

SOUTHWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

“SOARING TO SUCCESS”



Jeff Overkleeft, Principal
455-7230

September 18, 2026
www.kentwoodps.org/southwood/

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

It is hard to believe, with the warm weather, that the first day of fall is already arriving next week! With the new season, we are excited to share some fun events we have planned. Please see the details for our **Southwood Homecoming Week** activities in the newsletter.

Looking ahead, we also invite you to join us for our **Southwood Family Reading Night, Operation Library**, on **Wednesday, September 23rd**. Enjoy a picnic dinner and fun activities at the KDL Gaines Library — a great evening for the whole family!

This year, we are once again implementing the PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports) program. Through PBIS, students who demonstrate positive choices in specific areas of the school earn tickets. These tickets can be used to purchase fun prizes at select times throughout the year. We also celebrate school wide when students consistently meet expectations.

Every Friday, I announce our trophy winners—classrooms recognized by staff for following expectations—at the end of the day. Please take time to encourage your child to earn tickets and make positive choices throughout the school day.

Jeff Overkleeft
Principal

LOOKING AHEAD



September

Wednesday, Sept. 23

Friday, Sept. 25

Wednesday, Sept. 30

Operation Library @ 5:30

Picture Day

1/2 Day, 12:15 PM Dismissal

October

Wednesday, Oct. 7

Wednesday, Oct. 7

Thursday, Oct. 8

Friday, Oct. 9

Wednesday, Oct. 21

Friday, Oct. 30

Count Day

Parent Teacher Conferences
4:30 – 8:30 PM

½ Day 12:15 PM Dismissal

Parent Teacher/
Virtual Conferences

No School

PTC Meeting @ 4:15 pm

Fall Harvest Parties

November

Monday, Nov 2

Wednesday, Nov. 18

Wednesday, Nov. 25

Thursday, Nov. 26

Friday, Nov. 27

No School

PTC Meeting @ 4:15 PM

Thanksgiving Break-No School

Thanksgiving Break-No School

Thanksgiving Break-No School

December

Wednesday, Dec. 16

Thursday, Dec. 17

Friday, Dec. 18

Monday, Dec. 21

PTC Meeting @ 4:15 PM

Holiday Parties/ Time TBD

½ day 12:15 PM Dismissal

½ Day 12:15 PM Dismissal

Holiday Break Begins

TOP SECRET

SOUTHWOOD FAMILY READING NIGHT OPERATION: LIBRARY

Mission Briefing:

The library is planning a fun event with a variety of activity stations for families to explore! Dinner is provided!



- STEAM Activity
- Scavenger Hunt
- Crafts
- Giant Games
- Silent Disco

Event Details:

September 23 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Location: KDL Gaines Township Library

421 68th St. SE Grand Rapids, Michigan 49548

(Right by school!)



Please Note: All children must be accompanied by an adult.

SEPTEMBER 21-25
SOUTHWOOD ELEMENTARY
HOMECOMING SPIRIT WEEK
OUT OF THIS WORLD!

MONDAY COSMIC COMFIES Wear your favorite pajamas and get ready for an out-of-this-world day!	TUESDAY ALIEN DAY "Take me to your teacher!" Crazy alien outfits and hair.	WEDNESDAY GALACTIC GLOW DAY Wear neon, glow-in-the-dark colors, stars and planets.
THURSDAY PLANET vs. PLANET Wear your planet's (grade level) color. Y5/K - orange 1st - green 2nd - purple 3rd - yellow 4th - red 5th - blue	FRIDAY RED & BLACK ROCKET LAUNCH Everyone wears school colors for the big homecoming celebration.	

LET'S MAKE THIS WEEK OUT OF THIS WORLD!

PARENT DROP OFF AND PICKUP

As you know, our number one priority is student safety. With that being said, we ask for your patience and that you stay in your car, forming 2 lanes, as you pick up your child and exit the lot. A staff member will be sure to bring your student to your car. Do NOT wave your child to your car, potentially endangering them, walking between vehicles. We are working to eliminate congestion, to keep the flow of traffic moving, making pick-up safe and more efficient at the end of the day.

Before School West Parking Lot

Students who are dropped off by parents before school should not arrive before 8:45 AM.

Again, I thank you for your patience as we work through this process.

Please see our signage to assist you with your student's safety!!!



We are a Hand2Hand School!

Sign up to receive one free meal bag a week!

.Iyandikishe kugira ngo ubone agafuka kamwe k'ubuntu mu cyumweru

हप्तामा एउटा नि:शुल्क खानाको झोला प्राप्त गर्न साइन अप गर्नुहोस्।

.Registrate para recibir una bolsa de comida gratis a la semana

တစ်ပတ်လျှင် ထမင်းထုပ်တစ်ထုပ် အခမဲ့ရရှိရန် စာရင်းသွင်းလိုက်ပါ။

.Đăng ký để nhận một túi đồ ăn miễn phí mỗi tuần

.سجل للحصول على وجبة مجانية واحدة أسبوعياً.

.Jisajili ili upate mfuko mmoja wa chakula bila malipo kwa wiki

SCAN TO SIGN UP:



What's In a Weekend Backpack?



Bags are discreetly dropped off in students lockers.

Reach out to Hand2Hand at permissionslip@h2hkids.org

