



Latta Elementary School
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Latta, SC 29565

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August, 2026

I want to thank our students, staff and parents for working together to have a successful school opening. I would also like to thank our transportation staff and drivers for making sure our students arrived at their destinations these first few weeks of school. Parents, thank you so much for being patient with us during morning drop off and afternoon pick up. Your child's safety is our first priority, and please make sure you have your child's car tag visible in the passenger window where it can be read by staff. If you need additional car tags, please come by the office and pick one up, or call the office and we can send one home in your child's book bag.

As I visit each classroom, I love seeing and hearing the "buzz of learning". Students are settling nicely into their classroom routines, and teachers have been working on teaching procedures. Please make sure children have a consistent place and time in the afternoon to complete homework and read as the teachers assign work for them to complete at home. Completing tasks and daily assignments makes children responsible which builds positive self-esteem.

As we continue working to provide the best possible educational experience for every student, we have made some adjustments to our instructional program for the upcoming school year. These changes are designed to support student growth, strengthen academic achievement, and ensure that all children receive the support they need to succeed.

In addition to our academic focus, we are excited to implement the Leader in Me framework school-wide. This initiative will help students develop leadership, responsibility, confidence, and character while fostering a positive school culture where every child is empowered to reach their full potential. Stay tuned for more information about Leader in Me.

We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and look forward to partnering with our families to support student success. We are already planning for a great year filled with meaningful learning experiences, academic growth, and leadership development for every student. I am here to ensure that your child/children are successful, enjoy school, and learn as much as possible while at Latta Elementary School. Please feel free to call or email me at any time.

Dollie R. Morrell, Principal

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STUDENT HANDBOOK

Please help your child be successful this school year by staying up to date on rules and procedures for the 2026-27 school year. The LES student handbook is available on our webpage at <https://www.dillon3.k12.sc.us/o/les>. Just click the tab titled "Student Handbook" from the menu bar. If requested, a printed copy can be sent home.

ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

September is attendance awareness month! Consistent school attendance is important to your child's development. Please see that only illness prevents your child from attending school. Any student who misses school must present a written note signed by a parent or physician. After 3 consecutive unlawful absences or a total of 5 unlawful absences, intervention plans will be developed with the parent to improve attendance.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

If your student rides a bus to and from school, it is important that an adult be visible to the driver at the bus stop in the morning and afternoon. If you need to enroll your student with the bus department, please come to the school and complete a bus registration form. If a bus change is needed, this same form can be used. Please be aware that this request can take up to 3 school days to process.

SCHOOL INSURANCE

Dillon District 3 has purchased Student Accident Insurance that covers supervised and sponsored school activities. If you are interested in extending the insurance, you can get a brochure with additional information and purchase prices from the school office.

TITLE I PTO MEETING

We will hold our first PTO meeting of the year on September 15 at 6:00. Please join us to learn more about the Montessori program, as well as Title I. We will also be giving away free books! More information will be sent home later. Make sure to check your child's folder daily!

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We are in need of volunteers to fill several positions at our school. The School Improvement Council (SIC) serves as an advisory committee to the school's administration and faculty. These meetings bring parents, educators, and community members together to help improve our school. We are also in need of PTO officers to help organize meetings throughout the school year. A survey will be sent via text for anyone interested in holding a position within PTO. The survey must be completed by September 5. Thanks for volunteering!

YEARBOOKS

We still have yearbooks available from the 2024-2025 school year at a discounted rate. They are only \$10! If you would like to purchase last year's yearbook, please send the money with your child in an envelope marked "Yearbook" with your child's name and teacher. These are a great way to share memories with your child in the years to come!

FCA

We are eager to begin FCA this year! Our first meeting will be on September 16 at 7:30 a.m. This is available to any 4th or 5th grader that has a signed permission slip to attend. Permission slips will go home on August 10. Please sign and return as soon as possible, if you would like for your child to participate.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Mrs. Duprel and Mrs. Luffman are ready to begin working with our student council. In order to participate, students must be in grades 4 or 5 and have a good discipline and academic history. These students are excellent leaders in our school. They complete many community service activities each year, as well as help with school events after hours. An interest meeting will be held on August 31 at 7:30 a.m.

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

ARRIVAL: please make sure your children are unbuckled, finished eating, have book bag and lunchbox in hand, and are ready to exit the car when it stops. Please pull your car all the way up to the car in front of you. This helps the line move faster in the morning. Students should arrive before 8:00 to eat breakfast. Grades 4K-2nd are dropped off on the front loop. Grades 3rd-5th are dropped off on the back loop. If you are dropping off multiple children, please go by the youngest grade.

DISMISSAL: please make sure your car tag is displayed **sitting up** in the front windshield of your car, or attached to the passenger visor or rear view mirror, so it can be easily seen by the caller and the adults on duty **until after your child is safely in the car**. Tags that are laying on the dash are difficult to see and slow down the flow of dismissal. There are several examples of good tag placement below. Also, please do not get out of your car in the drop off/pick up area. If you need to buckle your child's seatbelt, please pull over, out of traffic, at the ballfield to buckle up. We cannot take transportation changes over the phone. If you change the way your child is getting home, it must be done in writing. Please send a note with your child for any transportation changes. Thank you for your help!

CAR TAGS

On visor with rubber band or clip



Sitting **UP** on the dash (passenger side)



Hanging from rear view mirror with a pants hanger



Coming up.....

July 30	Open House
Aug 3	First Day of School
Aug 5	iReady Reading Assessment
Aug 6	iReady Math Assessment
Aug 10	FCA Permission Slips
Aug 31	Student Council Interest Meeting – Grades 4 and 5 only 7:30