



S.S. Dixon Intermediate School

August/September 2019

Mrs. Gooch's Good News

Welcome! The school year is off to a great start! Our students are already working hard. They are doing a great job learning the classroom and school expectations. New faces at SSDI this year include: **3rd grade:** Maddy Browne, Destini Cooper, Sarah Glenos Westfall **4th grade:** John Smith **ESE:** Kris Hyche **Guidance Counselor:** Denise Payne **Secretary:** Lori Kirchharr **Non-instructional:** Jennifer Spearman, Stephanie Greene, Stacey Brannon, Danielle Ryan, Ryan Thompson, and Kristen Uhrina. We are happy to have these talented people join the SSDI family. We will say goodbye to Mrs. Holladay at the end of the month as she is retiring!

Attendance: The tardy bell rings at 8:20. Students who arrive after that time are considered tardy. If a child comes in after 8:20 without a doctor/dentist or other appointment note it is considered unexcused. Students who are checked out before 2:34 and do not provide a note the following day as to why they left early (dr/dentist/emergency) will be marked unexcused. When students accumulate 3 late check ins or early check outs they receive one unexcused absence. Students who have 5 unexcused absences in 30 days or 10 in 90 days may be considered truant and could require a doctor's note or have a truancy plan written. Please make sure if your child does have an appointment during school hours that you provide the appropriate documentation. Parents requesting excused absences for trips, special events, etc. must send in the request at least 5 days prior to the day of the absence. Students have 3 days to complete makeup work after an absence except in the case where the work is sent home prior to the absence. Please see Mrs. Gooch if you have questions.

Directory Consent: We want to make you aware of the following information which may also be found in our *Student Code of Conduct*: "You must notify your school in writing on the approved form (available in guidance offices) by the first week of September or within ten (10) school days after the student enrolls if you do not want the school to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent."

Parent Involvement: This school year, please take every opportunity to get involved in your child's education. At SSDI we offer many opportunities for you to get involved with your child's classroom, school-wide, after school events, as well as at home. Please take time to look at our school events calendar, visit our school website, contact your child's teacher, or call the school for more information. We appreciate all of you who will or attended the annual Open House & Title I meeting. I hope separating it into two nights made it easier for parking. Our Volunteer Orientation is scheduled for Thursday, August 29th at 9:00 a.m. in the media center.

Morning Drop-Off and Dismissal: We want to say a BIG Thank You to all of you for being patient and following our procedures for car rider drop-off and pick-up. Your help is very much appreciated and allows our mornings and afternoons to run safely and smoothly. Your child's safety is our main concern. In the mornings, please pull over to the right as you travel down Education Drive. Pay close attention to the cars in front of you so that you DO NOT block the bus ramp entrance. If you are traveling west on Education Drive from Tilubo and you see a bus turning right onto Education from the bus ramp, PLEASE stop to give them enough room to make the turn. As a reminder, cars should not pull into the middle lane of the circle drive until 2:25 pm. It serves as an emergency lane. All cars must display a pick-up tag indicating the child's name. Additional tags can be purchased for \$1.00.

Parents' Positive Comments: Because we often hear positive comments from parents about our staff members, we have created a way for you to recognize our amazing staff. An area on the counter just outside the front office will be set up with a form to write comments and a place to put the form. They will be shared with our staff and given to the person recognized. Should you choose to email comments to administration, they will be printed and shared.

Free/Reduced Meals: Applications for free/reduced meals must be completed each year. If your child received free/reduced meals last year, they only continue for the first 30 days of school. Please make sure you complete a new application ASAP. Any charges your child incurs must be paid by parents.

Parent Input: Please share with us ideas, concerns or areas in which you believe we could improve. Visit our school's website <https://www.santarosa.k12.fl.us/schools/dis.html> for more information about Dixon Intermediate.

HENDRICK'S HAPPENINGS

Welcome back to another fantastic year of learning at SSDI! I want to extend a very special welcome to our new 3rd graders as well as students who are new to this area. Hopefully everyone has settled in and picked up on the school and classroom routines.

As a friendly reminder, Florida Law states that if you are in a School Zone, a wireless communication device (typically a cell phone) may only be used in a hands-free mode. Our SRO will continue to remind parents and give a warning for violations.

Quick Facts on Ways to Help Your Child Succeed in School: Ask your child about school and encourage them to talk about their day! Talking about school shows them that you value education and keeps you aware of what's going on in their lives. It gives parents the opportunity to see how their child is doing in school. Talking opens the door for discussing any problems at school and allows you to help them learning problem-solving skills by talking about potential responses and what results they may bring.

MFLC: Military and Family Life Counselor

We are fortunate to have a counselor here each day to work with students from military families. Each student took home a form with information. Families with active duty or recently retired are eligible to participate in the program.

NEWS FROM THE MEDIA CENTER

Mrs. Clapper has already presented a library lesson to all 3rd grade students. The media center is an integral part of our school and we have an open-door policy in our media center.

NEWS FROM PTSO

We are so fortunate to have an active PTSO. We hope you will consider joining the SSDI PTSO. Membership forms were sent home on the first day of school. Make sure you read the PTSO newsletter.

NEWS FROM P.E.

We're off to a great start in PE! The students have come to school ready to learn! We have been busy going over rules and procedures for PE as well as physical fitness testing. We will do our bowling unit the week of September 2nd.

On Sept. 9 we will begin our line rhythms unit. This unit will last until **October 3 which is Family Fun Night**. The theme this year is **SURFIN' USA** and the students will be dancing to a variety of songs that keep our minds thinking about summer just a little longer. Mark your calendar now so that you can attend that evening's festivities from 4-8 p.m. In addition to our students' performances, teachers will be hosting carnival-like booths for the kids to enjoy. Community businesses will set up tables to provide information about the services that you may access here in our area. Dinner will be sold in the cafeteria.

The PE department will offer a Running Club for the students who attend SSDI beginning **October 25th**. Students will be able to run every Friday alternating between the mile and half-mile each week. Students run during their PE time, not after school. At the end of the school year, students who have stayed committed to the club by running every Friday will be eligible to attend a special event. Students must join at the beginning of the year to be eligible to attend the event in May. Sign-ups have begun and are due by September 13. We will hold our annual Family Fitness Night as a kick-off to Running Club and a year of healthy habits and fitness. All are invited to attend even if your student does not choose to participate in Running Club. This event will be held on October 22nd and more information will be coming as that date gets closer.

Please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for PE. **Tennis shoes and a water bottle are important at PE every day**. We appreciate our parents and are here if you need us! Any concerns, please call us or come by. Max Williams, Michelle Keller and Carmen Ward Physical Education Staff

PBIS

PBIS continues at SSDI this year. We saw reduced behavior issues last year and are looking to see even less issues this year. Our schoolwide expectations are:

P prepared R respectful I integrity D do your best E everyone matters

Students can earn Jr. Patriot Bucks through our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies) system that can be used to purchase items from our newly created "PBIS Store". We will also have special events/activities throughout the year. Our first event will be a dress up dance party. Students can attend the party and dress up like their favorite story book character. Mrs. Frobenius and Mrs. Luther are the chairs of our PBIS committee.

POP TABS

Students may bring in pop tabs and place them in a container that is weighed each month. The first collection will be in September and continue through April. The pop tabs are donated to the Ronald McDonald House of NWFL and they use the money to pay their utility bills.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our first meeting will be held on September 18, 2019, at 9 am. According to our guidelines the percentage of parents and community/business members must be higher than 51%. A ballot was sent home for parents to vote on this year's representatives. Thank you for the names of nominees and willingness to serve! A copy of the bylaws are located on our website. Our meeting dates are: Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, Jan 15, Feb 19, March 25, April 15, and May 13. All meetings will take place at 9 am. Parents are welcomed to attend the meetings.

TITLE ONE

Our parent resource center has many resources that may be of interest to parents. There are books, videos, and other information about a variety of subjects. There is a computer available for parents' use. The resource center is in the hallway across from Ms. Denise Payne's office. We hope you will visit the resource center and share ideas of items that may be of assistance for parents. As a reminder, parents may request information about the qualifications of their child's teacher and/or paraprofessionals. All documents relating to Title 1 are placed on our website as well as in a binder in the resource center. Our annual school report card can be found at:

<https://edudata.fldoe.org/ReportCards/Schools.html?school=0331&district=57>. Please contact the school with questions.

VOLUNTEERS

Changes to the volunteer approval process have been put in place this year. All volunteer applications must be approved prior to anyone volunteering in a school. There is a new application that can be found online. You may complete it electronically, BUT you will need to print it and take a copy to any school in which you'd like to volunteer. Due to the required school board approval, you will not be able to wait until the day before a field trip to request a form to complete. Forms were sent home with each student. Should you need an additional form, they are located on our website or by requesting one from your child's teacher. If there is an issue with your application, you will be contacted. Applications for this month must be submitted by August 28 to be reviewed and sent in for the school board's approval on 9/10/2019.

WEBSITES

You should have received information about your child's user name and password to access CLASSLINK. This will allow your child to access websites for computer programs they use in the classrooms. It will also allow you to see your child's grades in the parent portal. Using the student ID number, you may put money online in your child's lunch account and check STA bus tracker. If you need your child's user name or password please contact your child's teacher. For information about the Florida Standards Assessment, please visit our school's website. To locate Florida standards visit:

<http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5390/urlt/0081014-lafs.pdf>

<http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5390/urlt/0081015-mathfs.pdf>



SSDI Calendar of Events



AUGUST

- 27 Open House/Title 1 Meeting **4th grade:** 5:30-6:15 classroom visits 6:15-6:30 Title 1 meeting **5th grade:** 6:15-6:30 Title 1 Meeting 6:30-7:15 classroom visits
- 29 Volunteer Orientation 9 am

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Labor Day NO SCHOOL
- 4 Fall pictures (all students photographed for yearbook)
- 6-23 PTSO sponsored Cookie Dough Sale
- 13 Midterms
- 18 SAC Meeting 9 am
- 25-27 "Bring Your Dad (significant male figure) to School" (more info will be sent)
- 26 Fall Book Fair begins (ends Oct. 4)
- 27 Box Top Collection