situation. Beginning Monday, October 17, 2011 if you need to secure an additional locator in the office, the procedure will be to park and wait until dismissal is over. At that time we'll bring the remaining children in the office where you may pick them up and sign them out. By the time you receive this letter, our staff will have issued to each car an additional locator to be used in a second car.
- Lastly, we love having parents on campus for morning arrival, but we ask you to please drop your child off in the waiting area and continue on with your busy day. Our campus perimeter is secure, and our children are safe. When you linger, the message you send your child is that they cannot function without your presence. I know that's not the message you want to send to them.

Let me thank you in advance for your help. We are partners in our children's journey to academic and personal growth. I love being a part of this amazing learning community that shares responsibility to raise our children.

Sincerely,

Angela V. Lettiere, Ed.S

Principal

