

Welcome to *or* welcome back to Southport Elementary! We are so excited for a wonderful 2025-2026 school year.

Meet Your Administrator Team



Welcome to SES! We are so excited to meet you!

My name is Kim Witkemper and I am the principal at Southport Elementary School. This is my 25th year in Perry Township and my 5th as building principal. My favorite thing about Southport Elementary is the “family” feel!

My name is JJ Tidd and this is my 3rd year as the assistant principal at Southport Elementary School, and my 28th year in Perry Township. The teachers, parents, and students here are amazing! You are going to love being an eagle!

Back to School Night

- We will have a back to school night on Monday, July 28th from 5-7. It is an open house format, so you do not need to stay the whole time!
- This will give you a chance to explore the school, meet your teacher, drop off supplies, and get other important information.

Bus Information

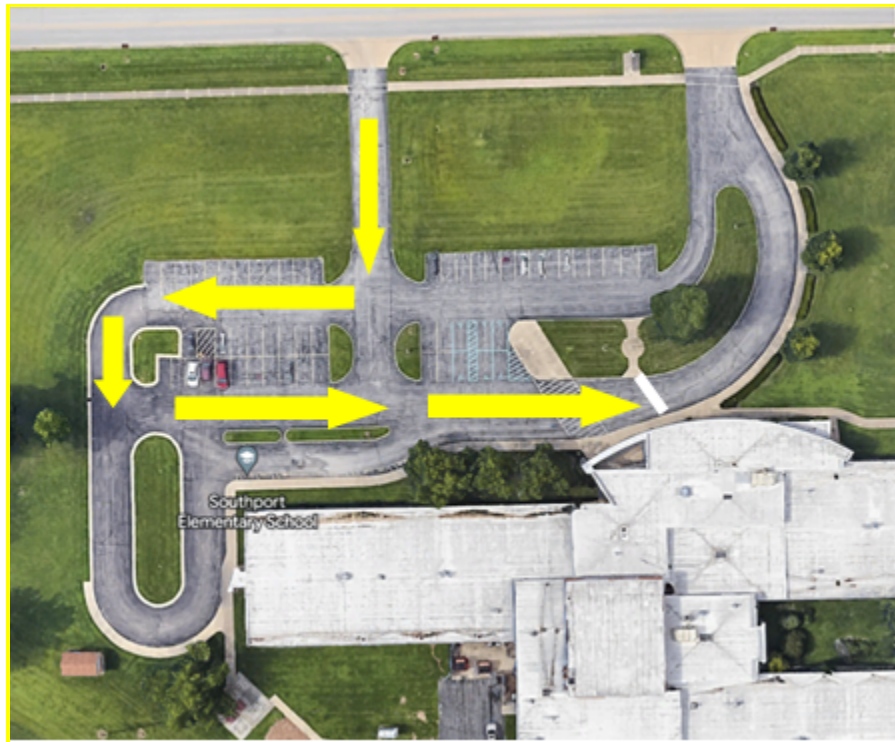
- You hopefully received a Parentsquare Message from Matt Willey welcoming you to the new skyward, Qmlative, for the 25-26 school year. This is our student data management system and will allow you to see all sorts of information on your student. You can check grades, fill out medical information, and get bussing information! Prior to the first day of school be sure you check both your child’s AM and PM bus number, time, and stop location.
- Please remember that on Wednesdays, the time your child(ren) will be home will be approximately 30 minutes earlier than what is shown in Qmalative.
- Please be sure you have a plan for either meeting your child at the bus stop or having them get into your home.
- Please be at bus stops 10 minutes before what is listed in Qmlative.
- In the event you do not know how to login to Qmlative, please call the front office at (317) 789-3301 for help with bus information.

Bus Tags/ID Cards

- Students will be given a new bus tag in mid-August. Once students have this, they should wear it to school everyday.
- Bus tags can be replaced if lost for \$2.

Car Riders AM Procedures

- Cars will enter our lot at the front of our building off Anniston.
- They will follow the diagram below to form a car rider line. Cars should pull forward to the white line (across from the flag pole)
- At 8:55 staff will come outside to have the first 5-6 cars unload students.
- Once students are on the sidewalk, cars may pull forward to exit the school. **Please stay in the car rider line, even if the car in front of you is slow at dropping off their students! We want this process to be as safe as possible, and when cars pull around each other it creates a dangerous situation.**
- Staff will direct cars forward and unload the next group of students.
- Students are not considered late until after 9:10
- No students may be dropped off to school early.

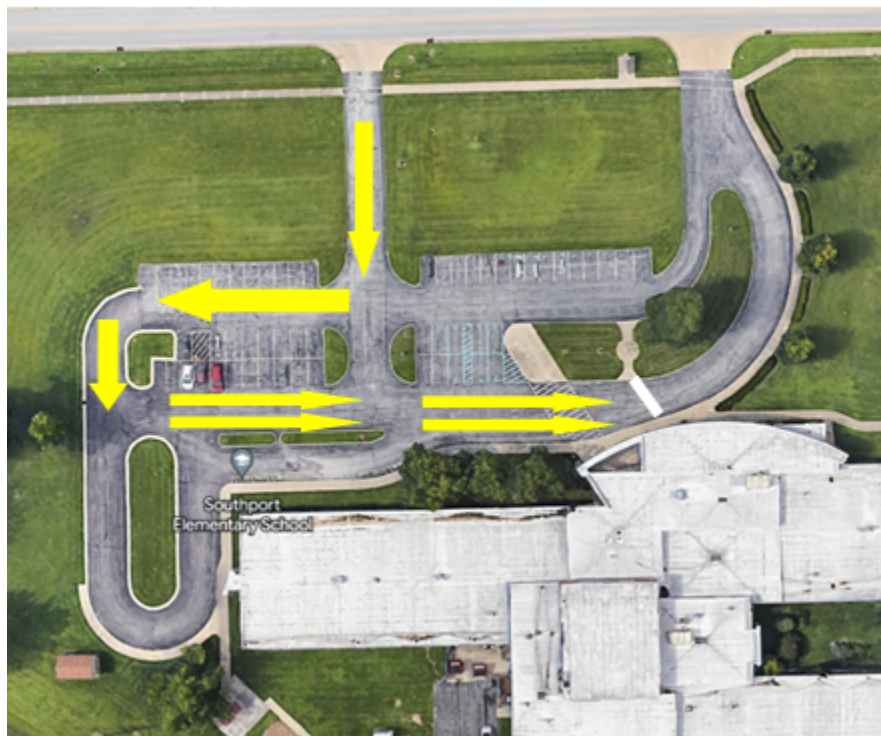


First Day Drop Off

- We realize that a lot of parents want to walk their students into school on the first day of school. However, this often causes confusion and can lead to emotional goodbyes.
- On the first day of school, we would love parents to attempt our car rider line.
- If you choose to park and walk your child up to the front entrance, we will ask that you say goodbye at the front door. We promise to have several staff available to take good care of them!

Car Riders PM Procedures

- **Car Rider Line will look different in the afternoon! In the hopes of not backing traffic up onto the street, we will be using a double line formation.**
- Cars will enter our lot at the front of our building off Anniston.
- Once they reach the curve in our parking lot, they will break into 2 lines. There are painted lines on the pavement to show you how to do this. Even though the painted lines end, cars should continue to pull forward, staying in 2 lines until they reach the white line (across from the flag pole)
- **In order to pick up your child, you will need a car rider tag. Car rider tags can be picked up at our back to school night or the front office. To get a car rider tag, you will need an ID.**
- We will load the first group of cars. A staff member will be at the front of the line and once all students are in cars safely, they will direct cars to leave. Please stay in car rider line, even if your car has loaded with students! We want this process to be as safe as possible, and when cars pull around each other it creates a dangerous situation.
- A staff member will also direct the next group of cars to pull forward.
- Please refer to the diagram below.



Transportation

- Please be patient with the district transportation department the first few weeks of school. Parents are trying to figure out the process and drivers are still learning their routes.
- If you need help with locating a bus, you can call (317) 789-6221 or (317) 789-3301.
- Please also be patient with our staff out front as they facilitate the car rider line. The first few days of the car-rider line are new for many parents but our staff will have everything under control. Remember, safety is our number one priority.
- **If your child will be a car rider on the first day of school, please send in a note to make us aware.**

Changes in Transportation

- Please call the front office prior to 3:00 to communicate any changes in afternoon transportation.
- All parents should go through the car rider line to pick up students at the end of the day. The only exceptions are those rare situations that occur and require a student to be picked up a few minutes early (example: Doctors appointment). Students will need to be picked up prior to 3:30 on these days.

Breakfast & Lunch

- Students will use their bus tags/ID cards in the lunch line. It is important for them to have these every day.
- **We will not be allowing visitors for lunch during the first two weeks of school to allow our students to learn the cafeteria routines and procedures.**

Volunteers & Visitors

- Perry Township Schools uses the SafeVisitor System for visitors and volunteers.
- Identification is required for all visitors and volunteers upon entering the school.
- Volunteers are required to have a background check. Those planning to be classroom helpers, tutors, and/or field trip chaperones would need to complete a background check.
 - More information and the process of applying for a background check can be found here.
<https://secure.safevisitorsolutions.com/Safe/Volunteer/000432/volunteer>

Dress Code

Please look over this section about how students need to be dressed for school.

- Solid-color, collared shirt (with sleeves) or turtleneck.
- Khaki, black or navy bottoms, no denim. No overt or distracting holes, rips, cuts, or frays are permitted.

- Knee-length pants. Shorts may be worn until fall break and after spring break.
- Dresses, skirts, shorts, and jumpers must be near knee-length.
- In winter months, solid-color sweaters or sweatshirts are allowed but must be worn with a collared shirt or turtleneck. NO HOODIES!
- No flip-flops or “wheelie” shoes.
- School spirit wear will be determined by the school.
- Hats, head coverings, sunglasses, curlers, or slippers are prohibited. Students with a religious objection may apply for an exemption.
- Clothing and jewelry which include depictions or symbols of the following are prohibited:
 - sex or sexual innuendo;
 - lewd, vulgar, indecent, or plainly offensive speech, including profanity;
 - violence, destruction of property, or advocating the use of force;
 - urging violation of the law or school regulations;
 - alcohol, drugs, or tobacco;
 - anything which substantially or materially disrupts the school environment.

School Communication

- Please make sure you are connected on Parent Square. Important school information will be sent through this program. If you need assistance logging into Parent square, please contact the office at 317-789-3301.
- Follow us on social media.
 - Facebook - Southport Elementary School
 - Twitter - Southport_Elementary

Computers

- Chromebooks will be stored at school overnight this year.
- Chromebooks will be sent home if we anticipate the possibility of an E-learning day due to severe weather.

We are so excited for the 25-26 School Year!