

**SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**2680 West County Road 476**  
**Bushnell, Florida 33513**  
**352-793-2315**

**Press Release**

**Date:** August 9, 2023  
**Contact:** Jessica Christian, K-12 Curriculum Supervisor

**Re: SUMTER READIES FOR A SUCCESSFUL AND TIMELY RETURN OF STUDENTS**

**Welcome Back**

Sumter County School District is looking forward to welcoming students and staff back to school on August 10, 2023. The 2023-2024 will be an exciting year with superb administration, faculty, staff, and students. Sumter County is also very proud of the new Wildwood Intermediate School opening this year to serve Sumter's 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders on the north end. The campus is "Back to Blue" and ready for students on August 10!

Students are legally required to attend school in some format. Homeschool or Virtual School is always an available option for parents, but students must register. Call (352) 793-2315, Ext. 50312 for registration information.

**Technology**

A digital classroom is one of many important tools to help our students be successful in today's rapidly changing global society. Schools in Sumter County have secured the electronic infrastructure needed for digital learning. Schools will kick off the year with a variety of technology advances, including the *Sumter One-to-One* initiative. "Sumter wants to stay on the cutting edge of technology, career preparation and innovation to help our students meet the academic needs of our students and the future workforce that will employ them," says Superintendent Shirley.

The *Sumter One-to-One* initiative provides student laptops or tablets for every K-12 student. All students at South Sumter Middle, South Sumter High and Wildwood Middle High will receive an individual laptop to travel with the student throughout the day and home. Through *Sumter's One-to-One* initiative, students have access to academic software, on demand assessments, tutoring, multi-media communication, and coding programs. Every student has a Microsoft 365 account with full access to Microsoft Outlook, Word, Sway, PowerPoint, Excel, and the TEAMS application, which allows for collaboration and communication amongst students and teachers.

**Student Meals at No Charge**

Student meals are available daily at all schools and will be offered at no charge to all students as all Sumter schools are now designated as Title I. Schools offering meals at no charge to all students will allow more food options, more a la cart choices, and will generate revenue to make changes to cafeterias such as upgrading equipment.

**Student Transportation**

The school district provides bus transportation for children living beyond walking distance of the schools. Again this year, all students must scan their student ID card as they enter and exit the bus. Student ID cards may be picked up by students at school orientation. Bus information such as stop location, bus number, and arrival and departure times may be obtained by attending orientation, checking the e-link on the Transportation tab of the district website, or parents may call the Transportation Department at 793-5705. It is recommended that all children ride the bus on the morning of the first day of school to assist the driver in locating bus stops. **As a reminder, students attending school out of zone from their normal school will not be provided transportation.** Superintendent Shirley has a recommendation for parents, “On the first day of school, young children in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade should wear identification tags with first and last name, telephone number(s), home address and the correct bus number. Parents or guardians should insure some family member is waiting for them at the bus stop. It is certainly possible that buses will be late the first few days of school.”

<b>2023-2024 SY</b>			
<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>START TIME</b>	<b>RELEASE TIME</b>	<b>EARLY DISMISSAL</b>
BES	7:45	2:45	12:30
LPES	7:45	2:45	12:30
WES	7:45	2:45	12:30
WWES	7:45	2:45	12:30
WIS	7:55	3:00	12:45
SSMS	8:45	4:01	1:30
SSHS	8:45	4:07	1:30
WMHS	8:45	4:07	1:30
SPA	7:45	2:15	12:15

