



## From Mission Control:

*What a stellar opening we have enjoyed as we greeted each other and began our year of learning together! I am no doubt the luckiest principal on earth and there is no place I would rather be than shooting for the stars this year at Chaffee Trail Elementary! Your children's excitement about coming back to school was contagious and energized me! Your dedication and commitment to your children is clear to me as I see how excited they are about school and learning!*

*"Learning is Out of This World!" is more than just a theme for us. It will become a way of life as we venture into our year together! We will spend our time this year Revolving Around Relationships, Rotating Through Risks, and Rocketing to Results! I am positively convinced that together we will end up in "Outer Space" this year as we will change the lives of our children and define our learning journey together!*

*Shooting for the Stars,  
Ms. Carter, Principal*

The "Chaffee Trail Cosmic Connection" will be available to parents twice per month. In an effort to be environmentally friendly, this will be the only paper copy that will be sent home. After this, it will be available on our website, or you can request to have it emailed to you by sending an email to [smithd16@duvalschools.org](mailto:smithd16@duvalschools.org). There will be a few paper copies in the front office for anyone who needs one.



## RULES AND REGULATIONS TO ENSURE STUDENTS ARRIVE AND DEPART SAFELY!

Arrival and dismissal are two of the most hectic times of the day. With around 780 students, it is vital that our school rules are followed so everyone can arrive at their destination safely. Please help us by following the procedures below:

- Students should not arrive on campus before 8:00 a.m. unless they are registered in our Extended Day Program.
- Beginning next week, parents should not need to walk students to class in the morning. By now, students should know our routines and be able to find their way to the cafeteria or to their classroom.
- Use our car loop for delivery and pickup of students in a vehicle. Please do not exit your vehicle to get your child. If you need to enter the building, you may park in the parking lot and cross at the designated crosswalk area.
- Car riders should have their students' sign displayed in the window during pick-up. This helps the line move much faster. If you need another sign, please see someone in the front office.
- If your child needs to change the way they are to get home, you will need to write a note in their planner. We will not be able to accept requests over the phone.
- Students cannot be checked out for dismissal after 2:15 p.m. per DCPS Board policy.

Thank you for following our procedures as we make arrival and dismissal safe and orderly for all students.



## JOIN US AT OPEN HOUSE

Our Open House will be Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>! Please come and learn more about how your child spends their day with us! You will have time to listen to the teachers tell you about their daily schedule, expectations and grade level requirements. Please remember, this is not a time for individual conferences regarding your child's progress. Our teachers will be happy to set up a conference upon request to discuss your child. Our Open House times are:

- 6:00-7:00 p.m. - Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders
- 7:00-8:00 p.m. - 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders



**THE SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!**

Our **School Advisory Council (SAC)** is a body of parents, teachers and community members selected and elected to serve in an advisory capacity to the school and the principal. Our SAC will typically meet on the first Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. to address school-wide issues and needs such as building needs, budgetary concerns and school improvement. SAC information will be reported in The Cosmic Connection. All interested participants are invited to attend our next meeting on **Monday, October 1 at 5:00 p.m.**



**DON'T FORGET - NEXT EARLY DISMISSAL IS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>!**

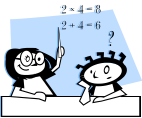
Have you made plans for your child on our next **Early Dismissal Day**? Throughout the year on select Wednesdays your child will be released from school early. We will begin dismissal at 1:35 p.m. and will follow our normal procedures. This time allows us to provide professional development and collaboration among teachers and staff during the school day. All students should be picked up by 1:55 p.m. on these days. Please talk with your child and make sure they know how they are getting home! If they are going home a different way than normal, please let your child's teacher know in writing prior to Wednesday. The Early Dismissal dates for this year are:

September 5	November 7	January 23	March 20
September 19	November 28	February 6	April 10
October 3	December 12	February 20	May 1
October 17	January 9	March 6	May 22



**JACKSONVILLE SHARKS MASCOT KICKS OFF READING CHALLENGE!**

At our last Flag Raising, Jacksonville Sharks Mascot - CHUM - joined us to kick off our **Reading Challenge** for this year! Each quarter, students are challenged to a reading goal that will help them meet their annual reading goal! Chum will visit our students and bring prizes and incentives for those who are meeting their goals. Additionally, we have challenged the entire student population to read 90,000 books this school year! If they meet this goal, Mrs. Doyle and I have agreed to be slimed with ooey ALIEN SLIME! Make sure you are spending time at home reading with your child and they are recording their books!



**ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST HAVE BACKGROUND SCREENING!**

To ensure the safety of our students, all volunteers must complete an application and undergo a criminal background screening, free of charge, conducted by the DCPS Family Engagement department. Our school staff will verify your clearance to volunteer using our online process. DCPS is no longer using volunteer cards as a proof of clearance. Please keep in mind, in order to be around any children, this process must be followed. You can access the online application at <https://dcps.infomart-usa.net/app/index.php?aid=28>

Additionally, parents joining their students for lunch will also need to be background screened. We also have a special table set up where you and your child can enjoy lunch together. Parents will not be seated at the classroom cafeteria tables. While we encourage parents to volunteer at school, we also want to make sure each child is safe and we are following procedures.

**Mark Your Calendar!**

- September 13 - OPEN HOUSE (6:00-7:00 - K- 2 ; 7:00-8:00 - 3 - 5)
- September 19 - Early Dismissal begins at 1:35 p.m.
- September 20 - Boy Scout Round-Up - 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria
- September 27 - Kindergarten Field Trip to JCA
- September 28 - Flag Raising at 8:30 a.m.
- September 28 - Kindergarten Grandparents' Tea in the Kindergarten ELC at 1:00 p.m.
- October 1 - SAC Meeting at 5:00 p.m. in the Media Center
- October 3 - Early Dismissal begins at 1:35 p.m.
- October 19 - Fall Pictures