

# WELCOME TO KOLTER KINDER

Back for More? It's us again with...

## **EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK: A KOLTER GUIDE FOR PARENTS BY PARENTS**

### **PART 2: TRANSPORTATION, PARKING, PICK-UPS, & DROP OFFS**

#### **WHAT ARE THE SCHOOL HOURS AGAIN?**

7:30 a.m.-2:50 p.m. That was NOT a typo. 7:30 a.m. in the morning is when the first bell will ring. This will be followed by the tardy bell and morning announcements at 7:35 a.m. (Don't miss those fun student lead morning announcements!) The school gates open at 7:15 a.m., so if you do drop a little bit early, your child can head to the cafeteria (without you) for breakfast or out to the playground where staff members are on duty. Then it's off to their classrooms when they hear the first bell.

#### **HOW DO I GET MY KID TO SCHOOL?**

Option 1: Take the bus.

HISD school buses will depart from the south side of Godwin Park, on the Balmforth side for **zoned and/or magnet students** who wish to take advantage of this option. Pick up times are still TBD and will be communicated by the school office as soon as they have this information. All magnet students can reference the HISD Magnet Bus Hub page for information and FAQs regarding their district assigned bus and route: <http://www.houstonisd.org/Page/169837>

Option 2: Drive them.

If you opt to drive, plan on allowing extra time the first few days until you get the hang of it. Please be patient and remember to be a courteous driver. We are all

trying to get somewhere, nobody has finished their coffee, and the folks who live in the area need to be able to take out their trash, walk their dog and use their streets as well.

### **HOW DO I DROP THEM OFF?**

There is no moving carpool line. So, basically, you don't drop them - you have to park and walk them in. While you are at it, take a minute to smile at the staff members outside to greet you. Have a chat with another parent. It seems annoying, but if you reframe it, it'll actually help you build community, gain friends, and get some exercise in the morning. (Note: walking in still wearing your pjs is perfectly acceptable--nobody's judging here.)

### **OK, THEN, THAT'S LESS THAN IDEAL... SO, WHERE DO I PARK?**

Not in the staff/faculty parking lots :) Unfortunately, for the time being we have to make the best of a not-fabulous situation. There are a couple of spaces in front of the Feld Park along Avenue B, but mostly you have to find a spot in the neighborhood. Again, don't be THAT GUY. Don't block someone's driveway, don't get road rage, don't park on the wrong side of the street, and don't squeeze into a space at the end of the block with the tail of your car hanging out into traffic and cause a jam. Mind yourself--we are models for elementary school kids here. Crossing guards will help you cross the streets. Be kind to them if they stop you while you are driving to let other pedestrians go. Also available ONLY in the morning, is the [BBVA Compass Bank parking lot](#) on the southeast corner of Bissonnet and Avenue B. Make sure you avoid all spaces marked reserved, as this was the only request made by the generous owners of the lot when they gave us permission to park there.

### **SAME SITUATION FOR PICK UP AT 2:50 p.m.?**

Pretty much, yes. Park and walk on over to the correct entrance. There are 3 gates on Avenue B. Pre-K and 5th, Kinder and 1st, and 2nd-4th. Locate the correct gate, give your dismissal tag (which you will receive at Meet the Teacher night) to whichever kind parent was the first to arrive there and will be collecting the tags, and staff will call your child to bring your tag back to you. When heading

back to your car, avoid busses and other traffic. If you are extended day, parking will be much easier and there are usually spots in the faculty lot for the quick pick up, by that time of day.

### **THAT SOUNDS AMAZING, HONESTLY, BUT WHAT IF I WANT MY KID TO TAKE THE BUS?**

Buses heading for Godwin Park will be assigned to students at the beginning of the semester. These will load and depart Kolter North at 2:50 p.m., then should magically arrive at the south side (Balmforth side) of the park at roughly 3:10 p.m. (ish). Kids are let off the bus. Unless you allow your child to walk home, be there to grab them. Come, bring your dog, your other kids, stay to play at the park in good weather...

Magnet students who are planning to utilize HISD buses can consult the HISD Magnet Bus Hub page for information and FAQs:

<http://www.houstonisd.org/Page/169837>

### **ARE THERE ANY SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES AFTER SCHOOL?**

Glad you asked that question! Yes, a few weeks into school you'll start hearing about opportunities for students to stay after school and participate in enrichment activities. Who knows what will be available this year... In the past, we have seen Cross Country, Arts with an Impact, Abrakadoodle, Seed to Plate, Mad Science, Chess, Gymnastics, Choir, etc.... Some are free, some have costs associated with them. Students who are already enrolled in Extended Day can apply for two classes for free (with the exception of Mad Science and Robotics). More info will come out during the first two weeks of school. There is typically a lottery held for many of these activities since the demand exceeds the available spots. If you choose to participate, you can pick up when that activity is done (usually you can grab a spot in faculty parking and run in to grab your kiddo from the front office). No busses are available after those :) Kids have to be picked up or return to Extended Day.

### **SPEAKING OF "EXTENDED DAY", WHAT IS IT AND HOW DO I GET MY KID INTO IT?**

Extended Day is a Kolter teacher run after school program for after school care that lasts until 5:30 p.m. Students who were in extended day last year registered in May for the coming school year. For new students, a lottery box was available in the front office during the month of May. Selections for available spots were completed on June 7th and acceptance and waitlist letters were sent out also on the 7th. So, at this point, you have to put yourself on the waitlist by calling the front office. The cost is \$200/month payable ONLY on [School Pay](#) and the first payment is due September 1st.

### **WHAT'S "EARLY DISMISSAL" AND HOW DOES THAT AFFECT ME?**

Once a month (or so), there's early dismissal for students so that the school can close for staff training, admin meetings etc. **That means at 11:30 a.m. ALL students will be dismissed.** No Extended Day. No clubs. No nothing. Everyone has to leave. Buses will still run, but you have to pick them up from Godwin early. Dismissal procedures are the same as always, but since there are a ton more kids being dismissed at once, it's always a hairy situation. Have patience, folks. These days will be on the calendar so you can plan ahead for child care or take off from work and then plan something fun, like ice cream! Treat yourself!  
\*\*Spoiler alert: first Early Dismissal day is September 21st at 11:30 a.m.\*\*

That's all for today y'all. Thanks for stopping in and reading along. See you next week when we discuss all of the AMAZING Kolter events.

*Brought to you by the Kolter Elementary PTO Welcome Committee.*

#### **Kolter Guide For Parents Series:**

[Part #1- How do I stay in the know?](#)

[Part #2-Transportation, Parking, Pick-ups, and Drop offs](#)

Part #3-Kolter Events 101

Part #4-Day in the Life of a Kindergartener