



Tropical Elementary School  
www.tropicalelementary.net

1500 SW 66th Avenue, Plantation, FL 33317  
www.tropicalelementary.my-pta.org



Principal  
*Robert Schneider*  
Intern Principal  
*Teresita Miranda*  
PTA President  
*Jami Bosse*  
August 16, 2021

## DATES TO REMEMBER

August 17th - Tuesday

PreK - 2nd Grade "Meet Your Teacher" 8:30 – 9:30 am

3rd - 5th Grade "Meet Your Teacher" 9:45 – 10:45 am

Please bring your school supplies and send only one parent per child's classroom. Masks required.

August 18th

First Day of School – start time 8:25 am

SEPTEMBER

OPEN HOUSE -Dates and times TBD

Sep. 9, Thurs. SAC Meeting – 8:30 am – Media Center – Masks required on campus.

## FIRST DAY PROCEDURES

Only parents of PreK, K and DHH program may walk their students to class on the first day. All other students will be escorted by staff members.

### 8:25 is Late!

The instructional day begins promptly at 8:25 a.m. Your child will be marked tardy if they are not in their classroom by 8:25 a.m. Please refer to the Student Handbook and the Tardy Policy in the first day packet for further information regarding attendance and early dismissal procedures

## Resource Officer (SRO)

The City of Plantation, in collaboration with Broward County Schools, has provided Tropical with a School Resource Officer five days a week to assist with campus security as well as to build positive relationships with our students. Officer Joel Stevenson has been assigned to our school. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and thank him for his service to our school

## Parent and Visitor Procedures at Tropical Elementary

Maintaining a safe campus is our priority here at Tropical. New guidelines and policies are being implemented districtwide in an effort to better secure our campus. The District has mandated that once the school day begins, all perimeter gates must be locked. Please help us to keep our campus safe by adhering to the following expectations for arrival, dismissal and access to the campus.

- Schools are required to supervise 30 minutes prior to the start of the day. Therefore, no student may be on campus until 7:55 a.m.
- The gates on the south side of the school car loop will open just before 7:55 a.m. for staff arrival. Parents should not arrive or drop off students until 7:55 a.m. when a staff member will be monitoring the area. At 8:25 a.m., the gates will be locked.
- Gates will reopen for dismissal approximately ten minutes before 2:25 p.m. They will be locked immediately following dismissal.
- All visitors must wear a school issued I.D. while on school property. You may utilize your volunteer badge or your must have your driver's license and check in to the system in the front office.
- Visitors may only enter the school if they have a scheduled appointment or for early dismissal. School Board Policy states that students may not be dismissed 30 minutes prior to dismissal (1:55 p.m.)

## Emergency Preparedness

Teaching children what to do in the event of different types of emergencies has always been embedded in your child's instruction. We conduct fire drills monthly and tornado drills two times per year. This year we will be conducting "code red" lock down drills every month. In the event of an actual emergency, Tropical will communicate with the school community as soon as feasibly possible using Parentlink. To ensure that you can receive this timely communication, be sure that you keep your contact information up to date with the school. We highly suggest you download and use the BCPS App.

## **IMPORTANT ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL PROCEDURES AND REMINDERS**

We would like to take this opportunity to offer some helpful tips with regards to our arrival/dismissal procedures. With many years of input, experience and knowledge to ensure a smooth arrival and dismissal process, we thank you in advance to take a few moments to review the following and for your cooperation.

**Arrival Times:** Between 7:55 a.m. and 8:25 a.m. We strongly encourage students to arrive as early as possible during this time. **Breakfast is available upon arrival to the cafeteria from 7:55 a.m. and BEFORE 8:10 a.m.** Please note: **No students may be on campus prior to 7:55 a.m.** because there is no supervision prior to then, **unless you register for Tropical Child Care, Before School Care Program, (6:55 a.m.-7:55 a.m.)** where the entrance is only through the front office. **Details are available ONLINE** for both registration and payment information at **tropicalelementary.net**.

**The Tardy Bell Rings at 8:25 a.m.** at which time **all gates and doors are locked**, and **access to the school is only available through the front office.** All students not in their classrooms by that time will receive a “Tardy” and **must get a pass in the office.** (6 tardies will result in a detention. Please refer to the Tardy Policy for more information.)

**ARRIVAL:** All students may utilize **either** the West (front office) **or** South-Side (park side) car loop or sidewalks. **SOUTH SIDE CAR LOOP** students are able to access **ALL classroom waiting areas and the Cafeteria** (breakfast available up to 8:10 a.m.) with **less road congestion offering two walking entrances into the school.** **There are covered walkways from the south-side car loop to all areas of the school.** We are highly encouraging the use of South Side loop, especially during rainy day arrivals. This also allows for easier traffic flow and drier access for your students to their classroom. Tardies may be excused for a few extra minutes during rainy day arrival, and until the student gates are closed, after which, entry will only be through the front office.

**Early Dismissal:** Parents who occasionally need to pick up their children, prior to 2:25 p.m. must sign them out through the front office (please have ID ready). **School Board Policy 5.5 states that, “NO students shall be released within the final 30 minutes of the school day (unless the principal/designee determines it is an emergency)”.** Please make every effort to schedule appointments outside school hours.

**DISMISSAL:** **Student dismissal is at 2:25 p.m. for all students.** We begin to load the private aftercare vans and school buses prior to that, but all students **are not dismissed until 2:25 p.m.** If a student should miss their bus, the parents or designee will be contacted for alternative transportation. **Car Riders:** Please **clearly** display the dashboard nametags during **every** dismissal. We encourage you to please NOT arrive prior to the bell at dismissal time **since this guarantees and causes a backup in traffic and congestion preventing a quick Aftercare Van and School Bus departure.** Arriving a few minutes after 2:25 p.m. allows the traffic to move along easily. In the event of arriving earlier than the bell, **PLEASE ensure to abide by ALL TRAFFIC RULES and ensure that all entrances and exits to school property are clear, to allow for traffic flow.** You will notice how there are organized lines and waiting protocols to allow for a quick dismissal. **PLEASE DO NOT PASS INTO THE OPPOSITE LANE OF TRAFFIC TO BYPASS WAITING LINES.** There are walking students and parents, and the busses and vans will be leaving. **Plantation Police are watching and will issue citations for dangerous driving.**

**Dismissal from the WEST CAR LOOP (front of school)** is the pick-up area for **Pre-K, Kindergarten and First Grade students and students who carpool with them.**

**Dismissal from the SOUTH (park side) CAR LOOP** is the pick-up area for **2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students.**

**MAJOR SAFETY CONCERN: Parents,** please do not walk through the car pick up lanes. Do NOT pass other cars loading their students in the front loop, DO not attempt to stop and load your students in the outside lane of the South Car Loop, students WILL NOT be released as this is a major safety concern. Sidewalks should be utilized. We will only release “walking” children on the sidewalk.

**At approximately 2:40 p.m.,** after there are no more cars in the car loop, the gates will be locked. Any remaining students from the south side car loop will be walked through school to the front office for supervision. Parents will need to sign their child out in the office as Late Dismissal.

## PTA NEWS

PTA news, we will have tables set up at meet and greet for PTA sign up and shirt, you can pay with cash, check or Zelle.

PTA membership is only \$5. Sign up to join here.  <https://tropical.memberhub.com/store>

Meet our new and existing PTA Board Members;

**President** - Jami Bossé

**Treasurer** - Robert Marsh

**VP of Fundraising** - Laura DeAngelis

**VP of Volunteers** - Erin Thomas

**Recording Secretary**- Jennifer Dittoe

**Corresponding Secretary**- Liza Khan

Our first **PTA meeting will be 9/14 at 8:30 in the cafeteria.** Please come out and meet some new faces and find out how you can get involved.

Looking forward to seeing you!

## VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Volunteers are welcome in person this year, but everyone must fill out a new application. The annual **volunteer training webinar** is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 15, 2021, at 6 p.m.** Please watch your emails for the Microsoft Teams link to join the meeting.

Sign up to volunteer here:

[https://webapp.browardschools.com/sbbc\\_volunteer/VolunteerForm.aspx](https://webapp.browardschools.com/sbbc_volunteer/VolunteerForm.aspx)

**Volunteers  
Needed!**





## In Search of New Adventures?

*Boys & Girls in Grades K-5:*

*This is your invitation to join Cub Scouts!*

Pack 817 meets every Tuesday, 6:30pm at  
St. Gregory's Church, 200 N University Dr, Plantation FL  
33324

This year we are planning exciting camping trips to  
Lion Country Safari, Scoutmasters Camporee, and Disney!  
Other activities include  
fishing, Cub Scout Family Fun Day, and the Pinewood Derby!

Interested in learning more?

Email our Cubmaster for more information!  
[cubmasterpack817@gmail.com](mailto:cubmasterpack817@gmail.com)



**PACK817.COM**



