

District Parent Announcements

January 2016

PARCC Scores

You will receive a copy of your child's PARCC scores when we distribute 2nd quarter report cards. It is important everyone does not read too much into the results of the tests as this is the first year of the test. This is a completely different type of assessment than we have had before and these results simply set a baseline. In addition, PARCC standards are internationally benchmarked. Previous tests were benchmarked against state standards, and this change has created a perception of lower test scores when in fact they are simply different. Proficiency was measured on four levels in the previous assessment system. Two were considered proficient and two were not. Under PARCC, there are five levels with level three meaning a student is approaching standards and has demonstrated proficiency on some standards but maybe not every standard at the time the test was administered. We plan to use these results the way they were intended to be used, which is to help us make curriculum decisions. As you know, our students, our teachers, and our school district are not and should not be defined by a single test score.

Giving

I am always overwhelmed by the amount of heartfelt giving demonstrated by the people of our community during the holiday season. The purest form of giving is that with no strings attached, and that is exactly what you do year after year. This generosity is one of the best gifts we give our children, the gift of a great example.

Mrs. Waterstreet

At the end of the 2015-2016 school year, Mrs. Lori Waterstreet will be retiring from the Southeastern School District. Mrs. Waterstreet has been an elementary teacher (and she has been a great one) for Southeastern for 33 years. Her first year was 1982 (Eye of the Tiger was the top song / ET was the top movie). Please take time to thank and honor one of "Southeastern's Best."

School Calendar

December 19 - January 3 = Christmas Break.

Monday, January 4 = School Resumes. This is a student attendance day.

Two-Hour Delayed Start

At the October 2015 Board Meeting, the Board of Education "approved the use of a two-hour delayed start procedure when deemed necessary by the administration." In a nutshell, this

two-hour delayed start will give us another option when dealing with weather conditions. Over the past three years, we have canceled school several times because at the time of travel (6:30-8:30), conditions were not considered safe for students and staff. Usually this was due to wind chill temperatures, but could also be for dense fog, light freezing rain, etc. On several of these days, if school would have started two hours later, we could have had school. Therefore, a two-hour delayed start will be an option for the 2015-2016 school year.

Why is this important?

- 1) A day of teaching/learning in February is not the same as a day of teaching/learning in May/June.
- 2) Missing multiple days of school prior to state testing and then adding multiple days after state testing does not help state testing.

It is my plan to primarily use the two-hour delayed start to battle dangerous wind chill temperatures AND to make the announcement the night before. This gives everyone a chance to prepare and make the necessary and appropriate arrangements. Obviously, it could be used for other scenarios, but for the most part it will have a very targeted purpose.

Two-Hour Delayed Start Questions and Answers

1. How will parents be notified of a two-hour delayed start? Parents will be notified by School Messenger, television, and radio.
2. What time does school start on a two-hour delayed start? Everything will be two hours later. Southeastern Junior/Senior High classes will begin at 10:15. Southeastern Elementary classes will start at 10:00.
3. What time will the bus pick up my child? Everything will be two hours later. If the bus usually picks your child up at 7:25, then the bus will pick up your child at 9:25.
4. What time do employees start? Everything will be two hours later. If an employee usually has to be at school at 7:55 regularly, then they will have to be at school at 9:55.
5. Will there be Pre-K on a two-hour delayed start? There will be **NO** Pre-K (morning or afternoon).
6. Will breakfast be served on a two-hour delayed start? Only cereal or pop tart, milk, and juice will be served.

7. Can parents drop their children off early? No. Parents should make the necessary arrangements to ensure their children arrive at school at the appropriate time. Please do not leave younger children home alone or drop children off early.

8. When will school be dismissed on two-hour delayed starts? School will be dismissed at regular school dismissal times.

9. What will out of district students do on two-hour delayed starts? Everything will be two hours later. Out of district students will be transported out of district two hours later than usual.

Spectator Behavior

Any fans, including adult fans, who behave in an inappropriate manner or who are ejected from an event by a game official/judge/administrator during Southeastern athletic or extracurricular activities, whether the activity is home or away, will be denied admission to, and participation in, extracurricular activities or school events. The penalty for the offense could result in additional days or less days depending on the severity and circumstances of the incident.

- First Offense: 30-day suspension from all extracurricular activities ("**In most situations, an automatic 8 game/contest/event suspension**").
- Second Offense: 12-month suspension from all extracurricular activities

The purpose of the policy is to deter inappropriate behavior by parents and spectators during extracurricular activities. We have very high behavior expectations for our students and receive countless compliments for their behavior. It is important all of us set an example for the type of behavior we want from our young people. They do not always listen to us, but they are always watching us.

Open Positions for the 2016-2017 School Year

Southeastern Community Unit School District # 337 has the following open positions for the 2016-2017 school year:

- Elementary Teacher (K-6)
- Music Director (5-12)

If interested, please **e-mail** the following to bcorrigan@southeastern337.com no later than Friday, January 29, 2016:

1. Completed employment application (www.southeastern337.com).
2. Resume.
3. Educator License.

