



August 26 , 2024

Dear Cottonwood Families,

Thank you for your patience with our office as we get settled into the new year with new front office staff. We are trying to find the balance of keeping you informed and not overwhelming families with too much information. It was great to see so many families at our PTO New Family Welcome last week. We encourage all of you to stay engaged in our classrooms, school, and through our PTO. [Click here to sign up](#)

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 by September 3rd.

- 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!

Veterans and Military Appreciation Day is October 30th.

[See flyer for more information here](#)

[CCSD STEAM-A-Palooza](#)



Sincerely,

Drew Francis - Principal Cottonwood Creek Elementary School

Office Manager - Melissa Adler - MA Adler@cherrycreekschools.org - 720-554-3203