

Bethel Bulletin

Bethel Elementary School
111 Bethel School Road
Simpsonville, SC 29681
864-355-4100

First Day of School - August 20, 2018

Principal's Report

Dear Bethel Family,

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer. We have been busy preparing for the year ahead. I am looking forward to the 2018-2019 school year with great excitement. Our school-wide theme this year is "Bethel Elementary... *Anchored in Academics.*" We are anticipating an awesome school year as we encourage each student to be the best they can be!

If you are new to Bethel this year, I hope you will attend our **New Student Orientation on Tuesday, August 7th at 6:00 pm.** Children and their parents will meet in the cafeteria for important information about Bethel. At the conclusion, families will be invited to take self-guided tours of the school.

Meet the Teacher will be held from 2:00-4:00 pm on Thursday, August 16th. Classroom rosters will be posted at 1:30 pm. Rosters will be at several locations inside the building. Class assignments will not be released before that time. Parents and students will be able to visit classrooms, meet teachers, join PTA, and much more! We look forward to seeing you there!

Don't forget to "Make a SPLASH and Read" this summer! Everyone should have received a Make a SPLASH Reading Log with their report card, but you can also print the Reading Log from our school website. Please turn them in by Friday, August 24, 2018 in order to be invited to our reading party!

All parents are asked to 'Like' Bethel Elementary School on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and Instagram and subscribe to our Bethel eNews. You can also download our school APP for updates and photos!

We have included a list of new staff members in this newsletter. Please join me in welcoming them to our school! Let me know if I can help you in any way. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and we will see you soon!

Partnering to help all children learn,

Nerissa Q. Lewis



Important Dates

New Student Orientation & Tour (Grades K5-5), 6:00 pm	8/7
Meet the Teacher Drop In 2:00—4:00 pm	8/16
First Day of School, 8:00 am—2:30 pm	8/20
Extended Day Program Begins, 2:30-6:00 pm	
Washington, DC Parent Mtg. 6:00 pm (5th Grade)	8/29
Class T-Shirt Orders Due	8/31
Labor Day Holiday NO SCHOOL	9/3
Volunteer Breakfast , 8:30 am	9/5
Cardinal Chorus Begins 7:15 am	9/6
PTA Meeting 6:30 pm	9/10
Good News Club Begins 2:30-3:45	9/11
Parent Workshop (Study Skills), 8:30 am	9/12
Progress Reports Lego BLAST Begins	9/17
Strings Begins, 2:30—3:30 pm	9/18
Fall Pictures	9/27
Bethel Bash	10/12

Student Medication

All medication must be delivered to the School Nurse or other designated school employee by the student's parent, legal guardian or a previously designated adult. All forms may be downloaded from our school website. The School Nurse will be available in the health room for parents to drop off medications on the following dates/times:

Monday, August 13th , Friday, August 17th, and Monday, August 20th (7:30 am – 3:00 pm)

Thursday, August 16th (Meet the Teacher Night) from 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Important Transportation Information

Parents are welcome to park and walk their children to class on the first day of school. Starting on the second day we ask that all children be dropped off in the appropriate carlines. We will have sufficient staffing and safety patrols to ensure students get to class safely. It's important our children learn to be independent and responsible for walking to class each morning. Thank you for abiding by this request.

Car tags will be in your child's Back to School Packet. **"Four Star" passes** may be picked up in the front office. All parents who pick up children in the carlines need a car tag. Children will not be released to cars unless the school issued hangtag is displayed. "Four Star" passes are only issued to carpools with 4 or more Bethel students. This pass enables parents to drop off in the front circle (mornings only). Parents should set a good example for their children by

"If you have a K4, K5 or 1st grade child who will need bus transportation at any time this year, you need to have a school-issued, numbered tag to show the driver at the bus stop."

following the guidelines listed above. Please be patient with the carlines, especially in the afternoons during the first week of school. The lines tend to be longer on the first several days. Carpool or use bus transportation to save gas!

Please stop by the **transportation table in the gym during Meet the Teacher.** Representatives from the bus office will be there to answer your questions. On the first day of school bus students will have an orientation by the bus drivers before leaving school.

If you plan for your child to ride the bus this year, it's a good idea for

them to ride the bus home the first day. **IMPORTANT!! If you have a K4, K5 or 1st grade child who will need bus transportation at any time this year, you need to have a school-issued, numbered tag to show the driver at the bus stop.**

K4, K5 and 1st graders will not be allowed to exit the bus without the parent or designee showing this school-issued tag. If you do not have a tag, please come by the school office before school begins. The parent/guardian can select a designee to be at the stop. The designee may be another adult or student who is in fourth grade or above. If the designee is another adult, you need to give that person a copy of your numbered tag. If you need additional copies of the numbered tag, please come by the school office. Thanks for your help!

Ignore the Door Campaign

Various safety measures including safety plans and strict check-in procedures are in place to help keep our school safe. While those safety measures are important, the most crucial element is everyone's involvement. One simple, yet important effort is for everyone to ensure all exterior doors are locked and closed at all times and never opened to allow anyone to enter the building. This will ensure that all visitors enter the school through the main entrance.

This safety effort is being stressed in all Greenville County Schools through

the Ignore the Door campaign that includes signage on all exterior doors with the following wording:

Ignore the Door!

Keep Your School Safe!

Never open a door to let anyone in the building – even if it's someone you know!

Safety of our students and others requires everyone working together. Please do your part by supporting the school's safety efforts and Ignore the Door!

What's Cooking in the Cafeteria?

Encourage your child to try our healthy menu items! Meal payments can be made at www.myschoolbucks.com or you can send cash/check to school with your child. Students are not allowed to charge meals if they do not have money in their account. As always, we ask that parents not bring fast food into the cafeteria. Also, students who eat breakfast are asked to arrive between 7:15-7:45am in order to get to class on time.

*Current Meal Prices

Breakfast:

All Students—**FREE**

Adults- \$2.10

Lunch:

Paid Student- **\$2.40**

Reduced Student- **\$.40**

Free Student—**FREE**

Adults- **\$3.70**

Extended Day Program



Hanna Carlisle is our **Extended Day Director.** Mrs. Carlisle will be available at Meet the Teacher in the office across from the

cafeteria to meet parents, receipt fees, and answer any questions. The

extended day program will begin on the first day of school. Registration was held last spring. At this time we are creating a waiting list in case spaces become available. Our program serves approximately 130 children on school days from 2:30-6:00 pm. You may call Mrs. Carlisle at 355-4167 if you have any questions.

Bus Tag Procedures for K4, K5 & 1st Graders

We look forward to providing bus transportation during the next school year for your young child. As part of our continuing efforts to improve our quality of service, we want to ensure that you are aware of everyone's responsibilities, especially those concerning the safety of your child at the morning and afternoon school bus stop.

Parents/guardians of a child being transported on a school bus are responsible for the safety and conduct of the child prior to the arrival of the school bus at the child's designated school bus stop for pick up and transport to school, and after the school bus drops off the child and departs the child's designated school bus stop when transporting the children from school (S.C. Law

Section 59-67-415).

In addition, parents/guardians should ensure all contact information at the school is accurate and update information whenever changes occur.

In order to ensure the safety of your 4K, 5K, or 1st grade child, Greenville County Schools has implemented the following procedures:

4K, 5K, and 1st grade students preparing to depart the bus at their assigned stop, whether alone or in a group AND without a parent/guardian/designee present to receive them, could be brought back to their elementary school. The designee may be another adult or student designee (4th grade or above). One person can serve as

designee for multiple children. A Bus Tag application (applications can be downloaded from our school website www.greenville.k12.sc.us/bethel) is to be requested from the school, completed and returned to the school before the student rides the bus.

If the student is returned to school, the parent/guardian will be contacted and required to pick up his/her child at the elementary school. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached, the matter could be referred to the Greenville County Schools Law Enforcement Division.

IMPORTANT...Please read carefully!! Incidents of the parent/guardian/designee, with the numbered card, not being at the bus stop for PM drop-off, will result in all transportation services being discontinued according to the following schedule:

First Incident:	Warning to parent by school with review of future consequences
Second Incident:	3 days off the bus
Third Incident:	5 days off the bus
Fourth Incident:	10 days off the bus
Fifth Incident:	Removal from bus for the remainder of school year



*Please note that the above table of incidents and loss of transportation bus privileges is absolute with no discretion on the part of the school administration.

REMINDER: A parent/guardian/designee must be present at the bus stop to receive all 4K, 5K, & 1st grade students. The parent/guardian/designee must have a numbered card.

School Messenger System and Bethel App

The School Messenger Notification System will be used throughout the year to communicate general announcements specific to Bethel Elementary. Please refrain from making a return call to the school in response to a school messenger.

In addition, the system is used district-wide to notify parents about attendance, tardies, emergencies, etc. If you haven't received any announcements this year, please contact the office or send in a note to verify your contact information.

We are excited to have an App for all to download for free so that you can stay up to date on all things happening at Bethel. Download it from the Apple Store or from Google play.

Visitors

We strongly encourage parental involvement at Bethel. Parents may visit or volunteer in classrooms, but the visit needs to be arranged ahead of time with the teacher in order to minimize classroom disruptions.

Upon entering the building through the main office, a visitor should provide a driver's license to front office staff and receive a visitor's tag. Be sure to wear the visitor's tag at all times while on school grounds. In

order to sign out, stop by the main office to return your visitor's tag. Thank you for helping us provide a safe school environment for our children!

PTA President's Report

Welcome Back! Hope all of Bethel's students and parents have had a wonderful summer break! My name is Kelli Pellerin and I am the PTA President for this coming school year. I am really excited to be serving as your President this year. Bethel's PTA has a reputation for being a great group of people that help serve our students, teachers and staff the best way we know how. We are blessed to have supportive parents and staff that help make Bethel a great place for students to learn and grow.

This year we are fortunate to have new members on our PTA Board and as Committee Chairs. We could not host the events, provide all the services and goods to our school without the volunteers that help throughout the year. If you are interested in learning how you can contribute

to the PTA via volunteering your time, talent or donations, please let me know. We are always in need of new help and new ideas!

We as a PTA have a lot of fun events planned for the school year such as our Annual Bethel Bash which is scheduled for October 12th. It is our school carnival with games, rides and a silent auction with lots of great items up for bid. Make plans to come out and join us. We also host a Gingerbread Shop in December for student holiday shopping, a Mother/Son and Father/Daughter event, and much more. Be sure to stop by the PTA Table on Meet the Teacher Night to meet your Board members and learn more about getting involved and contributing to make Bethel an even better place for your child to learn and grow.

I look forward to seeing everyone and meeting our new families this coming year.

Best, Kelli Pellerin
bethelptapresident@gmail.com



Box Tops are an easy way to earn money for our school. Last year we collected over \$3,000.00! That's over 30,000 Box Tops! All you have to do to help is clip your Box Tops at home, put them in an envelope or **bag labeled with your child's name and teacher**, and **send them to school**. Please be sure that the Box Tops aren't expired and are clipped on the lines. We will hold several contests throughout the year to see who can clip and turn in the most Box Tops. Our first deadline will be on Friday, September 28th.

Perfect Attendance



Parents have the legal responsibility of sending their children to school. In accordance with the South Carolina Compulsory School Attendance Law, the School District of Greenville County has adopted uniform rules to ensure that students attend school regularly. Each day that students are not in school, they miss hours of valuable instruction and opportunities for learning that they will not have again. Students are counted present

only when they are actually in school, on homebound instruction, or are present at an activity authorized by the school principal.

A student is considered in attendance when present for at least three (3) hours of a school day.

Refer to the BES Student Handbook for additional information regarding GCS attendance guidelines.

Bring your school supplies to Meet the Teacher Night!

Grade Level supplies are on the Bethel website:
www.greenville.k12.sc.us/bethel



New Bethel Staff Members

Hannah Sue Coleman—K5 Teacher

Erica Martin— K5 Teacher

Diana Courtney— K5 Paraprofessional

Laura Arabea— First Grade Teacher

Wanda Lumsden—Second Grade Teacher

Teri Hyer— Third Grade Teacher

Anna Abbott— Fifth Grade Teacher

Emily Briggs— Fifth Grade Teacher

Kai-Sawyer-DeForest— .5 Guidance Counselor

Jill Tyner— Media Center Specialist

Alana Vest— Art Teacher

Bethel PTA Board

Kelli Pellerin

President

kelli.pellerin@gmail.com

Richard Thomas

Treasurer

rich29662@gmail.com

Elaina Hinton

Secretary

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Rebekah Rose

Co-VP Ways & Means

rebekaharose@gmail.com

Dawn Luckey

VP Services

dawn.luckey@charter.com

Cassie Parker

Historian

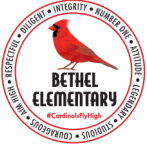
cassie@hollandparkchurch.org

VOLUNTEER BREAKFAST

Join us to learn more about volunteering at Bethel at our Volunteer Breakfast on Wed. Sept. 5 at 8:30 am.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

State law requires that every public school convene an SIC. Parent, teacher, and community member representatives serve on a SIC, as do the school's principal and other ex-officio members. The purpose is to advise the principal and school, and is focused on helping to achieve school improvement. If you are interested in serving on the council please email Ms. Lewis at nqlewis@greenville.k12.sc.us.



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Fax: 864-355-4180

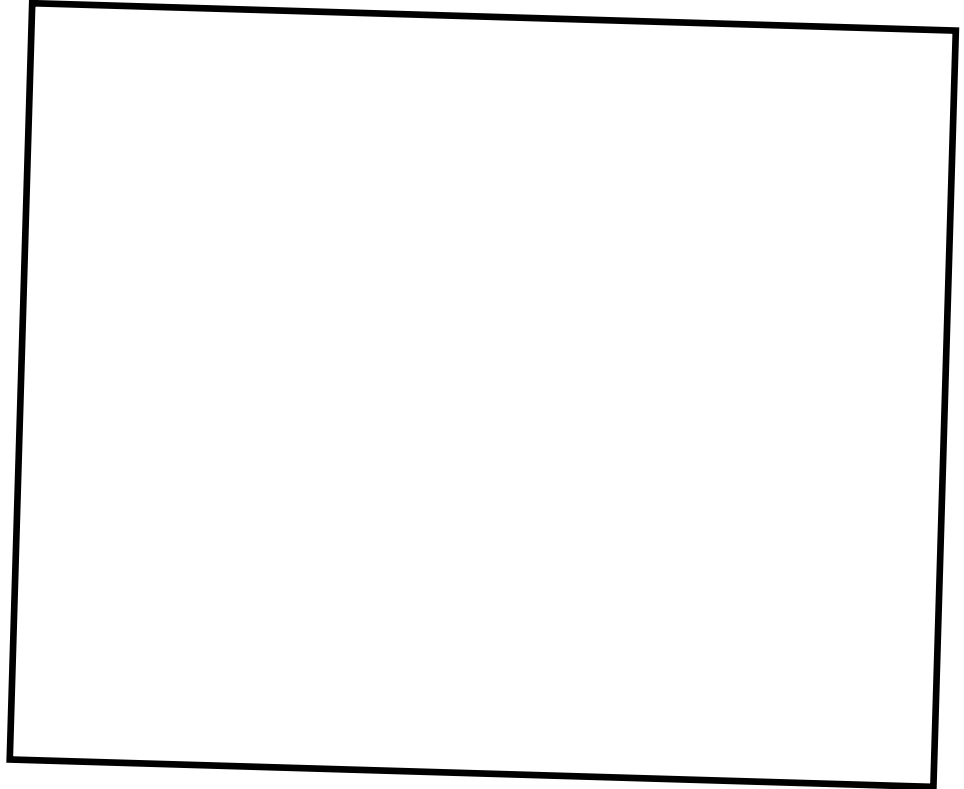
www.greenville.k12.sc.us/bethel

Principal:
Nerissa Lewis

Assistant Principal:
Susan Skelton

Assistant Principal:
Carol Lynn McCuen

PTA President:
Kelli Pellerin



School Store— Open Fridays during the school year

The School Store is located outside the main office. Visit the store on Friday mornings between 7:30—8:00 am. Various items such as erasers, pencils, notebooks, post its, etc. are available for purchase from \$.25—\$1.00. If you have any questions about the store, contact bethelptapresident@gmail.com.

Bethel Bash!

Our Annual Bethel Bash is being held October 12th from 4:00—8:00 pm. Lots of wonderful items will be available for bid at the Silent Auction, and we will have rides, games, food and fun at our Carnival! If you have questions about the Bethel Bash or would like to help us plan it, email Rebekah Rose at rebekahrose@gmail.com. Hope to see you at the Bash!!!

Birthdays

Parents are allowed to provide a class treat during lunch for their child's birthday. This must be scheduled with the teacher in advance in order to avoid having multiple treats on the same day. In an effort to support our healthy school initiative, please consider the option of selecting a healthy treat. Other celebratory items such as drinks, balloons, and goodie bags are not allowed. For birthday celebrations outside of school, children may distribute party invitations. Teachers are not permitted to facilitate the distribution of invitations, it is the responsibility of the student.



Student Handbook

Parents and students are required to read the school rules and policies listed in the student handbook. The handbook is sent home as a separate document for kindergarten students and it is included in the student agendas for grades 1-5. It is also posted on our school website.