

SOUTHSIDE PANTHER SPOTLIGHT

August 2025

Calendar of Events

AUGUST

- **August 11** – Meet the Teacher | 5:30–7:00 PM
- **August 13** – First Day of School
- **August 21** – College/Career Shirt Day
- **August 25** – School Board Meeting | 7:30 PM
- **August 26** – Kinder Parent Meeting | 5:30 PM

SEPTEMBER

- **September 1** – No School
- **September 4** – Kona Ice • PTO Meeting | 4:15 PM • PTO Build a Panther (Evening Event)
- **September 5** – Grandparents Lunch
- **September 8–12** – Spirit Week
- **September 16** – IT Appreciation Day
- **September 18** – College/Career Shirt Day
- **September 22** – School Board Meeting | 7:30 PM
- **September 30** – Attendance Party for Students with Perfect Attendance for the month



Southside Shines

Southside PTO Meetings

All Meetings are at 4:15 at the Southside Library.

September 4

October 2

November 6

December 4

January 8

February 5

April 2

May 7

Capturing Kids Hearts

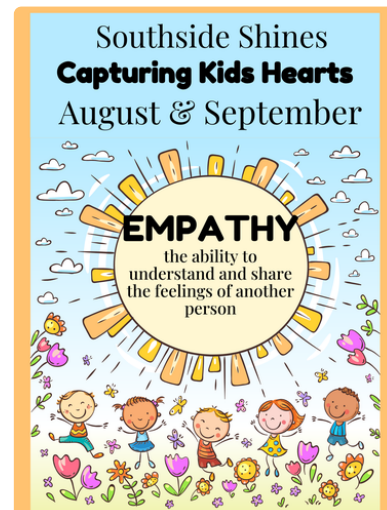
What is Empathy?

Empathy is the ability to be aware of, understand, and be sensitive to another person's feelings.

Instead of focusing on how these feelings impact ourselves, empathy motivates us to focus on others and respond with care and compassion.

Why Focus on Empathy?

- Empathy builds a positive classroom culture. Empathy empowers students to learn to understand each other to build trust and safety in the classroom.
- Empathy strengthens community. Empathy helps students strengthen their relationships with classmates, other students and adults at school, and at home.
- Empathy prepares your students to be leaders in their community. The best leaders understand the people they lead and are able to show they care.



Empathy in Action:

- *Take a different perspective.* When you take a different perspective, you put aside your own feelings and reactions to see the situation through another's eyes.
- *Put aside judgment.* Take a pause, and rather than express conclusions about a situation based on what you see, step back and consider other things you may still need to know or understand.
- *Communicate that you understand.* Instead of giving advice, respond with reflective phrases like, "It sounds like you..." or "I hear that you..." to express that you understand and care.



Empathy Newsletter (Primary English).pdf

[Download](#)

221.6 KB



Empathy Newsletter (Primary Spanish).pdf

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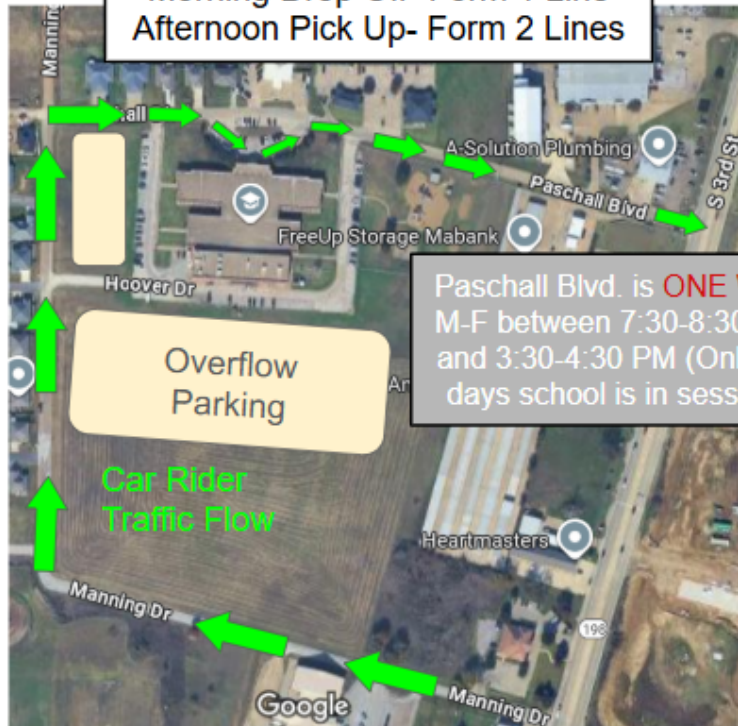
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Drop Off and Pick Up Information

Please **DO NOT** disrupt the flow of traffic by parking and walking your child to the front porch in the mornings. We ask that all families wait in the car line to drop their children off safely. Thank you for your cooperation!

IN THE FRONT HORSESHOE:
Morning Drop Off- Form 1 Line
Afternoon Pick Up- Form 2 Lines



Paschall Blvd. is **ONE WAY**
M-F between 7:30-8:30 AM
and 3:30-4:30 PM (Only on
days school is in session)



YOU ARE INVITED

Please join us as we break ground on the new

MABANK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 3/4

MONDAY | AUGUST 25 | 5PM


Corner of 2nd Street & Bluestone Circle
(behind the Bluestone Apartments)



Student Lunch Accounts

Mabank ISD is excited to announce a new online service that allows parents and guardians to easily deposit funds into their student's meal account—anytime, anywhere! Click here to learn more:

https://www.mabankisd.net/upload/page/0097/docs/SchoolCafe_For_Parents_Flyer.pdf



One app for your entire cafeteria .

With email and push notifications, parents can stay on top of their student's account balance. Low balance reminders make sure parents never miss a payment and students always have adequate funds in their account.


🚩 **NEW! Online Meal Account Payments Available**

Mabank ISD is excited to announce a **new online service** that allows parents and guardians to **easily deposit funds** into their student's meal account—anytime, anywhere! Minimum deposit is \$20, but as always you may send cash/checks with your student. Your student's previous balance will remain on his/her account.

- 📱 **Fast & Convenient**
- 🔒 **Secure Online Payments**
- 📱 **Mobile-Friendly Access**


Visit www.schoolcafe.com to set up your student's account. For questions or assistance, contact the Mabank ISD Child Nutrition Department at 903.880.1300.

Get It Now



www.schoolcafe.com

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Fall Dress Up Days



Mabank ISD Cell Phone Procedures



Important Update for the 2025-2026 School Year

MABANK ISD CELL PHONE PROCEDURES

HB 1481: CELL PHONE-FREE



A new state law, House Bill 1481, goes into effect starting with the 2025-2026 school year and requires school districts to significantly limit student use of personal communication devices during the school day. In accordance with this law, all student personal electronic devices must be left at home or turned off and put away while on campus during instructional hours.

This legislation is intended to reduce classroom distractions, protect student privacy, and encourage a stronger focus on learning. Mabank ISD will be following clear and consistent guidelines to support a focused, distraction-free environment for all students.

Thank you for your partnership in supporting a focused and engaging learning environment for our students!



Off and Away for the Day

Students must keep cell phones and other personal electronic devices turned off and in their backpacks or bags from the time they enter their first class of the school day to the time they exit their final class of the school day.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Cell Phones
- Smartwatches
- Tablets
- Earbuds
- Pagers or other electronic devices



Exceptions to the Rule

- A student has an IEP or 504 Plan that requires device access
- A physician's order is on file for a medical need
- A school administrator grants permission for safety or legal reasons
- It is a school-issued device specifically for instruction/learning



School Devices for Learning

For instructional purposes, only school-issued electronic devices will be allowed.



Start Date of the Device Restrictions

The policy begins on the first day of the 2025-2026 school year, Wednesday, August 13, 2025.

PLEASE NOTE: Violations of the Personal Communication Device Prohibition will result in increased confiscation times. Extensive abuse of the policy may lead to a DAEP placement.

Dress Code at A Glance

DRESS CODE @ A GLANCE

Student Handbook can be found at
www.mabankisd.net
(Campuses, Southside, Student Handbook)



HAIR

- Hair must be kept neat, well groomed, and out of the face.
- No designs shaved into hair or eyebrows.
- Boy's hair must not extend below the top of the collar (of a polo style shirt), the middle of the ear or below the eyebrows.
- Boys may not have pony tails, rat-tails, mohawks, or faux-hawks.

- All clothing must be free from holes or tears 3" above the knee
- Tank tops must have straps the width of three fingers.
- Undergarments may not be exposed.
- Halter tops, tube tops, crop tops, backless, low-cut shirts are not permitted. Skin may not show when both hands are raised.
- Shorts must be mid-thigh length.
- Skin-tight clothing such as dance wear, leotards, or biker shorts are only permitted as layers.
- PJ's and house shoes are not permitted.
- Shoes must be worn at all times. Steel cleats, rubber cleats, or "Heeley" type shoes may not be worn.



CLOTHING



ACCESSORIES

- No head coverings may be worn in the building. (Hats, caps, bandanas)
- Earrings may only be worn by girls. No gauges are allowed.
- Body piercings are not allowed.
- Skin decorations must be covered at all times.
- Boys may not wear make-up, finger or toenail polish.

Transportation Changes
must be made by 2:45.
All calls must go through
the office.



Lunch Visitors

The MISD Elementary Schools allow lunch visitors on Wednesdays and Fridays only. To join your child for lunch, visitors must be listed on the student's Skyward account. Please note that visitors are not permitted to have other students sit with them or bring food for other students. This will start on Wednesday, September 3.

WONDERING HOW TO HELP OUR CHILD IMPROVE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE?

10 TIPS TO HELP

1

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Good attendance is a parent and student responsibility. Help your child understand why going to school every day matters. Reinforce that showing up to school consistently is an important life skill that will help them be successful in their future.

2

HAVE A NIGHT TIME ROUTINE

Having a night time routine makes for a much smoother morning. Here are some helpful ideas:

- *Clean out and organize backpack.
- *Complete any homework.
- *Lay out clothes/shoes the night before.
- *Pre-prep breakfast.
- *Make lunch at home the night before.
- *Go to bed on time.



3

HAVE A MORNING ROUTINE

Help your child learn the value of a regular routine. Do your best to do the routine the same way every morning. Don't drag out the goodbye process...it makes leaving home even more difficult.

4

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Be a good example and enforce rules. Speak highly of the school and support staff. Don't let your child take time off school for minor reasons. Don't let your child persuade you into making an excuse for them to miss school.

5

OPEN COMMUNICATION

If your child doesn't want to go to school, determine the reason(s) why. Have open communication with their teacher and other school staff in order to create a strong support system.



6

BE PREPARED FOR SETBACKS

Don't get discouraged with regression. Going back to school after a long weekend, holiday break, or illness can cause school avoidance to flare up again. Be prepared for this and remember consistency is the key.

7

DON'T GIVE UP

The best gift you can give your child is to not give up... even when you feel like it. There's no "quick fix" in overcoming school anxiety. The best lesson your child learns is they **CAN** do hard things and be successful.



8

KEEP A SCHOOL CALENDAR

Keep a school calendar. Write down all important dates, holidays, events that will take place each month. This helps your child be aware of what is coming up and help them be prepared in advance for commitments. It is also a convenient place to document absences.

9

TEACH PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS

Learning to handle problems effectively is a valuable life skill. When problems arise, don't rush to solve your child's problem for them. Encourage them to come up with their own ideas of solutions to their problems.



10

TEACH CALMING STRATEGIES

Teaching your child calming strategies is a great way for them to take an active role in overcoming school avoidance.

Easy Deep Breathing Exercise

Inhale through nose. Hold for five seconds. Exhale through mouth. Repeat three times.



MISD Bag Policy for Sporting Events

BAG POLICY

APPROVED BAGS

CLEAR BAGS

does not exceed 12"x6"x12"



Small Clutch

no larger than 4.5"x6.5"



Medical Devices & Diaper Bags

Permitted but subject to search upon entry

NON-APPROVED BAGS

Non-clear bags, including duffel bags and backpacks will not be allowed inside events



MISD District Calendar 25-26

https://www.mabankisd.net/upload/page/0061/docs/Approved_Calendar_2025_2026U05202025.pdf

 [mabankisd.net](https://www.mabankisd.net)

December 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	SR	SR	SR	SR	6
7	8	SR	SR	SR	SR	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	H	H	H	H	H	27
28	H	H	H			

First Semester		81	days
1st	Quarter	42	days
2nd	Quarter	39	days
<hr/>			
Second Semester		86	days
3rd	Quarter	41	days
4th	Quarter	45	days
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June 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	SR	SR	SR	SR	20
21	22	SR	SR	SR	SR	27
28	29	30				

***State assessment dates subject to change per TEA

