

Chaparral Elementary School

Claremont Unified School District

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August 22, 2006

Dear Students and Parents,



All too quickly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to new and returning students and families. I hope you had a restful, healthy, happy summer break and you're just as excited to start a new school year as I am.

School begins on Tuesday, September 5th at 8:15 A.M. sharp for ALL students in grades 1 – 6 and 8:10 am for morning kindergarten. Dismissal times have not changed from last year and are as follows:

A.M. Kindergarten	11:30 A.M.
P. M. Kindergarten	11:00 A.M. – 2:20 P.M.
P.M. Kindergarten (Wed. only)	9:00 A.M. – 12:20 P.M.
Grades 1 – 3	2:20 P.M.
Grades 4 - 6	2:40 P.M.
Grades 1-6 Minimum Day (EVERY Wednesday)	1:25 P.M. & 1:30 P.M., respectively



Cafeteria lunches will be served beginning the first day of school. (Sorry, as of today the menu isn't available, but we'll post it as soon as we know.) The cost for lunch remains \$2.00, including milk. Reduced price for lunch or breakfast is 25 cents for those students who qualify by completing an *annual* application and being approved by Food Services. New applications for free or reduced meals are available in the front office and will be sent home in the beginning of the year packets. Students who bring their lunch may purchase milk separately for 25 cents or juice for 50 cents. (Please do not send sodas to school as a lunch drink.) Breakfast will also be served beginning the first morning of school at 7:45 A.M. **In order to allow enough time for children to consume their breakfast and still be punctual to class, the last breakfast will be served at 8:05 A.M.** The price for breakfast is \$1.00 or 25 cents for those students who qualify for reduced meals. As was implemented last year, all meal transactions are "moneyless" and each student has a lunch number (this is the same number from last year – reminders will gladly be given!). For your convenience, meals may be purchased with a check made payable to CUSD. It's rather like a debit account. You deposit whatever amount you are comfortable with and then the student withdraws when a meal is consumed. Snack tickets for students in grades 1-6 are available for purchase at the cafeteria window **before** school for 50 cents. Snacks will only be sold during the first 10 minutes of morning recess. They can be eaten then in a designated area, or saved for lunch consumption. No food is to be eaten on the playground. If you have any questions, please see our cafeteria manager, Mrs. Sandra Ghilardi.

On Tuesday, September 5th, each student will be bringing home a folder filled with important information. Please take a few minutes on the first school day evening and thoroughly complete all requested materials. Also enclosed will be a Chaparral Family Handbook and miscellaneous papers that will need signatures. **It is extremely important that all the requested information be thoroughly completed and sent back to school ideally the next day, or Friday, September 8th at the latest. It is critical that we have accurate emergency information.** Again, your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Playground supervision will begin at 8:00 A.M. for those students who are **not** eating breakfast and 7:45 A.M. for breakfast eaters. All students wait near the cafeteria tables until playground supervision is provided. Children are not to enter the quads or hallways before 8:00 am. Please make arrangements to pick up your child(ren) within 15 minutes of dismissal since we do not offer extended supervision after school. We have an excellent After School Day Care Program for those interested. Please call 624-9146 for additional information.



Only students in grades three through six may ride their bikes to school. They must wear a helmet, Bring a bike lock, obey all traffic laws and walk their bike on surrounding sidewalks and school grounds. A bicycle parking structure is located just south of room 16.

When purchasing and deciding upon clothing to wear to school, please keep in mind the appropriateness of the attire and the fact that school is actually the students' "workplace." No article of clothing should be unsafe or "disruptive to the educational environment." For that reason, tops that have spaghetti straps (a good "rule of thumb" is the shoulder straps should be "two fingers" wide), show bare midriff, or have words and/or pictures that are indecent or vulgar are not permitted. A student will be requested to turn their shirt inside out or the parent may be called to bring a change of clothing. We also appreciate exercising good judgment when it comes to selecting articles with slogans – it seems to be the trend where negative or "put-down" phrases are popular. That is not the message we want to encourage in our students. We strongly suggest tennis shoes. Shoes that expose the toes or do not have a back are not suitable or safe for school activities.



Save these dates!! **Back-to-School Night is Tuesday, September 19th for K - 3 and Wednesday, September 20th for 4 – 6.** Specific times for each grade level will be announced the first week of classes. This very important evening will be an excellent opportunity for teachers to share the classroom procedures, curriculum, programs and answer any questions you may have. ***This is NOT an evening for children.*** Making individual babysitting arrangements is appreciated. Students will NOT be allowed on the playground unsupervised. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Class lists will be posted on the office windows on Friday, September 1st after 5:00 P.M. Your child's previous teacher has spent a lot of time and invested much consideration in placing the students appropriately while "balancing" the classes. Because we are such a large school with a diverse student population, I'm sure you recognize and understand that teacher requests were strongly discouraged and near impossible to honor. In respect to this matter, there will be no changing of posted classes. We anticipate maximum capacity at nearly all grade levels. I'm sure you will be extremely happy with your child's teacher. Chaparral has a dedicated and committed group of teachers who are concerned with the learning performance and well being of each child.

We're all looking forward to a fantastic year, filled with a partnership of support and communication. Your child is very important to us, as are the relationships we all establish. See you September 5th!

Sincerely,



P.S. You are cordially invited to come to the cafeteria for coffee and donuts (compliments of our PFA) on the morning of Sept. 5th @ 8:15 AM. Come visit with other parents. We can celebrate your child's first day of school!



Don't forget to bring your reading log to school by Thursday, Sept. 7th! How many books have you read so far? I'm on my 15th book! ☺