



Galatas Elementary

2023-2024 Student/Parent Handbook Addendum

9001 Cochrans Crossing Drive

The Woodlands, Texas 77381

Main Office: 936-709-5000

Attendance Line: 936-709-5014

Email: contactgalatas@conroeisd.net

Website: <http://galatas.conroeisd.net>

Principal: Denae Wilker

Assistant Principals: Candace Mathis & Dawn Wright

Counselor: Laura Heemann

The Conroe ISD Student Handbook includes important information that is relevant to all elementary schools. This addendum will have specific information relating to Galatas Elementary.

Mission Statement: Through the collaborative efforts of all who pass through our door, we provide a safe learning community that develops lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

School colors: Burgundy and Gray

School mascot: Greyhound

Motto: Racing to Excellence

Galatas Elementary was named for Mr. Roger L. Galatas, a past Conroe ISD school board member and president.

The Conroe Independent School District (District) as an equal opportunity educational provider and employer does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in educational programs or activities that it operates or in employment matters. The District is required by Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as Board policy not to discriminate in such a manner.

For information about **Title IX rights or Section 504/ADA rights**, contact the Title IX Coordinator or the Section 504/ADA coordinator at 3205 W. Davis, Conroe, Texas 77304; (936) 709-7752.

Welcome to Galatas Elementary School!

The beginning of the year is always an exciting time for children and we look forward to another successful year. In an effort to provide you with the best communication, we have compiled an overview of Galatas' policies and procedures to assist you. Please consider joining our active and involved PTO. Your child benefits every single day from the support the PTO provides. We look forward to meeting you and feel certain you will enjoy being part of our Galatas family.

The 2023-2024 Conroe ISD Student/Parent Handbook is available online at:

<https://www.conroeisd.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/22-23-Elementary-and-Intermediate-Handbook-FINAL-Accessible.pdf>

Please be sure to provide us with every available phone number and contact we might need in case of an emergency. If your phone number or email address changes during the school year, please update our records by calling our registrar or front office.

OFFICE STAFF

Gina Soucy, Secretary	Katy Riggs, Nurse
Stephany Robinson, Receptionist	Crystal Lemon, Clinic Aide
Robin Curtis, Registrar	

SCHOOL HOURS

8:00 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

The tardy bell rings at 8:00 and students will be counted tardy if they are not in their classroom at that time. Students arriving after 8:00 will need to report to the office to receive a tardy slip. Students arriving after 9:00 a.m. will be counted absent unless they return with an HCP (Healthcare Professional) slip from their doctor. (Please see section labeled “Attendance”)

2023-2024 PARENT ORIENTATIONS

Tuesday, August 22	Kinder, 1st and 2nd
Thursday, August 24	3rd, 4th and Self Contained Special

SECURITY AND VISITORS

Safety is our top concern. Surveillance cameras are placed at all doors and in the hallways of our school. Each camera records all activity. All outside doors are locked, and all visitors must report to the front office to sign in and receive a visitor’s name tag. The receptionist will ask for your driver’s license and it will be scanned using a system that provides an alert for any person who may jeopardize the safety of the campus. After your license is scanned, a name tag will be printed for you. It will show the date and the purpose of your visit. Please know that every visitor must have a name tag, and anyone without it will be stopped. Visitors must return to the front office before leaving the building to return their visitor’s tag. Even though this is time consuming, it is essential to our students’ safety. For your child’s protection, parents and visitors are not allowed to go to their child’s classroom to pick them up during or at the end of the day. All student

check-out is through the front office. Please allow students to walk to classrooms independently in the mornings and to go to the designated areas for dismissal in the afternoons.

If you need to pick up your student, you will be asked for your driver's license. Students will only be released to parents or other adults designated on your enrollment/emergency form. Please keep your emergency form updated. All adults picking up students must show a photo ID.

STUDENT ID

All students are issued a 6 digit ID number. This number is used in lieu of a social security number and will be used in the lunch line, library check out, bus registration, Canvas courses, and Parent Access. Please help your child memorize his number.

CAFETERIA INFORMATION

The prices for student meals are \$2.00 for breakfast and \$3.20 for lunch. The prices for non-students and second meals are \$3.00 for breakfast and \$4.60 for lunch. Ala carte items are also available for an additional charge. A link to the Child Nutrition website can be found on the Galatas home page (<http://galatas.conroeisd.net>). Lunch menus and additional information is available on the Child Nutrition website.

Paying for school lunches online is a convenient way to manage your child's lunch account. You may register for an account through www.myschoolbucks.com. (Please note that there is a small fee per transaction). The cafeteria will also accept lunch money from 7:30 – 8:00 a.m. Checks must be written for \$25 or greater and include issuer's driver's license number and date of birth.

It is a good idea to keep money in your child's account in case they want to purchase additional items. Your child will use their 6 digit scan card to

check out in the cafeteria. This card remains at school each day. This avoids all problems associated with lost money, etc.

LUNCH/SNACK GUIDELINES

We follow the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) student nutrition guidelines. Parents are welcome at lunchtime and may bring lunch for their child only. We are required by state law to make sure children only eat meals their parents provide or have their child purchase from the school cafeteria. The only exception to this guideline is a birthday treat such as a brownie or cookie, which must be “store bought” due to allergy issues, safety, and sanitation concerns.

LUNCH SCHEDULE

K	12:05-12:35
1st	12:20-12:50
2nd	11:50-12:20
3rd	11:35-12:05
4th	11:10-11:40

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is one of the major indicators of student success. In addition, children who arrive promptly show respect to their teachers and classmates. Students are tardy if they are not in their classrooms at 8:00 a.m.

When a child is absent, please call the school by 9:00 a.m. Send a note with your child when they return to school, explaining the reason for the absence. See the CISD handbook for more information about doctor's appointments, etc. Kindergarten students are subject to compulsory attendance laws. Please make every attempt to schedule appointments outside of school time. However, if your child is absent due to a medical appointment, please bring a note from the doctor upon your return to school. If the child returns the same day with the doctor's note, they will be counted "present" for the day.

Attendance letters will be sent home to notify parents if their child has been absent 10 days in a 6 month period or three days in a four week time frame (state requirement).

Students must be in attendance 90% of all school days to receive credit and be promoted to the next grade level. Please schedule vacations during school holidays and have your child attend school every day unless ill.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Buses in CISD are available to students who reside one mile or more from school. Students can only ride the bus they are zoned to ride. New students must request transportation services during the registration process. Sign up for the bus service on the CISD website (www.conroeisd.net) to request bus transportation for your child. Choose

“What Bus Do I Ride?” at that site to find out bus stop locations and times. Students that registered and received bus service the previous year in CISD automatically roll over to the next school year.

ARRIVAL

Students should not arrive before 7:30 a.m., when adults are not present to supervise them. Students will participate in Active Start, which is a morning recess program. At 7:50, all students will be dismissed to classes. Safety patrols are available to assist your child out of the car. Car riders are dropped off at the back porch. Because the traffic becomes very congested, we encourage you to use the school bus if you are eligible for transportation. Your children will never be tardy if they ride the bus.

All bike riders and walkers will have crossing guards on duty to assist them in crossing traffic areas near the school. It is very important that no students attempt to cross without the guards, and they begin their duty at 7:30 a.m. They leave their posts at 8:00 a.m.

Please **never** drop students off in the parking lot, on Cochran’s Crossing Drive, or short-cut through the Good Shepherd parking lot.

DISMISSAL

All bike riders and walkers will be walked up the path. Parents are asked to wait at the driveway entrance at the top of the hill. Parents picking up students in the car rider line must display a pink car rider form in the driver’s side window. If you don’t have a form, you may be asked to go to the front office and show your driver’s license. If you carpool, you will need all car rider names displayed to pick up students. Bus riders will be dismissed through the front driveway. Please do not come to the front office at dismissal time to call your child from class. Teachers are busy getting

students ready for dismissal and calls cannot be made to the classrooms from 2:45 – 3:10.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Conroe ISD is implementing two early dismissal days this year to accommodate parent conferences, grading, and extended grade level planning. Elementary students will be dismissed at 12:10 on December 15 and May 23. Regular dismissal procedures will be followed on these days.

CHANGING TRANSPORTATION

All transportation changes must be received in writing by 2:00 p.m. You may send a written note to your child's teacher, fill out a form in the front office or send an email to galatatransportation@conroeisd.net. Please include the date, your child's full name, section number, bus number (if applicable), and your signature (it must be a physical signature; we cannot accept a digital signature). If you send an email, please call the office to ensure that the email was received. Please send a new note for each day the change occurs; we are unable to accept notes for multiple days or with multiple changes. District policy states that a student may only ride the bus they are registered to ride; students may not have a transportation change to ride a different bus.

DAY CARE

If your child is absent, or is not using day care that day, please notify the day care facility. Day care drivers will not leave without accounting for all children.

SEVERE WEATHER THREAT

Teachers will be asking parents to indicate how students should be dismissed: bus (eligibility based on distance from school: 1 mile or farther), car rider, walker or bike rider. **In the event of a severe weather threat as determined by the weather service, walkers and bike riders will not be released to walk or bike home.** Parents must have an alternate plan in place: car rider or bus transportation (if eligible). Please let your child's teacher know your plan. Severe weather dismissals are usually determined at 2:50 p.m. An electronic notification will be sent to parents via email and text.

TEACHER CONFERENCE TIMES

Kindergarten	10:00-10:55
First grade	9:05-10:00
Second grade	8:05-9:00
Third grade	2:10-3:05
Fourth grade	1:10-2:05

All parents will be invited to attend a yearly fall parent conference with your child's teacher.

SPECIALS CLASSES

Specials classes include P.E., Music, Art, and Library/Technology. Appropriate shoes are required for P.E. classes. For safety, no flip flops or

boots are to be worn in P.E. Children may bring a change of shoes (athletic/tennis shoes) in their backpacks.

DRESS CODE

Shorts and skirts must be at least to the middle of the thigh or at finger-tip length when the student's arms are resting at their side. Tank top straps must be at least two inches wide. Students who violate the school dress code will be asked to call home for a change of clothes that meet dress code.

Please see the Conroe ISD student handbook for additional dress code information.

DISTRIBUTION OF CISD BUSINESS

Galatas Elementary will only distribute CISD business in student backpacks or in the Gazette newsletter. Parents are encouraged to purchase a student directory for the purpose of distributing non-school related communications such as special events and birthday invitations.

COMMUNICATION

At the beginning of each year, the calendar is published in our e-mailed Galatas Gazette. We strive to set every date you will need to know a year in advance, but some dates may change due to unforeseen conditions. Whenever a date is changed, you will see the update on your monthly calendar that is sent out with the Gazette. You can also check the school's web page. To view our school website, go to <http://galatas.conroeisd.net>. You will want to bookmark this for easy access.

Teacher Canvas courses will be available from the Galatas home page.

New parents must register for Parent Access on the CISD website. The Parent Access login and password will be the same for Canvas courses. This system will give you access to report card grades, attendance, STAAR information and cafeteria accounts. You will also be registered for e-mail updates and newsletters from our school. You can register all of your children on Parent Access at the same time, regardless of which school they attend. Returning families do not need to re-register for Parent Access each year. This year, report cards will only be published in Parent Access, so it is imperative that you register.

PROGRESS REPORTS AND REPORT CARD SCHEDULE

Progress reports are available on-line at the midpoint in each grading period. Report cards will also be available to view through the Parent Access Center (PAC) on the following dates:

October 18
January 10
March 27
May 28 Report cards mailed home

Please look closely at the information on your child's report card. To be promoted to the next grade, students must maintain a 70% mastery in language arts and math, and either social studies or science. They must also be in attendance 90% of the total instructional days per year.

Our children learn an amazing amount while in class. Make up work only includes written classwork and homework. Please allow 2-3 days for teachers to prepare missed work for your child if they will be out sick for an extended amount of time. The actual teaching is the most important component that your child misses. ***Please schedule all vacations at break times.***

Each grade level will be sending graded work home weekly. Please be sure to review this work with your child.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Mrs. Laura Heemann is the Galatas' counselor. She provides assistance to parents, students, and staff. In addition to teaching class lessons, she assists students on an individual and group basis.

ASSESSMENT AND TESTING

Each third and fourth grader will take the STAAR test in reading and math. The STAAR test is a rigorous exam designed by the state to assess a student's ability to read, think, and solve problems. Dates for this year's exams are listed below.

Third and Fourth grade Math and Reading Testing Window: April 15 - May 3, 2024 (Parents will be notified of the specific testing dates for Galatas Elementary).

GALATAS PTO

You may visit the PTO website at <http://www.galataspto.com/> to join the PTO, order Galatas spirit items, and to become involved in supporting your school.

CURRICULUM

Every parent is encouraged to visit the Texas Education Agency website at www.tea.state.tx.us . Curriculum for each grade level comes directly from the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills available at this site. Curriculum taught in each classroom on a grade level team is the same, though activities may vary. Please take a moment to look over the sample STAAR released items available on the TEA site. You will be able to see an example of the tests that your third and fourth grader will be taking in the spring. Classroom teachers will be working with your child to master all skills necessary. Please work closely with them to achieve this goal.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please send a water bottle (marked with your child's name) to school every day. We want students to have access to water at all times. We do have a lost and found area and we encourage you to label all lunch kits, backpacks, jackets, etc. At the end of each grading period, unclaimed items are donated to charity.

All information about medication and the school clinic is included in your CISD student handbook.

If you have to drop something off for your child, please label it and leave it on the drop off table in the office by 10:00 a.m. Let the receptionist know you have placed it there.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

The District will not purchase medication to give to a student. Conroe ISD policy allows the school nurse to train authorized school employees to administer medication to students during school hours and for off-campus school sponsored activities. All medications dispensed at school should be necessary for the student's optimum health as well as maintain maximum

school performance. The District encourages parents to administer medication at home before and/or after school whenever possible. Any medication must be brought to school and picked up by a parent or designated adult. When the student is withdrawn or before the last day of school, the parent should make arrangements to pick up the medication from school. Any unclaimed medications will be safely discarded in accordance with state and federal guidelines.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The school must receive a written and dated request from the parent or legal guardian to administer any medication. Prescription and non-prescription drugs must be in the original container and properly labeled. Only the guidelines printed on the container will be followed unless a physician order is present. The Surgeon General, the Food and Drug Administration and the Center for Disease Control have recommended that due to the increased risk of developing “Reye’s Syndrome”, aspirin or products containing aspirin are not to be given to children under 18 years old. If your physician orders aspirin for your child, please provide a copy of the physician order. The Texas Nurse Practice Act allows registered nurses to refuse to administer medications anytime the nurse believes the medication is contraindicated for the student

POSSESSION AND USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The District permits students to possess personal cell phones for safety purposes. Devices must remain turned off and stored in the student's backpack during the instructional day, including during all testing, unless they are being used for instructional purposes. The use of any device that has the capability to take pictures or audio or video record is prohibited in locker rooms and restroom areas. These items are also prohibited if used to cheat, audio/video record, or photograph another student or staff member without that person's permission, or when the use creates a disruption.

A student who uses any item, electronic or otherwise contrary to campus or District rules may have the device confiscated. Confiscated devices that are not retrieved by the student or student's parent will be disposed of after the notice required by law. Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. If a student does have an electronic device, it should be put away in a secured locker and turned off during the school day. Permission to use the device at school should come from the principal or classroom teacher. Without such permission, teachers will collect the items and turn them in to the principal's office. The principal will determine whether to return items to students at the end of the day or to contact parents to pick up the items. The District is not responsible for any damaged, lost, or stolen electronic devices, or other items.

Students are prohibited from sending or posting electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition applies to conduct off school property if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment. In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal electronic device may be searched by authorized personnel. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content will be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct and

may, in certain circumstances, be reported to law enforcement. If a device is believed to contain illegal contraband, the device will be turned over to law enforcement as required by state law. The device will not be returned to the student or his parents until the illegal contraband is removed from the device. This could take a substantial amount of time, particularly if the device is considered evidence of a crime.

Instructional Use of Electronic Devices

In some cases, students may find it beneficial or might be encouraged to use personal electronic devices for instructional purposes while on campus. Students must obtain prior approval before using personal electronic devices for instructional use. Students must also sign a user agreement that contains applicable rules for use (separate from this hand book). When students are not using the devices for approved instructional purposes, all devices must be turned off during the instructional day. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Video/Pictures on Social Media

Social media allows parents to share special moments and milestones with family and friends. However, it is important to remember that each family approaches posting to social media differently. Parents should be respectful of these choices and not post pictures or videos of other children to social media. During school events, parents should keep this in mind and limit, as much as possible, pictures and video to their own child.