

Panther Kids Guide for Parents

Midway ISD After-School Child Care Program 2011-12



The purpose of Panther Kids is to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of children who would otherwise be unsupervised after school by providing a healthy, nurturing, and stimulating environment on campus. Panther Kids is self-funded through fees paid by the parents of children served. All fees collected remain in the accounts of the program to fund Panther Kids operational expenses. MISD does not profit from the program. Since it is the district's goal to serve MISD elementary children who would otherwise be unsupervised after school, it is not the intent of MISD to compete with private child care providers.

REGISTRATION – Midway ISD students in kindergarten through sixth grade are eligible to register for Panther Kids. Students are considered enrolled in Panther Kids only after parents have completed an enrollment form, paid all required fees, and signed a “Parent Support Agreement.” A limited number of enrollees are accepted each year at each campus, and those enrollees are determined by lottery drawing. Children who have participated in the program the previous year and children of full-time Midway ISD employees receive priority for registration before any new students are accepted. Any vacancies in the elementary school programs during the school year will be filled from the existing waiting list. At the intermediate level (grades 5 and 6), a new list will be created each year from the spring lottery. **Elementary waiting lists will not carry forward to the intermediate grades. Elementary and intermediate waiting lists will expire at the end of each school year.**

FEES (Subject to change)

Regular Pay Students: \$35.00 per week for the oldest child and \$17.50 per week for each additional child, paid at each child's campus

Free/Reduced Lunch Program Students: \$10.00 per week per child, paid at each child's campus

Employees: \$10.00 per week per child for full-time employees of Midway ISD, paid at each child's campus

It is a parent's responsibility to notify the Panther Kids bookkeeper if their children have qualified for free/reduced lunch or if the parent is a full-time employee of the school district.

All payments must be made by check or money order. MISD will provide a summary of payments received upon request from the parent.

Payments must be made in advance of each two week service period according to the payment schedule. Payments are due on the Friday before each two week service period. Failure to make payment on the scheduled date will result in a late payment assessment of \$15.00. The child/children will be dismissed from the program after a fourth late payment. Failure to pay the late payment fee will result in the child/children being dismissed from the program.

Children may be dismissed from Panther Kids due to insufficient funds checks given as payment. The district business office may charge a fee for bad checks.

Children must be picked up by 5:30 PM each day. A late pickup charge of \$8 is assessed after 5:30 PM, \$16.00 after 5:45 PM, and \$32.00 after 6:00 PM. The late charge will be assessed for each child regardless of payment category. After the fourth late pickup, the child/children will be dismissed from the Panther Kids program. If the late pickup fee is not paid, the child/children will be dismissed from the program.

If a student is dismissed from Panther Kids for nonpayment of fees or insufficient checks, he/she will not be allowed to re-enroll in Panther Kids in subsequent years at any campus unless all back payments are made.

MANAGEMENT and ACTIVITIES – Panther Kids on each campus is staffed with one Panther Kids program supervisor (professional or paraprofessional employee) per 50 students and one Panther Kids assistant per 12 children.

Panther Kids begins each day when the students are dismissed from regular school and ends at 5:30 PM. Roll is taken immediately in order to account for all students. Parents must notify the school of absences. Students leaving school early must be signed out in the office.

In the event of an emergency school closing (i.e. for bad weather, etc.), Panther Kids program will be closed as well. For example, if school is closed at 12:00 PM for an emergency reason, parents of Panther Kids enrollees will be expected to come pick up their children from school immediately.

On a scheduled early release day, Panther Kids program will run to regular time of 5:30 PM.

Panther Kids children are expected to comply with all expectations, rules, and procedures set forth in the MISD Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct. The parent will be given written notice of persistent behavior problems. A child will be dismissed from Panther Kids after three written behavior notices in one school year. However, the child may be dismissed from the program after one behavior incident if the severity of misbehavior is such that the safety and security of children is compromised and/or the effectiveness of the program is jeopardized.

If a student is dismissed from the Panther Kids program for disciplinary reasons, he/she will not be allowed to re-enroll in Panther Kids in subsequent years at any campus.

Parents can leave messages regarding Panther Kids with the school secretary. After 3:30 PM, parents should call the school and select the Panther Kids extension to talk to a supervisor or leave a message.

Only those persons designated by the parent on the “Panther Kids Pickup Information” form are authorized to pick up a child from Panther Kids. Panther Kids program supervisors may require the driver’s license of anyone picking up a child.

In the event of a medical emergency, a Panther Kids supervisor will attempt to contact the parent. The supervisor will decide if professional medical attention is required immediately, and an ambulance will be called if necessary.

Questions, concerns, complaints, and compliments should be directed to the campus Panther Kids supervisor first. Appeals can be made to the campus principal and/or the District Panther Kids Program Coordinator.