

August 2023-2024



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

New school years always excite me. We are the Northaven Stingers, [Northaven Elementary / Homepage \(scsk12.org\)](http://NorthavenElementary/Homepage(scsk12.org)) school time is 8:15 – 3:15. **Limit early checkouts to emergencies only.** I am here to support student learning and it is difficult without parent/caregiver support. There is a new state law that determines whether your child is promoted from grade 3 to 4. I need help, teachers can only do so much. Teaching works best when home and school work together. How do we do that? We do that by the teachers at school teaching and giving students the opportunity to practice what was learned at home.

*We do that by parents and caregivers checking backpacks, subscribing to our class Dojo Communications Page, by liking and sharing our social media page(s) by parent and caregivers looking at the monthly calendar that comes out, by opening that backpack yourself to find the Agenda Book then checking the date for assignments and the easiest best way of course is checking your power school account weekly.*

It is important to know how your child is doing at Northaven, I'm excited about this year I really want the children to learn to read. I have tasked my kindergarten and first grade teachers to ensure that every child is reading by at least February 2024, that will help us to better get children prepared for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade law regarding promotion—children must pass TCAP ELA and if your child is in 4<sup>th</sup> grade s/he must pass the TCAP to be promoted to grade 5. Remember the TCAP is a reading test and the better children read the higher they tend to score. That is why I am monitoring grades K & 1 for readers. Once a child learns to read all that is left to do is to build upon his or her ability, so it becomes a habit.

A large goal for me this year is to be more safety focused, if you want to help your child then monitor social media usage, look at their cell phone, take the cell phone from them, do not allow them to play video games during the week there are so many ways you can help your child but the biggest way is taking that telephone or not allowing video games, keeping them off social media during the week. Expect a communication about the MSCS cell phone policy.

Being safe is an on-going process. School visits begin and end at the main office, parents may come in as far as the main office. The main hall is off limits without permission. This year when checking out Pre-K we will bring the child to you at the office. Another part of being safe is not allowing parents to stand in the main hall during dismissal. Wait outside on the porch. Parent conferences, no conferences during instructional time. If you need to meet with the teacher, make an appointment by sending the teacher an e-mail, or you may email me, Louis Padgett at [padgett1@scsk12.org](mailto:padgett1@scsk12.org). If you don't like e-mail call and leave a message ph#901.416.2800. If you e-mail me, I will forward your e-mail to the teacher with instructions to call and/or arrange a convenient time for a conference. Teachers will not stop instructing to meet with parent/caregivers, no "at the door conferences." Those at the door conferences stop teaching time. Also do not be surprised if you arrive at the front door, press the button for entry and the office staff asks what is needed over the secure door entry video/audio device. Know that we are trying to see who wants to enter our building and the purpose of entry. Remember our world is not such a friendly place anymore. Expect a letter later explaining our safety protocols and drills and lockdown procedures.

Northaven is a Community School with a room for the community. Mrs. Layrock and Mrs. Clark are our Community Schools representatives—expect communication from them explaining the services offered and opportunities for parents and caregivers to interact, Room 1, is our Community Schools Room.

I encourage all to work alongside each other in support of students as they learn. In this work I am supported by Mrs. Comeshia Williams, [williamsc2@scsk12.org](mailto:williamsc2@scsk12.org) Professional Learning Coach and Courtney Jolly, Instructional Curriculum Coach [jollycl@scsk12.org](mailto:jollycl@scsk12.org) and Mrs. Patty Peters, Professional School Counselor, [peterspj@scsk12.org](mailto:peterspj@scsk12.org). We are all here working to make this year a learning year for students. Our goal is to work alongside families to support students. I want children to learn to be positive participants in our democratic way of life.

We are the Northaven Stingers 2023-2024.

Thank you for reading,

*Louis Padgett, III*

Louis Padgett, III  
principal

*Support our efforts to teach  
the children in this community.  
L.P. III*