# STUDENT AND FAMILY

# Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow

Cherry Chase Elementary School A California Distinguished School

1138 Heatherstone Way Sunnyvale, CA 94087

www.sesd.org/cherrychase | 408.522.8241 | www.cherrychasepta.org

# STUDENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

Grape Avenue

### PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE!

Cherry Chase Elementary promotes walking and biking to/from school for many reasons, including your child's health and well-being. However, we realize sometimes you need to drive your child to/from school, therefore when driving on or near campus, please follow these safety rules in order to keep all of our students, families, and faculty/staff safe.

### STUDENT DROP OFF: Before you get to school

• Please make sure your child has all of his/her things handy and on the passenger side of the vehicle (not in the trunk)

• If your child is in a car seat, have the car seat on the passenger side so the volunteer door opener does not have to walk around

### TIME IT RIGHT:

• 8:00 a.m. is the earliest you can drop off your child • Aim for dropping off between 8:00 and 8:05 am (as 8:05 to 8:12 am is overly crowded and your child might be tardy)

### WHEN YOU REACH THE DROP-OFF ZONE:

• IMPORTANT: Students may ONLY be dropped off and/or picked up directly in front of the office along the curb

- Form a single line of vehicles close to the sidewalk (there are not 2 lanes)
- NO DOUBLE PARKING
- Please pull all the way forward to reduce traffic back up into the street
- Patiently wait to reach the front of the line before letting your child out
- Wait for a volunteer to open the door (which will be in front of the office)
- DO NOT GET OUT OF YOUR VEHICLE
- Once the volunteer shuts your door, say "Thank You" and leave the area immediately
- DO NOT PARK YOUR CAR IN THE Drop-Off Zone
- And please do not park your car in the school spaces – they are reserved for teachers and staff

Administrative Kindergarten Offices Playground Start **DROP OFF ZONE** here

Heatherstone Way

### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

• Please do not drop off your student behind parked cars nor along Heatherstone Way

- The white curbs are for passenger drop-off or pick-up only – No parking is allowed during drop off and pick-up times
- Red curbs indicate no stopping and no parking zones at all hours-violators will be ticketed
- Please use designated crosswalks
- Absolutely NO U-turns in the Drop Off Zone or along Heatherstone Way
- If you take advantage of the Drop Off Zone, plan to volunteer for the school in the Drop Off Zone at least one day per month (contact the office to sign-up)
- Please be courteous and do not block the driveways
- of the homes surrounding Cherry Chase • If you block a driveway, it is possible that police will
- be contacted and your car may be ticketed and towed • Do not pass a school bus while its lights are flashing These lights are a signal that students are departing from or loading onto the bus

### **STUDENT PICK UP:**

- Kindergarteners will not be released from campus until an authorized person picks them up at their classroom
- Please ensure your 1st through 5th graders know your family's plan for traveling home from school each dav
- Please do not park in the Drop Off Zone or in the parking spaces on campus (which are for teachers /staff) - Instead park on the neighboring streets and walk to campus to pick up your child
- The safety of all children at Cherry Chase School rests on our own awareness, patience, and cooperation with fellow drivers and crossing guards during these busy traffic times

# **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to Cherry Chase Elementary School! The Cherry Chase teachers, administrators, parents, and PTA work together to give all children a great education in a supportive environment.

This handbook includes student schedules, school policies, and other useful information. Please see our school and PTA websites for current calendar information. If you have any questions that are not answered in this booklet, feel free to contact the office, your teacher, or any of the PTA parent volunteers as listed on our websites.



### SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

### When entering campus, you must sign in at the office. All volunteers and visitors must wear a visitor badge (available in the office) at all times while on campus.

Supervision of students is provided from 8:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Pick up promptly after school and do not drop off before 8:00 a.m.

Students who arrive on campus early are expected to sit at the blue tables until the 8:00 am bell rings.

THIS HANDBOOK IS INTENDED SOLELY FOR THE USE OF THE CHERRY CHASE COMMUNITY. IT IS NOT TO BE USED FOR COMMERCIAL OR POLITICAL PURPOSES.

# WHO WE ARE

Cherry Chase Elementary is an outstanding school in the Sunnyvale School District with approximately 875 students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. We have embraced the California Common Core State Standards and are continuing to refine our curriculum across the grade levels to meet the demands of those standards. As we do so, we balance the academic achievement needs of our students with their social-emotional well-being, accomplishing this with the support of our dedicated staff and highly involved local community comprised of family members and neighborhood residents. Together we are enriching all students through engaging education in a caring, respectful learning environment.

# Cherry Chase Pledge

I pledge my effort and support To Cherry Chase, the best school in America,

And to the students for which it stands,

One school, with our teachers and principal,

For fun, with kindness, And exciting education for all.

# Cherry Chase Character Traits

Responsibility Respect Friendship Caring Perseverance Honesty Cooperation Patience

Leadership

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# DAILY SCHEDULE FOR STUDENTS

### KINDERGARTEN SPECIAL DISMISSAL (August & September)

Students are released at 11:35 a.m. (before lunch) Monday to Friday for the first several weeks of the school year. Kindergarteners begin their full day schedule the last Monday in September.

### SPECIAL DISMISSALS FOR ALL GRADES

### **Conference Week**

Dismissal at 11:35 a.m. for all grades Conference Week is when all parents and guardians meet individually with their student's teacher at the end of the first trimester. School is dismissed early so that all parents can meet their teachers.

### **Teacher Learning Days**

Dismissal at 12:45 p.m. for all grades Teacher Learning Days provide 90 minutes each month for teacher training and collaboration. Students are dismissed early on these days, typically the 1st Tuesday of each month.

### REGULAR SCHEDULE FOR MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY

8:00 a.m	Playground supervision begins
8:12 a.m	Line-up bell rings
8:15 a.m	School begins
2:25 p.m	Kinder dismissal, late September
	through last day of school
2:30 p.m	

### REGULAR SCHEDULE FOR FRIDAY ONLY

8:00 a.m	Playground supervision begins
8:12 a.m	Line-up bell rings
8:15 a.m	School begins
12:45 p.m	Kinder - 3rd dismissal
2:30 p.m	4th - 5th dismissal

### MORNING RECESS SCHEDULE

9:50 - 10:00 a.m.....Kinder Snack 10:00 - 10:20 a.m.....Recess for All

### DAILY LUNCH SCHEDULE

11:10 - 11:30 a.m2nd & 3rd grades playground 11:30 - 11:50 a.m2nd & 3rd grades lunch
11:35 - 11:55 a.m4th & 5th grades playground 11:55 - 12:15 a.m4th & 5th grades lunch
12:00 - 12:15 p.mKinder & 1st grades playground 12:15 - 12:40 p.mKinder & 1st grades lunch

\*\* See current year calendar on school and PTA websites for the latest schedule.\*\*

### NO SCHOOL DAYS

### Holidays

Holidays as defined by the district (see calendar on websites)

### Staff Development Days

Special days reserved for the professional development of our teachers. There is no school on these days.

# ATTENDANCE, ABSENCE, AND TARDY POLICIES

### ABSENCE REPORTING - 408.522.8241

Please call the School Office or send an email to cce.absence@sesd.org before 9 a.m. if your child will be absent. Include child's name, teacher's name, grade, reason for absence, and your name/relationship to student as well as your phone number. You must contact the office for each day of absence.

### **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Absences shall be considered excused when due to illness, quarantine, medical/dental appointments, or funerals.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

Please try to schedule appointments outside of school hours. Students may be excused during school hours for medical or dental appointments if unavoidable. When picking up your child, please go to the office to sign him/her out and the office staff will contact your child's classroom. If you know of your child's appointment ahead of time, please contact your child's teacher and the office in advance.

### **NON-MEDICAL ABSENCES**

Please avoid planning trips and vacations during school time. Non-medical absences are considered unexcused by the State of California. After three unexcused absences, you will receive your first Truancy Notification Letter.

### TRUANCY NOTIFICATION

Please note that the State of California considers a student to be truant with three or more unexcused absences and/or tardies over 30 minutes in length. If your child accumulates this number of absences/tardies or more, you will receive a Truancy Notification Letter reminding you that attendance is compulsory in public schools. Family travel, even with advance notification to teacher or office, is considered unexcused, so please plan your trips for scheduled school breaks or in compliance with the Independent Study policy.

### **INDEPENDENT STUDY**

Absences from 5 to 10 days long can be given attendance credit as long as they are not at the beginning or end of a school year. Independent Study Contracts will not be issued with dates beginning before September 15 or ending after June 1.

• The principal may use his/her discretion to approve or deny a contract.

• Your child's teacher and the school office staff must be notified a minimum of five (5) school days in advance to compile homework assignments and prepare the Independent Study Contract.

• A student will not be given attendance credit if work is turned in late or goes past the stipulated contract date by one day. Void contracts will affect future independent contracts being granted.

### PERFECT ATTENDANCE

For your child to qualify for perfect attendance, s/he must be in school all day, every day from the beginning of the year. If your child arrives late, even for a medical reason, that will disqualify him/her for perfect attendance.

### **TARDIES**

Students who arrive after 8:15 a.m. must report to the office for a late slip. Students may be marked absent and truant if they do not pick up a tardy slip when they arrive at school after 8:15 a.m.

### **DROP POLICY**

Students must be present by the fourth day of school or they will be dropped from the Cherry Chase Elementary enrollment list. Students must then re-enroll in the Sunnyvale School District and their registration status will be reset to the date and time of that re-enrollment. Re-enrollment at Cherry Chase Elementary is not guaranteed.

# WALK AND ROLL

Gentle exercise in the morning is a great way to start the day. Even if your walk takes only 10 minutes, it could add over 1.5 hours of exercise each week! Our goal is to encourage students to walk or bike throughout the school year. In addition to personal health benefits, it will ease traffic congestion/parking in the neighborhood, reduce pollution, and save energy.

Walk & Roll to School is a year-round PTA program at Cherry Chase Elementary that encourages students to walk, cycle or scooter to school. There are individual prizes and incentives to keep students motivated, in addition to monthly class competitions for the highly coveted "Golden Shoe Award."

Please remember the streets around the school are very congested at drop off and pick up times. To ensure everyone's safety, please be extremely cautious. Both children and adults should use the crosswalks when crossing the street.

### What if I live far away?

If you find it necessary to drive your child to school, consider parking away from school a bit and then walk or roll to campus together.

### **Bicycle Safety**

Children in any grade may ride their bicycles to school with parent permission. All children must wear bicycle helmets. Students should not balance bags or belongings on the handlebars as they can catch in the wheel and cause an accident.

All students and adults must walk their bicycles, scooters, skateboards, and roller blades across streets and on school grounds.

Bicycles must be licensed and locked in the bicycle racks at school. Visit http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/Departments/ PublicSafety/PermitsLicenses/BicycleRegistry.aspx for information on how to register your bike.

# LINE UP AND PICK **UP PROCEDURES**

### LINE UP PROCEDURES

When the 8:12 a.m. bell rings, all students freeze and wait for a whistle from a teacher on duty. Upon that signal, students walk to their designated class spot.

Kindergarten students line up by their classrooms, as directed by their teachers.

1st - 5th grade: Students line up in front of their classroom or behind their classroom number on the blacktop. Teachers will clarify the spot on the first day of school.

We recommend that parents remain on the blacktop while the students progress to their classroom to simplify "traffic" flow.

### PICK UP PROCEDURES

Kindergarteners will not be released from campus until an authorized person picks them up.

Please ensure your 1st through 5th graders know your family's plan for traveling home from school each day.

# **SNACK AND CELEBRATION POLICY**

(Sunnyvale School District's Student Wellness Regulation)

### Sunnyvale School District's Student Wellness Administration Regulation (AR) 5030 states that celebrations during the school day:

- Should be limited to 1x per month
- Should occur during or after the lunch period

• Food items served during the celebration must be commercially prepared (except fruits & vegetables) and meet nutritional guidelines/standards.

### **SNACK**

In accordance with California's Nutrition Standards Quick Fact Sheet for Elementary Schools (http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/he/compfoods. asp), when serving snacks other than fresh fruit and vegetables, portions must be:

- No more than 175 calories
- No more than 35% total calories from fat
- No more than 10% of calories from saturated fat (up to 1 gram)
- No more than 35% total weight from sugar No trans fat
- \*For additional information on the snack guidelines, snack suggestions and nutritional standards see www.sesd.org.

# LUNCH AT SCHOOL

Cherry Chase Elementary practices a "Recess before Lunch" model. At lunchtime, students are released to play first. When the lunch bell rings, students line up and enter the cafeteria for their lunch, before returning to their classrooms for the afternoon.

Schools that have adopted this schedule report the following benefits:

- Students play more when they are not playing with a full stomach
- Students are ready to eat when they enter the cafeteria

• Students waste less food during lunch because they are not hurrying to get outside for recess

- Students are calmer in the cafeteria
- There are fewer conflicts that need to be resolved after the end of the lunch period

### **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

We will acknowledge your child's birthday at school, but we do not celebrate birthdays with food, so please do not send cake.

cupcakes, etc. to school. If you would like to send something to honor your child's birthday, we recommend a book donation to the classroom or school library. Some parents choose to provide pencils, erasers, or some other non-food item. Whatever your preference, please check with your child's teacher before sending anything to school.

### **LUNCH SCHEDULE**

Please see the Cherry Chase Student Daily Schedule section on page 4 for the schedule for each grade level.

### LUNCH MENUS AND PRICES

Lunch menus and current prices are available through the school website (www.sesd.org/cherrychase, click on "lunch menus") to download at the beginning of each month.

There are three ways to pay for school lunch:

• Cash: Turn in an envelope with the student's and teacher's name to the black box in the office in the PTA Nook.

• Check: Make checks payable to SESD Food Services and turn in as above.

• Online: Vist www.ezschoolpay.com. You will need your child's ID number which is also his/her library ID and part of your Parent Portal access.

# **EMERGENCY PICK-UP PROCEDURES**

RE-UNIFICATION SITE The following is the off-campus re-unification site our school will use in case of evacuation due, for example, to a campus intruder or damaged structures: campus intruder or damaged structures Sunnyvale Middle School 1080 Mango Avenue 1080 Mango Avenue Sunnyvale, CA 94087 Sunnyvale, CA 94087

In the event of an emergency, the school works closely with the District and the Sunnyvale Police Department to follow their instructions. Each emergency may require different procedures. As a result, the school will send a message to all parents to let them know what steps to take. Be sure we have your up-to-date contact information on file and "opt in" to our text messaging.

# Please do not come to the school until after you have been notified to do so.

During the year students are trained on emergency procedures. Students learn how to react, where to assemble, and what to expect in an emergency situation. Education, knowledge, and preparation are our best allies. Fire Drills are held monthly; Earthquake Drills and Lockdown Drills are held annually.

### **PARENT REMINDERS:**

• Please be sure to keep your contact information current with the school office. In case of an emergency we will use our School Messenger system to contact parents. • Students will not be dismissed from school unless a parent (or individual designated by a parent) comes for him/her.

Parents/designated persons who come to pick up student(s) must sign out at the school office of the temporary student release station. Signs will posted if an alternate location is required.
Please do not call the school. We must have lines open for emergency calls.

• Following an earthquake or other emerged do not immediately drive to Cherry Chase school access route and street entrance are remain clear for emergency vehicles.

• Parents who are on campus during a fir or other emergency drill are required to fc same procedures as the students.

# PARENTS ON CAN

In order to keep our children safe, it is imperiate be able to quickly identify adults who may a legitimate reason to be on campus. For this re when entering campus, you must sign in with office. All volunteers and visitors must wear available in the office, at all times while on

Lunches, messages, and other items dropped students must be left in the office, not taken to t classroom. Students are notified of items in the right before recess/lunch, to minimize classroo disruption.

Adults must use the restrooms in the multi-pur room. No adults are allowed in any of the s restrooms.

Adults should follow the same procedures as students and park their bicycles in the bike ro while on campus. No bicycles are allowed o playground or in the school corridors.

# BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Cherry Chase Elementary expects that all students will demonstrate Charger Pride by being safe, respectful, and responsible.

All students must play safely by:

- Keeping their hands and feet to themselves
- Not bouncing balls on classroom walls, windows, or on the roof
- Walking to and from the playground and on all cement and paved areas
- Including fellow students in games

In addition, all students must:

- Follow directions given by any staff member
- Help keep the restrooms and campus clean
- Freeze when the line-up bell rings, wait for the whistle, and then line up promptly
- Adhere to the "no wheels on campus" policy and walk bikes, scooters, and skateboards on campus

### **ZERO TOLERANCE**

Cherry Chase is committed to a safe school campus. Pursuant to this, there is a Zero Tolerance policy for violence and weapons on the school grounds. Please refer to your Sunnyvale School District Parent - Student Handbook for more information.

### DRESS FOR SUCCESS

We want every student at Cherry Chase to come to school and experience success each day. Being healthy and clean, and dressing appropriately for school allows students to focus on learning. Please take a moment to read these items carefully and discuss them with your child.

- Flip flops and open-toed shoes should not be worn for safety reasons and are not allowed in Physical Education classes
- Heelys or shoes with rollers or wheels are not permitted on campus
- Shirts or other tops must cover the midriff (stomach) and back for boys and girls
- Shorts are recommended under skirts and dresses

• Show your Cherry Chase School Spirit every Friday by wearing your Cherry Chase gear or Cherry Chase colors

**VOLUNTEERISM** 

Every Friday morning at Flag Salute, our children recite the Cherry Chase Pledge where we reaffirm our commitment to be the Best School in America. Achieving this goal requires the participation of everyone associated with our school: teachers, staff, and our children working in partnership with parents and members of the community. Your participation and engagement as volunteers at Cherry Chase School is a critical component of our children's success.

### WHY VOLUNTEER?

Ultimately, the goal of volunteering at Cherry Chase is to create the best possible environment for our children to thrive ... academically, socially, and physically. Our School's vision calls out the community's role.

"Cherry Chase School is a cooperative, collaborative work environment for students, staff, parents, and the community ... Parents and the community work within the established guidelines to further support this vision."

### Helping our school has tangible benefits:

- Most important of all your kids love to see you helping and being involved.
- You get to be a role model for volunteerism and giving for all children.
- As a volunteer, you feel like part of the community ... it's not just a school, but it becomes YOUR school ... with the sense of ownership, pride, and

school ... with the sense of ownership, pride, and responsibility that comes with it. • Parental Involvement in Schooling has been identified as one of the 41 factors (or Development Assets) in the success of children and teens in life (Project Cornerstone), as well as one of the drivers for school effectiveness under the "Seven Correlates of Effective Schools."

• Cherry Chase School has been honored as a California Distinguished School in part because of our community's engagement. In our application, volunteerism was one of two traits of the school that was highlighted.

• Cherry Chase Elementary is academically highachieving in part because of parental involvement at home and at school. This is evidenced by our performance in the CAASPP test results as well as the prior API model for school accountability.

• The public recognition of our school has made our neighborhood a very desirable place to live for families, as evidenced by the high enrollment numbers in the last decade.

### WHAT CAN I DO?

There are three primary ways to volunteer to help Cherry Chase School.

### **1. HELP THE SCHOOL**

There are opportunities to help the school at large. These opportunities include:

• Morning drop-off ... so that kids can get out of cars safely and quickly

• Lunch Volunteers ... so that kids can eat lunch and have recess in a safe, respectful, and responsible manner

• Copy Helper ... so that teachers spend more time educating

• Ask the front office staff for more information about these and other school-wide opportunities

### 2. HELP

YOUR CLASSROOM

Managing classrooms with 24 to 32 kids is no easy task, and many teachers love getting help. For example:

• Room Parent ... organizing in-class activities and coordinating with other parents

• Field Trip Drivers ... because there won't be field trips if there aren't drivers

• In Class Readers ... kids love seeing parents in the classroom

• Fine Arts Mini Experience (FAME)... partnering with the PTA to go beyond Language, Math and Science

• Supplies and preparation of materials ... teachers sometimes need help preparing for projects and lessons

• Garden Parent... help a classroom plant and tend their own garden

• Ask your child's teacher for what other help s/he might need

### 3. HELP THE PTA

The PTA is a non-profit organization that supports Cherry Chase School's mission, provides supplemental academic and social activities, and acts as an advocacy organization for parents. A few ways to get involved include:

• Volunteering at events like the Fall Festival or International night ... because they are fun and keep us connected

• Helping organize After School enrichment programs ... to continue learning and being active after school

• Fundraising through Direct Appeal and the Walk-A-Thon & Auction ... to enable the PTA to supplement our children's education with items/activities such as: additional technology, field trip expenses, and in-school programs

• Helping with the Yearbook ... because without volunteers, our kids (and parents!) won't have a yearbook filled with memories

• Reaching out to volunteercoordinator@ cherrychasepta.org or attending the Volunteer Faire at the beginning of the year ... so you can find what fits your lifestyle and your skillset!

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT VOLUNTEERING

### Q: Do I need to do anything to volunteer?

A: If you are going to do anything on school premises, you need to follow the steps listed here: http://sesd.schoolwires.net/ Page/1405. If you are going to drive on field trips, then you have to submit proof of sufficient auto insurance to the school office.

# **Q:** I'm a new parent, and I really don't know how to help.

A: That's OK! It's hard at the beginning, especially as a Kindergarten parent. Attend the Volunteer Faire in the first week of school to get the lay of the land and reach out to the contacts when you feel ready.

# Q: I'm not so comfortable with English ... what can I do?

A: There are many activities that don't require language proficiency ... from opening car doors, to stapling materials for your teacher. Gather up your friends who speak your language, and do an activity together!

# Q: I work full time. I don't have the time to give.

A: Every effort matters. As stated in the school vision, it is an expectation that the school and the community work together. Please do what you can, however little it may seem. If everyone gave just a little, we'd get a lot done together. The PTA recommends 10 hours per parent minimum each school year.

# Q: None of the activities are interesting to me / my friends / my kids.

A: We want to learn more! If there's something that you are passionate about, let's figure out a way to make it happen. For the PTA, reach out to president@cherrychasepta.org with all your ideas.

# VOLUNTEER AND FIELD TRIP POLICIES

### **VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES**

We appreciate every effort you make to contribute to a positive working environment at Cherry Chase. Below are a few tips to keep in mind when working on the campus.

• When visiting the front office, please remember that this is the workspace of the school staff and the principal. Please conduct casual conversations outside to minimize distractions.

• Photocopiers are to be used for school business only. Please allow teachers, aides, and other paid staff priority use of the copier.

• For the safety of all, no children are allowed in the Staff Workroom.

• Custodial work orders should be used for anything requiring the custodian's attention (multi set-up, bathrooms available during PTAsponsored events, etc.). For PTA events refer to the Special Events manual, found on the PTA website, and then contact the front office staff.

• PTA Volunteer training is available at the start of the school year. Contact volunteercoordinator@cherrychasepta.org for more information.

### **VOLUNTEER FORMS**

If you will be working in the classroom or driving for field trips, please be sure you have filled out a new Volunteer Form in the office. Forms are available on the district website here: http://sesd.schoolwires.net/Page/1405. This form is district-required and provides information including TB test status (all volunteers must have a TB test or TB risk assessment every 4 years). A new volunteer form must be filled out every school year.

### FIELD TRIP POLICY/ TRANSPORTING CHILDREN

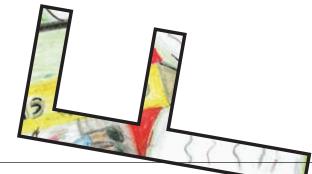
It is required that all persons driving Cherry Chase students on school field trips or other school-sponsored events follow these policies:

• No student shall sit in the front seat of a vehicle during a field trip unless the student's parent or legal guardian is the driver of the vehicle.

• California Vehicle Code (Section 27360) requires that a student must be in a child passenger restraint system unless the student is at least eight years of age or older, or 4'9" or taller.

• Students must be driven directly to the planned site/event and directly back to school. No side excursions or stops are allowed.

• All drivers must have a current copy of their declarations page as proof of adequate insurance (with a minimum of \$100,000) on file in the school office at least 24 hours prior to the field trip.





11.1

PTA FUNDRAISING

appreciated.

The Cherry Chase PTA has concentrated

fundraising on just two major events that directly

fund all PTA activities. The PTA has explicitly chosen

to focus on direct contributions instead of utilizing

wrapping paper sales. This also ensures that every

contributions from parents and sponsors enable the

PTA to donate approximately \$350 per student to

The PTA appreciates your contributions at any level

The two times the PTA asks for your donations are:

school year, the PTA asks all parents to contribute

• **PTA Direct Appeal:** At the beginning of each

a generous donation on behalf of each of their

children to the PTA. This donation is 100% tax

deductible. Donations of any size are sincerely

• Walk-A-Thon & Auction: The annual Walk-A-Thon

& Auction is held in the spring of each school year.

bid on popular kid and parent parties in the silent

auction, play carnival games, eat delicious baked

all have a blast with your entire family including

forget to look into corporate matching or ask local

businesses to help sponsor the event. The PTA also

asks each student to gather pledges to support their

school. Of course, the PTA asks all parents to help

volunteer to make this event happen! Visit here to

learn more: https://www.cherrychasepta.org/

events/walk-a-thon-auction/

Plan to take the day off to enjoy the barbecue,

goods, try your luck at the raffle, and most of

grandparents, neighbors, and friends. Don't

tools that burden parents, like candy sales or

dollar contributed goes to the PTA. Combined

Cherry Chase Elementary each year.

Other easy ways to give to the PTA:

• Amazon: Amazon has a program whereby a percentage of your spending is donated to charities. See the PTA website for details.

• **Company Matching:** We are fortunate to live in an area with progressive companies that match employee donations to charities. Please initiate company matching for all of your donations!

• Box Tops: Box top collection is a fun way to involve students in saving money. Look for these10-cent coupons on your cereal boxes and other products and cut them out. Box tops are collected year round and are usually counted at school twice each year.

### **BOOK FAIR**

Each year, the school sponsors two "not-to-be-missed" Book Fairs. The book company, Scholastic, donates approximately 30% of the sales to the school for support of our school library. Our Book Fairs are usually held during conference week in November and during Open House week in May. Students and families are invited to browse and purchase books to take home or donate to the teachers. In addition to being open during school hours, the Scholastic Book Fair is open for sales at least one evening during the week. The Scholastic Book Fair is open to the community, so invite your friends and neighbors, too.

### PTA LIABILITY WAIVER

In order for your child to participate in any PTA activity, whether during school or after school, you need to fill out a Liability Waiver online. In your Back to School packet there will be instructions or you can visit the PTA website at www.cherrychasepta.org. These are due at the beginning of the school year.

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# COMMON CORE STANDARDS

The State of California has adopted the national Common Core Standards (CCSS). The CCSS provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.

### English-Language Art-Highlights of the Common Core State Standards

The CCSS for English-language arts are divided into four strands: reading, writing, speaking and listening and language. The standards are organized by grade level for kindergarten through grade eight and by grade span for high school.

For Kindergarten through 5th grade, the reading standards include foundational skills that foster students' understanding and working knowledge of concepts of print, the alphabetic principle, and other basic conventions of the English language.

Standards for literacy in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects provide additional specificity about the application of reading and writing standards to subject area content. At each grade level and grade span, the reading strand includes standards for both literature and informational text. Literature encompasses a

broad range of cultures, periods, and genres (e.g., stories, folk tales, fantasy, realistic fiction, drama, poetry). Informational texts include biographies and autobiographies; writings about history-social sciences, science and the arts; technical texts; and digital sources.

The writing standards call for students to write for a variety of purposes and to use technology to produce and publish their writing. Students are expected to write in varied genres, building mastery in a range of skills and applications.

Vocabulary acquisition and practice are threaded throughout the four strands, reflecting current research on how students learn new words. Both writing and collaborative conversations about grade level topics and text provide students opportunities to practice using new vocabulary.

Students learn to express ideas, work together, and listen carefully to integrate and evaluate information. Skills are not learned in isolation, but in connection with reading and analyzing grade-level texts and topics. Technology is used to gather and present information.

## Mathematics Highlights of the Common Core State Standards

The mathematics standards for Kindergarten through 8th grade are organized by domain. Students in Kindergarten through 5th grade are expected to achieve mastery in whole numbers arithmetic (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) and to develop a strong conceptual understanding and procedural skill with fractions-critical foundations for the learning of algebra.

Across grade levels and content areas, the CCSS are designed to balance the development of conceptual understanding with the acquisition of procedural skills. Students are expected to apply mathematical ways of thinking to real world issues and challenges, to construct sound mathematical arguments, and to be precise in their mathematical communications.

### CALIFORNIA ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS (CAASPP)

CAASPP is the state's standardized testing system. The CAASPP system consists of the following sections:

- Smarter Balanced online assessments (SBA) in Math and English Language Arts (Grades 3 to 8)
- CST Science (Grades 5 and 8-based on the former California State Standards)
- CAPA Science (Grades 5 and 8-for some Special Education students and based on the former California State Standards)
- CAA (now Cal Alt) California Alternate Assessment Field Test (for some Special Education students Grades 3-8)

Accountability for districts and schools will be based on the on-line Smarter Balanced Assessments (or SBA). These assessments are based on the Common Core standards and, therefore, are very rigorous.

### **SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENTS**

The Smarter Balanced Assessments are computer-administered tests that measure student knowledge of the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics.

The SBA is administered during the last 12 weeks of the school year, and consists of two parts: a Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) and a Performance Task (PT). Both sections represent a significant improvement over traditional paper and pencil assessments, providing more rigorous questioning and accurate scoring. Questions go beyond memorization of facts to test students' conceptualization and applications of knowledge.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment provides valid, reliable, and fair measures of students' progress toward and attainment of the knowledge and skills required to be college and career ready. By capitalizing on the strengths of computer adaptive testing, efficient and precise measurement of the full range of student achievement can be assessed with a quick turnaround of results. Student reports are mailed to parents at the end of the summer to provide specific feedback regarding student progress toward grade level standards. To learn more about the Smarter Balance Assessment reporting system, visit http://www.smarterbalanced.org.

# HEALTH AND SAFETY

### **ILLNESS AND MEDICATION**

Children may not carry any medication, whether over-the-counter or prescription. Children who need to take medication at school must have a doctor's form on file for the office staff to administer the medication. A doctor's note is also required for your child to use medical devices such as crutches, scooters, slings, etc. on campus.

The office staff is not allowed to administer any kind of medication to a child without doctor and parent written permission.

Please notify the school office if your child is diagnosed with a communicable illness.

### WHEN IS MY CHILD TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?

If a student experiences the following symptoms at school, school personnel will contact the parent/guardian in order to arrange for someone to pick him/her up from school: • Temperature of 100° or above

- Diarrhea

- sh

- Nausea accompanied by vomiting
- Pain which does not subside after resting
- Appears ill, even though symptoms are vague
- Redness of eyes with drainage/discharge
- Earache
- Severe toothache
- Unexplained/unknown rash

Students should not be sent to school if they have any of the above symptoms in the morning before school starts. In case of a suspected communicable disease, such as pink eye or unknown rash, parents need to provide the school with a doctor's note upon the student's return.

Furthermore, students who have had a fever (100° or more) and/or vomiting cannot return to school until they have gone without fever or vomiting for at least 24 hours after the day they were sick.

### "NO HEAD LICE" POLICY

Cherry Chase has a "No Head Lice" policy, which means:

1. Any student who has live bugs (not just nits) in their hair will be excluded at the end of the day and is not allowed to return to school until after they receive treatment.

2. Following treatment, a child will be allowed back in school if his/her hair is free of lice (live bugs) upon re-inspection. Students will be examined by the district nurse's designee upon returning to school. Proof of treatment must be provided (e.g., a container or box that identifies the treatment or note from service where treatment was provided). 3. The siblings of the child with lice may be screened for possible infestation. If two or more students are affected in any class, all students in the class will be examined. 4. A notice will be sent home with classmates notifying parents of their child's possible exposure to lice (only for live bugs). 5. If lice are still found, the child will be sent home to have them removed. This is done to help prevent a re-infestation.

\*For additional information visit www.sesd.org.

### Additional tips:

• If lice are found, it is recommended you wash all bedding, clothing, backpacks, helmets, hats, etc. in hot water and dry in a hot dryer as well as spray non-washables with lice treatment spray.

• Although the school does not endorse any one type of product, parents recommend the Nit Free Terminator comb to check your child's hair weekly all year long for nits and live bugs in order to prevent infestation of your child and entire household.

• Please look for additional tips online in order to prevent re-infestation because if you don't rid your household completely of nits and live bugs, they will unfortunately be back.

# HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

### ADDRESSING CONCERNS

It is Cherry Chase's and the District's strong belief that effective schools work with parents for the benefit of the children. Concerns regarding your child's progress or concerns regarding his/her class are best discussed with the teacher. Any unresolved issues about your child or concerns regarding the school in general should be directed to the principal.

Please try to avoid engaging the teachers in conversation while school is in session, including the lunch and recess break times. Teachers will be happy to schedule one-on-one time to talk with you with advance notification. Email outreach is often the most effective.

### **AGENDA BOOKS**

The school provides agenda books (aka planners or plan books) for students in 3rd -5th arades. These planners provide a channel for communication between the teachers and parents. In addition, these books teach our students organizational skills – a necessary tool when students are required to use the agenda books in middle school and high school to record daily assignments and other pertinent information.

### PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

One conference period is scheduled in November when the first report card is issued. However, you are welcome to contact your child's teacher or request a conference whenever necessary.

### **TEACHER EMAIL ADDRESSES**

You may contact any teacher, administrator, or office personnel by email. Their address is their followed by @sesd.org (firstname.lastname@ sesd.org). Teachers' email addresses are also available on the school website.

### **STUDENT TELEPHONE** ACCESS

Students may use the office phone for school-related business only. Please confirm after school arrangements prior to morning drop-off.

### **CELL PHONE POLICY**

In compliance with state law, Cherry Chase allows students to carry cell phones to school or schoolsponsored activities. However, cell phones may only be used before and after school and only on the school sidewalks or field, as long as they do not create a distraction or disruption. Use of cell phones during the school day is prohibited and phones should be turned off and kept out of sight. Cell phones may not be used on any other portion of the campus at any time, unless an emergency situation, as defined by district staff, exists. Misuse of a cell phone by a student could subject the student to forfeiture of his/her cell phone.

### NEWSLETTERS AND SCHOOL EMAIL

The Charger News newsletter is published once per month by the school faculty and staff and is sent out electronically through the School Messenger system. If you prefer to receive a paper copy, please contact the school office.

Each week, the Cherry Chase PTA sends the Cherry Chase PTA eBlast with a list of school events for that week, school announcements, and reminders. Paper copies are available in the office in the PTA Nook.

Other announcements are sent to this distribution list, but only by authorized users to help control the volume of email. If you have information you would like to have posted to this email list, please contact the PTA President at president@cherrychasepta. org.

The District Digest is published by the Sunnyvale School District with news and information about our school district. Articles will first name with a period plus their full last name be published on-line and a quarterly digest will be mailed to subscribers. To subscribe, go to http://sesd-district-digest.org/

# SCHOOL CLIMATE AND SCHOOL SPIRIT

### **BUDDY CLASSES**

Many classes have buddies in different grades that do special activities with them throughout the year.

### PBIS

PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) uses a systems approach for establishing the social culture and individualized behavioral supports needed for school teachers and staff by agreeing on three specific (overarching) rules for the school: Be safe, Be respectful, Be responsible. All other school rules fall under these three overarching rules.

In their classrooms, teachers explain behavioral expectations and routines for all areas of school such as: Learning Zones (or hallways...anything near a classroom), Bathrooms, Cafeteria, Playground-grass, Playground-blacktop, and Playgroundplay structure. Students keep the rules and are acknowledged specifically by staff for their good behavior. For example a teacher might say, "Thank you for picking up trash during recess and being respectful of our school grounds."

By increasing the number of Positive Interactions between staff and students we are improving the school climate. The ultimate goal of PBIS is:

Increased Structure = Decreased Chaos = Fewer Problems

### PROJECT CORNERSTONE

Project Cornerstone is a PTA program which gives our children tools to handle difficult, but common, social challenges. Each month, our trained parent volunteers read specific and relevant books to the children in each classroom, and then engage them in activities that reinforce positive messages and a common language. This program promotes positive peer relationships while building 41 character traits (called "Developmental Assets") that have been proven to help children thrive and avoid risky behaviors. The goal of Project Cornerstone is to build caring school climates that foster an increase in the number of assets each child possesses, hence giving them the ability to succeed in school and beyond.

### **RECYCLE CLUB**

The Recycle Club is a program in the Sunnyvale Elementary School District in which upper grade students provide weekly recycling services to teachers and students. Availability depends upon sufficient student volunteers.

### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

Elected student officers organize activities throughout the year, including Spirit Days and Charger Grams. This is a teacher-coordinated program.

### **SPIRIT DAYS**

Students have the opportunity to celebrate periodic spirit days. The Student Council will select a theme for each spirit day during the school year. Past themes have included Crazy Hair Day, Pajama Day, Hat Day, Twin Day and others.





Listed in alphabetical order. See current year calendar on school and PTA websites for specific dates.

### AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Cherry Chase PTA is pleased to provide a wide-variety of enriching after school programs that allow our students to explore interests, gain competency, and build social and academic skills. Scholarships are available, please see the office for detail. Programs include art, band, drama, foreign languages, robotics, math enrichment and more. For a complete after school program guide with details about each program, please visit the Cherry Chase PTA website: www.CherryChasePTA.org.

### **BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT**

This is a night for parents to meet their child's teacher and to visit his/her classroom. You will learn about the educational programs planned for the school year. Parents only please.

### **BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC**

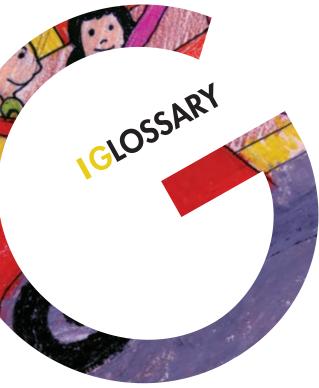
On a Friday night following the start of school, bring a picnic dinner (no alcohol, please!) to the field and meet new people and see familiar Cherry Chase faces. This is a low-key, fun, social event.

### **BOOK FAIR**

Please read all about the Book Fairs under "Support Your School Fundraisers."

### CAUGHT BEING GOOD

As part of PBIS, school staff members can issue a green slip to students who were "caught being good." Each week one green slip per grade level is selected for a prize at Friday Flag.



# **CDC** (Child Development Center) (www.cdicdc.org/locations/cherry-chase/)

This on-site daycare facility provides child care before and after school. For information, contact the CDC at (408) 736-0168.

### **CITIZEN OF THE MONTH**

This program honors teacher-selected students in each class who exemplify the character trait of the month. See page 2 for the list of character traits.

### **COFFEE WITH THE PRINCIPAL**

Parents are invited to join the principal in small group conversations several times throughout the year. Typically held in the multi, topics vary based on current issues and there is usually time for parent questions. The PTA provides light refreshments.

### **COMPUTER LAB**

The lab consists of 25 iMac computers purchased by the PTA that are available to Kindergarten through 2nd grade students - all with network infrastructure provided by the district. Students visit the computer lab during regularly scheduled times with their classes.

### CONFERENCE WEEK

Please see the Daily Student Schedule section for details.

### **ELAC** (English Learner Advisory Committee) (www.sesd.org/domain/361)

Committee made up of parents of English language learners, teachers, and the principal. Parent meetings are held several times throughout the year.

### **ENDEAVOR**

This is a large shipping container storage unit on school grounds, which serves as the primary storage space for the PTA.

### FAME (Fine Arts Mini Experience)

Brought to you by the Cherry Chase PTA, each month trained FAME docents introduce classes to classical music and prominent artists. Students create a piece of art related to the artist's work. We offer six in-class lessons during each school year. Would you like to be a FAME docent? Please contact the FAME team at volunteercoordinator@cherrychasepta. org

### FALL FESTIVAL

A festive family event produced by the Cherry Chase PTA and typically held on the Friday afternoon closest to Halloween. Students wear costumes, enjoy BBQ and the bake sale, play games, and have fun with family and friends.

### FRIDAY FLAG SALUTE

Every Friday morning at the beginning of the school day, students, parents, and faculty gather on the blacktop (when it's not raining) for community connection. We recite pledges, share important announcements, honor students and celebrate together. In the event of rain, announcements are made over the public address system.

### FUN PATROL

Selected 3rd graders are trained to provide support at recess, especially for students who need a friend.

### FUN ZONE

Supervised by parent volunteers, the Fun Zone is a place kids can go during recess to make friends, learn something new, feel wanted and welcome.

### GARDEN

Most classrooms participate in some type of garden activity throughout the year where students discover the wonders of nature. In this tranquil setting maintained by the Cherry Chase PTA, students plant flowers and vegetables, dig for insects, water the plants, read with buddies and create art and poetry inspired by their surroundings. Depending on location, your classroom may also have its own small bed to plant and tend – ask your teacher for more details.

### HALLOWEEN PARADE

Typically on the same day as the Fall Festival, students parade around in their Halloween costumes with their classrooms at the Flag Salute.

### INFOSNAP

The web based system collects and records basic student information and family contact information as entered by parents/guardians and required for registration.

### **INTERNATIONAL NIGHT**

International Night, produced by the Cherry Chase PTA, provides the opportunity to view the world through a new lens and to appreciate the diverse histories, backgrounds and customs of Cherry Chase community families. The blacktop is transformed into an International Village and Festival filled with incredible food, costume, music, art and culture –all hosted by volunteer ambassadors, families, and friends. Don't miss out on this exciting and fun cultural event.

### LRC (LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER) / LIBRARY

Our library is available Monday thru Thursday 8:20 am – 2:30 pm and Fridays 8:20 am – 12 noon. Students may check out books during their scheduled class visits, at recess, and after school. Our enthusiastic librarian helps students and teachers select appropriate books, recruits student helpers and facilitates our Book Fairs.

### THE MULTI

Cherry Chase's large Multi-Purpose Building that serves as the school's cafeteria, assembly hall, gymnasium, event, and meeting space.

### NOONTIME SPORTS

A program to provide additional playground activities during lunch recess, usually run through the YMCA.

### OPEN HOUSE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

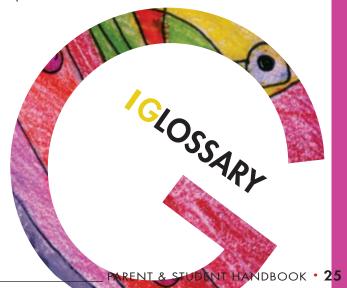
Each spring, one evening is set aside for Cherry Chase families and friends to visit any and all classrooms. It's a time for students and teachers to show off the outstanding work they have accomplished all year. It is also a chance for families to visit classrooms in other grades and meet the teachers. While on campus, families may enjoy ice cream provided by the Cherry Chase PTA.

### P.E. (PHYSICAL EDUCATION)

PE for Kindergarten - 3rd grades is provided primarily by teachers. PE for 4th and 5th grades is provided by certificated instructors.

### PLAYWORKS

Playworks provides coaches to the school one week per month as well as a Recess Coach daily. The coaches facilitate class game time for all classrooms, teach students new games and conflict resolution skills at recess, and train 4th and 5th graders to be junior coaches.



### **POWERSCHOOL** (https://sesd.powerschool.com/)

The web based system that allows parents and guardians to see their student's academic performance year over year. Accessed through the Parent Portal.

### PROJECT CORNERSTONE

See School Climate and School Spirit for information about Project Cornerstone.

### PTA (CHERRY CHASE PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION) (www.cherrychasepta.org)

Provides parent volunteers to assist in school programs, raises money for school equipment and programs, holds monthly meetings to increase home/ school communication. Visit cherrychasepta.org for more information.

### PTA LIABILITY WAIVER

In order for your child to participate in any PTA activity, whether during school or after school, you need to fill out a Liability Waiver online. In your Back to School packet there will be instructions or you can visit the PTA website at www.cherrychasepta. org. These are due at the beginning of the school year.

### PTA NOOK

A section in the school office dedicated to PTA business and forms. It is to the right as you enter the office.

### **REPORT CARDS**

The academic year is broken up into three trimesters, and students receive a report card at the end of each trimester. For the first trimester, parents and guardians will meet with their teacher at Conference Week to review progress. In addition, parents can follow their children's progress in PowerSchool (see above).

# SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL / WALK AND ROLL TO SCHOOL

Safe Routes to School is an international movement that has taken hold in communities throughout the United States. Cherry Chase Elementary encourages all families to walk and roll to school whenever possible. For more information, please visit cherrychasepta.org.

### SCIENCE / LATE (LOOK AROUND AND TOUCH EVERYTHING) / STEAM NIGHT

GLOSSARY

The PTA sponsors a hands-on experience night that occurs once a year, typically science and math. Many different stations are designed to get students engaged with demonstrations and projects that they can take home.

### SCIENCE CAMP

All 5th graders at Cherry Chase will have a chance to attend Science Camp for four and a half days where they learn about science and nature. There is a fee for each family which is subsidized by the Cherry Chase PTA. Scholarships are available, please see the office for details.

### SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL (www.sesd.org/domain/795)

School Site Council consists of Cherry Chase parents, teachers, and staff who are elected each year by the Cherry Chase parents. They focus on development and monitoring of the annual School Plan for student achievement and the school safety plan. Meetings are typically held on the first Tuesday of each month.

### STUDENT COUNCIL (and class representatives)

Student leaders are elected by their peers in the fall and work to coordinate special programs at school, while also strengthening Charger Pride.

### SUNNYVALE SCHOOL DISTRICT (www.sesd.org)

Cherry Chase is a part of the Sunnyvale School District, which consists of 8 elementary and 2 middle schools. The District Office is located at 819 W. Iowa Avenue, near the public library, and the telephone number is 408.522.8200.

# SUNNYVALE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION (www.sesd.org/Page/809)

This 5-member group of elected officials sets the policies for the school district. The school board usually meets at 6:30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month in the Board Room at the District Office.

Board Members welcome questions and concerns of parents and others involved in our schools. To contact Board Members, a message may be left at 408.522.8200.

The School Board appoints the superintendent. You may contact him at superintendent@sesd.org, but it is usually best to go through your child's teacher and/or the principal with any concerns you have regarding your child's education at Cherry Chase.

### TUNNEL

The enclosed space between two classroom wings near the Library is commonly referred to as "The Tunnel."

### WALK-A-THON & AUCTION

Please read under "Support Your School Fundraisers."

# COMMUNITY SERVICES EMERGENCY AND REFERENCE NUMBERS

### **EMERGENCY/SAFETY, CRISIS & SUPPORT**

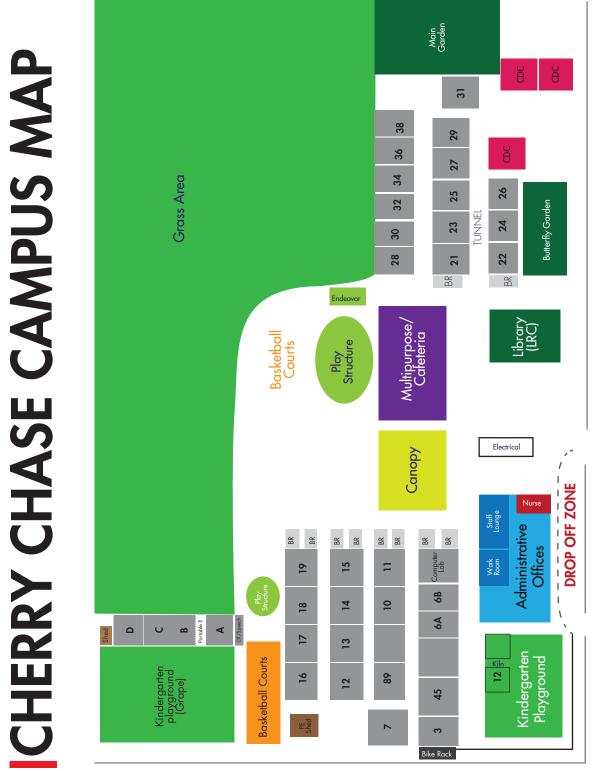
Sunnyvale Public Safety – Emergency	
Desk Ófficer	
Non-Emergency	
Non-Emergency Resources	

### **COMMUNITY, HEALTH & DISASTER RESOURCES**

Anti-Hate Hotline	9.0111
Battered Women & Children800.572	2.2782
Child Protective Services & Child Abuse	2071
Crisis & Suicide	2.3312
Poison Control	.4766
Women's Rape Crisis Center	7.3000
WARM LINE	2.0303
This is a talk line for children who are home alone	
& are frightened or just need someone to talk to.	
Al-Anon Family Groups	2.1051
Contact (24 hr. listening, crisis & referral)	.8228
Social Advocates for Youth650.961	.2622

### NUMBERS FOR REFERENCE

Child Development Center (CDC)	
Sunnyvale Community Services	
California Youth Crisis Line	



Grape Avenue

### PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK • 29

Heatherstone Way



# CHERRY CHASE ELEMENTARY

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Artwork by students at Cherry Chase Elementary School Graphic Design by www.flairdesignandphoto.com Written by Cherry Chase Elementary School Site Council Paid for by the Cherry Chase PTA

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