



August 1, 2023

Greetings Southshire Families,

We hope you are having a wonderful summer. Now that August is officially here it is time to look into what the 2023-2024 school year has awaiting for us. The first day of school is **Wednesday, September 6th**. We have been busy settling in and getting ready for the year ahead. We hope you are as ready as we are!

To help start off the school year right, we are sending you this letter that contains important information on things to know for the upcoming school year and forms that will need to be completed and sent back. We have also attached the School Calendar for the 2023-2024 School Year. The Parent Handbook has been sent as an electronic document to the email address we have on file for your family. If you would prefer a hard copy, please let us know and we can mail you one or you can pick it up on the first day of school.

THINGS TO KNOW

- Students can arrive at school between 7:45AM and 8:20AM. At 8:25 the barn doors will be closed for the morning meeting. If you arrive after 8:25 please wait with your child until the morning meeting is over. **When dropping off your child, please enter the driveway slowly.** Please, park towards the back of the schoolhouse and avoid parking in front of the door or parallel to the building along the driveway. Parents are welcome to come in with their children. By 8:15 teachers will be with the students and will be unavailable to parents. Teachers are available before 8:00 or after 3:00, please feel free to contact them directly.
- Dismissal will take place at 2:55. All students will be dismissed from the playground side of the building. We ask that you come out of your vehicle to pick-up your child. Please refer to the parking diagram for further information.
- Children should bring comfy indoor shoes that can be left at school. These can be slippers, sandals, sneakers, etc. Students should wear footwear that will stay on their feet. From prior experience, it seems that slippers without some type of sole wear out quickly and can be slippery to walk in. Clogs, flip-flops, and slip-ons tend to fall off or trip children up. For outdoor play students need shoes that are comfortable, stay on their feet, and allow for running and climbing.
- We have a box in the bathroom available for you to store extra clothing. Please label the bag and the clothing with your child's name. You will be surprised how many students cannot recognize their own clothes!
- Everyone should bring a leakproof water bottle to school. Teachers are available to refill water bottles throughout the day.
- Snack time is at 10:00AM. Please provide a healthy snack for your child. The children are often ravenous at this time, and it is helpful for the children to have a snack that follows healthy guidelines. This year we will continue with having each child bring their own snack.
- Lunch time begins between 11:30-11:45. Students should bring lunch from home already to open and eat. **Please do not bring a lunch that needs to be cooked or heated in the microwave.** Teachers are not available to cook or heat up lunches at school. Students will

eat in their class area or if weather permits, we will picnic outside. We ask children to eat their protein first, but please let us know if this does not work for your family. If your child forgets a lunch, we will provide lunch. However, we ask parents to replace the food in our cupboard. If your child has special diet concerns, please send in a note and mark it on the medical form provided. We also ask that you make every effort to use packaging that can be recycled or reused. We do compost, and children are welcome to rinse containers before replacing them back in their lunch boxes.

- Communication between home and school is vital to us. We want each child to feel happy, successful, and valued. If your child has any problem, please tell us. Stop by before 8:15 or after 2:30, call us at school between 9:15-10:00 or 11:30-12:30, or email us Col@southshire.org, Deb@southshire.org, and Partick@southshire.org. Even small problems can be upsetting to children particularly during the first week of school, so it is essential that we have clear, open communication.
- In an effort to help keep our tuition costs affordable, we ask that parents help with maintaining the school building.
 - Parents must participate in two all-school workdays. If you cannot attend family workdays, you can choose to work on another day or pay \$125 for the school to hire out the work.

IMPORTANT FORMS

Included in this letter are the following forms that will need to be filled out:

- Emergency Information Form:** *This form must be updated yearly so all families must fill out a new one.*
- Permission for Treatment Form**
- Permission Form:** *This form allows your child to go on field trips, participate in swim programs, and be photographed or videotaped for school purposes. This also includes the Green Mountain Bus Transportation*
- Student Acceptable Use/Telecommunications and Network Policy Summary Form**
- Immunization Form:** *You can either have your doctor complete the enclosed form or you can provide us with a copy of your child's immunization record. Please update any immunizations your child has received.*

**If your child is a new student, the school is required to have a complete immunization record on file. Please mail or send in the immunization forms by the first day of school. If the Dr. office prefers to email the form, please have them email the forms to Summer@southshire.org.*
- School Records Transfer Form** (if applicable): *If your child is transferring to Southshire from another school, please contact that school and have the child's records forwarded to Southshire using the enclosed form.*
- Parent Involvement Form**
- Parent Information Form**
- Shared Health Commitment Form**
- Parent Handbook Signature Form:** *Please return the signature page stating that you received the parent handbook.*

If you would prefer to have electronic copies, please let us know.

On another note, the Parent/Student/Teacher address list will be available in the first full week of school. Please check your information on the outside Parent Bulletin Board and email any corrections to Col or Summer. Once each family has reviewed their information, the final list can be printed for in-house purposes.

Finally, your voice matters. Your voice informs both policy and curriculum decisions made by the school. The teachers and Board of Directors make every effort to keep tuition as low as possible. Therefore, parents need to support at least two fundraisers each year. If you have any fundraiser ideas, please let us know as we are open to suggestions.

We hope that this information helps in answering some questions you may have. Please feel free to call us with any questions at 802-442-4601 or email us. For any billing questions or concerns please reach out to Donna Menneto at Bookeeper@southshire.org.

We look forward to seeing everyone on the first day of school: **Wednesday, September 6th!**

Enjoy the rest of your summer,

The Southshire Community School Staff

Important Emails

Coleen Healy – col@southshire.org

Summer Lampron – summer@southshire.org

Deb Lemaire – deb@southshire.org

Patrick Jehle – patrick@southshire.org

School Phone – (802)442-4601