

Star News

September 2023



Dear Simpson Superstars,

The school year is off to a wonderful start! I am very excited to be starting another school year with you as the very proud principal of Simpson Elementary School! The students, teachers, and support staff here work very hard to make every minute of the school day count! Parents, thank you for all you do to support our work. It is truly a team effort!

It was great to see so many of you during our Curriculum Night. I look forward to seeing you at our **PTA Spirit Night "Picnic in the Park" at the Town Center on Thursday, September 21st (5 pm-7 pm)**. Thank you to our PTA for sponsoring this event. We appreciate the support our wonderful PTA provides. It makes a difference! If you have not already done so, I strongly encourage you to join our PTA. They do so much to support our sweet school. Have a great September, and as always, don't hesitate to let me know if I can be of assistance.

Proud to be your principal,
Dr. Taffeta Connery

Administrative Team

Principal- Dr. Taffeta Connery

Assistant Principal- Ms. Brandy Bosak, Grades 1, 3, & 5

Assistant Principal- Ms. Jeanette Johnson, Grades K, 2, 4

Assistant Principal- Ms. Stephanie Wells, Special Needs & Connections





September Calendar Dates

September 4th- Labor Day/School Closed

September 7th- PTA 4th/5th Bike Safety Training at 4:30 PM

September 11th - PTA Charleston Wrap Fundraiser Deadline

September 12th - All Pro Dads in the café

September 15th- Digital Learning Day for students

September 21st- PTA Picnic in the Park from 5-7 PM

September 23rd- Simpson Singers Performance at PTC Festival

September 25th-Childhood Cancer Awareness Week

September 28th-Bring \$1.00 for PJ Day to support Childhood Cancer Research

September 29th- Fall Picture Day

September 29th-School Council from 7:30-8:45 AM



PICNIC IN THE PARK SEPT 21 ST 5-7PM

Simpson ES families are invited to grab dinner from one of these 3 establishments that have agreed to partner with Simpson PTA and meet us on the green.

This is a great opportunity to get to know those in your community!
Let them know you're with Simpson and meet us there!

Pokeworks

EST. 2015



Greetings Superstars,

We are excited to begin our **Simpson School Council Meetings** for the 23-24 School Year! We will be hosting all of our meetings on-site in the **Simpson Elementary Professional Learning Lab from 7:30-8:45 AM** on the following dates:

- Friday, September 29, 2023
- Friday, November 17, 2023
- Friday, January 26, 2024
- Friday, March 29, 2024



If you are interested in being a school council member, please email Traci Douglas at Traci.Douglas@gcpsK12.org no later than **Friday, September 8th**.

SEL Family Newsletter-Respect!



School-wide_Respect_Newsletter.pdf

[Download](#)
278.7 KB



School Safety Updates - Hot off the press!!!!

Please save-the-date for our 1st of 2, **Lock Down Drills, which will be held on Thursday, September 21st**. School resource officers will be a part of this exercise drill to ensure that all safety measures are followed. Therefore, parents please feel free to discuss this drill ahead of time with your child(ren). Let them know that safety drills like fire, tornado, and intruder alert drills are needed to ensure that we keep all of our school stakeholders safe.

I thank you in advance for your support, flexibility, and cooperation in keeping our school stakeholders safe.



Simpson PBIS

Greetings Parents,
Beginning this school year in 2023, we will engage in Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) at Simpson Elementary to have a positive behavioral expectation schoolwide. PBIS is **an approach schools use to promote school safety and good behavior**. With PBIS, schools teach kids about behavior expectations, strategies, and with a primary focus on having a positive prevention, not consequences.

What is PBIS at our school?

A unified set of school wide expectations for behavior in our school. We are Simpson Superstars, so to ensure that students can easily

comprehend our expectations, we have established a 5-star approach for appropriate behaviors posted throughout the school. Your child has been learning these expectations since the first few of school.

What are the **5-Star Expectations at Simpson Elementary?**

1. **Be Respectful**
2. **Be Responsible**
3. **Be Ready to Learn**
4. **Be Safe**
5. **Be Kind**

As part of our PBIS process, teachers and other staff members use evidence-based practices to increase student learning and decrease classroom disruptions. To keep students on the rules in a positive manner, we do the following when teaching academics and behavior:

- Constantly teach and refer to our school-wide expectations.
- Provide students with more praise than correction.
- Talk to students with respect using a positive voice tone.
- Actively engage everyone in the class during instruction.
- Use pre-correcting, prompting, and redirecting as we teach.
- Look for the positive first and provide positive, immediate, frequent, and explicit feedback.

Please look forward to additional details as we unveil our ***STARBUCK incentives for recognition of positive student behavior.*** ***We are excited to begin having students spend their Starbucks in our new PBIS Store at our Grand Opening beginning September 11th.***

Buying Days

Monday-5th grade

Tuesday-4th grade

Wednesday-2nd and 3rd grade

Thursday-1st grade

Friday-PreK and Kindergarten

Car Rider Updates!



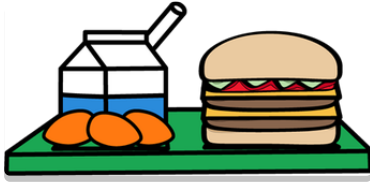
Car Rider Reminders 23-24.docx

[Download](#)

42.5 KB

I Scream You Scream...We All Scream for Ice Cream

Students will have the opportunity to purchase ice cream from a variety of selections during lunch. Ice cream is \$1.00 and will be sold Monday, Wednesday and Friday for all grade levels. Class Parties for ice cream sales are also available each day. Please email your child's homeroom teacher for details.



School Lunch & Parental Visitation

GCPS students will have access to a meal (breakfast and lunch) throughout the year for each child. Student meal costs are listed below and an *adult bar* is available for both adult visitors and staff throughout the school year.

Meal prices for elementary students are below:

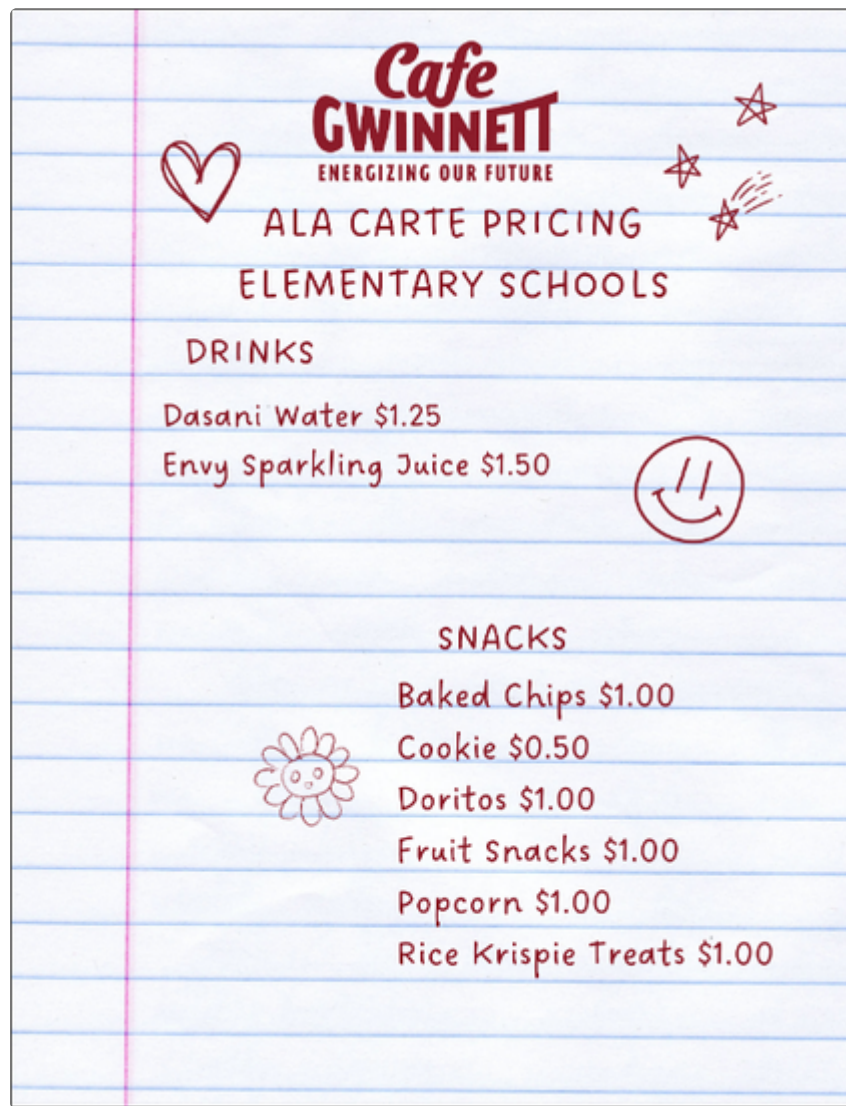
Student breakfast - \$1.50

Student lunch - \$2.25

Adult Breakfast - \$2.50

Adult Lunch - \$4.00

*** Please see our new *Al-a-carte* options for student purchases below.** This is a new feature sponsored by GCPS which is being offered, in addition to their regular meal. * As a disclaimer, assortments may change daily based on availability.



Come Learn With Us at Little Learners Academy!



_Little Learners Academy-School Flyer (1).pdf

[Download](#)

158.9 KB

Brains are



not born...



PLAY-2-LEARN

Have you Heard?



52% of children are **NOT READY** to learn
when they enter Kindergarten!

PLAY2LEARN- HAVE YOU HEARD?

Simpson is excited to offer an opportunity for parents with children ages birth to five!

We are so blessed to have one of our veteran, retired, and former Simpson Kindergarten Teacher, Ms. Sharon Terry! Once again she will be our Play2Learn instructor during the 23-24 SY. Therefore, please help us spread the good news to all of your family and friends, who may have children in this age range to call the school for additional information.



Want to learn more about how to be your child's best teacher through PLAY? Simpson Elementary is now offering the GCPS from Birth-To-FIVE Program for you and your child!

- Learn how to find teachable moments in everyday life activities
- Learn how to engage your child in play
- Learn how to continue play activities at home and on the or anywhere
- Learn about your child's educational milestones
- Learn how to get your child ready for school



Simpson Safety Plans

GCPS will continue to follow strict guidelines as it relates to safety & security by visitors producing identification when inside the vestibule to check out students (as well as during visiting lunch hours). Also, ***lunch visitation will begin immediately after Labor Day.*** Teachers will utilize this time to put PBIS expectations in place for cafeteria-positive behavior.

In addition, we will continue to follow safety guidelines to minimize the risk of infection and/or spread of COVID-19. Therefore, *if anyone in your household becomes sick and has tested positive for COVID-19, please contact our school nurse, Amy Norris, and/or your grade level administrator, immediately.*

School Hours

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 7:30 AM - 4:15 PM

All visitors must sign-in at the welcome desk and please be prepared to provide some form of identification upon request.

Staff Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM * Hours will vary depending on morning staff meetings (Tuesday/Thursday - 7:45 AM - 3:45 PM).

Student Hours: Monday - Friday 8:50 AM - 3:20 PM

Students should arrive between 8:20 AM- 8:50 AM.



Need Afterschool Care?



23-24 flyer with QR code.pdf

[Download](#)
4.3 MB



YMCA Afterschool 2023-2024 Parent Flyer - English.pdf

[Download](#)
2.0 MB



YMCA Afterschool 2023-2024 Parent Flyer - Spanish.pdf

[Download](#)
2.0 MB

<https://www.gcpsk12.org/SimpsonES>

Georgia Platinum Award 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2016 and 2019!

2010 Georgia School of Excellence!

2012 and 2018 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence!

Proud to be a
National PTA[®]
School of
Excellence



2021-2023



The PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Become a partner and [donate](#) today!

When you join the Parent Teacher Association at Simpson Elementary by giving your time, talent and resources, you join our collective efforts in promoting quality education, arts, and community involvement to build a healthy environment and safe neighborhood for all of our families. Because of the generous support from our parents, grandparents, teachers, staff and business partners we are able to offer many academic and social opportunities that may not otherwise be able to take place.

Did you know the Simpson PTA sponsors and coordinates over **30 programs** each school year through the generous support of our Simpson families and business partners?

Every dollar raised goes directly to programs and events that benefit our Simpson Superstar students, staff, and facilities.

Visit our [website](#) today to :

- Become a [PTA member](#)
- [Donate](#) to our PTA programs
- Stay connected to upcoming events
- Contact us with your questions or volunteer interest

Join our [PTA Facebook page](#) as another way to stay connected.

Looking forward to making this a great school year with you!

Mark Your Calendar

September 4 | Labor Day, No School

September 7 | Bike Safety Class 4:30 - 6:00 PM - 4th and 5th grades

September 8 | Special Education Staff Appreciation Breakfast - click [here](#) to contribute

September 11 | [Charleston Wrap Fundraiser](#) Order Deadline

September 12 | All Pro Dads

September 14 | [Reflections](#) Entry Deadline at 8:50 AM in the cafeteria

September 15 | Digital Learning Day - [GCPS Calendar](#)

September 21 | [Arts in Education Author Visit at 2:00 PM - 3rd, 4th and 5th grades](#)

September 21 | Picnic in the Park at the Town Center, 5 -7 PM

September 25 | Childhood Cancer Awareness Week

September 28 | Bring in \$1 to wear pajamas to support Childhood Cancer Research

September 29 | Fall Picture Day

October 3 | Walk to School Day

Volunteer Opportunities

Please visit the [Volunteer page of the PTA website](#) to stay current on all volunteer opportunities which currently include :

- Contributing to [Special Education Staff Breakfast](#), the first of which is September 8th
- [Media Center Volunteers](#) who will shelve books, laminate for the staff, help students check out and return books, and/or complete other small tasks with which Mrs. Dierkes might need assistance. Please note that Media Center volunteer shifts are now only one hour, and this opportunity is open to parents, guardians, and grandparents. If you are new to the Media Center

and would like more detailed instructions, or just need a refresher, please e-mail [Indira Hodge \(indiraDST9@aol.com\)](mailto:Indira.Hodge@indiraDST9@aol.com) and [Karen Seto \(mvhome89@gmail.com\)](mailto:Karen.Seto@mvhome89@gmail.com)

Charleston Wrap Deadline is September 11th!



Our fundraising deadline is quickly approaching, and we still need your help! Have you placed your Charleston Wrap fundraising order yet? Need gift wrap? Gift ideas for the holidays? Want to treat yourself? Place your order by September 11th and help us achieve our goal! Don't forget to share our link with your friends & family! TEXT, email and share on social media now!

Simpson Elementary School

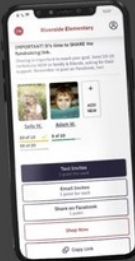


Our Organization ID:

11579

REGISTER. SHARE. SHOP. SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISER

Check-off your holiday gift list today and help our important cause.
From holiday to hostess to corporate gifts and more,
our online store has something for every occasion - even if it's just for you!



#1 REGISTER

Register participant at www.registercw.com to access our handy invitation tools in the Participant Portal. Very important!

#2 SHARE

Invite friends and family to support! SHARE a link to the sale using the **TEXT & EMAIL** invitation tools. Don't forget to share on **SOCIAL MEDIA**, too!

#3 SHOP

Go online to **SHOP** and help us reach our **GOAL** today! With over 2,500 gift ideas there is something for everyone, including you!



Charleston Wrap
BETTER PRODUCTS. BETTER FUNDRAISING.

Reflections



2023-2024

**CALL FOR
ENTRIES!**

I am
Hopeful
Because...

Explore the arts and
express yourself!



The [PTA Reflections Contest](#) is a fun opportunity for students to get creative and share their thoughts and feelings on a provided theme. This year's theme is *"I am hopeful because..."* Please click on the image to learn more. We are so excited to see what our Superstars create this year!

Visit the [PTA Reflections page](#) for registration information.

Please contact reflections@simpsonespta.org with any questions.

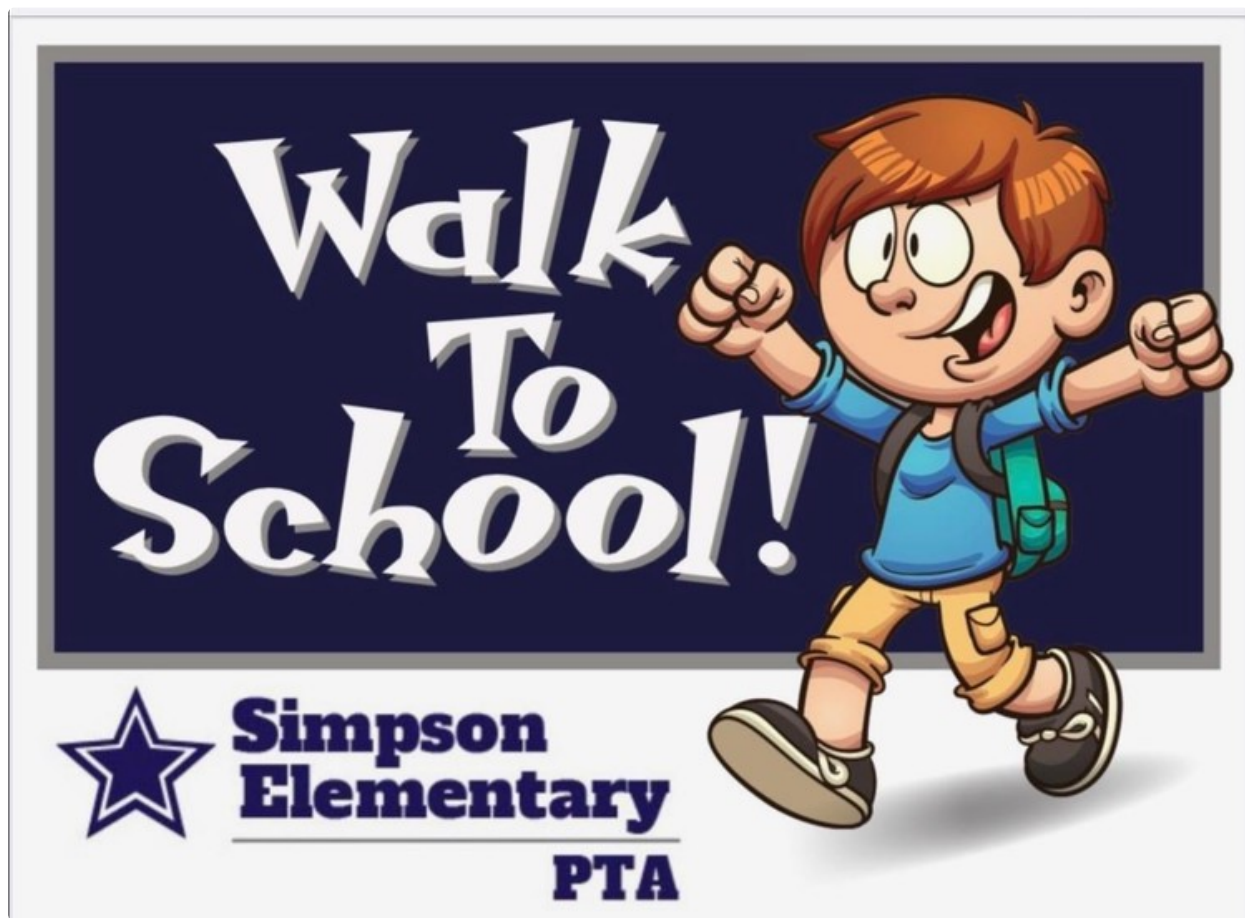
Simpson Cares : Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Every day in America, 47 families will find out their child has cancer, the #1 disease killer of kids in our country. Simpson Elementary will honor and raise awareness for kids who face or have faced childhood cancer on **Thursday, September 28**. Students are invited to make a difference in the lives of children battling cancer by bringing in at least \$1 to wear pajamas and an additional \$1 to bring in a stuffie. With every dollar raised for research, we are one step closer to finding a cure.



[Click here](#) to visit our PTA website and learn more.

Save the Date : October 3rd | Walk to School Day



Thank You

Thank you to **Leigh Anna Lang** for all your hard work to make joining the PTA a breeze! **Kelly Loder + Dorian Clayton** for all your time + efforts on Spiritwear over the summer months! **Laura Pusateri** for another successful supply kit fundraiser, as well as **Tina Lee-Levi, Samantha Morgan, Caroline Dotts, Patricia Mendez, Heather Owens**, who helped with organizing, sorting and distributing kits for each of our families, and their teachers!

Thank you **Emma Keith** for beautifying our flower beds at the front of school, **Mallory Thornton** for arranging lunch for our teachers on Meet Your Teacher Day, and **Maxine McClure** for your amazing work on our digital communications: simpsonespta.org, our [PTA Facebook page](#) and [Star News](#)! Also, thank you to the **Executive Board** members for welcoming everyone into another school year and serving our PTA.

Amazing thanks to **each and every one of you** who have become a member of our PTA this year! Every donation helps us reach our goal of enriching our children's education here at Simpson!

Thank you also to our wonderful **PTA Business Partners** for your generosity in helping support these efforts in a big way! **Bardi, Sign Greeters, Kid Chess, Taido, Mathnasium, Mibab, Kumon, Sushi**

Osawa, and Phillip Larscheid of the Stacey Wyatt Group. We appreciate you all!!

Mallory Thornton for another great Spirit Night with Sushi Osawa! **Jordan Mallory** for leading and organizing our Class Coordinators for the '23-'24 school year and **Jessica Campbell** for your efforts in helping the PTA better support our Special Education Families, Teachers and their whole Support Staff at Simpson!

AND Our Amazing Admin Team at Simpson thanks to each of you for helping our PTA volunteers with a smile. We couldn't do what we do without your guidance and support!!

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A large black circle with a white border containing the text 'STACEY WYATT' in large white letters and 'REAL ESTATE GROUP' in smaller white letters below it, separated by a horizontal line.

**STACEY
WYATT**
— REAL ESTATE GROUP

