

Weatherbee Elementary School

2025-2026

Mrs. Heather
Ricksecker Principal



Mrs. Danielle Steele
Mrs. Mandi Brown
Assistant Principals

800 East Weatherbee Road
Fort Pierce, Florida 34982

(772) 468-5300

WE ARE THE MARINERS

Mariners are Readers, Investigators, Navigators, Explorers, Reaching for Success

School Colors

GOLD AND TEAL (SAND AND SEA)

This Handbook Belongs to:	
Name:	Bus #:
Address:	Phone #:
Teacher:	Emergency #:

Dear Parents:

It is with enthusiasm that we welcome you to the 2025-2026 school year at Weatherbee Elementary School. As the administrators of this great school, we want to express how excited we are about the wonderful opportunity of working with all the students and staff of Weatherbee Elementary.

Communication between home and school is critical to ensure your child's success. The Weatherbee Elementary planner for first through fifth grades should be used to keep in touch daily with what is happening in your child's education. Remember to check the planner every evening to see what homework has been assigned, and to see if there are any messages from the teacher. Please use the planner to write notes, comments, or questions that you may have for the teacher.

We extend a special invitation for you to become involved at your child's school as a volunteer, Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), or as a member of our School Advisory Council (SAC)! Also, please join us for the many family activities and parent workshops that will be held throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Heather Ricksecker
Principal

Danielle Steele and
Mandi Brown
Assistant Principals

Kids at Hope Pledges



Kids' Pledge

I am a Kid at Hope

I am talented, smart and capable of success, I have dreams for the future and I will climb to reach those goals and dreams everyday, ALL children are capable of success - No Exceptions!

Treasure Hunter's Pledge

As an adult and a Treasure Hunter, I am committed to search for all the talents, skills and intelligence that exist in all children and youth. I believe that ALL children are capable of success - No Exceptions!

Parent Pledge

*I am an anchor parent. I believe that my child is talented, smart and capable of success. I am committed to helping my child reach their goals and dreams. I believe that my child will succeed, No Exceptions! Every adult is a **treasure hunter**, every child is a **time traveler**!*

ADDRESS/TELEPHONE NUMBER

Parents are responsible for notifying the school office of any change of address or phone number. The school cannot be held responsible for failure to communicate if it is not informed of changes. This applies not only to home phone numbers, but the business and emergency phone numbers of parents and persons to notify previously registered with the school. Please complete the information on the student data form and return to school. Please keep us informed of student information changes. If there is a change in home, work or cell phone number, please report this to the office as soon as possible.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL TIME FOR STUDENTS

Tardy Bell	8:45 A.M.	Day Care Pickup	3:35 P.M.
		Walkers	3:35 P.M.
		Parent Pickups	3:35 P.M.
		Buses	3:35 P.M.

During the first week, teachers will record the manner in which students arrive and depart from school (walking, riding a bus, or being picked up). The school must receive written instruction in order to dismiss in any other manner. This should be done by 9:30 A.M. to minimize interruption of class instruction. **As per board policy, the school must receive written instruction in order to dismiss in any other manner. This should be done by 9:30 A.M. to minimize interruption of class instruction.**

Students who are transported to school by parents must be dropped off and picked up in the drop-off zone. To facilitate a safe and smooth traffic pattern, parents are asked to observe all traffic signs and not to leave their cars unattended in the drive-through area. Students are not allowed to exit through any gate unless there is an adult in attendance. Parents are requested not to ask their children to cross through traffic.

School hours are from 8:45 A.M. to 3:35 P.M. Students may be dropped off between 8:15 A.M. and 8:45 A.M. Please make every effort to have your children at school on time. Students must be picked up between 3:35 P.M. and 3:50 P.M. **The school provides no supervision before 8:15 A.M. or after 3:50 P.M.**

During the school day, students must be picked up and signed out from the office. No students will be released from a classroom. Students will be released only to those persons designated by the parent.

Students will not be released from class before dismissal except in the case of an extreme emergency. Students will not be called from class after 2:40 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The full attendance policy can be located in the School Board documents: Attendance Policy 5.40
<https://www.boarddocs.com/fl/stlucie/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies#>.

School attendance is a prerequisite for student achievement. Students are expected to attend school daily and to be on time. When a student accumulates five unexcused tardies, or early pick-ups, it will be counted as one unexcused absence. Poor attendance or persistent tardiness will show itself in poor school progress. Please call 468-5302 when your child is ill and will miss school.

Every effort should be made to schedule medical and dental appointments after school hours or during summer vacation. Every effort should be made to take vacations only during scheduled school breaks.

Students who receive a suspension of bus privileges are expected to attend school and parents are required to provide transportation.

Students who arrive at school **after 8:45 A.M.** are tardy and must report to the office with their parent/guardian before going to their classroom. Please make every effort to have your child arrive on time.

Excused Absences

Absences for the following reasons are excused when an explanation is provided by the parent within 3 days of the students return or by the student's physician, when the physician authorization policy threshold has been reached:

- (1.) Illness of the student
- (2.) Major illness in the immediate family of the student that requires the student to miss school
- (3.) Medical appointments of the student
- (4.) Death of family member or friend
- (5.) Required court appearance
- (6.) A religious holiday of the specific faith of the student or the student's immediate family
- (7.) Subpoena or forced absence by any law enforcement agency to fulfill civic duties; a copy of the subpoena or court summons is required
- (8.) Major disaster that would justify the absence that has been approved by the principal
- (9.) Head lice, maximum of two excused days per incident with a maximum of two incidents per semester
- (10.) Missing the school bus when the bus is more than 5 minutes early or more than 15 minutes late or is not able to make the route.
- (11.) Other planned absences approved in advance by the principal
- (12.) Vacation travel or family outing/activity where the student has accumulated fewer than 10 excused absences or 5 unexcused absences in a semester. The principal can excuse vacation travel that exceeds this threshold after considering the student's attendance history, academic performance, mastery of the curriculum, and reason for the travel.

Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences are all failures to attend school other than those specifically excused by the principal or designees.

- (1.) Truancy or out-of-school suspensions.
- (2.) Vacation travel where the student has accumulated more than 10 excused or 5 unexcused absences within a semester and the travel has not been approved in advance by the principal with the principal considering the student's attendance history, academic performance, mastery of the curriculum, and reason for the travel.
- (3.) Failure to provide an explanation of the absence to school. The Department of Student Services can, after investigation, advise the school to excuse absence(s) after the 3 days have passed. Physician explanations for absences that are received after the 3-day period will also authorize the school to excuse the absence.
- (4.) Missing the school bus if the bus is less than 5 minutes early or less than 15 minutes late.
- (5.) Non-attendance for immunization non-compliance
- (6.) Non-attendance due to head lice that exceeds two days per incident and/or exceeds two incidents per semester. Students who return to school with lice or nits and who are sent home that same day or who remain in the clinic/office will not be counted as "in-attendance" and will have the absence unexcused.

Tardy

A student is considered tardy if they are absent at the beginning of the day or if they leave school before the scheduled release time. Tardies will be either excused or unexcused. Acceptable documentation to excuse a tardy is the same as those to excuse an absence.

Early Pick Up

Students in grades K – 5 who are picked up from school prior to the end of the day will be marked as tardy for the day. The tardy will either be excused or unexcused. The tardy will be excused if the parent provides written documentation that the needs to leave school early was for the same reasons that an absence from school would be excused. For all students in grades K -12, once the student has accumulated 3 excused tardies or absences due to leaving school early for medical/dental reasons within a semester, the parent must provide documentation from a physician that the student had a medical/dental appointment for subsequent class absences or tardies to be excused. The school principal or designee can approve an early pick-up or release beyond these limits after taking into consideration the reason as well as the student's attendance history, both daily and by period, and the number of early releases

BICYCLE PARKING

There is a fenced area provided to lock up student bicycles. While the school provides this area, we cannot assume responsibility for lost, damaged, or stolen bicycles. It is imperative that each child has a lock for his/her bicycle if brought to school.

BIRTHDAY AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS

In order to maintain an academic focus in our classrooms, we request that families follow these guidelines:

- ☺ **Store bought** cookies or cupcakes may be brought in (with teacher's approval) and shared with the class at their regular lunch time only. They are to be consumed in the cafeteria.
- ☺ Invitations to private parties may be given out in school (with teacher's permission and at the end of the day) **only** if all children in the class are included.
- ☺ Please keep all party balloons, hats and other decorations at home.

BOOK BAGS

Book bags should be used solely for transporting necessary books and school supplies. Book bags on wheels must be actual book bags with back straps (not totes) and must be worn as bookbags in the hallways.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAM

"All St. Lucie Public School students will receive breakfast and lunch at no cost the 2025-2026 school year. Meals will be served according to USDA guidelines so that both students and staff remain safe. Specific meal service procedures are located on our district website at www.stlucieschools.org under the parent/student tab."

BULLYING POLICY AND COMPLAINT FORMS

Bullying and harassment are prohibited. It is the policy of the St. Lucie County School District that all of its students and school employees have an educational setting that is safe, secure, and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. The district will not tolerate bullying and harassment of any type. Conduct that constitutes bullying and harassment, as defined in this policy, is prohibited.

Bullying Policy 3.43 can be found at <http://www.boarddocs.com/fl/stlucie/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies#>

Bullying Complaint Forms can be found in the Parents and Students section of the district's website at <http://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/pdf/forms/STS0114A.pdf>, or can be located in the front office.

BUS DISCIPLINE

1. All students are expected to always display appropriate behavior on the bus. Please see Bus Rules on transportation website.
2. Prior to any referral for discipline reasons, the driver may attempt to make contact with the parents and issue an incident report.

Any inappropriate behavior while under the bus driver's supervision including at the bus stop, will come under the guidelines outlined in the Code of Conduct.

A SEVERE BEHAVIOR OFFENSE, SUCH AS FIGHTING, THROWING THINGS FROM THE BUS OR OTHER ACTIONS THAT RESULT IN BEING REMOVED FROM THE BUS BY SECURITY WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC BUS SUSPENSION EVEN IF IT IS THE FIRST REFERRAL.

Any student suspended from a particular bus is suspended from all St. Lucie County School buses. This includes field trip buses.

BUS RULES

Annually as required, the School Board shall develop and adopt rules to govern the conduct of students while walking to or from and waiting at district bus stops, and while traveling on district buses. These bus rules for students shall be incorporated into the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is available on the district website and can be provided to families in a separate booklet upon request.

BUS STUDENTS

If a regular bus student is not to ride the bus on any one afternoon, the teacher must receive a WRITTEN NOTE specifying how the student will be going home, and the note must be presented to the teacher first thing in the morning. Requests to ride a different bus for the day must be made in writing, approved by transportation and approved by an administrator prior to the change of transportation. St. Lucie School Board Policy states that exceptions to riding regularly assigned buses "shall be approved in writing by the School Principal on request of the parent or guardian".

CANDY AND GUM

Gum is **NOT** allowed at school. Candy is allowed only as a part of a packed school lunch; however, its inclusion should be discouraged. Milk, juice and water are available for purchase in the school cafeteria.

CELL PHONE USE

Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, elementary and middle school students are not permitted to use a wireless communication device including cell phones during the school day.

In accordance with new legislation recently signed into law, students may not use their cell phones or wireless communication devices at school throughout the entire school day including during lunch or class changes.

Allowable Exceptions:

Students may only use their cell phone or wireless communication device during the school day for the following reasons;

1. If authorized by a school administrator in the front office or clinic.
2. If a physician licensed under Chapter 458 or Chapter 459 has certified in writing that it is necessary based on clinical reasoning or evidence or,
In accordance with
3. The student's Individual Education Plan or,
4. The students 504 Plan under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Please see the student Code of Conduct for additional information related to violating this policy.

CHAMPs

CHAMPs Expectations

Conversation

Help

Activity

Movement

Participation

Success

CHANGE OF CLOTHING

All prekindergarten and kindergarten students have a change of clothing in a zip lock bag placed in their backpack daily.

CLINIC

Students who become ill or need first aid will be sent to the clinic. You will be notified if your child is sent to the clinic with a written note or a phone call if the situation requires your immediate attention. It is essential that an emergency number be provided for each child and that any changes in work or home phone numbers are reported to the office.

Administration of Prescribed Medication: Written parental consent, authorized by a physician, must be provided if you wish the nurse to dispense medication. Contact the school health paraprofessional for more information.

Administration of Non-Prescribed Medication: Students may not bring non-prescription medications to school, including cough drops. Should it be necessary for the child to have non-prescription medication at the school site, a doctor's prescription is still required, and the medicine must be presented to the health paraprofessional for safe keeping. Any medicine can be given at school only by doctor's prescription. Please communicate with our health paraprofessional concerning headache medication.

Health Screenings: In accordance with Florida Statute, the School Board of St. Lucie County, in cooperation with the St. Lucie County Health Department will conduct health screening activities for selected students during the school year. The health screening activities are vision, hearing, growth/development and scoliosis. You will be informed, in writing, if your child fails to meet screening standards and will be encouraged to seek additional professional assistance.

If you do not want your child to participate in the School Health Services Program, please notify the school in writing and include your child's name and grade.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All students at Weatherbee Elementary are governed by the St. Lucie County Code of Conduct which is available to view on our district webpage www.stlucie.k12.fl.us. If you would like to obtain a written copy, please notify the school in writing and include your child's name and grade.

COMPUTER, NETWORK AND INTERNET USE POLICY

Overview

The district provides its students access to a multitude of technological resources to enhance and extend the learning experience. These resources provide opportunities to enhance learning and improve communication within our community and with the global community beyond our campus. The advantages of having access to these resources are far greater than any potential downside. However, with the privilege of access is the responsibility of students to exercise appropriate personal responsibility in their use of these resources. This District Policy is intended to promote the most effective, safe, productive, and instructionally sound uses of networked information and communication tools. The district also makes a good faith effort to protect its students from exposure to internet materials that are harmful or explicit. The district maintains a system of internet content filtering devices and software controls to block obscene and pornographic materials and materials that are harmful to, or otherwise inappropriate for, minors that meet federal standards established in the Children's Internet Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. 254(h),(1), as amended (CIPA). Nevertheless, it is impossible to control all materials available on the internet, and users will be responsible for ensuring that their use meets the Policy established herein.

Digital Citizen

Student users of the district's computer, network, and internet resources shall use information and technology in safe, legal, and responsible ways. A responsible digital citizen is one who:

1. **Respects One's Self:** Users will select online names that are appropriate and will consider the information and images that are posted online.
2. **Respects Others:** Users will refrain from using technologies to bully, tease or harass other people.
3. **Protects One's Self and Others:** Users will protect themselves and others by reporting abuse and not forwarding inappropriate materials or communications.
4. **Respects Intellectual Property:** Users will cite any and all use of websites, books, media, etc.
5. **Protects Intellectual Property:** Users will request to use the software and media others produce.

Expectations

Responsible use of the district's technology resources is expected to be ethical, respectful, academically honest, and supportive of the school's mission. Each computer user has the responsibility to respect every other person in our community and on the internet. Digital storage and electronic devices used for school purposes will be treated as extensions of the physical school space. Administrators, or their designees, will periodically monitor the online activities of users and computer files to ensure that users are using the system in accordance with District policy. No user of the district's networks shall have an expectation of privacy in his/her use. Users should not expect that electronic communications made or received on District networks, internet searches on District networks, or files stored on servers or disks will be private. Users also should understand that internet activity is recorded in log files. Users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. The following Policy is intended to clarify expectations for conduct, but they should not be construed as all-inclusive.

1. Use of electronic devices should be consistent with the district's educational objectives, mission and curriculum.
2. Inappropriate use includes, but is not limited to, (1) texting, phoning, or web browsing during prohibited times; (2) taping conversations, music, or other audio at any time; (3) photography or videography of any kind; and (4) any activity that could in any manner infringe upon the rights of other individuals, including but not limited to students, teachers, and staff members.
3. Transmission of any material in violation of any local, federal or state laws is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, licensed material and threatening or obscene material.
4. Intentional or unintentional use of computing resources to access or process, proxy sites, pornographic material, explicit text or files, or files dangerous to the integrity of the network is strictly prohibited.
5. Software and/or services may not be installed or downloaded on school devices without prior approval of the Superintendent or designee.
6. Any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the internet or other networks, is strictly prohibited. This includes but is not limited to creating and/or uploading computer viruses.
7. Unauthorized access to information by unauthorized recipients or "hacking" is strictly prohibited. This would include intentionally bypassing any internet filtering devices.
8. Use of electronic devices to bully or harass, as defined in Policy 3.43 included in Appendix A hereto, is strictly prohibited.
9. Student internet interpersonal communications (e.g., chat room, instant messaging, blogging, Wiki) requires authorization of a teacher or administrator.
10. Users may be held personally and financially responsible for malicious or intentional damage done to network software, data, user accounts, hardware and/or unauthorized costs incurred.
11. Files stored on District-managed networks are the property of the district and, as such, may be inspected at any time and should not be considered private. Materials published for electronic publication must be for educational purposes. School administrators, teachers and staff may monitor these materials to ensure compliance with content standards.
12. Users who accidentally access inappropriate material or witness another user accessing inappropriate material, shall immediately notify their teacher or school administrator.

Policy Violations

Violating any portion of this Policy may result in disciplinary action as provided in this Code. A student may be disciplined under the Code for expressive off-campus conduct such as e-mails or postings on social media like Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Blogs, etc.) where (1) such conduct would foreseeable create a risk of material and substantial disruptions within the school environment, (2) it was reasonably foreseeable that the off-campus expression might reach campus, and (3) the conduct did create a material and substantial disruption within the school environment. Disciplinary action shall be proportional to the offense. **Some violations may constitute criminal offenses and may result in legal action.** The School District will cooperate with law enforcement officers in investigations related to illegal activities conducted through its network.

CONCERNS/GUIDELINES IN RESOLVING SCHOOL RELATED PROBLEMS

It is our sincere belief that the large majority of misunderstandings and problems can be resolved through discussion between the parent and the teacher and/or other appropriate school personnel. These guidelines are designed to provide a “step-by-step” procedure for parents when they are attempting to resolve a misunderstanding or problem. You should make every effort to gather accurate facts before contacting the school. It may help to have the concern described in writing. If the concern is not resolved to your satisfaction after meeting or talking with the teacher, you should go to the next step.

- I. Schedule an appointment with your child’s teacher.
- II. Call the school counselor and ask him/her to establish a conference with the appropriate person at a mutually agreeable time.
- III. Schedule a conference with the principal.
- IV. If you have exhausted all possibilities at the school level, the principal will advise you of the appropriate person at the county level to contact.

We are pleased that most concerns are satisfactorily resolved at step one. The other steps are provided for you as additional means of resolving your problems or concerns. Misunderstandings and problems will more likely be resolved if they are approached in a positive and courteous manner with recommendations that are realistic.

Your school staff is here to do the best job possible with your child. We can provide many educational opportunities, but it is done best when we work together in partnership, as parents and teachers.

CONFERENCES

You are encouraged to visit our school and conference with teachers, the school counselor, and/or administrators. We request that you notify us **twenty-four hours** in advance for a conference. This is a county-wide policy as negotiated with the Classroom Teachers’ Association.

When parents and teachers work together, they make an unbeatable team. Parent conferences can help build the teamwork that helps children learn better.

Some planning by parents can help make conferences a success.

Before the Conference

Come in with a positive attitude. Conferences are not about placing blame. They are meant to pinpoint and improve weak areas as well as defining and praising the strong areas. Remember this is a team effort.

Please be on time. Because there is a time limit on conferences, being punctual aids both teachers and parents.

Think about what you want to learn in the conference. Prepare some questions. For example:

- ☆ Does my child usually turn in homework?
- ☆ Does my child use time well? Does he/she have good work habits?

- ☆ How well does he/she get along with others?
- ☆ What can I do at home to support what you are doing? How can I help my child?

Talk to your child. Ask what he/she thinks the teacher will say. Ask if he/she has any concerns.

During the conference

Be prepared to talk and listen. Tell the teacher what you see at home. Talk about your child's interests. Tactfully talk about your concerns. Be sure to let the teacher know about anything that might affect your child's learning.

Ask the teacher to explain anything you don't understand. Special programs for children are sometimes referred to by their initials.

Use your time wisely. Try to avoid lengthy subject matter that would not pertain to your child's learning.

Take notes to share later with your child and/or spouse. Talk with your child about what was discussed in the conference. Remember to "accentuate the positive".

After the conference

Follow up. Stay in touch with the teacher. If you think of a question you didn't ask, write a note or call the teacher and leave a message. The teacher will get back to you as soon as possible.

CONFISCATED ITEMS

Students should bring to school only items necessary for education. Toys, radios, watches with games, alarms, electronic games, any recording devices, etc. are not allowed and will be confiscated and sent to the office. Cell Phones that are on and/or not put away will be confiscated. These items may only be retrieved by parents or guardians after a conference with an administrator. The school is not responsible if these items are lost or misplaced. This rule also applies to bringing such items on field trips.

Any item that is a weapon or that could be construed as a weapon will be turned over to the School Resource Officer/Sheriff's Deputy for determination as to criminal intent. Parents, please stress with your child(ren) that knives of any type are not allowed on school property (including school buses).

CURRICULUM

Students will receive instruction in all areas of the curriculum and be graded for progress in these areas. They will include reading and language arts (which include spelling, handwriting, English, speaking, and writing or composition), mathematics, science and health, and social studies. Music education and physical education will be taught and graded as well. Classroom conduct and personal development will be graded for progress for each nine-week marking period.

State Law permits the suspension of all curriculums except reading, math and science for those students who are having difficulty mastering the basic skills. You will be informed and asked to be involved if this strategy is recommended for your child.

DISCIPLINE

The Code of Conduct of St. Lucie County Schools provides guidelines for all students and parents. The schools in St. Lucie County have a zero-tolerance policy for weapons and unauthorized materials. In addition, it is the policy of the St. Lucie County School District that all of its students and school employees have an educational setting that is safe, secure, and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. The district will not tolerate bullying and harassment of any type. Conduct that constitutes bullying and harassment, as defined in this policy, is prohibited.

The following is Weatherbee Elementary's Discipline Policy and Procedures Plan. We stress the importance for every parent to read and share the plan with his/her child. Teachers have discussed the plan with students and teach the expectations and consequences on a regular basis. If you have any questions, please contact a school administrator at 468-5300.

At Weatherbee Elementary, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a collaborative, proactive, systematic approach to teaching students expected/acceptable behavior as well as a functional process to developing effective interventions for inappropriate behavior. Our PBIS Core Team is representative of the entire school staff and formed of administrators, a school counselor, behavior technician, primary and intermediate teachers and ESE teacher. The team has received training on each component of PBIS developed and/or reviewed each step of the process and presented it to the staff before implementation. The PBIS plan has also been presented to the School Advisory Council for their feedback and suggestions.

The goal of the team is to develop a system that facilitates positive behavior change in our students and staff. The system's goal is to reduce the number of inappropriate behaviors occurring across campus by educating students and staff and by reinforcing appropriate behaviors. The role of the PBIS team is to develop, review and maintain a school-wide PBIS plan. A consistent discipline referral and procedures process has been developed throughout the school. Use of school-wide expectations and rules in specific settings are established to teach students appropriate behaviors. A reward system to encourage appropriate behavior and effective consequences to discourage inappropriate behaviors is also in place.

PBIS is an ongoing process that is evaluated to determine the need for adaptations. The PBIS Core team meets on at least a monthly basis to analyze discipline data and make meaningful, strategic decisions. Staff and students are also surveyed for their input. This information is used to develop effective interventions to decrease inappropriate behavior and increase desired behavior across the campus.

Weatherbee Elementary's school-wide PBIS plan ensures that children have the opportunity to develop the skills and behaviors that will enable them to realize success as responsible adults. The plan focuses on four major expectations with specific behaviors for each as presented in the *S.A.I.L. Expectations and Rules Matrix* below:

S.A.I.L. is an acronym for

Self-Control,
Acts Responsibly,
Is Respectful
Learn.

Standards have been developed that will help students accept responsibility for their behaviors. This plan also encourages parents to become actively involved in the education of their children.

On a daily basis students are recognized for demonstrating the S.A.I.L. expectations through verbal praise and rewarding of Mariner Money. The Mariner Money is used to purchase various incentives such as a pencil, small toy, extra computer time or participation in a monthly school-wide event. Classes are also recognized when each student in a class demonstrates the S.A.I.L. expectations by earning Class Conch Coins. These Conch Coins are used to reward student behavior with rewards such as a pizza party, ice cream party, or additional outside time.

S.A. I. L. Expectations and Rules Matrix

Expectations	Cafeteria Rules	Hallway Rules	PE/Playground Rules	Classroom Rules	Pick- up Area Rules
<u>S</u> elf-Control	Stay seated with hands, feet and objects to self	Use the WBE walk. Silently walk on brown line with hands behind your back CHAMP's Expectations is conversation Level 0	Keep hands, feet and objects to self	Keep hands, feet and objects to self Use appropriate language	Use the WBE Walk, Walk on the brown line with your hands behind your back. CHAMP's Expectations is Conversation Level 0
<u>A</u> cts Responsibly	Keep your area clean leave food and drink in cafeteria	Go directly to your destination	Use equipment as directed by adult Remain in designated area	Arrive with proper supplies Complete task as directed	Remain seated until dismissed by an adult
<u>I</u> s Respectful	Wait your turn in line "W" hand signal = Level 0 conversation	Use a hall pass Uses "W" hand signal	Line up when signaled, using the "W" hand signal	Follow directions the first time asked Follow CHAMP's Expectations	Use a quiet voice CHAMP's Expectations is Conversation Levels 0-2
<u>L</u> earn	Know your lunch number	Read quietly during arrival	Follow the rules of the activity	Complete all assignments to the best of your ability Return completed work	Listen to directions and watch for your car

"Teachers have the right to teach; students have the right to learn." It is our belief that teaching and appropriate learning are limited when a student is allowed to be disruptive. Your understanding and support of this plan is essential to its success. Teacher and parent communications are key elements. It is important that the school is provided up-to-date telephone numbers for home and work. This is necessary for emergencies as well as for the behavior plan.

Acceptable behavioral development is a vital and necessary part of each child's education. It requires the help and cooperation of parents, teachers, administration, and of course, the child.

WE BELIEVE

1. Children learn best in a positive, well-organized, stimulating classroom, school and home environment.
2. No child should be allowed to continually disrupt the learning environment of other children.
3. The help of the parents/guardians is essential in overcoming behavioral problems.
4. Children are inherently good; only behaviors are "inappropriate".
5. There is a high correlation between self-concept and behavior.
6. Consistency in dealing with children is important.
7. Success breeds success.

For severe and/or recurring discipline, parents/guardians will be expected to be involved in helping the students improve/correct his/her behavior. Once assistance is requested from an administrator, the child may serve time in the school office or behavior room.

CHAMPs Expectations

During the 2009-2010 school year, Weatherbee Elementary incorporated the CHAMPs Program into the daily guidelines of student expectations school-wide. We will continue with the use of CHAMPs for the 2023-2024 school year as it has proven to increase focus and therefore achievement.

Each letter serves as a reminder to students of the type of behavior that should be seen in any given situation so that maximum learning as well as a safe and caring environment will be displayed. Please review these basic CHAMPs expectations with your child as we move through the school year in order to ensure the greatest learning experience for your child.

C = Conversation (At what voice level should I be speaking?)

H = Help (How do I signal that I need help during this activity?)

A = Activity (What activity are we participating in at this time?)

M = Movement (What movement is permitted during this activity?)

P = Participation (How will others know I am participating in an appropriate manner during this activity?)

S = Success with S.A.I.L.

Kids at Hope

Weatherbee implemented the Kids at Hope belief system in 2010. Kids at Hope is not a program but is a vision for our future – a belief system that, once embedded in the culture of the school, enhances the school's existing programs. We believe that all children are capable of success and that they have wonderful potential for a bright future. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Adult community members, parents and friends are asked to become involved as mentors and supporters of our students as a part of Kids at Hope.

WEATHERBEE ELEMENTARY SEVERITY CLAUSE

An administrator and Law Enforcement will be notified immediately for the following:

- ☒ Stealing
- ☒ Weapons
- ☒ Threatening
- ☒ Vandalism
- ☒ Extortion
- ☒ Inappropriate racial or sexual language
- ☒ Intentionally causing injury to someone or self
- ☒ Other deliberate action to inflict harm upon others

WEATHERBEE ELEMENTARY RECOGNITION PLAN

Recognition for appropriate behavior is a vital component of our discipline plan. Students receive recognition at the school-wide, classroom and individual level. This will also be achieved by recognizing Mariners of the Month, conducting assemblies, and providing verbal and written praise for outstanding students. Students are also rewarded when they recognize that they personally contribute to making Weatherbee Elementary a special place where each person is valued and where excellence in performance is the goal. Students in grades 3-5 will be recognized each nine weeks for Honor Roll.

DRESS CODE (APPEARANCE)

The Weatherbee Elementary School Advisory Council along with district input developed the following student uniform policy and standards. We believe there is a direct relationship between a student's attire and classroom behavior, attitude and achievement. Research has proven that students who follow a uniform dress code have fewer discipline problems, greater academic achievement, greater self-esteem, and school pride. Therefore, we are requiring students to wear clothing that is comfortable, clean, safe, and appropriate for an elementary school. This uniform dress code has been designed to promote safety and positive attitude.

Weatherbee Elementary School Student Dress Code 2025-2026

	Yes ☺	No ☹
Shirts	• Solid and plain collared polo shirt (short or long sleeved) in any color • Solid colored long sleeve shirt worn under collared shirt (when cold) • Weatherbee T-shirt (Fridays only) • 'Peter Pan' Collared shirt w/sleeves under uniform jumpers	• Shirt with logo or writing other than Weatherbee logo, striped, print, or plaid shirts • T-Shirts (except school t-shirt on Fridays) • Long sleeve undershirts that are not solid color and plain
Shorts	• Solid navy, black or khaki uniform shorts worn at the waist	• Jean shorts • Cut-offs • Any shorts more than 3" above or below the knee
Shoes/Socks	• Sneakers • Low heeled, closed-toed shoes with a back • <u>Solid</u> color socks • <u>Solid</u> color <u>tights under skirts/dresses</u>	• Shoes with wheels, lights, or sound • Flip flops, soft plastic shoes or sandals • Shoes with cleats • Crocs • Boots
Jackets	• <u>Solid</u> colored open front hoodie, sweatshirt or sweater with zipper, buttons, or snaps • Heavy jackets for <u>outside use/transitions only on cold days</u> (55 degrees and lower)	• Sweatshirt/Jackets/Sweaters with writing, pictures, or logo designs • Shirt worn as a jacket • Hoods may not be worn inside • Gloves and Beanies will be removed indoors
Pants	• Solid navy, black or khaki uniform pants • Standard solid <u>blue</u> jeans (no other colors) • Worn at the waist	• Fad, embroidered, faded, or jeans with designs • Leggings • Frayed, holes, ripped pants/designs, or overly baggy • colored jeans • Sweatpants or pajama pants
Hair	• Well groomed • Natural colors only • Out of face • Non-distracting • Flat head bands	• Fairy/glitter hair • Hair that is not a natural color
Dresses & Skirts	• Navy or Khaki skirts or jumpers (no plaid/patterns or embellishments) • Solid and plain colored dresses with collars and sleeves	• Dresses or skirts shorter than 3" inches above the knee • Dresses, skorts, or skirts shorter than 3" inches below the knee

Misc.	- Jewelry and nails must be non-distracting (nails may not exceed ½" total length) - Masks may be worn as needed but must be solid color and plain (no writing/pictures/logos)	- Wearable smart devices - Tattoos/temporary tattoos - Artificial nails/Acrylic nails - Make-up - No piercings other than ears - No arm sleeves
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Non-Compliance of uniform dress code policy:

1 st time	Verbal warning
2 nd time	Phone call home by office/dean
3 rd time	- Note goes home from classroom to be returned to teacher - A phone call home by staff if not returned signed the next day
4 th time	Student is sent to office and call home for appropriate attire to be brought to school (only if previous parental contact has been made as described above)
5 th time	- Lunch detention (with previous documentation of parental contact) - Repeated each time student is out of dress code for remainder of year - No participation in school wide FREE dress code days

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Today, your child _____ was not in compliance with our school dress code. Please refer to the highlighted portion on the reverse side of an outline of what is acceptable and not acceptable clothing for Weatherbee Elementary. As a reminder, uniforms are required to be worn every day. If this should continue, we will need to take further action.

If you need assistance with this matter, please contact the front office at (772) 468-5300. Thank you.

Dress Code Violation

Incident # _____

Teacher: _____

Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS

Certain days of each month are set aside as early dismissal days. On these days, school is dismissed at 1:35 P.M. These days will be designated on the calendar located in the front of the handbook and on the school's website.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Periodically, fire, lockdown, and disaster drills are held to teach emergency procedures so reaction to any emergency will be orderly and not result in panic. You may want to ask your child to share the information he/she learned during a drill with the entire family for at-home safety.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips of educational value are your child's educational highlights. Students may participate in field trips only with written permission from their parents. For each field trip, a form is provided for permission with a space for parent/guardian signature. These forms **MUST** be signed by the parent or guardian and returned to the classroom teacher. Chaperones are also necessary for field trips to take place and a ratio of one adult per eight students is required. If enough chaperones are not available, field trips may need to be canceled. We welcome parents as chaperones but cannot allow other children in the family (i.e. preschoolers) to participate. **All field trip chaperones MUST be registered school volunteers 2 weeks in advance per our district policy.** District volunteer applications may be completed online via our district website or in our school office. Please plan to complete this application well in advance of the field trip in order to ensure the application process is complete before the day of the field trip. This application process needs to be completed every year. If you need to inquire as to whether you are a current and approved volunteer, please call the front office at 468-5300. Please note that if a child has been suspended from the bus, he/she is also suspended from riding a field trip bus.

GRADING SYSTEM

- In grades K-2, the indicators are:
 - 4 Above standard/demonstrates more than 90% of the time/Exceptional
 - 3 At standard/demonstrates 80% of the time/Proficient
 - 2 Approaching standard/demonstrates 70% of the time/Progressing
 - 1 Below standard/demonstrates less than 60% of the time/Beginning
 - Not Attempted
- Students in grades 3-12 will be awarded letter grades to indicate student progress.

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Grade Point Average</i>	<i>Definition</i>
A	90-100	4	outstanding progress
B	80-89	3	above average progress
C	70-79	2	average progress
D	60-69	1	lowest acceptable progress
F	0-59	0	failure
I	0	0	Incomplete*
W	N/A	N/A	withdrawn Dual Enrollment

*A student who receives an incomplete must complete the work within the guidelines of the make-up work policy contained herein. If the student does not make-up all work by the designated period of time, then for any missing work a grade of Zero will be entered by the teacher and the final grade will be calculated. NOTE: the "I" will calculate as a Zero on the report card until the "I" is replaced with a grade. At that time an adjusted GPA will be calculated for the student.

Make-Up Work

K- 12	*Allowed for all absences, excused or unexcused *Students have <u>1 day</u> to make up the work for each day absent, not including the day of return, unless the principal approves an extension due to unusual circumstances. Previously assigned work is due on the day the student returns to school. *All work, regardless of the number of days absent, must be made up on or before grades are due in the final quarter of the school year. *Students whose work is turned in after the end of the grading period for quarters one through three, will receive an "I" or incomplete. If the work is turned in on-time, the student will receive the grade for the work (see grade provisions for students in grades 9 -12 below) *Incomplete grades become "F" or "0" if not replaced with the grade for the makeup work that was turned in on time * Students will take announced tests on first day of return to school. Student will be allowed 2-days to prepare for tests assigned during the absence
K -5 Provisions	*Teacher will inform student/parent of work to be made up as specifically as plans will allow, but is not expected to develop special assignments *Graded at full credit

Honor Roll- Intermediate

Students in grades 3-5 may receive one or more awards which may include Principal's Honor Roll, A-B Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance and/or Special Effort. The following are the approved criteria for each award:

- Principal's Honor Roll – Student must make A's in all areas including Subject Areas, Resource Classes and **Student Conduct**. A grade of "B" or lower in any area will result with the individual not qualifying for this award.
- A-B Honor Roll – Students must make A's or B's in all areas including Subject Areas, Resource Classes and **Student Conduct**. A grade of "C" or lower in any area will result with the individual not qualifying for this award.

GUIDANCE

The school counselors serve our students by working with parents, teachers, and administrators to assist in the academic, social or emotional concerns of the children. Individual and small group counseling, as well as classroom guidance are scheduled throughout the year. The school counselor also serves as the school testing coordinator and ESOL Contact.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework should be kept to a minimum (read with your child every night, complete i-Ready in reading and math, and practice important reading and math facts).

At the beginning of each year, homework procedures specific to the teacher will be reviewed with the students. Please feel free to call your child's teacher if you have questions about the homework policies or assignments.

LOST AND FOUND

The lost and found department is located in the school office. It would be extremely helpful if labels were placed on all belongings (lunch box, sweater, book bag, etc.) with your child's name and the name of his or her teacher. Items unclaimed for more than thirty days in the lost and found will be donated to charity.

MEDIA

Weatherbee Elementary is served by a media specialist and a media clerk. Our school's media center continues to be the heart of the entire school program by providing equipment, materials, and learning opportunities for students, faculty, and staff. The media specialist offers classroom instruction as well as maintaining an open access policy for students. The Media Center also houses a "Parent Lending Library" section with materials parents may check out.

MESSAGES, TELEPHONE CALLS, AND DELIVERIES

Students will not be permitted to use the office phone for personal calls except in case of emergency and with staff permission. In the event a student receives a call, he/she will be called out of class only in the case of an emergency. Messages must be called in no later than 2:50 P.M. to ensure delivery. Therefore, messages and/or forgotten items should be brought to the front office. We will pass the items/message to the child during a transition time.

MUSIC

Kindergarten through fifth grade students receive music instruction on a regular basis. The music teacher also assists classes in special program presentations.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

This program encourages community and business partnerships which will enhance the learning environment. Any parent that has a business that would like to participate is invited to contact the office.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students, kindergarten through fifth grade receive physical education instruction on a daily basis by their classroom teacher and weekly by a certified physical education teacher.

If your child needs to be excused from participating in physical education for a day, please send a note to the physical education instructor. In order for students to be exempt for a longer period, a doctor's statement will need to be placed on file in the office.

A student who by reason of extended illness or disability is unable to participate in a physical education activity shall be assigned to an alternative activity upon the request of a parent, accompanied by documentation from the attending physician when the condition is extended or not readily apparent. Credit shall be awarded commensurate with the St. Lucie County Pupil Progression Plan.

PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS Grades K-5

Student promotion in St. Lucie County is based upon evaluation of each student's achievement in terms of appropriate instructional goals. The determination should reflect teacher judgment based upon the following:

- Successful progress in the county adopted curriculum
- Progress monitoring
- Classroom assignments
- Daily observation
- Standardized tests
- Other objective data.

Promotion for a student transferring into the district during the last 45 days will be based on:

- Evidence of passing grades reflected on the official report card along with grades earned while in membership.
- recommendation from previous school

The principal will make the final decision concerning promotion.

Mandatory Retention of 3rd Grade Students:

Mandatory retention is necessary for third grade students who score Level 1 on the state ELA assessment unless they qualify for Good Cause exemption or score at or above the identified percentile on district identified assessments.

Retention and promotion of third grade students will follow the Student Progression Plan guidelines.

PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND FOR STUDENTS IDENTIFIED AS GIFTED

The notice of these procedural safeguards for students with disabilities can be accessed by going to <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7690/urlt/0070135-procedural.pdf>.

The notice of these procedural safeguards for students identified as gifted can be accessed by going to <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7690/urlt/0070112-giftgard.pdf>.

If you are in need a copy, or have questions concerning your child, please contact the school at 772-468-5300.

PUPIL PROGRESSION

The purpose of the instructional program in the schools of St. Lucie County is to provide appropriate instructional and selected services to enable students to perform at or above their grade level academically. Promotion, however, is based primarily on student achievement and is not automatic. A student may not be promoted based on age or other factors that constitute social promotion.

Decisions regarding student promotion, retention and good cause placement are primarily the responsibility of the individual school's professional staff. The final decision in regard to grade placement is the responsibility of the principal.

REPORT CARDS

District-wide report cards will be sent home following the end of each of the nine-week periods. Parents are to read, discuss, sign, and return the report cards as soon as possible. Always feel free to call the school to schedule a conference with your child's teachers. It is the best way to understand how your child is progressing. Parents will also receive interim progress reports at the midpoint of each grading period.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE/SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM

The School Advisory Council is a committee that guides and oversees the implementation of a system of school improvement and accountability which results in educational excellence and the highest level of student learning. The primary focus of the School Advisory Council is to develop the School Improvement Plan and to prepare our children for the future. The team consists of parents, faculty and staff, community members, and business partners. Anyone interested in serving on the School Advisory Council should contact the school office.

SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL

Weatherbee Elementary selects fourth and fifth grade students as Safety Patrol members to assist students and parents. Patrol members help by providing assistance to parents and reminding students about the school rules and safety procedures. Students not obeying school rules will be reported to an adult supervisor or administrator for disciplinary action. We sincerely appreciate our safety patrol and ask that you show your appreciation by always giving them your full cooperation.

SKYWARD FAMILY ACCESS

The School Board of St. Lucie County has developed a parent portal system to allow our parents access to their child's semester grades, attendance, and other pertinent information. Please go to the St. Lucie County website and click on the Parents and Student tab. In the left column is the Skyward Family Access link. If you do not currently have access please see the school data specialist in the front office.

STUDENT/PARENT/SCHOOL COMPACT

Effective schools are the result of families and schools working together to ensure that children are successful in school. A compact has been designed to promote the family/school partnership and to encourage children's learning and success in school. The compact form is in the front of the Student Planner and on the school's website. **Please carefully read the compact, sign it, and return it to the school with your child.**

TEACHER CONTACT

Classrooms will not be interrupted to give messages to the teacher. If you need to contact one of the teachers, please call the office at 468-5300 and leave your name and phone number where you can be reached during the day as well as in the evening. Teachers are encouraged to check their boxes for messages and return calls as soon as they possibly can.

TEXTBOOKS

All textbooks are loaned to students for their use during the school year. It is requested that they be handled carefully and kept as clean as possible. Students will be required to pay for lost or damaged books.

A child who has lost a book will not be allowed to take home another book until payment for the first book has been received.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is provided at no cost to the families of each child who resides more than two miles from his or her school. This privilege is available as long as the child abides by the rules of safety and proper behavior. Serious or repeated offenses may cause bus privileges to be suspended which then places on the parent or guardian the responsibility for transporting the student to and from school.

Suspension from riding the bus does not mean suspension from school attendance.

VISITORS

All visitors to Weatherbee Elementary must report to the main office to obtain a visitor's pass through the Raptor System. Please bring your driver's license or government issued identification card.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

School volunteers are an essential part of the school program. Volunteers provide a variety of services from correcting papers to chaperoning field trips to tutoring individual students. Weatherbee Elementary has a strong and growing volunteer program. There is no better way to help your child succeed in school than to become involved in his/her education. The volunteer program offers parents, grandparents, college students, and any concerned adult the opportunity to make a difference. There are opportunities to work directly with students and staff or to work at home preparing materials or grading papers. We encourage you to consider volunteering this year. There are many ways to help! Please contact the school office for more information.

Student Volunteers Students who volunteer at a school cannot volunteer during school hours without consent from the school of the volunteer.

VOLUNTARY PRE-K PROGRAM

Weatherbee Elementary and the St. Lucie County School District Title 1 Office in partnership with the Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County offers a Free Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program. Your child must be four (4) years old on or before September 1 of the current school year.

WALKING STUDENTS TO CLASS

Parents of students may escort their child to class on the first day of school, if they desire. After that time period, we encourage development of independence and self-confidence by having students proceed on their own. Our school utilizes safety patrol members as well as staff members on duty to provide any needed assistance. We thank you for your cooperation.

WEBSITE

Weatherbee Elementary has a wonderful website that will help you keep up to date with the exciting events that are taking place at your child's school. Please visit us at **www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/wbe**.

FACEBOOK

Please follow us on Facebook!

WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENTS

Parents should complete withdrawal forms at the office before transferring a student. This helps expedite the transfer of a child's records.

Please read the District Student Progression Plan for more information regarding the Attendance Policies in the Saint Lucie County School District at www.stlucie.k12.fl.us

Student/Parent Copy



**St. Lucie County School District
Student/Parent Notification of Attendance Policies**

Florida State Statute 1003.24-*Each parent of a child within the compulsory attendance age is responsible for the child's school attendance as required by law. The absence of a student from school is prima facie evidence of a violation of this section; however, criminal prosecution under this chapter may not be brought against a parent until the provisions of s.1003.26 have been complied with.*

- Every absence will be listed as unexcused until the school receives a note within 3 days that has been signed by the parent and contains the following information: student's name, date of absences, reason for the absences, and a daytime telephone number.
- Tardies/early pickups will be excused or unexcused. Excused tardies/early pickups must meet the same criteria as an excused absence and must have a parent note.
- Once a student in grades K-12 has accumulated 3 excused tardies or absences due to leaving school early for medical/dental appointments within a semester, the parent must provide documentation from a physician that the student had a medical/dental appointment for subsequent class absences or tardies to be excused.
- A student diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and who has an appointment, partial day or full day with a health care practitioner to receive generally recognized services such as applied behavioral analysis, speech therapy, and occupational therapy will have the absence excused when the school is provided appropriate documentation (see student progression plan for further information).
- Students who have accumulated more than 10 excused or 5 unexcused absences in a semester, must have vacation travel approved by the principal in advance for the absences to be excused.
- Missing the bus is excused if the bus is more than 5 minutes early or more than 15 minutes late, as confirmed by the school.

Physician Authorization Requirement-A note from a physician containing the dates of the absences for which excuse is sought and the reason for the absence is required in the following circumstances:

- Student has accumulated a total of 10 excused or 5 unexcused absences within a semester, subsequent absences of 3 or more consecutive days may not be excused unless documentation is received demonstrating that attendance was impractical or inadvisable on account of sickness or injury, attested to by a written statement of a physician.
- Student has accumulated a total of 15 excused absences or 8 unexcused absences within the school year, subsequent absences of 2 or more consecutive days will not be excused unless: (a) the parent has on file with the school a statement from a licensed physician documenting the student's chronic medical condition and a valid release allowing the school to communicate with the physician, and/or (b) documentation is received demonstrating that attendance was impractical or inadvisable on account of sickness or injury, attested to by a written statement of a physician

Lack of attendance can result in court action-As required by law, truancy cases are filed in the Circuit Court in St. Lucie County. A Truancy Petition can be filed when a student has 5 unexcused absences in a calendar month or 10 unexcused absences in a 90-calendar day period. Truancy cases are official judicial cases. Penalties include, but are not limited to: monetary fines, jail time, student being placed in a shelter, community service and loss of custody. Middle and high school truancy cases may be also referred to CINS/FINS for intervention.

You may view your child's records (including attendance) online through Skyward Family Access, which may be activated at your child's school.