

# EASTERLING PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Where Little People Do **BIG** Things!”

## 2024 -2025 Parent/Student Handbook



The Wee Fox PATH to Success

Ppractice safety

Act responsibly

Treat others with respect

Have a willingness to learn

**Principal: Ms. Christy Elliott**  
**Assistant Principal: Ms. Kiara Jenkins**

Easterling Primary School  
600 East Northside Avenue  
Marion, South Carolina 29571  
(843)423-8335

## MARION COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

### DIRECTION

Preparing all students to live and work effectively, responsibly, and productively within our society.

### PURPOSE

Marion County School District educates, prepares, and inspires students to be productive citizens in a changing global society.

### BELIEFS

#### We believe that:

- All students can become productive members of society.
- Education is a partnership among students, families, schools, and community.
- Our children are at the center of all decision making.
- Education should prepare students to succeed academically and socially so they can compete for quality jobs and become productive members of society.
- Each person has intrinsic value and worth and is a unique individual with different needs and abilities.

### DISTRICT OFFICE PERSONNEL

Dr. Kandace Bethea, Superintendent  
Dr. Mark Bunch, Assistant Superintendent  
Mrs. Stacy Wilbanks, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. Jason Jordan, Director of Operations  
Mr. Kevin Owens, Director of Informational Technology  
Ms. Angela Cooper, Director of Finance  
Mrs. Brenda Cross, Food Nutrition Supervisor  
Mrs. Susanne Elvington, Public Relations & Special Projects Specialist  
Dr. Nickia Burks, Director of Office of Exceptional Children  
Mrs. Cynthia Williams-Blaine, Coordinator of Federal Programs/Special Services  
Ms. Melanie Gordon, Instructional Technology and Accountability Officer/CTE  
Dr. Tracey Holcombe, Director of Instruction, Academic Officer STEAM  
Mrs. Sharron Crowner, Parenting and Community Engagement Specialist  
Mrs. Rachel Caulder, Academic Learning Specialist

### MARION COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mrs. Nadine Foxworth, Chairperson  
Mr. Kevin Dozier, Vice-Chair  
Mrs. Patricia Atkinson  
Ms. Cynthia V. Brown  
Mr. Donnie Hill  
Mr. Derrick Weeks  
Mrs. Ogleretta White

## EASTERLING PRIMARY SCHOOL

### PURPOSE

Easterling Primary School educates, prepares, and inspires students to be productive citizens in a changing global society.

### Learner Standards

The following are necessary skills to succeed at the students' appropriate level:

- Read and comprehend a variety of information
- Use the writing process to express ideas through a variety of genre
- Access and use information through a variety of resources
- Communicate through listening and speaking
- Demonstrate competence in mathematics through problem solving and practical application
- Understand and apply scientific concepts

### Daily Schedule

7:00	Morning duty begins *Students should arrive at school no earlier than 7:00 am each day.
7:30	Students are expected to be in the building and heading to class.
7:45	Students who are <b>not in the classroom</b> are marked tardy <b>*Tardy students will need to be signed in by a parent.</b>
7:50	School begins
2:30	Dismissal begins

### Scheduling

At Easterling Primary School, the entire faculty has a sound understanding of the curriculum and developmental needs of our students. The school works carefully with the faculty and counselors to ensure the best placement for each student. However, because of the many complexities of scheduling, the school is unable to grant requests for particular teachers.

### Change of Address and Telephone Number

It is very important that every student maintain an up-to-date address and telephone number record at the school office. Update your new information by logging into your Final Forms account if you have a change of address or telephone number during the school year. Once updated the school will receive a notification of the changes made.

### Attendance

Marion County School District expects children to attend school regularly. Regular attendance is necessary if students are to make the desired and expected academic and social progress. South Carolina law requires regular school attendance for every child who is at least five years old on or before the first day of September of a particular school year, until the child turns 17 years old.

Any student who misses school must present a written excuse, signed by his/her parent, legal guardian or licensed health care practitioner. Excuses must be presented within three days of the student's return to school. Any written excuses submitted after three days will be marked as received, but the absence will not be recorded as excused. The reason and the date of the absence should be stated. The school administration will keep all excuses confidential.

If a student fails to bring a valid excuse to school, he/she will automatically receive an unexcused absence. If a student brings a false (or forged) excuse, the teacher will refer the student to the school administration for appropriate action.

The school year consists of 180 school days. In order to be promoted to the next grade, Easterling Primary students must attend 170 of the 180 days school is in session. Students at Easterling Primary School are considered in attendance when present for at least four hours of a school day.

The Board grants approval of additional/excessive absences in accordance with Board policy as follows:

- Students in grades 1-12, who are not present the required number of days set forth above must have a written excuse from a licensed certified health practitioner for those days in excess of the standards set forth above. However, the number of additional absences with written medical excuses must not exceed 10 days for students at Easterling Primary School.
- Students who exceed the allowable absence limit will not be promoted unless the student has been enrolled in the district's medical homebound instruction program.

### Tardy Policy and Procedures

1. Punctuality is one of the most important skills that a person can learn. It is a skill that directly correlates to an individual's success in the business world. Also, to prevent disruption of the learning process, it is important for students to arrive to school and class on time. The Tardy Policy has changed and will be enforced by Administration.
2. Teachers start class with a morning activity or assignment. Students who are late will miss an instructional assignment.

3. A tardy is defined as the student not being in the **classroom** by 7:45 am.
4. A student who arrives late to school **must be walked in and signed in by a parent in the office**. The student will then receive a tardy pass to enter class.

Please see additional attendance information in the Appendix.

#### Make-Up Work

Teachers will permit students to make-up work missed during an absence as long as the parent makes arrangements with the teacher no later than the student's fifth day back at school. The student must complete the work within 10 days after his/her return to school.

#### Early Sign Out for Students

Parents are asked to make every effort to schedule doctor and dentist appointments outside of school hours. We are working to use every minute of our day as learning minutes. The first and last 45 minutes of the school day are imperative to a student's educational day. We need your help in making sure that all students are in class as much as possible. Our building opens at 7:00 am each day for breakfast. Class starts at 7:45 and ends at 2:30 each day. Many classes have Math the last period of the day. Please help us keep students in class until the end of the day so they do not miss instruction. The front office is closed and parents are not allowed to sign out students after 2:00 pm, unless it is approved by an administrator. For safety purposes, please be prepared to show your ID to the front office secretary.

### Arrival, Dismissal and Transportation

Whether you are a walker, car rider, or ride a bus, practice every safety rule and protect yourself with continuous safety consciousness. Cooperate willingly with the staff members on duty.

The school doors will open at 7:00 a.m. NO students are allowed in the building before 7:00 a.m.

Students who are car riders to school must use the front entrance of the school for drop-off only. There will be no drop-offs in the morning in the back of the building.

Parents driving students to and from school should use the designated car routes. Drivers are asked to drive slowly and watch carefully for students. Car riders should report to the designated pick-up area immediately after school. Drivers are asked to NEVER leave cars unattended in the lane to enter the building.

**All students should be picked up from school by 2:50 p.m.**

Car riders will be picked up in the back of the school. Please enter the pickup lane from Hampton Street. Car riders must have a car tag. We ask that students whose last names begin with A-M be picked up from 2:30-2:45. Students whose last name begins with N-Z are to be picked up from 2:45-2:55. Siblings and carpool riders, regardless of last names may be picked up at either time.

Daycare buses will be picking up from the gym. Buses will continue to pick up in the bus lane.

### Health and Safety

#### Illness and Injury

In case of illness or injury, Easterling Primary School will follow procedures for proper handling of such emergencies. The school nurse or another trained person will be responsible for administering first aid. The school will notify the student's parent/legal guardian of the student's illness or injury. The school will request that the parent/legal guardian make appropriate arrangements for the student's care. If the school cannot contact the parent and/or legal guardian immediately when a very serious accident occurs or when a child becomes alarmingly ill, the school will summon medical services or an ambulance to take the child to the appropriate medical facility. Easterling Primary School will notify the parent/legal guardian as soon as possible. Easterling Primary School will administer first aid/emergency care and the routine delivery of health services to students according to the procedures specified in the Health Services Procedures Manual.

#### Medications

A properly signed and dated request on a Marion County School District approved form from the parent/legal guardian must be on file in the student's health record prior to administration of any medication, both prescription and over the counter, by school district personnel. School personnel contacted by parents, via telephone, are unable to dispense any medication without a signed medication permission form in place.

Medication permission forms and medication orders must be updated at the beginning of each new school year for each new or different medication and when changes are made to the student's medication regimen. One permission form per school year will suffice for medications given on a long-term basis.

Medications must be provided in individual pharmacy-labeled bottles by the parent/legal guardian for each medication. The bottle label must contain the student's name, date, medication name, dosage strength and the directions for use, the name of the prescriber, and the name and address of the pharmacy.

Disciplinary action will be taken for those students who have medication in their possession without signed consent from their health care provider and the provision of an Individualized Health Care Plan.

Parents are responsible to pick up unused medicine at the end of the school year. Any medication not picked up will be destroyed as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

#### Immunizations

South Carolina law requires students maintain current required vaccinations, screening and immunizations that are annually determined and published by the Department of Health and Environmental Control. These immunizations are necessary to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It is required each student have on file a certificate of immunization showing that he/she has been adequately immunized against such diseases. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Form 1125E (Revised 92) completed by a licensed physician or the local Health Department will meet the requirements of an adequate certificate of immunization. Students will not be permitted to attend school without proper immunization.

### Medical Homebound

Medical homebound instruction is provided for students with and without disabilities who cannot attend school for a medical reason — a mental or physical condition that exists due to an accident, an illness, or pregnancy — even when transportation is furnished. The goal of homebound instruction is to provide continuity of instruction and to facilitate the student's return to a regular school setting as quickly as possible.

To be eligible for homebound services, a student must be enrolled in Marion County School District, be at least five (5) years old and less than 21 years old by September 1 of the current school year. A licensed physician must certify that the student is unable to attend school for a medical reason even when transportation is furnished but may profit from instruction given in the home or hospital. Upon receipt of the completed Medical Homebound Form, the Superintendent of Marion County School District will review the form for approval. This is done through a designee, the Director of Special Services.

## Behavior

### DISTRICT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

The district expects students to behave appropriately including honesty, integrity, fairness, truthfulness, trustworthiness, and respect for others' rights. They must know, understand, and follow District and school policies and rules. Ignorance of the provisions of policies and rules will not be acceptable as a defense in the event of an infraction by a student. The district recognizes that rules of student conduct and consequences for violations are necessary for the orderly operation of its schools. No disciplinary action shall be taken without all procedural rights being afforded to students and their parents as provided by Federal law, State law, S.C. Board of Education regulations, and the policies of the district.

Marion County School District rules, regulations, and procedures are designed to protect all members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and responsibilities. The rules apply to any student:

1. Who is on school or District property;
2. Who is in attendance at school or any school-sponsored activity, whether on or off school grounds;
3. Who is in route to and from school or a school-sponsored activity on a school bus or other District vehicle; or
4. Whose conduct at any time or in any place has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline in District schools

The following are general categories of offenses. For a complete listing of acts and sanctions please see the Marion County School District Code of Conduct.

#### Disorderly conduct — Level I

Disorderly conduct is defined as those activities engaged in by a student which tend to impede orderly classroom procedures or instructional activities, the orderly operation of the school, or the frequency or seriousness of which disturb the classroom or school.

#### Disruptive conduct — Level II

Disruptive conduct is defined as those activities engaged in by students which are directed against persons or property and/or the consequences of which tend to endanger the health or safety of oneself or others. Some instances of disruptive conduct may overlap certain criminal offenses, justifying both administrative sanctions and court proceedings. Disorderly conduct (Level I) may be reclassified as disruptive conduct (Level II) if it occurs two or more times.

#### Criminal Conduct — Level III

Criminal conduct is defined as those activities engaged in by a student which results in violence to oneself or to another's person or property or which pose a direct and serious threat to the safety of oneself or others. These activities usually require administrative actions resulting in the student's removal from school, the intervention of law enforcement authorities, and/or action by the Board.

### Cell Phones/Personal Electronic Devices

The Marion County School District Board of Trustees will allow for the possession (not use) of paging devices, cell phones, and other personal electronic devices in school under the following circumstances:

All paging devices, cell phones, and personal electronic devices must be powered off/non-operative and out of sight during the regular academic school day (7:00 am — 3:00 pm) and are never to be used in any area in which an individual has a reasonable expectation for privacy including, but not limited to, restrooms, locker rooms, and showers.

A student in possession of a paging device, cell phone or/or personal electronic device in conflict with this policy will have the device confiscated and is subject to discipline as provided under the district's code of student conduct.

### Student Search and Seizure

Students and their belongings are subject to reasonable searches and seizures when administrators have a belief considered to be reasonable under these circumstances.

- A student committed a crime or a violation of a school rule.
- Such a search will reveal contraband or evidence of a violation of a school rule or a criminal law.

Any search conducted must be reasonable in scope given the age and sex of the student and the nature of the alleged infraction. Only the principal or his/her designee may conduct such searches within the constitutional parameters outlined above unless exigent circumstances exist which require another staff member to take immediate action for safety reasons.

Teachers and principals may question students about any matter pertaining to the operation of a school and/or enforcement of its rules. The staff member will conduct the questioning discreetly and under circumstances, which will avoid unnecessary embarrassment to the person being questioned. Any student who answers falsely or evasively or who refuses to answer a proper question may be disciplined.

When law enforcement officers find it necessary to question students during the school day, the school principal or his/her designee will be present. The police will conduct the questioning in the principal's office with the principal or his/her designee present. The principal or his/her designee will attempt to contact the parent/legal guardian and request his/her attendance.

If police intend to take a student into custody or arrest a student, they must present an official warrant. The principal will assist the law enforcement officer in assuring that all procedural safeguards as prescribed by law are observed.

School administrators will contact law enforcement authorities immediately upon notice that a person is engaging in, or has engaged in, certain activities on school property or at a school sanctioned or sponsored activity. Those activities are ones which may result, or do in fact result, in injury or serious threat of injury to the person or to another person or his/her property.

#### Bus Conduct Guidelines

Marion County School District has established rules and guidelines for bus conduct and behavior. All students are asked to adhere to these policies. Infractions on school buses will be handled according to the MCS D discipline code. CONTINUAL ABUSE OF BUS PRIVILEGES WILL RESULT IN SUSPENSION OF BUS TRANSPORTATION PRIVILEGES.

Parents should direct all questions regarding service to the Transportation Office. (843-431-5055)

All questions concerning bus schedules and routes, changes in a child's pick-up location, satisfaction with bus service, etc., should be directed to the Transportation Office.

All concerns parents have regarding conduct on the buses should be brought to the attention of the school administration. The school will not allow disruptive behavior on the buses or destruction of bus property. The school reserves the right to discontinue bus service for a child who has been a repeat offender.

If a discipline problem occurs on the bus, the driver will fill out an online form that will be sent to the school administration. Following a meeting with the student, the school will send home a discipline notice. A copy will be kept by the school and the driver for future reference. A student who has more than one disciplinary problem on the bus may have bus riding privileges revoked.

Rolling bookbags are prohibited on the bus and at school unless a child has a doctor's excuse.

A written notice must be submitted by the parent/guardian for any transportation changes (car or bus). **Bus changes must be made by updating the address in FinalForms.**

#### Bus Rider Guidelines

##### **Riding the bus is a privilege.**

The following are the rules for discipline on buses in Marion County School District. These rules apply to all students in grade K-2.

- Parents are notified if any child is suspended or disciplined from an incident arising on a bus; parent is verbally contacted and written notification is mailed (or sent) home to the parent; student cannot be taken off the bus until steps below are taken; if verbal communication cannot be gained, student will ride until the parent/guardian is contacted.
- The school bus driver will not remove a student from the bus for disciplinary reasons; only a school administrator and/or the bus supervisor can remove a student from the bus; the driver completes the student bus discipline form and forwards it to the school administrator for action; the driver will only state the facts/details of the incident (driver will not give opinion or editorialize the situation).
- Bus drivers will enter bus discipline information into Educator's Handbook which is recorded in the PowerSchool database.
- Bus drop off and pickup will be in the back of the building. Parents are asked NOT to enter bus line at any time.

#### Grading and Reporting Grades

Report cards are designed to communicate to parents/legal guardians information on their child's progress toward grade level standards. Report cards are issued at the end of each 45-day grading period. Interim reports will be provided at the mid-point of each 45-day grading period. Parents will also have an opportunity to conference with their child's teacher at the interim and/or end of each 45-day grading period.

***\*Appropriate grade level rubrics will be used for determining report card grades each grading period. \*\*4K students will receive an initial report card at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> grading period, and each subsequent grading period.***

5K-1 <sup>st</sup> Grades					
Academic Expectations	Consistently EXCEEDS grade level expectations	MEETS grade level expectations	PROGRESSING TOWARDS, but not meeting grade level expectations	NOT MEETING grade level expectations	Not assessed at this time
Report Card Grades	E	M	P	N	•

All report cards and transcripts for students in grades 2 through 12 will use numerical grades. These grades will be based on the uniform grading scale as established by the state board of education. *\*The 10 point grading scale will apply to students in grades 2-12.*

The uniform grading scale is as follows:

2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade				
A 90-100	B 80-89	C 70-79	D 60-69	F 59 and below

Special Area grades will be issued as Satisfactory (S), Needs Improvement (N), or Unsatisfactory (U)

#### General

##### Care of Library Books

Students are responsible for all library books issued to them during the school year. All lost or damaged books must be paid for. Monies collected for lost books are designated for replacement costs. If a lost book is later found, the money paid will be refunded. If lost or damaged library books are not paid for, students' records will not be released.

#### Celebrations and Treats

Birthday parties and celebrations are very important to our students. All food must be purchased from the store and pre-packaged. This ensures that we will have the nutritional data and can best ensure safety for all students' medical needs. **To limit interruptions to classroom instruction, birthday parties and celebrations will be conducted during lunch. Please be sure to make prior arrangements with your child's teacher.**

#### Food and Drinks

Food and drinks are not to be carried throughout the school. They are restricted to the cafeteria. The presence of food and drink in the classroom is very disruptive and causes a considerable litter problem.

#### Food Service

Nutritious hot breakfasts and lunches are available to all students at no charge. Students are encouraged to eat school lunch. Those who choose not to eat school lunch may bring lunch from home. Parents and legal guardians are encouraged to pack healthy lunches and snacks and to refrain from including beverages and foods that do not meet the district's nutrition standards for individual foods and beverages. Students may not share their food with any other student during the school day. **The office staff cannot accept fast food lunch deliveries for students.**

#### Fund Raising

Our school will sponsor several major fund-raising campaigns each year. Selling will be voluntary, and no minimum sales will be required. The principal must approve any grade level or club fundraisers.

#### Homework

Homework is regarded as an important part of each student's education. Homework should be a review or reinforcement of skills already mastered in the classroom and should not be new information for the student. Parents can help their children by arranging a quiet, comfortable place for the student to work and by seeing that assignments are completed. All students should complete a nightly reading assignment. In addition, other assigned homework may be given.

#### Parent/Teacher Conferences - Interim Reports and Report Cards

Parent-teacher conferences will be conducted during each interim report pickup. The interim report pickup dates are **Sept. 3rd, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, and April 29<sup>th</sup>**. Parents are encouraged to schedule conferences with your child's teacher(s) regularly. Teachers are available to conference with parents during their planning period (Mon., Wed., & Fri,) and after school hours. **Teachers will not be pulled from class during instructional time.**

Report Cards will be sent out at the end of every nine-week period. Parents will be notified immediately if their child is failing, or in danger of failing a specific subject.

In order to create a safe and productive learning environment and limit instructional interruptions, parents will only be able to visit their child's classroom by appointment and with administrative approval.

#### Parent Involvement- FEN Club

Parents are encouraged to get involved with our school through the F.E.N. Club (Families for Educational Needs). The purpose of the FEN club is to allow parents the opportunity to get involved and work closely with the school. All parents are urged to become members and to actively participate. Meetings are scheduled three times per year.

#### Promotions and Retentions

Promotion to the next level of work or retention in the same grade for another year shall be determined by which is best for students. Promotion or retention shall be the cooperative recommendation of the teacher, principal, and the parent. Final decisions will be made by the principal using the Marion County School District retention policy. A pupil shall be promoted to the next level of work if his/her educational development is satisfactory. Students shall not be promoted if they have not made adequate progress, and it is generally agreed that he/she will benefit by retention in the same grade for another year.

#### Recess

Students are expected to go out for recess each day. Appropriate clothing and shoes should be worn for outside activities. The principal, at times may decide that the weather does not permit outdoor recess time. If the temperature is below 40 degrees and above 95 degrees, students will not participate in outdoor recess. If your child is to be excused from recess, a note of explanation is required to be given to your child's teacher.

#### School All-Call System

There are often times during the year when the school needs to use our automated all-call system to relay important messages to parents. Please take the time to listen to the voicemail from the school before returning any calls. This will help reduce the number of calls to the school and assist us in being available to answer questions or issues that may arise.

#### School Improvement Council

Easterling has a strong School Improvement Council made up of teachers, administrators, parents, and community members. Elections for new members are held in the fall of each school year. The purposes of the Council are:

To gain knowledge concerning the purpose and goals of the school.

To disseminate information to other parents and citizens within the community to clarify information concerning the school programs.

To offer for consideration to the school principal suggestions concerning program improvements with respect to students' needs and program operations within the individual school, area, or district.

### Visitors

Parental involvement is critical to the success of our students and our school, and we welcome your participation. However, we request that parents/guardians make an appointment to see the teacher, whenever possible. This will enable us to set aside a specific time for discussion. Likewise, visits to the classroom must be arranged through the principal's office with prior administrative approval. This enables us to protect instructional time from excessive interruptions during the day. Conferences with teachers may be scheduled by calling the school office or by sending a note to the teacher. To ensure our students' safety and to protect instruction time, all visitors are required to report to the office upon arriving. In the office, you must present a valid ID. Then, you will be given a visitor's badge to wear during your visit. All visitors must wear a badge at all times. Also, no school-age child, relative, or friend may visit in your child's class.

**DISTURBING SCHOOLS LAW FOR SOUTH CAROLINA** - It is against SC law for any person to willfully and unnecessarily interfere with or disturb schools in any way. This includes interfering with operating procedures, disturbing classes, loitering, entering the school without permission, or acting in an obnoxious manner. Any person found guilty of violating this law will be charged with a misdemeanor and pay a fine of not more than \$1000 or be sentenced to jail time for not more than 90 days. If a child is found guilty of violating these laws, it will be handled in Family Court.

### Easterling Primary School Dress Code

-All students will wear uniforms to school.

#### **Pants:**

- Black or Khaki pants, capris, skirts, shorts, and skorts are acceptable.
- All pants must be worn appropriately at the waist without sagging.
- Skirts, shorts, and skorts must touch the top of the knee.
- Tights may be worn. Leggings or footless tights may be worn underneath a skirt or dress, not to be worn as pants.
- We strongly encourage students to wear shorts or leggings under their dresses and skirts.

#### **Shirts:**

- Long or short sleeve solid color polo shirts are acceptable.
- Color of uniform shirts are 5K – green, 1st grade – school bus yellow, and 2nd grade – royal blue.
- No shirts can be personalized. School logo is acceptable.
- We strongly encourage our 2nd grade students to tuck their shirts in.

#### **Shoes:**

- No open toe shoes; shoes must have a back or strap across the heel.
- No bedroom shoes.
- No shoes with wheels, heels, or lights.
- Shoes must be tied, buckled, or worn as the manufacturer intended.

#### **Headwear:**

- No hats, bandanas, picks, rags, scarves, or sunglasses can be worn as headgear.

#### **Bookbags:**

Clear bookbags are highly recommended.

\*Anything worn that does not fall within the above guidelines fails to meet the Easterling Primary School dress code and is not permissible. Revised 7/5/23

Marion County School District

Primary/ Elementary Attendance Guidelines



Please carefully read the following information concerning South Carolina Attendance Laws and the Marion County School District Guidelines for student attendance. The MCSD Board believes that attendance is a key factor in student achievement and any absence from school represents an educational loss to the student. However, the board also recognizes that some absences from school are unavoidable.

#### Requirements to be Counted Present for the School Day

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) states that a school year consists of 180 days of instruction. Schools may count students present only when they are actually at school, on medical homebound instruction, or are present at a school activity which is authorized by the school. In MCSD, primary and elementary students must be present for 3½ hours of instruction for the instructional day to count as one of the

#### Required Excuses

Within 5 days after returning to school, a student must submit a written excuse explaining his/her absence, signed by his/her parent/legal guardian and accompanied, if applicable, by a doctor's statement. If a student does not do so, his/her absence will be considered unlawful. An excuse form can be picked up from the attendance office and completed with the appropriate information.

#### Lawful/Excused Absences

- The absence is caused by the student's own illness and whose attendance in school would endanger his/her health or

the health of others.

- The absence is due to an illness or death in the student's immediate family.
- The absence is due to a recognized religious holiday of the student's faith.
- The absence is due to school activities that are approved in advance by the principal.

#### Unlawful/Unexcused Absences

- The absence of the student without the knowledge of his/ her parent/legal guardian.
- The absence of the student without acceptable cause with the knowledge of his/her parent/legal guardian.

#### Suspension (s)

- Suspension (s) are not to be counted as an unlawful/unexcused absences for truancy purposes.

#### Primary/Elementary School Tardy Procedures

All students are expected to arrive to school on time and be inside their classroom before the tardy bell rings. Students who are late to school receive consequences if the behavior continues. Students who are continually late may expect the following on a semester basis:

1st tardy - the office/teacher will issue a verbal notification.

2nd tardy - the office/teacher will issue written notification.

3rd tardy - the office/teacher will issue a second written notification.

4th tardy – the office/teacher will issue a written tardy notice warning.

5th tardy– the school administrator will request a parent/legal guardian tardy conference.

6th & 7th tardy – the student will be placed on a tardy intervention contract.

8th & 9th tardy – the student may be assigned In-School Suspension.

10th tardy – the student may be given one day out-of-school suspension for each additional tardy after 10.

#### Notice of Non-Discrimination

Marion County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies.

Section 504-Dr. Cynthia Williams-Blaine | Director of Federal Programs

Title IX-Mrs. Stacy Wilbanks|Director of Human Resources

719 North Main Street, Marion, SC 29571

843-423-1811; [www.marion.k12.sc.us](http://www.marion.k12.sc.us)

Sharron Crowner

Attendance Supervisor

843-423-1811

843-250-0137

# **Easterling Primary School**



**P.B.I.S**

**Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports**

**We are on the P.A.T.H to Success!**

## What is PBIS?

PBIS is a school-wide system that includes proactive strategies for teaching, modeling, and reinforcing appropriate student behavior. We are using this program to help our students have a safe, positive learning environment and to provide consistency in all areas of our school.

Your student is taught behavior expectations by their classroom teacher and by the school counselor. Every adult in the building reinforces students when they meet the behavior expectation and reteaches when they need a reminder of what to do.

## What are the PBIS Expectations?

The Wee Foxes at Easterling Primary are striving to stay on the P.A.T.H to Success. The acronym P.A.T.H encompasses our four main school rules.

**P:** Practice Safety

**A:** Act Responsibly

**T:** Treat other with Respect

**H:** Have a willingness to learn.

P.A.T.H. Checkpoints			
Main Office			
Practice Safety	Act Responsibly	Treat Others with Respect	Have a Willingness to Learn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Walk</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enter through the front office on a Level 0 voice.</li><li>Stop at counter</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Greet office staff and explain why you are there</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Listen for directions</li></ul>
Playground and Recess			
Practice Safety	Act Responsibly	Treat Others with Respect	Have a Willingness to Learn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Take care of the equipment</li><li>Keep wood chips in place</li><li>Use your bumper to slide</li><li>Watch out for others</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Stay in designated area</li><li>Throw away all trash</li><li>Put away all equipment after recess</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Take turns on the playground equipment</li><li>Share the equipment (balls, jump ropes, etc.)</li><li>Play fair and be polite</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Obey the adults on duty</li><li>Listen for directions</li><li>Line up orderly and enter the building quietly</li></ul>
Restroom			
Practice Safety	Act Responsibly	Treat Others with Respect	Have a Willingness to Learn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Wash hands</li><li>Walk at all times</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Wait quietly for your turn.</li><li>Clean up after yourself. Report any problems.</li><li>Use water, soap, paper towels, and tissue wisely</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Respect others</li></ul>	
Hallway			
Practice Safety	Act Responsibly	Treat Others with Respect	Have a Willingness to Learn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Follow the floor markings (arrows, footprints, etc.)</li><li>Face the front</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Level 0 in the hallway.</li><li>Always have a hall pass and go to your destination</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself</li><li>Be a good listener</li><li>Admire work with your eyes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Report to your destination</li></ul>
Arrival and Dismissal Area Expectations			
Practice Safety	Act Responsibly	Treat Others with Respect	Have a Willingness to Learn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Walk in a quiet line to your area</li><li>Remain in your area</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Keep your things in your book bag</li><li>Respect other people's property</li><li>Listen for directions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Leave your area as you found it</li><li>Keep your hands and feet to yourself</li><li>Be positive</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Character Education videos and quiet games</li><li>Music and movement</li><li>Read books</li></ul>

**P.A.T.H. Checkpoint****Bus Expectations**

<b>Practice Safety</b>	<b>Act Responsibly</b>	<b>Treat Others with Respect</b>	<b>Have a willingness to learn</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow the bus driver's directions</li> <li>Stay calm while getting on and off the bus</li> <li>Keep your bumper in your seat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pay attention and watch for your stop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself</li> <li>Always use your six-inch voice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep your things in your book bag</li> </ul>

**Cafeteria Guidelines**

The same general rules for behavior apply in the cafeteria as in the classroom. Students are to remain quiet in line and keep hands to themselves. Students are not allowed to save places in line. Cutting the line will not be tolerated. All classes will sit together with their teachers. Students may not share food. Students may leave their table only when excused.

**Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)****P.A.T.H. Checkpoint****Cafeteria Expectations**

<b>Practice Safety</b>	<b>Act Responsibly</b>	<b>Treat Others with Respect</b>	<b>Have a Willingness to Learn</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wash your hands</li> <li>Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself</li> <li>Walk at all times</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use appropriate table manners</li> <li>Clean up your area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eat silently until teacher turns cup</li> <li>Talk to the person beside you using your level 1 voice.</li> <li>Remain quiet in the serving line</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Line up and exit the cafeteria quietly</li> </ul>

**Assembly Guidelines**

Assemblies are planned periodically as special events on the school calendar. It is our view that assemblies have beneficial influence on the lives of students at EPS. It is our expectation that students participate in a positive manner during the program. Student attendance during school day programs is required. Special attention to etiquette and good citizenship is expected of all students. We can all share in the success of our programs by observing the following:

- Students will sit in their assigned area during each assembly. All students will sit on the floor in the gymnasium.
- All talking and distracting activity shall cease when the performance begins.
- It is appropriate to respond to the assembly. The response type depends on the assembly's nature. Activities such as shouting, comments to the performers, or throwing objects are always inappropriate.
- Exhibit the utmost courtesy and respect for participants.
- Enter and leave quietly.
- Show appreciation for the efforts and talents of participants by enthusiastic and courteous applause.
- Enjoy the program.

**P.A.T.H. Checkpoint****Assembly Expectations**

<b>Practice Safety</b>	<b>Act Responsibly</b>	<b>Treat Others with Respect</b>	<b>Have a Willingness to Learn</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walk at all times</li> <li>Keep hands and feet to yourself</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stay in your personal space</li> <li>Sit crisscross applesauce</li> <li>Watch for your teacher's signal before standing up to leave</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sit with a level 0 voice</li> <li>Sit up straight</li> <li>Eyes should be on the speaker</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listen attentively</li> </ul>

**Emergency Drill Guidelines**

For safety purposes, EPS will regularly practice procedures for emergencies such as fires, tornados, earthquakes and intruders. When signals for the drills are given, students are to remain silent and follow directions given. If the student is not with their class at the time of the drill, the student should go to the nearest adult for direction.

**P.A.T.H. Checkpoint****Emergency Drill Expectations**

<b>Practice Safety</b>	<b>Act Responsibility</b>	<b>Treat others with Respect</b>	<b>Have a Willingness to Learn</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Line up immediately at signal</li> <li>Level 0 voice</li> <li>Follow the direction of the teacher or nearest adult</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stay in a single file line</li> <li>Walk at all times</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listen to directions</li> </ul>

## **Student and Parent Acknowledgment and Pledge**

The Parent/Student Handbook has been developed to help your child receive quality instruction in an orderly educational environment. The school needs your cooperation in this effort. Therefore, please (1) review and discuss the Parent/Student Handbook with your child and afterwards (2) sign and return this sheet to your child's school. Should you have any questions when reviewing the Parent/Student Handbook, please contact your child's principal.

**NOTE: FAILURE TO RETURN THIS ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND PLEDGE WILL NOT RELIEVE A STUDENT OR**

**THE PARENT/GUARDIAN FROM BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING OR COMPLYING WITH THE RULES**

**AND PROCEDURES CONTAINED WITHIN THE PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK.**

I have reviewed the Parent/Student Handbook with my child and understand the rights and responsibilities contained therein.

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To help keep my school safe, I pledge to show good character, work to the best of my ability and adhere to the guidelines established within the Parent/Student Handbook.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Quick Reference Guide to EPS

School Phone Number: 843-423-8335

School Address: 600 East Northside Ave. Marion, SC 29571

1. What do I need to do if I move or my child is transferring to another school?  
**Come to the school to fill out withdrawal papers.**
2. Who do I see about children bothering my child at school?  
Let your child's teacher know. **If the problem persists, call the office and speak to an administrator.**
3. Can I have my child wait in the school office before school or at dismissal?  
No. **Children are not allowed to wait in the office before school or at dismissal. If the office has not been alerted of a special situation that requires your child to wait, your child will be sent home.**
4. Who do I call if I have questions about the lunch program at Easterling Primary School?  
You can call **our Director of Food Service, at 843-423-1811 or call our Cafeteria Manager, at 843-423-8335.**
5. What do I do about dismissal changes?  
Send a written note to school with the changes. Permanent bus changes should be changed in Final Forms.
6. May I visit my child's teacher or classroom during the day?  
Teachers will not be pulled from class during instructional time. Visits to the classroom must be arranged through the **Principal's office with prior administrative approval.**
7. May I have food delivered to the school for my child?  
Food deliveries cannot be accepted for students.
8. May I send birthday party items for my child?  
**In order to limit interruptions to classroom instruction, birthday parties and celebrations will be conducted during lunch. Please be sure to make prior arrangements with your child's teacher.**

### Pick-up/Transportation

- Parents are not allowed to sign out students after 2:00 pm, unless it is approved by an administrator. For safety purposes, please be prepared to show your ID to the front office secretary.
- All students should be picked up from school by 2:45 p.m.
- A written notice must be submitted by the parent/guardian for any transportation changes (car or bus).
- The school reserves the right to discontinue bus service for a child who has been a repeat offender.