



MORSE PTO New Family Information

About the School

Principal Kim DeFries

(913) 239-6800

School Hours: 8:35-3:45

Visit the [Morse Website](#)

Required Fees

Blue Valley Schools charges a variety of required fees. These include, but are not limited to:

Learning Resource fees (Elementary, Middle and High school): Collected at a rate of \$100 per student, this fee is primarily used to purchase materials and supplies that support educational initiatives in the classroom.

Technology Supply fees (Elementary, Middle and High school): Collected at a rate of \$15 per student, this fee is used for technology materials consumed during the school year and is non-refundable after the first day of school.

Fee-based programs: Blue Valley offers fee-based programs including peer model programs. Contact Julie Bolton at (913) 239-4331 for more information.

NOTE: While Blue Valley Schools receives the majority of its funding from the state of Kansas, the law allows school districts to charge back for certain expenses, included those listed above. District fees will be waived for students who qualify for free and reduced lunches, except for high school level course fees. Payment plans are also available for families who do not qualify for free and reduced lunches. Please contact your school's bookkeeper for more information.

School Absences

To report an absence please call the absence line at 913-239-6805, visit the Morse website, log on to ParentVue or email Julie Thurmond in the office.

School Pick-Up

Carpool line: The car pick-up line can be overwhelming, so come prepared. The line usually begins forming around 3 pm. Please make sure your family's number is visible for the person coming by calling numbers. The principal will come through the line and call your child or children by the family number and they will come out to the car. To enter the carpool line, please remember to enter the parking lot from the south entrance. PLEASE SEE ADDITIONAL SHEET FOR FURTHER CARPOOL INSTRUCTIONS AND MAP for flow of traffic.

Bus/ Daycare Van: The teachers will assist in loading the buses for dismissal.

Walker pick-up: If your child is a walker into the Morse Village they will cross the crosswalk with the help of the crossing guard. If your child is a Blue Stem Walker, you can meet your child outside by the pond doors.

How to Get Involved

Join Morse PTO to help support our school and teachers!

<http://www.morsepto.com/> We are also on Facebook! And be sure to check out our PTO bulletin board in the front entryway of the school. There are many volunteer opportunities. Check out our SignUp Genius to see how you can volunteer at Morse!

Helpful Hints

Visitors must enter through the office, show a valid government issued ID (ie. driver's license) and sign-in (where you will get a visitor sticker.) Visitors need to inform the office administrators of the reason for the visit and the office administrators will facilitate getting your child to the office. (ie. Picking up your child early, dropping off forgotten lunch/homework.)

PLEASE DO NOT GO INTO THE SCHOOL WITHOUT CHECKING IN AT THE OFFICE.

All but one door to the school is locked after school starts to facilitate safety for staff and students.

Please refer to the Nut-Safer Approved Snack List on the Morse website for **ALL** snacks, birthday and party treats. **NO HOMEMADE TREATS ARE ALLOWED.** If you will be having lunch with your child, please sign-in at the office and wait in the front lobby area for your child's class. Do not go back into the classroom.



MORSE PTO

Carpool Procedures

We appreciate your cooperation in making the carpool safe and efficient for everyone.

Enter the carpool line by heading NORTH on Monrovia and turning right into the first entrance to the parking lot. There is a NO LEFT TURN sign with specific hours posted as you head south on Monrovia. During pickup, please be sure to hang your carpool tag in a visible location to allow for your child to be called and ready for you.

The circle drive will be reserved before the line starts moving for the “golden ticket” holders. This ticket will be auctioned off for the next year at the Morse PTO Trivia Night. This means when you line up early you will start in the parking lot behind the entrance to the teacher lot. Once the line starts moving for drop off or pick up, please pull up as far as possible. You may wind up at the top of the circle drive once cars are moving though. This allows us to unload or load more students at a time. (Marked on map)

If you feel your child needs extra help getting in and out of the car, park in the parking lot and walk them to/from your car. It holds up the carpool line if we have parents getting out and walking around the car to help children in and out of cars. There are teachers outside that can assist if needed.

Only unload or load students on the curb side of your vehicle. Please use extreme caution when pulling out from the carpool line. Watch out for students in the crosswalk as well as other moving cars.

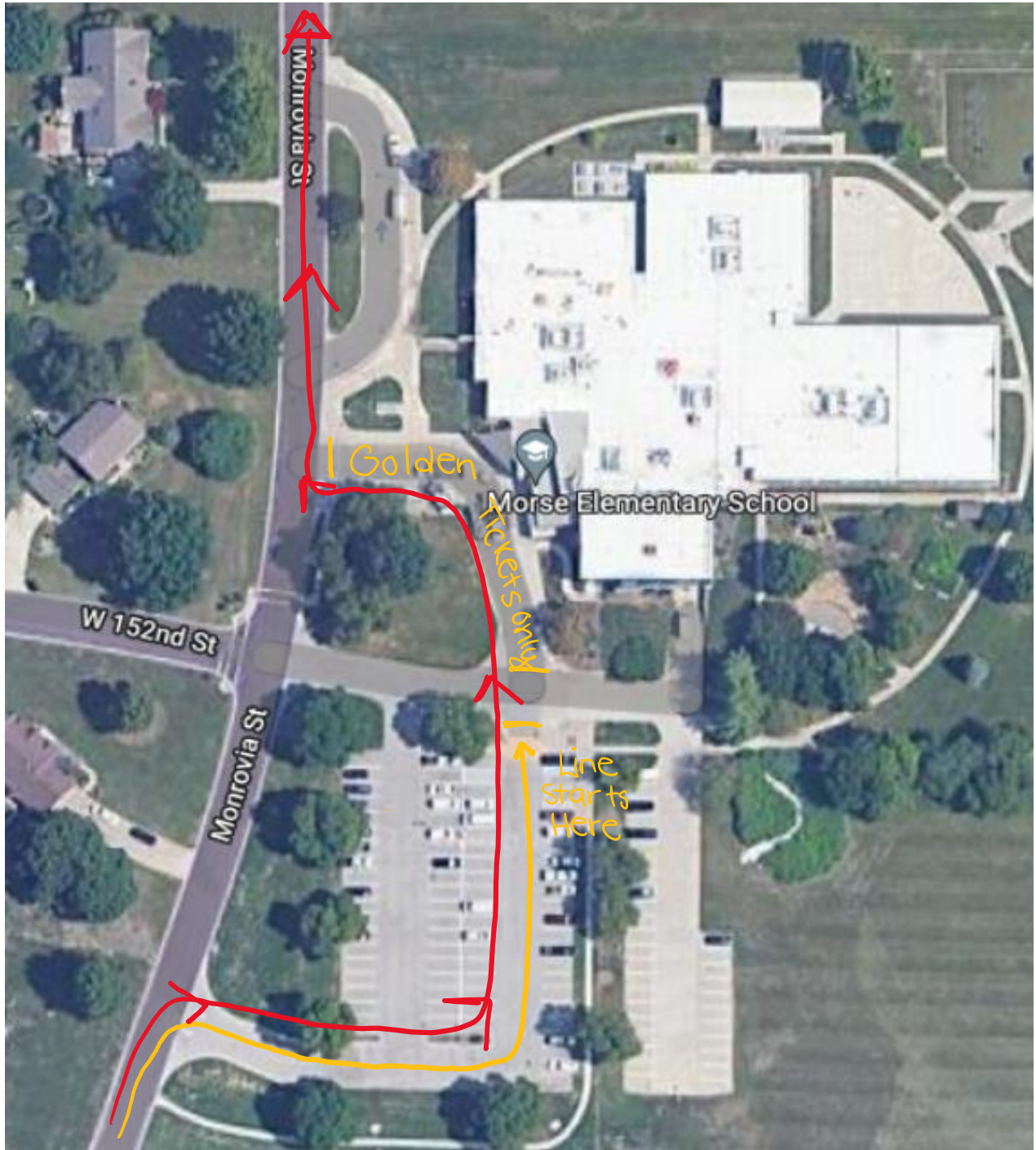
If you choose to park on side streets, walk your child across all streets and use the crosswalk at the top of the circle drive. Please note the NO PARKING signs on Monrovia and 152nd Street.

Please remind your child to be looking for you after school; students can get pre-occupied and not see you.

STUDENT DROP OFF TIME IS 8:15 – if you need to drop them off earlier than 8:15, please contact Y-club for child care arrangements. After 8:15 students may enter the building and will be supervised inside until 8:25, when they will be dismissed to class. School begins at 8:35 am. If you arrive after that, please walk your student in the office to sign them in.

All students, including kindergarten should use the carpool line. Do not use the bus circle for drop off. The bus circle must be kept clear at all times. It is only for bus use, no car drop offs please.

Please pick students up on time; school is dismissed at 3:45.



Red – The path that you will follow to drive through for drop-off and pickup.

Orange – The location where you will line up to park if you arrive early to line up for carpool. Pickup line usually begins forming around 3pm. Start behind the line south of 152nd Street.

4 WAYS TO MAKE MORSE AMAZING

<http://www.morsepto.com>

1. Become a Morse PTO Member:

By simply becoming a member of the Morse PTO, you support our efforts to do good things for our kids.

2. Accept the 2-Hour Volunteer Challenge:

With opportunities to fit everyone's schedule, we encourage you to volunteer for just 2 hours over the course of the school year.

3. Contribute to *Take Stock in Morse*:

Morse PTO does not ask students to fundraise through direct sales. Instead, we ask that you fulfill staff grant requests. This means 100% of your money goes directly back into the classroom.

4. Donate and attend our fundraisers and special events:

Plan to donate items and/or experiences to our fundraisers. Then, be sure to attend our events – you'll have a great time and meet other Morse parents.

Volunteer Myths Busted!!!

Myth: *PTO is just for stay-at-home moms.*

FACT: **PTO is for everyone.** Our volunteers are moms, dads, grandparents and other caregivers. Our volunteers stay-at-home, work part-time, work full-time, have kids of all ages, are continuing their own education, and more.

Myth: *PTO has all the help they need.*

FACT: **We need volunteers all year long.** We need help with special events, fundraisers, monthly jobs, one-time tasks and many others. The bottom line is **we need you.**

Myth: *Volunteering for the PTO takes too much time.*

FACT: **Only YOU can decide how much time you can give.** Even if you can help at just one event or handle one task per year, it would be greatly appreciated.

Myth: *PTO volunteers need to be at the school during the day.*

FACT: **Much of the PTO work can be done on your own schedule from home, in the evening or on weekends.** Yes, there is some volunteering during the school day. But no one does it all, so choose what works best for you.

Myth: *PTO has the same volunteers every year and everyone knows each other.* **FACT:** **We welcome and absolutely need new volunteers every year.**

Yes, we are fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who return each year, but there are plenty of new faces and volunteering is a great way to meet other Morse parents.

Year in Review 2021-2022

Publishings

- Yearbook
- Student Directory

Take Stock in Morse Initiative

- Staff Grants Awarded: \$5,000

Staff Appreciation

- Back-to-School Staff Gifts
- Back-to-School Staff lunch
- Winter Coffee Truck
- Staff Meals for Conferences
- Staff Appreciation Week Events

Fundraising

- Trivia Night
- Spirit Wear
- Restaurant Spirit Nights (4)
- School Supplies Sale
- Shop for Morse (Amazon, Shutterfly, Box Tops, Hy-Vee)

School Day Fun

- Dr. Seuss Cafe
- Field Trip T-shirts and Buses
- Class Holiday Parties
- Fifth Grade Celebration
- Graduates Walk Through

Building Contributions

- Vandemark Memorial Bench
- Owls Garden Maintenance
- Staff Ice Machine Maintenance

Community Service

- Morse PTO Senior Scholarship
- Kids Against Hunger Donation
- Class Service Project Sponsor
- BVEF Sunflower Breakfast Table

Community Building

- Daddy-Daughter Dance
- Mother-Son Bowling
- Carnival
- Back-to-School Kona Ice
- Kindergarten Coffee
- Volunteer Appreciation

Morse
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