

August 23, 2021

Dear Birkes Families,

We were thrilled to see our 2021-22 Birkes Bulldogs today! The smiles and excitement filled the hallways as we kicked off another amazing school year. Our theme this year is "Birkes Bulldogs are Out of This World!" We are excited to explore the endless opportunities to grow your child in their educational adventure this year.

First Day of School and School Supplies

We want all of our students to have an excellent first day of school. It is important that we greet students, get them safely to their correct rooms, and begin the day. **For safety and security reasons, parents will not be allowed in the building to walk students to class.** We will have lots of support to assist students in finding their classrooms.

Students need school supplies for a successful year. School supplies ordered through PTO have arrived and have been delivered directly to the classrooms. If you have not yet purchased school supplies for your child, the lists of supplies are available on our Birkes website at www.cfisd.net/birkes. Volunteer staff will also be available to assist students with heavy school supplies on the first day of school.

Arrival

Our school hours are 8:40 - 4:10 . Our doors open for students at 8:20 a.m. For the safety of our students, please do not leave them unattended outside our school building. In addition, please make sure your child is on time to school. Students should be seated in their classroom no later than 8:40.

Students will have the option of grab-and-go breakfast. Staff will be on hand to guide our car riders and students arriving from daycare and bus to class.

Dismissal

All students will wait in their classrooms until their bus number, daycare, or car rider number is displayed on the classroom Google doc. Staff will be in the hallways to help direct and escort students to their afternoon transportation. Students attending Club Rewind will be dismissed to them as usual.

Medication

If your child will be taking medication at school, or has a medical action plan, please drop off the medication or action plan for your child. Please do not send medication to school in your child's backpack.

Lunch

Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria with their grade level. **We do not allow lunch drop offs. We are not allowing lunch visitors for at least the first three weeks of the school year. You will be notified when lunch visitors are allowed (Monday through Friday).** All students will be able to eat breakfast and lunch at no charge during the 2021-2022 school year.

Spirit Shirts

Beginning August 23 through September 12, Birkes spirit shirts (children and adult sizes) are available to purchase on-line at <https://birkes0921.itemorder.com/sale> for \$10.00 (short sleeve), \$12.00 (long sleeve), \$15.00 (3/4 sleeve), and \$18.00 (sweatshirt). Fridays are designated Spirit Day. We encourage all students to wear their spirit shirt every Friday.

It's going to be an amazing school year! Thank you for sharing your child(ren) with us. We love our Birkes Bulldogs!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Stacie Everson
Principal

THE PAW PRINT

Mrs. Stacie Everson, Principal

August 23, 2021

www.cfisd.net



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Please remember:

- All staff and students will self-screen daily for symptoms of COVID-19. If symptoms are experienced, individuals must not report to school or work until evaluated by a licensed healthcare provider.
- Symptoms of COVID-19 include:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Loss of taste/smell
 - Nasal congestion
 - Sore throat
 - Headache
 - Fever at or above 100°F
 - Vomiting/diarrhea

Students who show symptoms of COVID-19 at school will be evaluated by the nurse and will be excluded in accordance with CFISD communicable disease exclusion criteria.

- Staff and students will practice good hand hygiene (hand washing and hand sanitizing). All classrooms will have hand sanitizer available.
- Staff will sanitize high touch areas throughout the school day. After school, our custodians will clean with hospital grade disinfectants.
- Water fountains will be used for bottle filling only.
- We will practice social distancing when feasible.
- When walking in the hallways, staff and students will stay to the right.
- Face masks are optional for all staff and students. We are a mask friendly school. For CFISD safety protocols and options, please read the [LEAD Safely Plan / LEAD Safely 2021-2022](#) by clicking the link.

BACKPACKS

Due to storage and safety issues, please do not send rolling backpacks to school. We will work to ensure that backpacks are not overloaded for students.

NURSE'S NOTES

Please note, for safety reasons, **all medications must be brought to and from school by an adult.** Students cannot transport medication. Please email our nurse, Lindsey Erwin, at Lindsey.Erwin@cfisd.net or call 281-345-3304 to arrange a time for medication drop off.

MORNING ARRIVAL

We open our front doors at 8:20 a.m. If you drop your child off before 8:20, **there will be no supervision.**

Students are allowed to enter the building at 8:20 each morning. Instruction begins at 8:40, please help us begin instruction on time by allowing your child to ride the school bus or by dropping them off in time to walk to class and be in their seat ready to learn by 8:40.

Please be extremely careful when dropping students off at the front door. PLEASE STAY IN THE CAR LINE - PASSING PUTS STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN DANGER. **Students exit on the passenger side of the car only.**

CHANGES IN TRANSPORTATION DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

If you need to change your child's transportation during the school day, please email the request for change to your child's teacher and Birkes@cfisd.net.

Changes requested after 3:00 p.m. can only be made in extreme emergencies. Please call the school if a change in transportation request is after 3:00 p.m. Our goal is to have each child reach their destination correctly and safely, by the proper mode of transportation. We can ensure your child will get home correctly only if you change transportation prior to 3:00 p.m.

SECURITY SYSTEM

Everyone who visits Birkes will need to have their license scanned. Thank you for helping us keep our campus safe.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

We want to welcome each of you to Birkes for the 2021 - 2022 school year. We have two counselors, Mrs. Denise Patrick and Mrs. Romicka Johnson who will be supporting our students this year. Please feel free to contact them with concerns about your child at (281) 345-3300. In each newsletter we will share upcoming dates, counseling news, and various parenting strategies to use at home. We look forward to a great year!

The Role of the School Counselor

- Counsel individuals and small groups of students to meet identified needs
- Deliver the guidance curriculum & assist teachers with the school guidance program
- Participate in planning, implementing, and evaluating a comprehensive guidance and counseling program to serve all students
- Consult with teachers and other staff regarding concerns about students' needs
- Adhere to ethical, legal, and professional standards

INDIVIDUAL PICTURE DAY

Wednesday, October 6th is individual picture day. All pictures must be pre-paid. Please make checks payable to Lifetouch. Money for pictures will not be accepted after the start of school (**8:40 a.m.**).

Important Newsletter Info

We send our newsletter electronically once a month. Our newsletter will be posted on our website the 1st Monday of each month. There may be some variation due to the school schedule or holidays. **You will be emailed when our newsletter has been posted on our Birkes website.**

Remember to check the Birkes website when you need information.

Please follow the link below to access our website:
<http://www.cfishd.net/Birkes>

CHARACTER KEY TRAIT

Our character key trait for September is "Initiative." Seeing what needs to be done and doing it.

IT'S TIME FOR THE ANNUAL PTO MEMBERSHIP DRIVE AND CONTEST!

Birkes PTO Membership

Welcome back Bulldogs! "Bulldogs Are Out Of This World" for the 2021-2022 school year! Thanks to your generous support of PTO sponsored activities, it is sure to be a successful year - one that couldn't happen without you.

The easiest way to support your Birkes student(s) is by joining the PTO. You will have access to an online directory and all that is required is your donation of \$10 per family! Your membership fees are one of the ways we can collect funds to continue supporting our students and staff.

Go to www.birkespto.com and log in or register to pay your \$10 donation. You are not obligated to do anything else by joining - you don't have to volunteer - but if you would like to volunteer, we'd love to have you join in on the fun!

Thank you for your support and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Roiann Baskin, Membership
roiannf@yahoo.com

Label Personal Belongings

Please label your child's mask, water bottles, jackets, sweaters, lunch kits, and backpacks with first and last name.

**Please, no lunch visitors
the first three weeks
of school**

August 23 – September 10.

**We will reevaluate at this time and notify you
what date visitors will be allowed.**

Credit by Exam

Students in grades K-5 will have four opportunities during the school year to use “credit-by-exam” to accelerate to another grade level. Students will only have one opportunity to test for each grade level considered.

To apply to take the test to skip kindergarten, a student must be 5 by September 1, and registered in a CFISD school. To apply to take the test to skip grade 1, a student must be 6 by September 1, and enrolled in a CFISD school.

Students who earn scores of 80% or better on each component of the credit-by-exam will qualify to advance one grade. Only one grade level may be “skipped” each year. No retests will be given.

Students will be tested on campus during the first two weeks of school. Grade placement will be made at the beginning of school year (2021-2022).

Testing will begin with (1) Mathematics (2) Reading/Language Arts (3) Science (2nd-5th Grade only). The tests go in this order. If a student does not make mastery, they do not go on to the next test. 80% mastery on each test is required for grade acceleration placement to occur.

If you are interested in getting more information about credit-by-exam, please contact the school counselor, Denise Patrick (281)345-3306 The deadline to request beginning of the year testing is Tuesday, August 25, 2021.

Bulldogs Are Out of This World!

SPIRIT SHIRT SALES

Our spirit shirts will be sold **only** online beginning today, August 23 through September 12. Birkes spirit shirts (children and adult sizes) are available to purchase on-line at <https://birkes0921.itemorder.com/sale> for \$10.00 (short sleeve), \$12.00 (long sleeve), \$15.00 (3/4 sleeve), and \$18.00 (sweatshirt). **Shirts may run small and will shrink as they are 100% cotton.**

The deadline to purchase a spirit shirt is Sunday, September 12th at 11:59 pm.

This is your only opportunity to place an order.

Fridays are our designated Spirit Day. We encourage all students to wear their spirit shirt every Friday.



DISTRICT DRESS CODE POLICY

General Guidelines for Student Dress and Grooming

Appropriate student dress and grooming are important factors in the safe and orderly operation of the schools. Each student's appearance should reflect a positive image of the school and contribute to a distraction-free learning environment.

Our district values and needs the support of parents in upholding the district and campus dress and HB-44 General Guidelines for Student Dress and Grooming (continued) grooming guidelines. The student and his/her parent(s) may determine the student's personal dress and grooming standards provided that the student's dress and grooming:

- **shall not lead school officials to reasonably believe that such dress or grooming will disrupt, interfere with, disturb, or detract from school activities; and**
- **shall not create a health problem or safety hazard for the student or others.**

Using these general guidelines and the specific guidelines listed below, school administrators, with the input and support of faculty members, have the final decision in determining and enforcing student dress and grooming standards at school and at all school-related activities.

Individual campuses may develop and enforce additional or standardized dress codes and grooming guidelines that meet the standards of the campus (see additional information on standardized dress codes below). These campus guidelines or standardized dress codes may be more restrictive than those established by the district. However, these additional campus guidelines or standardized dress codes must be developed in accordance with the district's procedures and regulations regarding adoption of additional campus guidelines or standardized dress codes and must be publicized to the students and parents in a timely manner, so that students and parents can select the appropriate clothing that will meet the individual campus guidelines or standardized dress codes. All students are required to adhere to the district dress and grooming guidelines, as well as to any additional guidelines developed and approved for the campus. Exceptions will be permitted for bona fide religious reasons. **Parents are expected to be knowledgeable and supportive of the dress and grooming guidelines.**

Specific Guidelines/Restrictions for Student Dress and Grooming

Students should wear garments, shoes, jewelry, accessories and hairstyles that

- are appropriate and modest in length and coverage,
- reflect a positive image of the school and contribute to a distraction-free learning environment, and
- lead teachers and/or staff to reasonably believe that the issue does not interfere with, disturb, or distract from the classroom and/or learning environment.

Students are not to wear clothing that is tight, loose, sagging, baggy, revealing, spaghetti-strap, backless, low cut or short. Students are also prohibited from wearing tear-away type apparel, dusters, overcoats, and trench coats.

Pants— must be worn at the waist or upper hip and must not reveal underclothing.

Shorts and Skirts - must fit at the waist or upper hip, must not reveal underclothing, and must be mid-thigh in length or longer.

Tops, Shirts and Blouses – must not reveal underclothing, midsection, torso, back, chest, breasts or cleavage.

Dresses – must not reveal underclothing, midsection, torso, back, chest, breasts, or cleavage and must be mid-thigh in length or longer.

Shoes – must not detract from or interfere with the learning environment or present a safety or health hazard. Tennis shoes or closed-toe shoes are preferred. House shoes/house slippers of any kind are not allowed.

Head Coverings – no type of head covering is to be worn with the exception of (1) a cap or hat that is part of a uniform worn at a school activity or (2) for religious or medical purposes. HB-45 Specific Guidelines/Restrictions for Student Dress and Grooming (continued)

Underclothing – must wear appropriate underclothing.

Pajamas/Loungewear – any and all pajamas/loungewear are prohibited.

Jewelry/Piercings – Noisy, distracting and excessive jewelry or accessories are prohibited (including wallet chains). Jewelry/piercings must not detract from or interfere with the learning environment or present a safety or health hazard.

Tattoos –Tattoos that are gang-related, offensive or distracting or that distract from or interfere with the learning environment of the school must be covered at all times.

Hair/Make-up – Hair must be well groomed, neat and clean at all times; hair style/color and makeup must not detract from or interfere with the learning and school environment.

Backpacks- CFISD requires all high school and middle school students to use clear backpacks. Students participating in a campus-approved extracurricular activity are permitted to carry nontransparent bags to store items pertaining to their particular activity (i.e., band, athletics, etc.). Upon entry into the school, all extracurricular activity bags must be stored in lockers or designated areas. All non-transparent bags are subject to search. Additionally, the maximum size for non-transparent bags that students may carry during the day, such as lunch kits, pencil bags, purses, permitted in grades 6 - 12 is approximately 6" x 9"x 5". Students may carry multiple transparent bags but will be limited to two non-transparent bags. Elementary school students will be allowed to continue using traditional backpacks. **ID Badges** – The badges and the unique student number will be used to account for students utilizing transportation services, checking out library books and textbooks, purchasing food items from the cafeteria, providing a means for easy identification of students in common areas of the school and for other uses as determined by campus administration. All secondary students grade 6- 12, shall wear a student ID badge, visible, on school-approved lanyards, during the instructional day. Students participating in school-related activities, such as extracurricular or UIL activities or other special functions, may have a different dress or grooming code required by the sponsor, coach, or administration.

Dress and Grooming Violations

Students who come to school in violation of the district and/or campus dress code will have the option of correcting the violation or being placed in Discipline Management Class (DMC/In-school suspension) for the remainder of the day. School officials may use other appropriate consequences as designated in the Code of Conduct. Parents may be asked to bring appropriate attire to school to assist in correcting the violation. Students who have a question about the appropriateness of an item should discuss the specific issue with the appropriate staff member before wearing the item.

School Uniforms or Standardized Dress Code

Campuses may, in accordance with district regulations and procedures, develop and publish a standardized dress code or adopt a school uniform. Campuses implementing a standardized dress code are required to re-survey their communities, school staff and CPOC committees every 5 years to obtain a favorable vote for standardized dress. Compliance with a standardized dress code or a school uniform is expected every day, including the first day at that campus. Students who are new to the campus, or students with extenuating circumstances, will be expected to be in compliance after a reasonable grace period. The students at these campuses are expected to follow the HB-46 School Uniforms or Standardized Dress Code (continued) appropriate district dress and grooming guidelines as well as the specific campus guidelines. Exceptions to school uniforms will be permitted for bona fide religious and philosophical reasons. Campuses that have adopted a school uniform include Frazier, Owens and Sheridan elementary schools and the secondary DAEP campuses.

Art, Music & P.E.

We are planning an exciting, fun filled year. In order to maintain a safe and effective learning environment in large group, it is essential that students comply with classroom expectations. The following guidelines have been established and will be used for evaluations in our classrooms.

General Conduct:	Well behaved on a consistent basis. Respects adults and other students.
Listens Attentively:	During instruction, focuses on the teacher without talking. "Signals" when appropriate. Can repeat directions when asked.
Sportsmanship:	Exhibits qualities of fairness, cooperation, and encouragement of others.
Use of equipment:	Proper use of all materials, supplies, tools, instruments, and equipment.
Participation:	Prepared for class and instruction. Actively involved.

In the event that these expectations are not met, and the behavior does not improve, consequences will result as outlined in the Birkes Discipline Plan and the district's Code of Conduct. Inappropriate behavior will also affect conduct and subject grades on the student's report card.

To help your child have a successful and a positive experience in our classes, make sure your child:

- **wears properly fitting tennis shoes on PE days. Please teach your child to tie their shoes. No platforms, sandals, flip-flops, or mules**
- **brings a note if they are to be excused from physical activity.**
- **notes should include the nature of the problem, the date(s) involved, and your signature.**
- **if your child needs to be out of physical education for more than three days, a doctor's note is required.**
- **return signed progress notes the next school day**

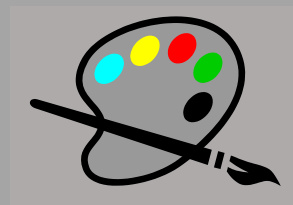
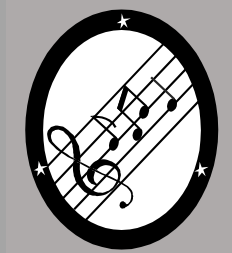
Special events throughout the year will offer opportunities for all students to participate, enjoy, and appreciate physical fitness, art and music. We look forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,

Patti Paine/Renee Bukowski - PE

Edward Scott - MUSIC

Kristy Knight - ART





Birkes Elementary



September 2021

Last day to order your Birkes spirit shirt is Sunday, September 12 at 11:59 p.m. Birkes spirit shirts are available to purchase on-line at - <https://birkes0921.itemorder.com/sale>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Birkes Elem. 8500 Queenston Blvd. Houston, TX 77095 Ph. #281-345-3300 Fax #281-345-3305	School Hours: 8:40 – 4:10 We open our doors at 8:20. If you drop your child off before 8:20, there is no supervision.		1	2	3	4
		No lunch visitors, please!				
5 Lunch Schedule PK 11:00 – 11:30 Kdg. 11:00-11:30 1 st 12:00 – 12:30 2 nd 11:30 – 12:00 3 rd 1:30 – 2:00 4 th 1:00 – 1:30 5 TH 12:30 – 1:00	6 Labor Day Student and staff holiday	7	8	9	10	11
		No lunch visitors, please!				
12 Last day to order a spirit shirt is today at 11:59 p.m. – see link above.	13	14 6:00 p.m. Virtual Curriculum Night for 3 rd – 5 th grades	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 6:00 p.m. Virtual Curriculum Night for Pre-K – 2 nd grade –	22	23	24 Student Holiday	25
26	27	28	29	30	<p>Parents, you can access our newsletters, calendars and flyers by going to our website.</p> <p>Please follow the link below to access our website: http://www.cfsd.net/Birkes</p>	