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ROBERTS ELEMENTARY



IB WORLD SCHOOL

# Roberts Family Guidebook 2022 - 2023



**ROBERTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME  
(IB PYP) WORLD SCHOOL**

**OUR MISSION:**

**Roberts Elementary strives to develop leaders in a global society who are inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people with a sense of community, respect and tolerance for diversity, and a love of learning.**

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## **WELCOME TO ROBERTS!**

Roberts Elementary is an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP) World School. As described in our Mission statement, we strive to truly teach to the whole child via curriculum, programs, and enrichment opportunities.

We are a diverse international community of approximately 750 students representing more than 40 countries. Our school has a Neighborhood GT program and a strong focus on the fine arts through our ancillary and enrichment courses.

Parental involvement is an integral part of the Roberts community. Having a strong Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) sustained by devoted parents who are not only willing to support the school financially, but equally with their time and talents, makes Roberts a very special place.

The school administration in conjunction with the PTO created this handbook to serve as a reference guide for key information about our wonderful school. This handbook is also available online. We hope you find the information beneficial.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and the PTO, welcome to what we believe is the absolute best elementary school in the city. Wishing you and your family an awesome school year!

This booklet is intended to serve as a guide to our school and some of the rules that help it run smoothly. It should be used in conjunction with the HISD Code of Student Conduct and the policies of HISD, the Board of Education, and the Texas Education Agency.

## DAILY SCHEDULE

7:15 a.m.	Campus opens and students are supervised (No students are allowed on campus before 7:15 a.m.)
7:25 a.m.	Doors open and breakfast begins
7:30 a.m.	First bell rings and instruction begins
7:35 a.m.	Tardy bell – <b>Students are tardy</b> Morning announcements
9:00 a.m.	Official Daily Attendance Time
2:15 p.m.	Early pick-up ends
3:00 p.m.	Dismissal

## PARKING

We have very limited parent/visitor parking at Roberts. The two parking lots on school grounds are designated for faculty and staff only.

Parents visiting the school during the day may park in the Circle Drive as space permits (only in the designated spaces). Street parking around the school is limited as well. Please pay close attention to the parking zone signage throughout the neighborhood.

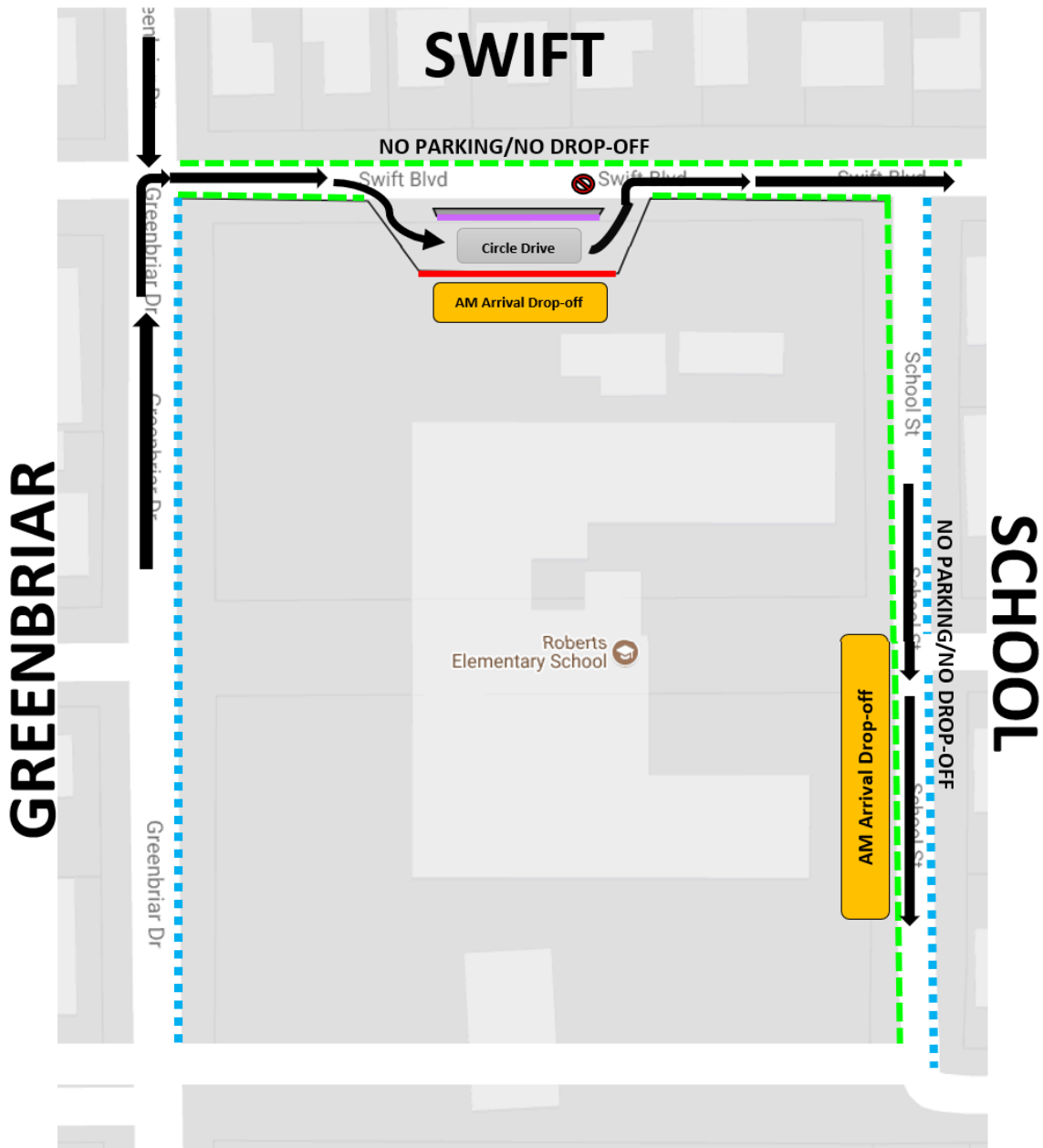
When parking, please be respectful of our neighbors. **Do not block driveways, park in front of garbage cans on collection day, park too close to crosswalks, or otherwise inconvenience residents.**






Please note that there is **no parking** in the following areas:

- Circle Drive between 7:00 – 7:45 a.m. **AND** 2:15 – 3:30 p.m.
- Fire lane in Circle Drive
- In front of the school on Swift Street from 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on school days (both sides of the street)
- Greenbriar (**please DO NOT drop off students on Greenbriar – this is a high traffic area**)

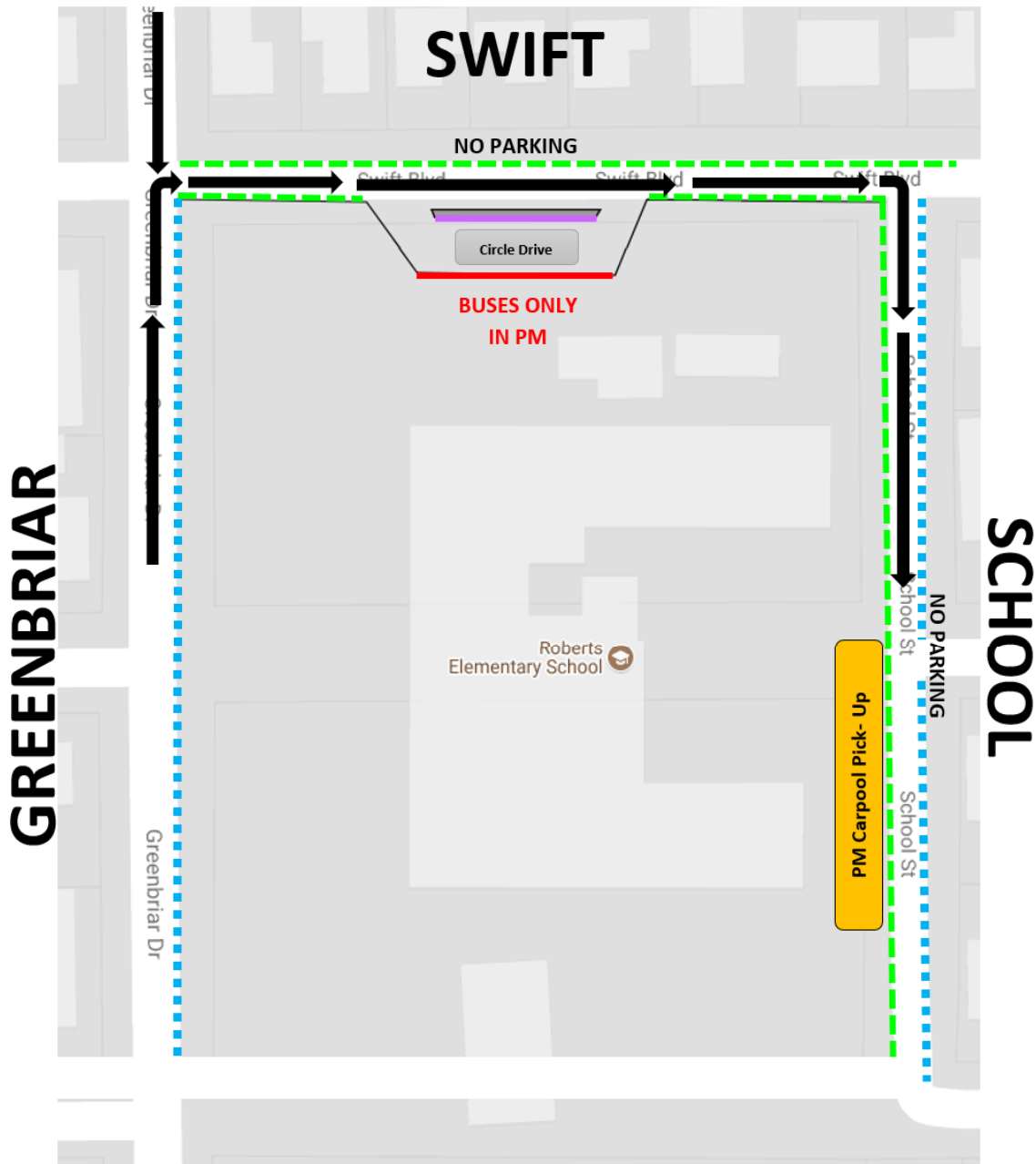
Please refer to the parking maps for detailed lists of all parking constraints.






**Roberts Elementary**  
**Morning Arrival Routes and Parking**



	No parking at anytime
	<b>Circle Drive:</b> No Parking 7:00–7:45 a.m. and 2:15–3:30 p.m.
	<b>No Parking</b> 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
	<b>No Parking</b> at any time / No drop-off
	<b>No Parking</b> at any time / No drop-off Must turn right from Circle Drive on to Swift ( <b>No left turn</b> )

**Roberts Elementary**  
**Afternoon Dismissal Routes and Parking**



	No parking at anytime
	<b>Circle Drive:</b> No Parking 7:00–7:45 a.m. and 2:15–3:30 p.m.
	<b>No Parking</b> 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
	<b>No Parking</b> at any time / No drop-off
	<b>No Parking</b> at any time / No drop-off Must turn right from Circle Drive on to Swift ( <b>No left turn</b> )

## MORNING DROP OFF

Students should not arrive before 7:15 a.m. Parents may drop off students between 7:15 and 7:30 a.m. in the Circle Drive or on School Street where staff are on hand to lead children from their cars.

If you wish to walk your child to the school grounds, you must legally park your car and walk your child in. A few things to remember about morning drop off:

- There is **absolutely no parking** allowed during drop off in the **Circle Drive or on School Street**.
- Students who arrive on campus prior to the first bell at 7:25 a.m. should report to following designated areas:
  - Kinder, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students line up under the covered blacktop near the playground area (students should line up by grade level)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students sit on the deck next to the playground (students should line up by grade level)
  - 5<sup>th</sup> grade students convene at the Big Oak Tree near the Circle Drive
- On inclement weather days, students wait inside the building near their lockers.
- For the safety of our students and staff, parents are NOT allowed to enter the building or walk students to the designated arrival location.

## AFTERNOON PICK-UP

### Parent Walk Up

The location for students awaiting parent walk-up is the flagpole area facing Greenbriar Drive.

- All parent pick-up students are seated inside of the building to wait for their parent/caregiver to arrive.
- Know the full name and grade level of the child you are picking up.
- There is one gate for parents to enter at dismissal for parent pick-up. It is the small pedestrian gate off of Circle Drive.

**Important Note:** The after-school care program uses the covered blacktop area at dismissal. Therefore, it is imperative that this area remains off limits. Parents picking up students from after-school care early must report to reception for pick-up. DO NOT attempt to pick-up your child from the blacktop area. This is a violation of after-school care program guidelines and a safety issue.

### Carpool

All parents will receive a carpool tag. All cars in the carpool line **must** have the numbered car tag displayed (regardless of whether you carpool with other families or are just picking up your own child). We ask that children memorize their carpool number as school staff will call out this number (rather than the child's name) to alert your child that his/her ride has arrived. The pick-up line forms a **single lane** heading east on Swift Street (from Greenbriar) and turning south onto School Street (see the **Afternoon Dismissal Routes and Parking Map**). The line begins to form approximately 15 minutes before dismissal time. As a courtesy to your fellow Roberts parents and to ensure our children's safety, please:

- Do NOT "skip" the pick-up line by approaching it from the east side of Swift Street. Doing so is inconsiderate to others who have been waiting on Swift Street and it slows down pick-up.

- Do NOT turn left onto School Street from Addison.
- Do NOT park your car for any amount of time (whether you remain in the car or not) on School or Swift Streets while the pick-up line is in progress.
- **Remain in your car at all times**, including when your child is entering the vehicle. Our faculty and staff are available to assist with students entering the car. **Do NOT get out of your car.**
- Refrain from using your cell phone while in the pick-up line.
- Follow the directions of the staff to move your car as far forward in line as possible before your child enters the car.
- **Have your child use ONLY the curbside doors of your car. Staff are prohibited from loading students on the street side of the car.**

## RULES FOR DRIVERS, BIKE RIDERS, AND WALKERS

The safety of students is our priority. Parents and students should review these guidelines for safely coming to and leaving school.

### RULES FOR DRIVERS

- Please be patient and observant — young children sometimes forget that driveways and streets are for cars. No appointment or deadline is more important than a child’s safety.
- **Do not** use your cell phone while driving in and around Roberts Elementary.
- **Only allow your child to exit or enter on the curbside of the vehicle.**
- Observe “No Parking” areas.
- Observe speed limit signs.
- Only one person is in charge at major intersections — our crossing guards. Please pay close attention to the directions they give you when approaching our intersections.

### RULES FOR WALKERS

- Walk always.
- Cross streets with the crossing guard.
- Cross streets at the corner after making sure conditions are safe.
- Walk on sidewalks.
- Do not talk to strangers — do not accept rides with strangers.
- Always follow a planned, direct route to your destination.

### RULES FOR BIKE RIDERS

- All bicycle riders must wear protective head gear.
- Walk your bike across major intersections with the crossing guard.
- Bicycles must be walked on campus.
- Bicycles must be parked and locked each day in a bike rack – not onto school gates.
- Only one student per bicycle.
- Always follow a planned, direct route to your destination.



## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to arrive on time (7:30 a.m.) and attend school every day. Parents are responsible for ensuring consistent attendance in school and modeling the importance of punctuality. **Excessive absences and/or chronic tardies harm your child's ability to learn at the same pace of their peers and directly impacts the amount of funding our school receives.** Most importantly, excessive absences may result in retention at the end of the school year. Please request a conference with our school support team to discuss any concerns regarding attendance.

The reason for an excused absence must be stated in writing and signed by the parent/guardian of the student. **A written excuse must be received by the school within three days after the absence.** An absence may be investigated by the attendance officer assigned to the school.

Absenteeism (excused and unexcused) adversely affects our school's TEA rating and funding. All absences are unexcused until an acceptable excuse note has been submitted to the office. Excuse notes may be written, or emailed to Aliya Walji, the Roberts Registrar, at [awalji@houstonisd.org](mailto:awalji@houstonisd.org).

If your child has a medical or dental appointment and is not present at the 9:00 a.m. attendance time but is able to attend school after his/her appointment, bring a "Return to School" slip **from the medical professional**. You should submit the "Return to School" slip at the reception desk and obtain a permit for your child to go to class. Upon receipt of the documentation, the office will change your child's status from "absent" to "present" for the day.

Please note that you will receive a phone call from the attendance office notifying you of an absence even if the absence is excused and you have already sent a note or an email to the office. It is not necessary to call the school if an excuse has been submitted.

### COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAWS TO PARENTS OR TO PERSONS STANDING IN PARENTAL RELATION TO CHILDREN:

Senate Bill 1432, passed by the Texas Legislature effective September 1, 2001, states that if a student is absent from school three (3) days or parts of days in a four-week period without parental consent or is absent without an excuse for ten (10) or more days or parts of days in a six-month period:

- The student's parent or legal guardian is subject to prosecution under Texas Education Code 25.093
- The student is subject to prosecution under Texas Education Code 25.094

It is your duty to require your child to attend school, monitor your child's attendance, and request a conference with a school official to discuss absences. Parents or legal guardians are subject to prosecution under Texas Education Code 25.093 (b) for failure to require their child to attend school.

### EXCUSED ABSENCES

Acceptable excuses for absences are listed below and **require a parent and/or doctor's note.**

- Personal illness (must provide medical documentation after 4 consecutive days)
- Dental/doctor appointments or health services provided to Medicaid-eligible students

- Death in the family (immediate family only)
- Quarantine (as determined by a medical official) – must provide documentation
- Weather or road conditions making travel dangerous (as determined by city officials)
- Emergencies or unusual circumstances recognized by the principal or person designated
- Observance of religious holy days (must provide documentation)
- Suspensions (no parent note required)

## UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

A student is considered to have an unexcused absence if he/she does not present a written excuse within **three days** for one of the reasons stated above or is away from school participating in an activity *not approved* by the district as excusable.

Unexcused absences may be reviewed by the School Attendance Committee in determining whether to grant a student credit for a class in which the student failed to meet the attendance requirement but who met all other academic requirements for passing.

Schools shall attempt to notify parents/guardians of all unexcused absences immediately. All unexcused absences are subject to investigation by the attendance officer assigned to the school.

Unexcused absences may not be made up.

## TARDINESS

We begin learning each morning as soon as the bell rings at 7:30 a.m. Building routines that encourage organization are an important part of the work your child does at school. Arriving on time allows that to happen. Students who arrive after the 7:35 a.m. tardy bell must report to the Reception Office for a tardy slip to enter their classroom. School officials understand that occasionally traffic and inclement weather may cause a student to be late. Persistent tardiness, however, will not be tolerated.

Excessive tardiness may be a cause for disciplinary action and may be reflected in your child’s conduct grade. Excessive tardiness may also be a cause for non-renewal of a transfer.

## RELEASE OF STUDENTS BEFORE REGULAR DISMISSAL

If a student needs to leave school during the day, certain procedures must be followed. Only the parent/guardian who has signed the enrollment card or someone with written authorization from the parent will be allowed to take a child from school during regular school hours. The parent signs the child out at reception and the student will then be called to reception for parent pick-up. Teachers are not permitted to release students unless this procedure has been followed. When possible, the classroom teacher should be sent a note or e-mail in the morning if the student is to leave before the regular time so that plans can be made accordingly. If a parent is out of the city and has left the child(ren) with another adult, a note should be written to the school authorizing the child’s release to this person in case such a release is needed. ***Early release of students is allowed only for a reason such as a medical appointment. Early release of students for non-emergency or medical reasons is highly discouraged. There is no early pick-up of students after 2:15 p.m. under any circumstance.***

## A PLAN FOR EVERY CHILD EVERY DAY

Elementary school children need the security of knowing exactly what to do when the school day is over and should be reminded how they will go home. A message can be relayed to a child through the school office only if an ***occasional emergency*** necessitates a change in plans. A predetermined plan should also be made for rainy days. Since children are not permitted to leave school once they have arrived and are discouraged from using the school phone except in an emergency, parents should do all they can to help their children remember everything needed each day — homework, library books, lunch or lunch money, schoolbooks, etc.

### Dismissal for Inclement Weather and Other Emergencies

In the event of inclement weather conditions or other emergencies and the possibility that schools may be closed, parents, students, and staff members are asked to keep tuned to their radio and television stations for definitive information. The Superintendent of Schools will usually make a decision prior to 6:30 a.m., whenever possible, in the event of a school closure.

If there is a need for an emergency dismissal during the day, students who normally ride daycare transportation or buses will be released to drivers. Children will be signed out by the driver. Every attempt will be made to reach parents to pick-up their children. It is important that parents notify the school and **update enrollment cards** with their current home and office telephone numbers.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

**All visitors to the school are required to enter through the door at the Circle Drive and report to the Reception Office for a visitor's badge.** This requirement applies even to parents who are on school grounds during the school day to attend a meeting, volunteer, or visit their child in the cafeteria at lunch. To obtain your visitor's badge, you must bring formal identification (driver's license, state issued ID, or passport) to the Reception Office. Always remember to get your badge before heading to your destination in the school. Any visitor in the building without a badge will be asked to return to the Reception Office and may be asked to speak with an administrator.

### Additional Security Measures

All entrances to the building will remain locked during the school day. Access to the building during the school day is only allowed through the door at the Circle Drive entrance off Swift Blvd. To enter the building, push the buzzer to the right of the door and the receptionist will open the door remotely. **Please do not allow anyone follow you into the building, and do not ask students to let you in the building as we are trying to teach them to act in a safe manner.** Security cameras are located inside and outside the school building, both to serve as a deterrent and to allow the Front Office to monitor and review video footage captured by these cameras.

## SAFETY DRILLS

Throughout the school year, we conduct regular safety drills. Drills are conducted each month and include fire, inclement weather, and intruder/active shooter drills. The first of each of the drills is announced to students. Thereafter, drills are unannounced.

## EVACUATION ROUTES (MORE THAN 1000 FT. FROM CAMPUS)

In the event of an emergency in which we need to evacuate and move more than 1000 feet from the building, our PRIMARY evacuation location for staff, teachers, and students is Rice Temple Baptist Church, 6409 Greenbriar Dr., Houston, TX 77030. If we are not able to safely evacuate to this location, our SECONDARY evacuation location is the South Stadium Parking Lot at Rice University, University Blvd., Houston, TX 77005.

## HOME COMMUNICATION DAY

**Tuesday** is Home Communication Day. The office and classroom teachers will send home most of all written communications along with student work, which includes graded assignments and/or tests. Tuesday Folders are our primary way to communicate with parents. Each folder contains student work and student conduct for the week. Parents should also use the Tuesday Folder to send items back to the teacher, office, and/or PTO.

To reduce waste, PTO fliers and general information from the school should be accessed via school and/or PTO website. Extra copies of forms and fliers are also available in the Front Office. **Parents are required to review the information in the folder, sign the weekly conduct sheet in the folder, and return all signed items on Wednesday mornings.**

## ESSENTIAL AGREEMENTS FOR STUDENTS

Schoolwide and classroom Essential Agreements are standards of behavior we all decide are important to maintain a safe environment where all children can learn. Classrooms will develop their own Essential Agreements for how students and teachers will conduct themselves in the classroom. Our schoolwide Essential Agreements are listed below:

- We will work together to promote good citizenship.
- We will take care of our school and campus.
- We will walk quietly throughout the hallways, not disturbing other learners.
- We will not hurt ourselves or others, physically or with our words.
- We will respect and care for the property of others.

## DISCIPLINE CODE

At Roberts, our goal is to nurture self-esteem as we help students learn to make good behavior choices, show self-discipline, and accept responsibility for their actions. Parents are expected to be active, supportive partners in their child's educational program. Parents will receive a link to an electronic copy of the *Code of Student Conduct: Your Rights and Responsibilities*. This book details the expectations for student behavior and the consequences for misbehavior. Students are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct at all times when participating in school activities both during and after regular school hours. It is the parent's responsibility to review the Code of Student Conduct with his/her child.

The administrative staff is charged with maintaining adequate discipline in each school. The teacher is responsible for the care, discipline, and instruction of pupils in his/her care and as assigned by the principal. The entire staff enforces all rules governing the conduct of pupils about the building and campus. Students will be treated reasonably, fairly and with patience, **but persistent misconduct will not be tolerated. Parents will be advised**

**promptly when students begin to have difficulties which might lead to suspension, reassignment, and/or expulsion.** (State Law Section 37.000) The school may prohibit any action which impairs, interferes with, and/or obstructs the educational process or function of the school.

Children will not be permitted to attend extra-curricular activities (field trips, assemblies, participate in programs, etc.) if their conduct (P or U) does not warrant participation.

## **USE OF CELLULAR PHONES/SMART DEVICES**

We highly discourage students bringing cell phones/smart devices to school. Students who bring cell phones to school must store them in their lockers at their own risk. All cellular phones **must remain in the OFF position** (unable to receive signals and commands) while on campus or at any school sponsored events (on or off campus). **Cell phones may not be worn on the student's body. Students are NOT ALLOWED to wear smart watches to school.** A smart watch is defined as a watch with the same capabilities as a cell phone (phone calls, text messages, and internet access).

The unauthorized operation of these devices will result in confiscation. The principal or designee will notify the parent with the intent to dispose of the device if left after 30 days. A \$15 administrative fee payable to Houston ISD may be charged if the device is confiscated. Devices not claimed within 30 days will be sent to Property Management for disposal.

## **TIMELINES FOR HOMEWORK**

Homework is an extension of the work previously taught in the classroom. Homework assignments should be reviewed by parents for completion and accuracy. Homework may be used by the teacher to determine areas for re-teaching but will not be used for a numerical grade.

Parents should offer assistance for homework when it is needed and may wish to provide feedback to the teacher on areas the child struggles with. Parents **should not** take a leading role in homework.

In general, homework assignments will be completed for the following day; however, long-range assignments and/or special projects will provide students with an opportunity to develop and refine research skills and the ability to work independently.

**If homework becomes a significant struggle at home, please contact your child's teacher to discuss the circumstances.**

## **NIGHTLY READING**

Nightly Reading is a strong habit that will help your child in many ways. Children are expected to read 20 - 30 minutes every night. For our early readers, the 20 minutes may be comprised of independent reading and time spent reading with a parent.

## NOTICE OF PROGRESS

The *Notice of Progress* will be sent to all parents during the third week of each reporting period, or as often as may be deemed necessary. The *Notice of Progress* form will be made in duplicate — one copy placed in a file in the principal's office and one copy sent to the parent. **Parents and/or guardians must sign and return the form to indicate that a parent and/or guardian has seen the report.**

## REPORT CARDS

A report card is issued to the parent or guardian at the close of each six-week grading period. Grades obtained during the days of attendance and/or current transferred grades will be the basis for the report card grade. When a student has transferred from one or more schools within a grading period, grades on the checkout sheet or latest report card are considered as the basis for report card grades. **Parents and/or guardians must sign and return one copy of the report card to indicate that a parent and/or guardian has seen the report.**

## CONTACTING YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

All teachers are accessible by e-mail using the e-mail addresses listed in the school directory and linked from the school website. **We ask that you give teachers 24 hours to respond to a parent email or call. Weekends, holidays, and professional development days are excluded from the 24-hour response time.**

## E-MAIL ETIQUETTE TIPS

These guidelines can help parents use e-mail in ways that will be most beneficial to the students.

- Never use e-mail for matters of controversy or distress. When you have a serious matter, it is always best to meet with the teacher directly.
- Do not send multiple e-mails on the same topic. Generally, teachers will try to get back to you as quickly as they can. Remember, they have many students and are concerned about all of them.
- Never say anything by e-mail that you would not want to be published.
- The rules for civility in e-mails are the same as face-to-face meetings. Convey a positive tone in your e-mail which can set the stage for a cordial working relationship with teachers and other school personnel.

(Source: eSchoolNews, October 2000)

When e-mailing a teacher, consider:

### **Purpose of Communication**

What is the goal in communicating with the teacher? If the goal is to share information or provide the teacher time to reflect on an issue/question you would like to discuss, an e-mail is probably appropriate. However, if the goal is to have a meaningful two-way discussion, an e-mail is not appropriate. The pitfall of e-mail is how each reader perceives the tone of the e-mail which can lead to misunderstanding. We encourage face-to-face or telephone conference calls whenever possible.

## **Please Keep in Mind**

Teachers are interested in communicating with parents. Teachers want parents as a partner to maximize students' learning. Teachers want to know if a student is having trouble at home or at school. Communication, although important, needs to come from an understanding of developing a partnership between the school and parents. Responding to e-mails takes time and thought. E-mails leave a lot of room for misunderstanding. But, if we all work together in a healthy partnership, then the student will benefit most of all.

## **Issues to Consider before E-mailing a Teacher**

Timing: Remember during a teacher's day, he/she is juggling multiple students and making sure all students are learning. If you do not receive a reply on the same day of your e-mail, it does not mean you are being ignored. If you do not hear back from a teacher after 24 hours of your e-mail, please contact an administrator.

## **School Realities**

The administration team expects teachers to give their total attention to their classroom, and most of the time this does not allow teachers to check e-mails regularly. Many teachers check e-mail in the morning or after school and try to respond within 24 hours. Teacher illness, training sessions, workshops, meetings, and conferences can also cause a delay in response time. The teachers devote their planning periods to meetings, parent conferences, designing lesson plans, grading papers, updating gradebooks, preparing for assessment, and furthering their other learning through team planning/learning.

## **PARENTAL CONCERNS**

Should you have a concern about something happening at school, please follow the outlined steps below:

1. **Make an appointment with your child's teacher** during his/her conference time to see if the issue can be resolved. Most issues are due to a lack of communication or misunderstanding.
2. Only after you have made an honest attempt to resolve the concern with the teacher should you contact an administrator.

## **REQUESTING A PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE**

We invite parents to meet with their child's teacher throughout the year. Parents may request a parent/teacher conference to discuss a variety of issues whenever the need arises for a conference. Teachers are available before school, during their planning period, and after school. Designated parent/teacher conferences are scheduled twice during the school year. **We ask that parents make appointments 48 hours in advance and wait for teacher confirmation.**

## **OPEN HOUSE**

In the fall of each school year, parents are invited to a **parent only** Open House. The purpose of the event is to provide parents with an overview of the curriculum, how the teacher differentiates instruction for all students, and the classroom procedures. The date and time of this event will be announced in the Tuesday Folder, Front Page (electronic newsletter), and on the school website.

## BREAKFAST, LUNCH, AND SNACKS

### Breakfast

Breakfast is available Monday through Friday from 7:25 – 7:30 a.m. in the café. Breakfast and lunch menus are published monthly and sent home via the Tuesday folder and can be accessed through the HISD website and app. HISD Cafeteria Guidelines must be followed. Breakfast is free to all HISD students.

### Lunch

Your child's lunch period depends on his/her grade level. The lunch period may begin as early as 10:20 a.m. and as late as 12:45 p.m. Students may bring lunch from home or purchase a lunch from the cafeteria. The HISD lunch menu is distributed monthly in the Tuesday Folder and is on the HISD website. To purchase lunch, a student may pay with cash daily, pre-pay (in the cafeteria), or pay with a credit card online at [www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com). Water fountains are in the cafeteria for student use. Microwaves are not available for student use. A list of non-allowable foods is listed below.

Parents are welcome to visit their child during his/her lunch period **occasionally**. All parents must sign in at the Reception Office and receive a visitor's badge. Parents who wish to visit during lunch should use a folding chair as all seats at the table are utilized for students. **Parents may only eat with their child. No siblings, relatives or friends may be pulled from other tables. Parents are not allowed to bring snacks/food to anyone other than their child.**

Parents must adhere to the scheduled lunch times and exit the café using the exit leading to the main hallway headed towards Reception. **To allow time for students to practice café routines and procedures, the first day for parents to visit for lunch is Monday, September 26, 2022.**

### HISD Cafeteria Guidelines:

- **Food cannot be shared (siblings may not eat from each other's plates).**
- Outside food can only be brought for *your* child.
- Food may not be taken out of the cafeteria.
- **Under no circumstances are parents and/or guardians allowed to eat off a child's plate.**

### Non-allowable Foods

Students are **not allowed** to bring the following food items to school:

- Soft drinks/Soda
- Items packaged in glass containers
- Candy

### Snacks

- Depending on the time of the class's lunch period, your child's teacher may ask that you pack a light snack for your child to be eaten mid-morning or mid-afternoon. Your child's teacher will let you know about snacks at the beginning of the school year.



## DRESS CODE

Creating a positive learning atmosphere is a collective responsibility. These guidelines have been established to ensure that safety and health standards are maintained as well as an environment conducive to learning. The guidelines were established in collaboration with the SDMC (May 2017). We solicit your cooperation in ensuring that appropriate school dress and grooming is maintained.

- Appropriate shoes are to be worn at all times. All footwear must have heel straps. **Flip flops of any kind may not be worn.** Tennis shoes and socks should be worn for P.E.
- Clothes that depict or refer to alcoholic beverages, violence, drugs, nudity, or contain suggestive slogans will not be allowed. Verbiage written on the buttocks of pants/shorts is **not** allowed.
- Hats, head coverings, and hoods on jackets may not be worn inside of the building (unless for religious or documented medical reasons).
- Tops must be long enough so that the skin is not showing when bending over but shorter than the shorts or skirts worn with them.
- Halter tops, tops that expose the midriff, are **not** allowed.
- **Shorts, skirts, and dress length must reach the tips of the student's fingers when placed by their sides while standing in an upright position.**
- Belts must be worn with loose-fit shorts or pants so that pants stay fitted on the waist.
- Leggings must be opaque (unable to see through) and be worn underneath tops, skirts, dresses, or shorts that are not long enough to cover the buttocks.
- Make-up is not allowed.

**Appropriateness of dress is determined by school administration.**

## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips will be arranged by the grade level team as an extension of the school's curriculum and instruction. Permission forms for field trips are sent home in the Tuesday Folder a few weeks before a scheduled field trip. **For your child to participate, you must sign and return the form.** Students are always required to wear the Roberts red t-shirt on field trip days and may be instructed to bring a sack lunch (as opposed to lunch in a non-disposable lunch box) on the trip. Details will be included on the permission slip. Parent chaperones are often needed for field trips. If you would like to serve as a chaperone, contact your child's teacher or the classroom parent.

No students will be permitted to go on a trip without written permission on the appropriate form. **We reserve the right to deny a child's participation in a field trip or co-curricular activities if his/her conduct (P or U) at school does not merit this privilege.**

## Chaperones for Field Trips

**In order to chaperone you must be pre-approved under the HISD Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) Program.**

This process takes several weeks, so please see the front office as soon as possible to get the registration process started. We believe that field trips are integral components to learning. Your donations to cover your child's portion of the trip are welcomed.

Assisting teachers with field trips is an important part of our volunteer program. Adult supervision makes for a pleasant learning experience for all of our students. **All chaperones must ride school buses.**

## PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We encourage every parent to take an active role in participating in school events and volunteering. The success of our school depends greatly on your volunteer service to the school. There are many friendships fostered through participation in school endeavors. Of greater value and importance is for your child to see their parents support their school and its activities in a positive manner.

### Signing up to Volunteer

On the right side of the home page of our website (<https://robertspto.membershiptoolkit.com/>) is a button where you can sign up for both school wide and classroom level volunteer opportunities. There are brief descriptions of each volunteer position listed. Once you sign up, you will be contacted by the committee chairperson with more information about specific volunteer activities. Please see page 22 for more detailed information on volunteering.

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

If you would like to bring a snack on your child's birthday, always check with your child's teacher first for a list of acceptable foods and any food allergies that children in the class may have. Parents are allowed to bring pre-packaged, individual snacks to celebrate their child's birthday. Items should be brought to the school for distribution no later than 10:00 a.m. and labeled with student name and teacher name. **Birthday cake, hats, balloons or other celebratory items are not allowed.** The snack will be distributed during recess or at the end of the day as determined by the teacher and class schedule.

**Invitations to your child's birthday party should not be distributed at school unless the entire class is invited.** Invitations should be given to your child's teacher. Birthday parties are not allowed to be held during the school day.

## MEDICAL CARE AT SCHOOL

Our school clinic is staffed by a full-time school nurse who can administer first aid in cases of emergency. **It is very important that we have a current phone number for you at all times.** We will contact you by phone should your child become ill or suffer an injury while at school.

### Immunizations

Children must be current on all immunizations and have proof of all vaccinations to be enrolled in Houston ISD.

### **Medication**

The school nurse cannot provide any medication to students without the appropriate documentation from a physician. This includes both prescription and over-the-counter medications. Please visit the clinic for copies of the appropriate paperwork. Students are not allowed to keep or take any medication on their person including aspirin or allergy medication. **All medication must be given to the nurse upon arrival at the school.**

### **Illness**

Students with fever, vomiting, or rashes are not allowed to come to school until they are well, or a doctor's permit states they are no longer infectious.

- Students must be fever free for a full 24 hours (without medication) in order to return to school.
- Wounds are to be covered at all times at school.
- Lice are considered communicable, and all students must be **COMPLETELY** lice free before the student can be permitted back in the classroom.

## **SCHOOL STORE**

The Roberts School Store is operated by the PTO for the convenience of our school community. The store sells HISD-approved school supplies, red Roberts t-shirts and hoodie jackets, as well as other items such as Roberts bumper stickers, adult-sized Roberts shirts, and hoodies.

Pre-purchased school supplies will be delivered by the PTO to your child's classroom before the start of school. If you were unable to pre-purchase your child's supplies, a copy of supply lists is available in the front office and on the school website.

## **DOGS ON CAMPUS**

Dogs are **NOT** allowed inside the fenced area of the school grounds during school hours, including the hours when morning and afternoon extended day are in session. If you bring your dog to school, it must remain on the sidewalk outside the fenced area on a leash and under the direct control of an adult. This rule is to protect the safety of our students and your pet. If you bring your dog onto the school grounds outside of school hours, please be sure to keep your dog on a leash (as per city leash law), clean up after it, and please keep your dog out of the mulched areas of the playground.

## **AFTER-SCHOOL CARE AND SPECIALITIES PROGRAM**

Roberts offers two after-school options, After-School Care and our Specialties Program. Both programs offer hours from 3:00 – 5:30 p.m. Students may participate in a variety of activities such as academic enrichment, fine arts, sports, and other classes. Our Specialties Program is designed for students who show a heightened interest and wish to participate in targeted instruction in the arts, athletics, and/or academics.

Space in our After-School Care is limited. A lottery system is used for selecting incoming kindergarten students.

Students in grades 1-5 are placed on the waitlist by application date. Registration forms for our Specialties Programs are sent home prior to each session.

On early dismissal days, there are no after-school activities. Notice of dates in which there are no After-School Care and Specialties Programs are listed on the school website.

If your child will be absent from either of our after-school programs, please contact the main office, as attendance is taken. If you need to take your child out early, please come to the reception desk to sign out your child.

## HISD CONNECT

HISD Connect is an online service which allows registered parents to access a variety of information about their child(ren) such as attendance, class schedules, assignments, and grades. If desired, a parent can arrange for a text message or email if a child's grade drops below a pre-set value. More information about HISD Connect, including how to register, may be found at [www.houstonisd.org/PSC](http://www.houstonisd.org/PSC) and through the Front Office.

## LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found is located just off the cafeteria near the School Store. **Please write your child's full name on items as this often will help in having the item returned.** All items not retrieved from the Lost and Found are donated to charity.

## MUSIC LESSONS

Students may sign up at the beginning of each school year for piano lessons which are offered weekly during recess. Students must commit to a full year of lessons and to practice at home. There is a fee for lessons and space is limited; priority is given to continuing students. For more information, look for sign-up sheets in the Tuesday Folder at the beginning of the school year and on the school website.

## ANCILLARY CLASSES

Students attend ancillary classes on a rotating schedule. Students attend art, library, Spanish, physical education (P.E.), music, and dance. Your child's teacher will provide an ancillary schedule for the class at the beginning of the school year. If an ancillary class falls on a school holiday, that ancillary will be moved to the next full school day on the schedule. On days when students attend P.E., tennis shoes with socks should be worn.

## THE IB PROGRAMME

Roberts became an authorized International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP) World School in 2005. It is very difficult to become an IB school and we are very proud of our school's achievement! Many parents cite the school's IB Programme as one of the main reasons they chose Roberts for their child. Through its emphasis on inquiry and critical thinking, the IB Programme helps students build the skills they need for lifelong learning and success. All students enrolled at Roberts participate in the IB Programme.

### **What is IBO?**

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) is a nonprofit educational foundation founded in 1968 and based in Geneva, Switzerland with offices worldwide. *There are currently IB PYP schools in 93 countries, with 1000 programs worldwide.*

Working with schools, governments, and international organizations, IBO has developed four international education programs (based on grade level) that develop the intellectual, personal, emotional, and social skills needed to live, learn, and work in a rapidly globalizing world. These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right. (For more information, visit [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org).)

To become an IB school, a school must undergo a rigorous qualification process that typically takes over two years to complete, and then continue to meet the IB's stringent requirements and evaluations on an ongoing basis. In addition, the school is required to provide its teachers with continuing IB education.

### **What is IB PYP?**

IB PYP is the International Baccalaureate's Primary Years Programme - IB Programme designed for children aged 3 to 12. The IB PYP focuses on the development of the whole child in the classroom and in the world outside. Through different transdisciplinary planners, students explore six areas of inquiry: who we are, where we are in place and time, how we express ourselves, how the world works, how we organize ourselves, and how we share the planet.

### **The IB PYP Portfolio**

The school maintains an IB portfolio for each student, preserving representative samples of his/her IB work through his/her years at Roberts. Parents are invited to attend a student-led conference each spring (the "Portfolio Picnic") to review the portfolio, and the complete portfolio is presented to the parent upon completion of elementary school.

## **GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION**

### **What does it mean to be a "Neighborhood G/T" School?**

All HISD schools identify gifted and talented children within their school population and offer them specialized instruction to meet their needs. These students are served through the Neighborhood G/T Program.

### **What are the criteria for determining whether a child is G/T?**

The Texas Education Code defines the G/T child as one "who performs at or shows the potential for performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment. The child also: exhibits high performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area; possesses an unusual capacity for leadership; or excels in a specific academic area." Students are evaluated on multiple criteria, including ability and achievement testing, teacher ratings, and grades. At present, approximately 40% of Roberts students are designated G/T.

**When is my child evaluated?**

All kindergarten students are automatically tested in the fall using an online ability test along with the achievement norm referenced test. Qualified students will receive services with the program beginning later in the spring. Families entering Roberts after kindergarten or whose children did not qualify in the kindergarten year may still have their children considered for the Neighborhood G/T program. Please check our website for information regarding the G/T testing windows and application deadlines.

**What happens if my child is identified as G/T?**

Roberts offers its G/T students a differentiated curriculum using the IB PYP planners, workstations, and by modifying the general academic program in depth and complexity within the regular classroom setting. All teachers at Roberts have a minimum of thirty hours of Gifted and Talented professional development and receive an additional six hours of continuing G/T professional development each year.

**RESOURCES AT ROBERTS**

**School Counselor**

Mrs. Eydie Docherty is the school counselor. She is available to assist families and their children with a wide variety of concerns such as emotional issues, adjustment problems, and sources of stress within the family such as an illness or death. To schedule an appointment with Mrs. Docherty please contact the Front Office or via email at [eydie.docherty@houstonisd.org](mailto:eydie.docherty@houstonisd.org).

**Special Education**

Mrs. Kendra Salas is the school’s special education teacher/chairperson. Students requiring special education are identified through special education testing and are qualified under TEA’s guidelines. For questions regarding special education instructional programs, please contact Mrs. Salas through the Front Office or via email at [ksalas@houstonisd.org](mailto:ksalas@houstonisd.org).

**Speech Therapist**

HISD employs a full-time speech therapist for Roberts Elementary. The speech therapist works with teachers to identify students with speech needs and provides free speech therapy to those students who qualify under HISD guidelines. Appointments with the speech therapist may be requested through the Front Office.

**504 Chairperson**

Mrs. Erica Zatzkin is the school’s 504 administrator/chairperson. For questions regarding 504 services for students, please contact Mrs. Zatzkin through the Front Office or via email at [ezatzkin@houstonisd.org](mailto:ezatzkin@houstonisd.org).

**WHO TO CONTACT**

School Nurse	Ms. Sandra Felder	<a href="mailto:sfelder1@houstonisd.org">sfelder1@houstonisd.org</a>
Registrar	Mrs. Aliya Walji	<a href="mailto:awalji@houstonisd.org">awalji@houstonisd.org</a>

After-School Care / Specialties	Mrs. Sofia Marroquin Duran	<a href="mailto:smarroqu@houstonisd.org">smarroqu@houstonisd.org</a>
Reception	Mrs. Rose Nguyen	<a href="mailto:rose.nguyen@houstonisd.org">rose.nguyen@houstonisd.org</a>
School Secretary/Admin. Asst.	Mrs. Margarita Marroquin	<a href="mailto:mmarroqu@houstonisd.org">mmarroqu@houstonisd.org</a>
Gifted/Talented & IB	Mrs. Kristina Tran	<a href="mailto:kristina.tran@houstonisd.org">kristina.tran@houstonisd.org</a>

## **FORMS OF COMMUNICATION**

### **Newsletters**

The school’s electronic newsletter – The Front Page, is published weekly. The newsletter provides information about all upcoming school events. The link for The Front Page is available on both the school and PTO website.

### **The Roberts Website**

The school website, [www.houstonisd.org/robertselem](http://www.houstonisd.org/robertselem), is a comprehensive source of news and information for Roberts parents. The website home page contains information about upcoming events and other important announcements. From the home page, you can access current Tuesday Folder forms and fliers and the school directory.

### **Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Meetings**

General PTO meetings are OPEN TO ALL PARENTS AND GUARDIANS and are generally held the first Friday of the month. Please check the Front Page and the school website for notices about PTO meetings. PTO meetings are a great way to learn about what is going on at school and ways you can support our school community. We are always looking for new ideas and ways to improve our school.

### **School Calendar**

The School Calendar is found on the school website and provides important dates for the coming school year.

### **The Marquee**

Important reminders are posted on the school’s digital marquee which is located on the corner of Greenbriar Drive and Swift Street. Birthday announcement spots are sold via the PTO Auction.

### **Shared Decision-Making Committee (SDMC)**

The Shared Decision-Making Committee (SDMC) is an advisory group composed of classroom teachers, professional staff members, non-professional staff members, parents, community members, a business partner, and the principal. School based members are selected by vote. Parents, community members, and the business partner are selected by the principal. The PTO President and President-Elect serve as parents on the committee. The SDMC provides input and suggestions on a wide variety of issues affecting the school during monthly meetings. Please contact the principal via email if you are interested in having an issue put on an upcoming SDMC meeting agenda.

## **FUNDRAISING AT ROBERTS**

Fundraising at Roberts is critical to the success of the school. Parents, friends, and the community give money,

time, and talent to provide essential support for the programs that make our school so successful. Roberts is one of a handful of public elementary schools in Houston that **does not** qualify for Title I funding. Title I funding is federal money for schools in which 40% or more of students come from low-income families. Without Title I funds, Roberts must rely heavily on money generated from parents and friends.

Property owners pay taxes that help support the public school system. Renters help “pay” for property taxes through their rent. With the recent state budget cuts and more possible in the future, fundraising is more important than ever. The concept of raising private money to help support public school is nothing new, but at Roberts, we try to make it fun and something everyone can participate in throughout the school year.

When you give to Roberts through our fundraisers, you are helping to provide for:

Educational Materials: PTO funds are used to supplement educational programs and materials used by teachers in all content areas. Without this support, teachers would be forced to use materials provided by the District exclusively.

Technology: The PTO supports updating technology for all grade levels. HISD does not have the funding to support replacements and upgrades on a consistent basis. As a non-Title I campus, much of the federal government funding is not available to us. The use of computers, Smartboards, and other technology helps our students develop critical thinking and keep pace with our changing world.

Professional Development: PTO funds help supplement our teachers’ continuing education. This includes extensive teacher training to maintain our IB program.

Fine Arts Enrichment: PTO funds supplement our visual and performing fine arts program. PTO funds cannot pay for teacher salaries, but the funds can pay for other necessary programs and supplies.

School Event Support: We work hard to balance our fundraising events and free community building events. The International Festival and Community Nights are two of the largest free events supported by the PTO.

School Maintenance: Our wonderful school is over 80 years old and is the heart of our neighborhood. PTO funds enhance and beautify the building and grounds and keep our school a safe and pleasant learning environment.

### **How do I help?**

As you can see from the list above, PTO fundraising is truly important to the daily work of Roberts Elementary. The school has several major fundraisers throughout the year. We encourage you to become involved with all of them! The dates for each are listed in the PTO School Calendar, but here is a quick overview:

100% PTO - Culture of Giving: This membership drive is the first fundraiser you will encounter at Roberts during the school year. It takes place at the beginning of the year and is simply an opportunity for everyone involved at Roberts – parents, guardians, grandparents, staff, teachers, and community – to contribute money to the school. Classes “compete” against each other. The membership drive helps the PTO support events that occur later in the year and is essential to our fundraising. It typically raises greater than \$70,000 and the amount has gone up over the past few years. Please give what you can – this is great way to feel invested in your child’s school. We encourage 100% participation!

Book Fair: Roberts hosts a book fair each year during which children and their families can purchase books, with a portion of the proceeds going directly to the school. The book fair is a great opportunity to purchase books for donation to the library and classrooms. Watch the newsletter and website calendar for dates.



Fun Run: Every child at Roberts can participate in the Fun Run. It is a great way for every child to help support the school. The fundraising portion takes place over a two-week period and culminates with a Fun Run during school hours. It is a great event for students and easy for extended family to support Roberts.

Roberts Auction: The Roberts Auction is an adult only event held annually. This is a great opportunity to socialize with other parents and bid on fun parties and other items.

Roberts Carnival: The last fundraiser of the year is our carnival. The entire Roberts community comes together for this event. Children and their families enjoy food, games, and fun in celebration of the close of another successful school year.

**Other opportunities to support the school throughout the year include:**

Class funds: At the beginning of the year, you will receive a request from the room parent to provide some funding for the classroom fund. The classroom fund helps support the teacher in the classroom, provide classroom-specific needs, class parties, and celebrate teacher birthdays. This fund is different from the 100% PTO Membership Drive but is also collected at the beginning of the year.

## **VOLUNTEERING AT ROBERTS: HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Roberts would not be the outstanding school it is today without the ongoing support and involvement of dedicated parents who give freely of their time and talents to better our children's learning environment. It is part of our school culture to think of volunteering not as a question of "whether" but "how." For our school, volunteering helps create a cohesive and vibrant school community, which in turn continues to attract a highly professional and dedicated faculty and staff. Check out the website to see all available volunteer opportunities and check back often as new opportunities are always added. Our jobs are organized by grade, class, school-wide, ongoing, or event specific. Whatever your time constraints, whatever your talents, we know you have something to offer!

### **PTO Volunteer Sign Up**

On the right side of the home page of our website (<https://robertspto.membershiptoolkit.com/>) is a button linking to a sign-up form where you can sign-up for both school-wide and classroom-level volunteer opportunities. There are brief descriptions of each volunteer position listed. Once you sign-up, you will be contacted by the committee chairperson with more information about specific volunteer activities.

### **HISD VIPS Program**

To volunteer within the Houston Independent School District (HISD), you must be registered through the HISD Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) program, which runs an annual criminal background check. Please check at reception for guidelines.

### **Event Driven Volunteer Jobs**

100% PTO Membership: Jobs include keeping records of donations, data entry, generating and distributing receipts and thank you letters, and organizing a party for the prize-winning classroom. Planning and volunteers needed during September.

Auction: Oversee acquisitions, advertising, invitations, ticket sales, underwriting, food and drinks, decorations, and other tasks. Jobs vary and include leading a group of volunteers, picking up donated items, data entry, and

set up and tear down the day of the auction. Planning and work on this event from November — March.

Book Fair: Duties include set up, publicity, organizing refreshments for family night, decorating, working checkout, accepting book dedications, and helping customers select books.

Carnival: Organize various functions of the event, such as classroom booths, scheduling rides and booths, publicity, sponsors, food, and t-shirt ordering and distribution. Jobs range from leading a group of volunteers, organizing your class booth, and working an hour the day of the event. Plan and work on this event from February — May.

Directory: Organize and coordinate the timely production and distribution of the school directory. Obtain directory ads. Collect directory information, format the information, and have it printed by early October. Jobs vary from soliciting sponsors, proofreading, and data entry. Volunteers needed from August — October.

International Festival: Largest community event. Work with parents from various countries to put on a showcase of Roberts' international flavor for one Friday in October. In the past years over 40 countries have been represented. Jobs include country specific booths, outdoor stage and performance coordinator, and class presentations. Work on this event is from September — October.

### **Ongoing Volunteer Jobs**

Newsletter: The school newsletter is published weekly and provides a quick overview of upcoming events. Help submit pictures and write for the newsletter.

Hospitality: Organize breakfasts, lunches, and refreshments for the various meetings and functions at school.

International Garden: Maintain the garden with the support of parents, students, and the community. Organize classroom planting and harvesting days, monthly garden liaison days for parents, and coordinate large seasonal pruning and clean outs.

Library: Library volunteers re-shelve books, maintain the books, and help children to select books for checkout. This job can be a set schedule for you.

Lunchroom: Lunchroom volunteers work during the lunch hours assisting children and helping to maintain order in the lunchroom.

PADRES: Promoting Active Dads at Roberts Elementary School is open to all Roberts dads. The PADRES organize the Roberts Campout each fall, provide set-up support for school events, and hold 2-4 workdays at school to complete needed projects. Contact the PADRES committee chairs to join email updates.

Room Parents: The role of the room parent is to coordinate and communicate classroom activities. Jobs include coordinating winter and end of school parties, maintaining email list of all parents, and distributing information throughout the year. Collect classroom funds to be used for parties, class auction project, and teacher gifts.

Staff Appreciation: During the school year, grade levels sponsor staff luncheons. Jobs include coordinating your grade lunch, bringing in a dish for luncheon, set up and clean up.

Welcome: Work with Room Parent to provide help to incoming families. Volunteers provide translations and assist in helping parents acclimate to the Roberts community.

Work Room: Assist teachers with copies and lamination needed for classrooms. Training is provided. Hours and dates are flexible, can be a set schedule.