



August 21, 2023

Dear Cottonwood Families,

Welcome to your second week of the 2023-2024 school year. It has been wonderful having students back in the building and welcoming our new Kindie and Pre-K students.

Student Comments this Week:

“Oh my gosh. It is already time to pack up.” When students are excited, happy, and feel loved at school we can accomplish so much.

“Wait a minute. Now we have two Principals?” Yes, I am equally as excited to partner with Mrs. Most, our new Assistant Principal. It is important that we experience what it looks and feels like in every classroom. Our goal is to be available and connected to students, staff, and parents. Here is more information about [Mrs. Most!](#)

Picture Day:

Tomorrow, Tuesday August 22nd, is picture day at Cottonwood Creek. All students will be photographed individually. Pictures are best taken with a solid color top but students should **avoid wearing green**. In approximately two weeks a proof will be sent home with your student with instructions on how to order online.

Wasps on Campus:

Last week we found a number of wasp nests in the front of the school and near the 5th grade door. Please be assured that, once identified, the nests were sprayed immediately. The situation was additionally escalated to the district level and, by the following morning, a crew was on campus working on a permanent solution. Obviously we cannot eliminate all bees and wasps on campus, but we have removed the existing hives and are working to mitigate future nesting locations.

New Staff at Cottonwood:

We have a lot of new faces around the building this year. However, we have almost no turn over this year at COT. Almost all of the positions below are new positions. Many of our new staff will be outside for morning and afternoon duty so be sure to say hello. Our new staff:

- Rebecca Clawson - UPK Teacher



- Laura Paterson - UPK Teacher
- Colleen Pomerantz - OT
- Sarah Newcomb - Mild/Moderate
- Erin Triplett - GT
- Rachel Lord - UPK SLP
- Taylor Wendt - Psychologist
- Lisa Most - Assistant Principal
- Samer Aweidah - Kitchen Assistant
- Amerin Rahim - Moderate Needs Para
- Jennifer Abrams - UPK Para
- Jinxian Luo - UPK Para

Family Connection Meetings:

If you have not been able to connect with your child's teacher yet, I strongly encourage you to set up this important meeting that is a starting point to a relationship with your family and our teachers.

Student drop off/pick up :

As a reminder, students cannot enter the school building until 7:50 AM, unless they are going to breakfast which begins at 7:45 AM. Please note that there is no staff supervision prior to 7:50 AM. Students who are on campus prior to 7:50 AM must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Additionally, if you are dropping off or picking up from the front drop-off lane, please pull your vehicle all the way forward. At no time should you park your vehicle in this lane because it is a fire lane. If you need to get out of your vehicle, please park in the school parking lot, on Orchard Rd or one of the side neighborhood streets. Thank you for understanding.

Lunch Accounts:

We have been getting calls from parents wanting to add money to their student's lunch account for snacks. Parents are welcome to add money, cash or check, directly through Cottonwood's kitchen staff. Additionally, you can also add money through our online system. Food and Nutrition Services implemented a new online system, [Linq Connect](#), this year that replaces the old Titan system. If you had an account through Titan, you can log into the Linq Connect with



your old credentials. However, if you never had a Titan account you will need to register with the new system.

Leadership:

- Mrs. Most and I will prioritize being in classrooms and being present for entry and dismissal. On many days our response to email may not happen during the school day.
- Joan Salinger and Thessica Covato will exclusively manage our calendars.
- Please understand that if you call with concerns about your student's experience at school, the first response from the office will be, "Have you shared this concern with your child's teacher?"

PTO:

Don't forget to update your personal information, including your teacher assignment, in the Membership Toolkit. YOU MUST UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION EVERY YEAR! It's the only way to access our online community directory, The Cottonwood Caller. It's the only way to see calendar and event updates. And- It's the only way to sign-up for weekly PTO newsletters. Go to [Cottonwood Creek Elementary PTO - Home Page \(membershiptoolkit.com\)](http://membershiptoolkit.com) or download the Membership Toolkit app to begin the process today.

Every Friday is Spirit Day:

Show your school spirit! On Fridays wear your Cottonwood Creek spirit wear, favorite college gear, OR our school colors (blue and green) to show your Cougar pride! August 31st is the last day to [order](#) spirit wear.

Communication:

In the future, once we know all parents are signed up in the correct areas, we will NOT repeat information from the COT office, classroom, and PTO communication. Therefore, I highly recommend that each parent completes the following:

1. Ensure that all your information is accurate in Powerschool Parent. You can do this by logging into your MyCherryCreek account and clicking on the Guardian Update tile. Double check the names, emails, and phone numbers for the contacts listed on your student's account.
2. Sign up for all communication found here on the [PTO website](#). If you have not already done so, create an account and enter all the information for yourself and your



student(s). The system will prompt you to select which communications you want to receive. If you signed up in previous years, be sure to update your information as described above.

3. Make sure your child's teacher has your correct contact information.

These three steps will assure you are connected to our office, PTO, and your classroom teacher. If you have questions, please contact the COT Office.

Sincerely,

Drew Francis - Principal [Cottonwood Creek](#) Elementary School

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