



Delaware Elementary School
1505 S. Delaware Avenue, Springfield, MO 65804
417.523-3700 phone 417.523.3795 fax
Stephanie Young, Principal, syoung124@spsmail.org

Dear Parents,



Welcome to Explore 2018 at Delaware Elementary School! I am excited to meet your child and help shape their summer learning fun! My name is Stephanie Young, and I will serve as the site principal for the first session of Explore. During the regular school year, I am the principal at this amazing school, and I look forward to sharing with your family all the ways that Delaware Elementary is unique, engaging, and exceptional!

Explore will run 5 days each week, Tuesday, June 05 through Friday, June 29 – doors will open each day at 8:40 am and the tardy bell will ring at 8:50 am. Students are dismissed to go home each day at 3:20 pm. **All students attending Delaware this summer will receive free breakfast and lunch.** Many students will be eligible for transportation as well; for additional information regarding transportation eligibility, please call the transportation department at 417-523-0500. [Here is some important information to know:](#)

[Students may arrive as early as 8:40 am](#) – front doors will be locked until 8:40 am. Upon arrival, students will report to the APR and sit by class until teachers come to pick them up. Parents may walk their child to class on the first day of Explore to meet and greet their child’s summer teacher. **However, after the first day, we ask that parents drop their child off and allow them to independently walk to the APR to wait for dismissal to the classrooms.** Students will be supervised in the APR during their wait time.

[Students will be dismissed at 3:20 pm.](#) Many students will qualify for transportation to and from school each day. However, if you choose to pick your child up at school, **the car line will be the very best option.** [Here is some important information about our school’s car line:](#)

- **If your child will be picked up in the car line, they will be referred to as a “car rider.”**
- Car line faces **south** along Delaware Avenue. Please DO NOT park in the car line and walk in the building to retrieve your child at the end of the day. This causes a significant delay in our car line when we’re dealing with parked cars.
- There are a few handicap parking spaces in the car line – please do not park here if you do not have a handicap tag in/on your car. These spaces are reserved for families of our students with special needs, as they often need wheelchair space for loading/unloading.
- There is limited parking across the street, facing north along Delaware Avenue. If you choose to park facing north, you will not be a part of the car line and you will need to exit your car (carefully!) to retrieve your child as a “walker” (see below). You will not be allowed to remain at your car and motion your child across the street. Students may only cross the street with their designated adult. If you do not wish to exit your car, you will need to be in the car line which faces south along Delaware.

- Car tags work best for us as we're calling student names in the car line. You may create a tag with your child's first and last name, but if you do not have a car tag, we will send one home on the first day of school. Having your car tag visible will keep our car line moving quickly.

If you choose not to use the car line, you may walk up to our front porch (near the flagpoles and bike racks) and wait there until the dismissal bell rings. We will not be dismissing students from the front office after 3:10 pm, so to avoid a bottleneck of parents and students in the front lobby of the school, we ask that parents wait on the front porch. **Students meeting their parents on the front porch are referred to as "walkers."**

If you are meeting your child on the front porch, you may be asked to provide an ID until staff members recognize you as the parent of the child you are retrieving. Once the bell has rung and staff members are ready to dismiss the "walkers", we ask that parents line up and we will dismiss one child at a time. **This will take a bit of time the first few days or so, so we ask for your patience.** We do not simply release all the students out the front door at one time – it would be impossible for us to keep track of them all that way. For the safety of the students, we want to ensure we're sending students home with the right adults, so please bear with us until we get to know all our parents a bit better. ***Again, I encourage you to use the car line as the most efficient means of getting your child home each day.***

Before and after school care will be provided by the YMCA for a fee. If you are in need of before and/or after school care, please contact the YMCA at 417-862-7456.

Excellent attendance is important during Explore! The curriculum is built upon collaboration with peers and projects can take up several days at a time. We appreciate your efforts in making sure your child is here each day they are able to attend. If you know in advance days that your child will be absent, please communicate that to the office and to your child's teacher.

Demonstrating good behavior is also an expectation during Explore! Any student who exhibits inappropriate behavior may be dropped from Explore. All SPS expectations outlined in the student handbook apply to students attending Explore.

Medication taken at school must be hand-delivered to the nurse by a parent or guardian. Students may not bring prescription or over-the-counter medication with them to school. If a child requires a prescription or over-the-counter medication to be administered during school hours, the parent/guardian must sign a form to be kept on file with the nurse.

All outside doors remain locked during the day at school. To gain access to the building, please come to the main entrance, next to the flagpoles & bike racks (faces Delaware Avenue). You may ring the buzzer and will be provided access to the building.

Students will want to bring basic supplies to school with them on the first day. Other required items such as textbooks, technology, and curriculum materials will be provided by the school district.

I am so excited to grow and learn with your child this summer! We have many exciting days ahead, as we Explore together!

Sincerely,

