



August 19, 2024

Dear Cottonwood Families,

Welcome to your second week of the 2024-2025 school year. It has been so rewarding to have our entire PK - 5 community of students back in the building. I am happy to report we had a very successful start to our school year and are so grateful for our staff, students, and our community.

Picture Day:

Tomorrow, Tuesday August 20th, 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.

New Cottonwood Creek Staff:

We would like to welcome our new classified staff.

- Helene Fogel (Instructional Paraprofessional)
- Jeanne Cremer (Severe Needs Paraprofessional)
- Adam Schwartz (Behavior Technician)
- Juleyma Parada Ferrer-Kitchen Assistant
- Ruth Acuma-Kitchen Specialist

Behavior Technicians:

We are very fortunate that we have moved from one Behavior Technician at Cottonwood Creek to two positions this year. Their names are [Jennifer Abrams](#) and [Adam Schwartz](#) and you are welcome to click on their names to learn more about them. The role of the Behavior Technician is to work with students at all grade levels. They can partner with our Mental Health team, classroom teachers, support at lunch and recess, meet with small groups, and also work with individuals who need additional support. Much of their work is based on relationship building, regulation, movement, executive functioning, social skills, etc. In some instances, you may even hear from one of our techs about a lunch or recess conflict.



These positions are unique to COT and are funded through our PTO Fundraising that you as a community have so generously donated over the past year. We ask that you continue to support our PTO and the fundraising so we may continue to have positions like Behavior Technicians and Instructional Paras. We are so lucky to have great people in these positions supporting our students every single day.

Specials Update:

[What's Happening in Specials](#)

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 in order to receive it by mid-September. The spirit wear shop is open until the end of September.

After School Clubs:

4th and 5th grade Choir information went home last week. This club is currently at capacity. The following are upcoming clubs that are led by teachers and more information will be provided soon.

- Student Leadership
- Typing & Cursive
- Band
- STEM Robotics

Pets on Campus:

The official CCSD policy prohibits dogs on school grounds during school hours, including pick-up and drop-off times. However, I am a personal dog lover and my experience so far is that our community is diligent and keeps their dogs leashed and under control while visiting campus. In addition to keeping your dog leashed and under control, I would ask that if you choose to bring your dog(s) to campus, you stay at the edges of our property and not integrate into any crowds. This will allow students and families with allergies or fears of dogs to comfortably come and go to school and not have any interactions with dogs. Thank you for understanding.



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**. This allows better traffic flow on Orchard for our community. 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 either in the school parking lot or on Orchard Rd or one of the side neighborhood streets. Thank you for understanding.

Lunch Accounts:

All meals (breakfast and lunch) remain free for all students this year due to the Free Meals For All legislation that passed in November of 2022. Families should be encouraged to complete a meal application to take advantage of other benefits offered to them and to support Title I funding in CCSD. Meal Application: www.myschoolapps.com

Adding money to your students lunch account: 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 implemented a new online system this year, MySchoolBucks: www.MySchoolBucks.com (there is no fee for this service). For questions or assistance please call 1-855-832-5226.

PTO:

Don't forget to update your personal information, including your teacher assignment, in the Membership Toolkit. *You must update your personal information each year.* It's the only way to access our online community directory, The Cottonwood Caller. Additionally, it is the only way to see calendar and event updates and the only way to sign-up for weekly PTO newsletters. Go to [Cottonwood Creek Elementary PTO - Home Page \(membershiptoolkit.com\)](http://Cottonwood Creek Elementary PTO - Home Page (membershiptoolkit.com)) or download the Membership Toolkit app to begin the process today.

Communications:

We highly recommend that each parent completes the following:



1. Cottonwood Creek: If parents/guardians have a name, email address, and/or phone number updated; please correct this information immediately by logging into your MyCherryCreek account and navigating to the Guardian Update tile and then notify your student(s) teacher via email with your new information.
2. PTO: 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.

Save the Date!

[CCSD STEAM-A-Palooza](#)



Sincerely,

Drew Francis - Principal Cottonwood Creek Elementary School

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