

Kings Chapel Elementary School

Family Information Guide

2025-2026

Mrs. Shelley Shillcutt

Principal



Dr. Richard Rogers, Superintendent

Houston County Board of Education

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Table of Contents

1. Letter from the Principal
2. School Mission, Vision, and Values
3. New for 2025-2026
4. Drop off, Visitor, Checkout, and Dismissal Procedures
5. Attendance Matters
6. PAWS Promise
7. Positive Behavior Interventions Supports (PBIS)
8. Fundraising and Sale Items



Kings Chapel Elementary School

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Shelley Shillcutt
Principal

Kalesia McKnight
Robin Mills
Assistant Principals

July 23, 2025

Dear Families of Kings Chapel Cougars:

The 2025-2026 school year is here! On behalf of the Kings Chapel Elementary staff, I would like to welcome everyone to a school year filled with exciting learning experiences and fun events that are sure to make this year special. We are committed to providing the best possible learning environment for our students and will do our best to make our Kings Chapel community proud of our school. We are excited to welcome many new families to our school and cannot wait to meet all our new Cougars!

At Kings Chapel, we value communication with all our families. We strive to provide information in a variety of ways including weekly Monday night phone calls from me, a monthly school newsletter, and Wednesday folders. You can also keep up with important school news through Facebook, Instagram, our school website, and the new Houston County School District Mobile App.

Many opportunities for families to get involved will be offered throughout the school year. School Council meeting dates will be posted on our website, and our PTO is always looking for volunteers. Events such as holiday lunches, Green and Gold Honor Roll ceremonies, Holiday Extravaganza, Academic Open House, and Field Day are all opportunities for families to join us at school.

This year, our slogan is "It is a great day to be a Kings Chapel Cougar!" and reflects our pride in our school. We will continue our emphasis on literacy and reading at Kings Chapel as it is foundational to all learning. As always, you can help by reading to your child at home, talking with them about the books that they read at school, and encouraging your child to achieve their reading goals. It is going to be a great year! Thank you for your support of Kings Chapel!

Sincerely,

Shelley Shillcutt

Principal

Positive Always respectful Work hard Safe

Kings Chapel Elementary School

Mission:

Our mission is to prepare all students to achieve their highest levels of learning through continuous growth.

Vision:

Kings Chapel Elementary will be a premier school.

Values:

- Ensure the future success of all.
- Cultivate the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional growth of all students.
- Provide a safe school environment for all.
- Prioritize professional learning teams.
- Develop strong relationships with students, families, and our community.
- Empower all learners to reach their full potential through meaningful and engaging instruction.

New for 2025-2026

Personal Electronic Device guidelines

The Houston County School District policy JCDAF outlines the access and use of personal electronic devices in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade while on school premises during school hours. Students in grades PK-8 are not permitted to access personal electronic devices while on school premises during school hours from 8:30-3:30, including but not limited to cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, e-readers, headphones, earbuds, and other devices with functionalities such as wireless communication, internet access, messaging, video recording, gaming, social media access, or data transmission during school hours. Any student found in violation of this policy and/or its procedures during the school day shall be subject to progressive discipline consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Driveway Addition is Complete

The Houston County School District has enlarged our drive. This addition will provide our school with the space needed to create a safer dismissal for our families. This extension to our drive will be able to hold more than 100 cars and will be double laned until the merge near the crosswalk. We anticipate only having to use the drive during afternoon dismissal time.

Drop off, Visitor, Checkout, and Dismissal Procedures

Student safety is our number one priority at Kings Chapel. We must guarantee that your child will not have contact with unapproved adults and will always be transported home with the correct person every day. We also strive to operate our school in an orderly and efficient manner while placing an emphasis on student learning during the day. Please note the following guidelines that will greatly assist us in accomplishing these goals. Your cooperation is essential and appreciated!

- **Dropping students off at school** - All students should be dropped off **before 8:30** each day. If you arrive after 8:30, your child is tardy to school. You must check your child in through the front office. Arriving early is the key to having your child unloaded, in class, and ready to start their day! Classroom instruction begins promptly at 8:30.
 - **Car riding students** - Pull to the end of the car rider line for unloading. Students should be ready to unload as soon as they arrive to keep the line moving quickly. Watch carefully for children and adults walking through the parking lot.
 - **Walk up students** - Park in the SIDE parking lot and walk with your child all the way to our front porch where they will enter the school. Allow your child to enter the school on their own. Watch carefully for traffic as you walk your child up each morning.
- **Visiting during the day** - All visitors to school must check in to the front office for a visitor's badge. Between 8:30-3:30, visitors must be "buzzed in" to the building from our vestibule. Parents/guardians are not allowed to visit classrooms during the school day.
- **Early Dismissal** - All early dismissals must be made prior to **3:00**. After **3:00**, students must be picked up or transported home in the regular fashion. Parents/guardians should be prepared to show a picture ID if picking up a student early from school.
- **Transportation Changes** - Student transportation home (bus, car, walk ups, ASP) is set at the beginning of the year. Any change in the transportation home of a student must be made to the front office prior to **3:00**. Transportation changes should be called into the front office staff. No changes to a student's transportation can be made after **3:00**.
- **Pick Up Cards** - Student specific pick-up cards with a three-digit number will be provided to all students and must be used when picking a child up. Approved individuals picking up students in cars or in walk up must have their cards on display **EACH DAY** for us to make sure our students are being picked up by permitted adults. Those without a pick up card will be asked to park, report to the front office, and provide a picture ID.
- **Walk up Dismissal** - Walk ups must be picked up by 3:45. After 3:45, students will have to be picked up in the car rider line. Park in the SIDE parking lot and enter the cafeteria just inside the lobby to pick up your child. Individuals picking up a child **MUST** have the school issued pick up card and check them out with staff on duty. Only students who are previously scheduled as walk ups can be picked up in this fashion. Watch carefully for traffic as you walk to and from the side lot.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Kings Chapel Elementary values regular attendance to enable the success of all students. Please prioritize having your child at school on time every day.

- Parents are required to provide excuses for absences within 5 school days. Excuses are accepted through email, the HCSD App, or can be handwritten. Excuses should be turned into the front office and should go to Courtney Grantham. Verbal excuses are not accepted.
- Each student is allowed up to ten excused parent notes, within the approved reasons by the Georgia Board of Education. After ten excused parent notes, each absence after these ten will be considered unexcused without doctor documentation. For additional information regarding attendance policies and proceedings, visit KCES.hcbe.net
- **3 unexcused absences**: School staff will contact the parents and document the contact. A contact may be an email, phone call, letter, note, or other forms of communication.
- **5 unexcused absences**: Parent will receive a 5-day letter/contract. Parent may request a conference.
- **8 unexcused absences**: A school social worker referral will be made and a call-out or email will go out to the parent.

Tardy/ Early dismissals

- The instructional day is from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. After 8:30 am students are considered tardy, and a parent is required to sign the student in through the front office. **If your child will be eating breakfast, please ensure that he or she is dropped off early enough to eat breakfast.**
- 8 unexcused tardies/Early Dismissals-Parent Contact
- 10 unexcused tardies/Early Dismissals-Excessive Tardy/Early Dismissal Notification
- 15 unexcused tardies/Early Dismissals-Attendance Contract Meeting scheduled with parents and administration
- 25 unexcused tardies/Early Dismissals-Referral to the HCSD Social Services Department

PAWS Promise

Positive

I promise to be positive.

Always respectful

I promise to always be respectful.

Work hard

I promise to work hard.

Safe

I promise to be safe.



Positive Behavior Incentives and Supports (PBIS)

At Kings Chapel, we believe that providing simple, clear expectations for student behavior and recognizing students who consistently make good choices is a far stronger management tool than punishments and consequences. We have adopted a set of expectations, PAWS Promise, to help guide students' behavior while at school. Our PAWS Promise is taught to students at the beginning of each year, said aloud over the intercom, and posted throughout the school. Students who follow the PAWS Promise are rewarded in the following ways:

Cougar Cash and the Cougar Store: Stakeholders have "Cougar Cash" to give to students who are consistently following the PAWS Promise. Students save their "Cougar Cash" and use it to purchase items from the Cougar Store.

PAWS-itive Parties: At the end of the nine weeks grading period, students have an opportunity to attend the "PAWS-itive Party" during their specials time. To attend, the student must have met their behavior goal by not having an office referral. Students who do not meet this goal will have regular specials or a supplemental activity.

Fundraising and Sale Items

As do all schools, Kings Chapel relies on various fundraisers and sales of supplemental items to support instruction and activities offered throughout the year. Some of the ways that we solicit these funds are listed below. Your support in these efforts allows us to purchase additional learning resources, offer fun activities and events, and make improvements to our school.

Things we are fundraising for this year:

- Future playground equipment
- Lunchroom decoration upgrades
- Books for classroom libraries

Some of the ways we are fundraising:

- Spirit sales of shirts and other KCES themed items
- Marquee birthday announcements
- Booster Fundraiser
- Santa Shop for Christmas gifts
- Student and class pictures
- Framed student art sale
- Yearbooks
- Hat Days
- Field Day t-shirts

Our Staff and PTO appreciate your help!