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SOUTH COUNTRY

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



"Building our future, one child at a time."

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Antonio Santana

KREAMER ST. ELEMENTARY
37 Kreamer Street
Bellport, NY 11713
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www.southcountry.org

PRINCIPAL
Mr. Sean F. Clark

August 2023

Dear Kreamer Kingdom Families,

We look forward to welcoming our students and families as we begin the 2023-2024 school year! Here at Kreamer Street, it is our mission to create a community of lifelong learners, who are prepared to explore the world and leave their mark on it. We believe in a strong family-school connection and we know that this partnership supports our students to grow to their fullest potential. The overview provided in this letter will assist you and your child(ren) as you prepare for the **first day of school**, which is Wednesday, **September 6, 2023**.

KREAMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HOURS

Grades K-3: 9:20am - 3:20pm

Students **MUST NOT ARRIVE TO SCHOOL PRIOR TO 9:05am**. The main doors of the school are locked at all times. Upon arrival at the school, a responder and/or other staff members will greet students and visitors.

*Any student who arrives at school **after 9:20am will be marked tardy** and must sign in with our responders.*

CLASSROOM PLACEMENTS

Please know that great care was taken to place your child appropriately for this school year. All parents are naturally concerned with their child's grade placement each year. The teachers and I spend many hours composing classes for the coming year to assure proper placement. It is, therefore, not possible to make any class changes at this time. Please do not put us in the position of having to refuse your request. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Attendance is an important part of your child's school routine. It is expected that students attend school consistently. If your child is ill, please keep them home and contact the school. The New York State Education Department requires that a written note explaining the reason for the absence signed by the child(ren)'s parent or guardian be sent to the classroom teacher when the child(ren) return(s) to school. Research indicates that students who are chronically absent in grades K-1, are less likely to read proficiently by the end of 3rd grade. By 6th grade, demonstrate early warning signs of dropping out of high school.

MEAL SERVICE FOR GRADES K-5

The South Country Central School District is pleased to be implementing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2023-2024 school year. All students enrolled in the district, regardless of income level, are eligible to receive a healthy school breakfast and lunch at no charge each day. No further action is required of families. Students will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit a meal application! The free and reduced meal applications no longer need to be filled out. While all students are eligible for a free breakfast and lunch, additional a la carte items may be purchased with cash. Breakfast will continue to be eaten in your child (ren)'s classroom.

TRANSPORTATION

You will receive a mailing from Towne Bus which will include your child's bus stop location and pick-up time. If your child is eligible for a bus and you would like them to be a walker, please contact the school immediately at (631) 730-1650 and Towne Bus at (631) 345-9600, so we can update our records. Additionally, we will need a completed "Walker Form" for each child, which can be found on our website. For children that will be taking the bus, we suggest that you write your child's name, bus number, bus stop, teacher name and your phone number on an index card and attach it to their backpack. **It is important for your child to know the bus number he/she will be taking to and from school.** Also, if the bus information you receive for your child is not correct, please call Towne Bus and the school as soon as possible. For the health and safety of our students, at this time students are not permitted to take a different bus home from their assigned route.

All students will be assigned seats on the bus, with *Kindergarten students being assigned to the front area of the bus.*

In addition, it is important to note that **kindergarten and certain students with special needs will NOT be let off the bus at their afternoon stop unless a parent or guardian is present at the bus stop. If you are not going to be available to meet your child at their bus stop on a particular day or are questioning a change in bus stop or pick-up time, we kindly ask that you contact Towne Bus directly at 631-345-9600.** For all other safety concerns regarding your child riding the bus, feel free to contact us at 631-730-1650.

WALKER ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Arrival: Kindergarten students will enter through the double doors closest to the Kindergarten playground. Students in Grades 1-3 will enter through the main entrance.

Dismissal: At the start of the year, walker dismissal will begin at 3:15. Should the time need to be adjusted, a notification will go out. Kindergarten students will be signed out at the same doors they entered through in the morning. Grades 1-3 will be signed out at the main entrance.

When picking up your child, you will need to bring in proper photo identification, such as a driver's license.

We understand that emergencies may arise and a change may need to be made in regards to how your child(ren) will be dismissed. Kindly inform the main office prior to 2:30pm if a change is necessary.

If you are planning on picking your child(ren) up early, we ask that you do so by 2:45pm to ensure a safe and smooth dismissal for all our students.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

As in years past, for grades K-5, each child will be celebrated with non-food activities in their respective classrooms. Teachers may choose to celebrate monthly or have individual birthday celebrations. We will NOT be having food at our birthday celebrations. Please no goody bags or treats. Some possible festivities may include: Playing games, inviting an adult to read to the class, special activities, extra recess or a sing along. We appreciate your anticipated cooperation!

COMMUNICATION

If you haven't already done so, please create a Parent Portal account as soon as possible. If you need your child's student ID to complete registration, please call the school directly, or email Ms. Martinez at: vmartinez@southcountry.org or Mrs. Murphy at amurphy9@southcountry.org with your child's first and last name, as well as date of birth. The Parent Portal will be an important resource for parents and guardians throughout your child's academic career as you will be able to obtain their teacher information, as well as report cards. **Additionally, it is extremely important for parents and guardians to log in and confirm emergency contact information for the upcoming school year.** This will help provide us with alternative contacts that we can call in the event that we are unable to contact the parent or guardian directly. If the emergency contact information changes throughout the school year, please log back into Parent Portal to revise and contact the school in writing so that we can keep accurate records.

To access the Parent Portal or to create a new account, click on the [Parent Portal Link](#) or type the following into your web browser: "<https://parentportal.eschooldata.com>". For support with the website, please call (631) 730-1511 or send an email to: parentportal@southcountry.org.

Effectively communicating with our families is essential to supporting your child's school experience. Therefore, districtwide, we will be utilizing various digital platforms to communicate with our families. Important summer materials have been posted on the district website and we will continue to update the Kreamer Street website throughout the school year. Please check back often to read about upcoming and current events involving Kreamer Street.

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT

Our Meet the Teacher night will take place on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 6:00pm and we encourage all parents and guardians to attend!

Together we will strive to create a positive and challenging learning environment for your child. Please do not hesitate to contact us during the school year if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sean F. Clark
Principal