

The ABC's of Foster Elementary

A

Attendance policy and absences: If your child is absent, please call the Attendance line at 281-641-1419 to report it. Upon your child's return to school, please write a note stating the reason for the absence (ill, out of town..). If your child has an appointment with a health care professional during the school day, he/she will not be counted absent IF you return with a note from the health care professional. Students not in attendance at 10:00 AM will be marked absent. School attendance has a huge impact on academic performance. For more specific information about attendance policy, please consult the Humble ISD handbook.

Arrival & Dismissal Procedures:

ARRIVAL: The morning bell rings at 7:50 and the tardy bell rings at 8:05. **Students are not allowed in the building prior to 7:30 as there is not supervision and it would be unsafe.** Bus riders will arrive in the front driveway and car riders will drop off in the North driveway.

DISMISSAL: Car riders will dismiss at 3:15. Bus riders, walkers and bikers will be dismissed at 3:20 p.m. Dismissing car riders will be at the North circle drive. If you are picking up in a car, please make sure you have your car rider sign filled in with your child's name and grade. This makes dismissal go so smoothly. Walkers will exit by the pavilion and bikers will be dismissed at the bike racks.

Awards: To celebrate learning and progress that has occurred during the year, classroom awards will be given at the end of each semester (fall and spring) in each classroom. Certificates will be given for accomplishments such as: academics, perfect attendance, participation in Rodeo Art, Jump Rope for Heart, etc...

B

Birthday Treats: If parents of elementary school students wish to provide a treat for their child's homeroom to commemorate the child's birthday, treats can be brought to school. Please follow each grade levels' guidelines.

Bulldog Bulletin: One of the ways we communicate with parents is through our "Bulldog Bulletin" which is sent home in Tuesday folders for the first month of school. After that, it will be delivered to your e-mail inbox after you sign up. There are also a few copies available in the front office if you don't have access to a computer. Please watch for it and read it thoroughly as it has useful school information.

Bus Transportation: If you have any questions about the bus, please call Transportation at 281-641-8720.

Business Partnerships: Foster has made many valuable business partnerships over the years that provide the school with money to purchase needed materials and equipment for your child's classroom. Here's an overview of our many partnerships and how your participation makes it all work!

Partnership	How do I help?
Box Tops	Cut out "Box Tops for Education" on participating General Mills products. Drop them

	off in the box in the front office.
Recycling	Recycle your newspapers and junk mail in the 4 recycling bins located in the back parking lot of Foster.
ExxonMobil	Are you an employee or a spouse of an ExxonMobil employee (active or retired)? If so, ExxonMobil awards grants to schools when their employees volunteer.

C

Cafeteria: Each student will need to learn their student ID because during mealtime, students key in their ID number. The current money balance in the student's meal account will be shown on the screen. After a child types in his/her number, the amount of the meal will be deducted from the student's balance.

To make a deposit into your child's account, please place the check or cash in an envelope with your child's name, account number and the amount enclosed clearly marked. You may make deposits for a number of meals at once in order to reduce the frequency of deposits. An online prepayment service is also available through the Humble ISD website. Parents can access their child's account to check balances and make payments using Visa or Mastercard.

The cost of one full paid breakfast is \$1.40 and one full paid lunch is \$2.20.

Carnival: Plan ahead for this one...**Friday, April 8th from 6-9PM!** Carnival is a fun, family time like no other. There is something for everyone! How does great food, rides, silent auctions, obstacle course and much more sound to you? See you there!

Cell Phones: According to the HISD handbook, children are allowed to have cell phones but they must be turned off once in the building and kept in their backpack.

D

Discipline: Foster is a part of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Initiative. This building wide plan focuses on our school expectations: REACHing for the stars!

They are Foster's guidelines for success for every student and staff member. Ask your child about it!

R espectful and Responsible

E ager to Learn

A wesome Attitude

C aring and Cooperative

H onest Always

Students are recognized on a regular basis when they are spotted around the building respecting themselves, others and property. Students who continually exemplify our school wide behavior system (respecting themselves, others and property) will receive Bulldog Bucks that they can spend monthly at our store.

E

Early release days:

Friday, August 28, 2015

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Thursday, October 29, 2015

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Friday, December 18, 2015

Professional Development

Professional Development

Professional Development

Parent Conferences

Parent Conferences

Professional Development

Early Dismissal prior to Winter Break (no lunch served)

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Professional Development

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Professional Development

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Professional Development

Thursday, June 2, 2016

Professional Development (no lunch served)

****Elementary Early Release Dismissal Times**

10:00 AM Morning Classes

12:00 PM Full Day Classes and Afternoon Classes

Eating lunch with your child: Please check in as a visitor at the front office and get a badge before going to the cafeteria. Remember to check the lunch schedule to see what time your child's class goes to lunch.

F

Forgotten Lunches/Homework: To keep classroom interruptions to a minimum, please label the lunch with your child's name and the teacher's name and bring the lunch to the table outside the front office.

Fundraisers:

During the school year you will have the opportunity to participate in fundraisers that benefit our Foster students. PTA will have two fundraisers. Funds generated from these PTA fundraisers pay for PTA programming for the year and needs as identified by the staff and community. PTA's two fundraisers are:

- The first PTA cookie dough fundraiser will kickoff on September 8th. A brochure will come home with your student explaining how this fundraiser works.
- PTA Carnival- who would have ever thought this much fun would be a fundraiser!

Foster will have one fundraiser:

- The Campus Annual Fund kickoff will be in October ~ be watching for more details!!
- We will also be offering "Pay to Play" opportunities for students as well. These will consist of once a month fun activities such as wearing flip flops, pj's, etc.

Our fundraisers support needs identified by staff to support and enhance instruction.

G

Going Home Early: Remember, compulsory attendance laws state a child shall attend to school for the entire period the program of instruction is provided. So, if you plan to check your child out of school early for an unavoidable reason, please send a note with your child's teacher. When it is time to pick up your child early, sign your child out in the front office and they will call to get your child. Please refrain from checking your child out after 2:30pm as this causes undue hardship on the office.

H

Handbook: The HISD Handbook contains a wealth of information and all the policies and procedures that we follow. Please keep it as a reference throughout the year.

I

Ice Cream: Yum! The cafeteria sells ice cream for \$.75 during your child's lunch. Check with your child's teacher for which days.

J

Joining PTA: PTA's support has enabled Foster to purchase materials for the classrooms, provide programs such as Art Masterpiece in addition to providing us with countless hours of volunteer help. Get involved with your child's school...join PTA today!

K

Keep your Bulldog Bulletins: The first issue always contains valuable procedural information regarding Foster. From time to time, special events and procedures are noted in the Bulldog. You may need to refer to these again.

L

Lost & Found: Is your child missing his/her jacket or sunglasses? Please check the lost and found box (brown) which is located just inside the front doors. If you're missing a small object such as jewelry or keys, please check the front office.

M

Math Night: Want to learn a different way to practice math facts or teach probability? Math Night is a wonderful opportunity to learn fun new games for the family that also teach math skills. This year Math/Reading Night will be held on **Thursday, September 24th** at 6:30.

Money: Whenever sending money to the school, please seal it in an envelope labeled with the child's name and what the money should be used for (Book Fair, Lunch, Field trip, etc.).

N

Nutritious snacks: We know that children need to refuel throughout the school day. This can be done with nutritious snacks such as fruit, crackers and/or cheese. Please do not send junk food like chips, cookies and candy. Please send your child with healthy snacks that can be eaten independently without utensils.

O

Open House: Make sure you have your child show you around Foster on **Thursday, March 10th**. This is their time to shine and show off their hard work. Please join us for a PTA meeting at 6:30 followed by Foster's Open House.

P

Parent-teacher conferences: Formal parent-teacher conferences occur in the fall (**October 28th & October 29th**) when the children are dismissed at 12:00, allowing teachers to conference

with every parent. Although these are the scheduled conferences, you may request a conference with your child's teacher at any time to discuss your child's progress or any concerns you may have.

Parties: Students in Pre-Kindergarten through Second grade will have three parties per year- Winter Holiday, Valentine and Spring. Students in Third through Fifth grade will have two parties- Winter and Valentine. These parties are held the last part of the instructional day. These parties are organized through the homeroom parents in conjunction with the grade level team.

Pep Rallies: Toward the end of most months is Foster's pep rally in the cafeteria (watch the Bulldog Bulletin for specific dates)! This is a great opportunity for Foster students and staff to show their Foster pride by wearing a Foster t-shirt or any item purchased at the Spirit Store (open Thursday morning before pep rallies)! Wonder which grade level will win the spirit stick first?

Pictures: Mark your calendars and practice your smiles! Individual pictures will be taken on **September 17th** and group pictures are scheduled for **February 24th**.

Progress Reports: Computerized progress reports will go home with every student in grades 3-5 at the mid-point of each grading period.

PTA Meeting Dates:

Mark your calendars for:

August 21st at 6:30 PM (Foster Orientation)

October 8th at 6:30 PM (2nd grade program)

December 17th at 6:30 PM (3rd grade program)

March 10th at 6:30 PM (Foster Choir (4th & 5th) & Open House)

May 19th at 3:30 PM (Installation of new officers/Lifetime memberships)



Questions: Please feel free to stop by the office to ask any questions you may have about Foster.



Report Cards: Report cards go home on Friday following the end of the 9th week. Please sign and return the report cards to your child's homeroom teacher. In Pre-Kindergarten -2nd grade, rubrics are used instead of numerical grades.

Rotation: Students in grades 1-5 will participate in rotation (PE, music, computers). Students will also receive a second rotation approximately every 8 days that will include health, library and music.



Science Night: Let us WOW you with the exciting discoveries of Science! This year, Science Night will be on **Thursday, January 21st at 6:30pm.**

STAAR: State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness or **STAAR** is for all 3rd-5th grade students. There are 2 tests for 3rd grade- reading and math. The 4th graders take 3 tests- reading, math and writing (a 2-day test). The 5th graders will take 2 tests - reading and math - with the opportunity to pass three times. 5th will also take a test in science. Parents can assist us by making sure your child is well rested, eats a good breakfast, and arrives to school on time.

Super Kids Day: What a fun day for kids and adults alike! This year's Super Kids Day will be held on **Friday, May 6th**. Children spend half a day in groups of three participating in activities such as the tire roll and the letter scramble.

T

Tardies: The tardy bell rings at 8:05. If your child comes in after the bell rings, they need to report directly to their classroom to get their tardy slip. After 8:30, they will get their tardy from the front office. Please write a note for your child when your child is tardy.

Tutoring: Tutoring is offered after school for students having difficulty with academics. Check with your child's teacher for his or her schedule or if you have specific questions.

U

U make a difference: When teachers, parents and administration work together, there isn't anything that can't be done for children! What a difference teamwork makes!

V

Volunteering: Don't miss your opportunity to sign up to help Foster! Whether chairing a PTA subcommittee or taking home a project, your support of our children is greatly appreciated!

Visiting the building: Safety is a priority at Foster! Every visitor to Foster will have their driver's license scanned into our monitoring system. This system lets us know if there is any reason that a visitor should not be on our campus. It will print out a badge that includes name and picture. When the visitor leaves the building, their badge must be returned to the front office so we will have a record of when they left the building. Once a license has been scanned, we can just put your name in and print out a badge. Please come prepared with your license because at first this may take a few extra minutes.

W

Wheels: According to the district handbook, wheeled shoes are not allowed at school. Because of the possibility of being stolen, skateboards and motorized scooters are also not allowed on campus.

Web Page: Visit the Foster web page periodically to find lunch menus, important dates and separate pages for grade levels and PTA. We're constantly updating!

X

Xerox machine: The Xerox machines are reserved for printing school business. If you do need to make a personal copy, the cost is \$.10 per copy.



Yo-yo's, electronics & toys: So that your child does not lose a favorite toy/game, please keep all personal items at home.

Yearbooks: Keep your eye out for the pre-sale of Foster yearbooks! Watch the Bulldog Bulletin for order forms. This is something you and your child will cherish for years to come!



Zillions of wishes for a successful 2015-2016 school year!