North Elementary School

3000 N.W. 10th Avenue
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
(863) 462-5100 * Fax (863) 462-5107

Mrs. Jessica Lowe, Principal

Assistant Principal
Mrs. Heather Briney

Guidance Counselor
Ms. Tamara Sandlin

Reading Coach
Mrs. Candace Bockoras

Resource Specialist
Mrs. Emily Morris

Dear NES Families,

We are excited to announce a new initiative designed to encourage family involvement and foster a warm, welcoming start to the day for our students! We understand that the morning connection is important, and beginning Tuesday, January 6th, 2026, we will be **allowing families the choice to walk their student(s) directly to the classroom** in the morning.

We are implementing a few key safety and logistical expectations to ensure this new process is smooth, safe, and provides a positive start of the school day for our students. Please be sure to read carefully and feel free to contact the front office at 462-5100 with any questions or concerns.

📝 Important Morning Walk-In Procedures

For the safety of all students and to maintain a productive start to the day, we ask all families choosing to walk their students to adhere to the following schedule and procedures:

Time Frame	Action/Procedure
Before 7:50 AM	**Parents must remain in their vehicles.** We ask that you **do not** line up at the doors before this time.
7:50 AM - 8:10 AM	**Walk-In Entry Period:** Parents may exit their vehicles and walk students to class.
8:10 AM	**Campus Closure:** All parents must be off campus. Gates will be secured at this time and instruction will begin.
8:10 AM and After	Students arriving at this time or later **must** be accompanied by an adult to the **Front Office** and signed in as **tardy. After 8:10 AM, parents will not be allowed to escort students to class**.

🚶 Parking and Entry Procedures

- **Parking Options:** You may park in the **Visitor Parking Lot** (where parent drop-off occurs) or next to the street outside the fence in the front of the school (the shellrock parking).

Parking Location	Entry Route
Visitor Parking Lot	Please use the designated **crosswalk near the parking lot gate** to cross the parking lot, then proceed down the side of the building (next to the

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	tree) and enter the **first gate/set of doors** (staff will be monitoring this gate at the drop-off loop). Do not enter the bus loop or use the front entry doors.
Front of the School	Please use the **pedestrian gate** to enter campus, walk straight towards the loop (next to the tree), and enter the **first gate/set of doors** (staff will be monitoring this gate at the drop-off loop). Do not enter the bus loop or use the front entry doors.

Note: These specific routes are designed to prevent families from crossing traffic in multiple places and to keep the daily parent drop-off line running smoothly. Parents must exit through the side gate that they entered through. Please do not attempt to use any other exits as these are to remain locked at all times. If you need assistance in the clinic or front office, please wait until 8:15AM and use the front entry doorbell to be admitted.

🛑 Saying Goodbye and Teacher Communication

- **Goodbye Policy:** For the safety and privacy of students, parents must say their goodbyes at the **classroom door.** If your child is eating breakfast, goodbyes must be said at the **cafeteria door**. Parents cannot enter the cafeteria or classroom and must exit the building directly after saying goodbye to their student.
- **Teacher Focus:** During this time (7:50 AM - 8:10 AM), our teachers are responsible for supervising and preparing students for the day and are **unable to have impromptu meetings or conversations** with parents.
- **Scheduling Conversations:** If you need to speak with a teacher or staff member, please **call the Front Office** or reach out through the **Rooms app** to set up a dedicated meeting time.

We are looking forward to this opportunity to welcome you to campus in the mornings!

Sincerely,

Jessica Lowe, Principal