

CGCS Newsletter

Country Gardens Charter School
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August 2, 2021

Welcome!

We are glad you chose Country Gardens as the school for your child. If you have any concerns or questions about your child, please contact your child's teacher at 623-900-2230. Emails can be found on the class newsletter sent home at the beginning of the school year.

School wide newsletters will go home at the beginning of each month. Please read these carefully as they will provide information regarding upcoming events, school wide information, state updates, and other important information that the school needs you to know.

It is very important to review the student dress code found in our handbook. Please review this with your student.

PARENTS DRIVING TO SCHOOL

If you are dropping off/picking up students, please pull up to the curb, passed the flag poles, by the pool and have your child exit or enter the car quickly. K-6 will pick up in front of the log cabin (unless with older siblings in front of pool). This will help with the flow of traffic. If you need to leave your vehicle, you must park in the designated areas and NOT at the curb. All kindergarten parents need to park to pick up your child in the lobby. If your child arrives after 8:00 AM, you must check your child in at the office. This is for the safety of all students!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Please make sure that your child brings in their school supplies by the first week of school. Students need supplies so that they can complete their classwork and homework. The school will be providing reading journals for grades that require them.

REQUIRED SCHOOL IDs

All K-12 students will be required to have a school ID. These must be purchased during the first 2 weeks of school. The cost is \$10 and they can be paid for in the lobby. These IDs will be used for attendance, student safety and will also allow you child to check out their required books for reading homework.

STUDENT PICK UP CHANGES

If you need to change how your child goes home, please call the front office by 2 PM so that we can notify your child on time. (12PM on Wednesdays) **All registered bus students will be place on a bus unless otherwise noted.**

LABELING STUDENT ITEMS

Labeling your child's lunch bags and personal items will help if your child loses them. Remember, **we do not have a lost and found** this year so found items, not labeled, will be thrown away.

E.E.L.S. PROGRAM

Experiential Education on Land N' Sea (E.E.L.S. Program) is a program available to all students in grades K-12. To qualify for the trips students must meet the following criteria:

1. Have good attendance and not miss more than 3 days for the first 100 days.
2. No School suspension.
3. Homework turned in at 90%, including reading.
4. Have a good attitude and be trustworthy.
5. Attend all state testing.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

You should have received the student handbook at meet the teacher and signed and returned the forms. If you have not, please do so right away so that your child can participate in specials, swim and other school activities.

NO BACKPACKS

No backpacks or backpack purses or large carry all bags are allowed. This includes see through and mesh backpacks. Small purses (5x8 or smaller) and pocket fitting wallets are allowed. Drawstring bags (without backpack straps) are allowed.

Important Dates

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|---------------|--|
| August 9-11 | Benchmark Testing Gr. 2-12 |
| August 9 | Begins Dibels Testing Gr. K-3 |
| August 23 | Clubs Begin <i>No Transportation provided</i> |
| September 2-6 | No School (Labor Day) |

¹⁹PAST TIMES CAFÉ

As a reminder, we do not have a free or reduced lunch program at school. This means students need to either bring their lunch (insulated lunch bags allowed) or bring money to buy lunch. Students can pay with cash, credit, or debit cards (Visa or Mastercard). Please make sure your child has lunch or money each day. Students in grades K-3 who forget lunch or money will be able to call home to have parents pay over the phone for lunch that day.

Breakfast is sold every morning till 8AM. You may send money for your child to purchase breakfast at the school, breakfast runs between \$1 and \$2 an item.

No outside beverages or food are allowed unless packed in your child's lunch. You may not bring outside food or beverages for breakfast to eat on campus. Parents will not be allowed to drop off fast food items for lunch. Lunches are à la carte, ranging from \$0.50 to \$5.00 per item or the daily special for \$5.00 that includes a drink.

Please do not pack soda in your child's lunches. Only Capri Suns, juice boxes and water bottles are allowed.

We do not offer a pre-paid lunch program so please plan accordingly with your child if they need to buy lunch.

WATER BOTTLES

Students may not bring reusable water bottles to school of any kind. Only store bought, sealed water bottles will be allowed. Once opened on campus, students will be able to refill their water bottles at bottle fill stations throughout the campus.

Students may also choose to bring a plastic cup from home to keep in the classroom to get water during class.

TUTORING

Tutoring will be for students who qualify. Information will be sent home with your child if they need to attend tutoring during the school year. Tutoring will begin on September 21st. Students with excessive tardies or absences will not be eligible for tutoring.

RESUMES OF CURRENT STAFF

These are available in the office for all teaching staff members. Please notify the Assistant Principal if you would like to see them. Kim.way@cgcsaz.com

RIDING THE BUS

Students who ride the bus must be at their bus stop on time. Buses will not be able to wait. No food or drink is allowed to be consumed on the bus. Cell phones are not allowed to be used on the bus. Students will be given assigned seats, please speak to your child about following the bus rules. Please tell your child in the morning if they are riding the bus home or not.

SWIMMING

Swimming is required at CGCS and students will receive a grade based on their participation. All students in K-7 will have swimming as a part of their state required PE credit. Swimming will take place in Aug, Sep, and Oct. and again after Spring Break. On your child's swim days, they need to come to school with their swim clothing on under their school clothes. Students must still adhere to the dress code on swim days. No flip flops or sandals either.

Teachers will let students know what their swim days are at the beginning of the school year and again after Spring Break. Swimsuits must be modest and students are allowed to wear shorts and/or t-shirts over their swimsuits in the water. No frayed jean shorts please. Students that forget their swim stuff will not be allowed to call home and this will negatively affect their grade on their report card or transcript so please remember to have it packed and ready to go on their swim days.

Students need to bring a change of clothing, undergarments, and a towel on swim days.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

If you would like information on your child's teacher and his or her professional qualifications, please contact kim.way@cgcsaz.com and information will be sent to you.

DISCIPLINE

Assistant Principals Mr. Nick and Mrs. Way will be handling discipline in grades K-12. Assistant Principal Mr. Zach Burge will handle discipline for bus infractions. Please speak with your child about appropriate behavior at school and on the school bus and review with them the student handbook.

STAFF EMAILS

Staff emails can be found on your child's class newsletter or by contacting the front office at 623-900-2230.

CELL PHONES

Students MAY NOT bring cell phones to class. Students who are 4th grade and up, that ride a bus, will be allowed bring a cell phone to school on the days they ride the bus. That cell phone MUST be checked into the school cell phone cart every morning and signed out again in the afternoon. Only ONE cell phone per family is allowed. Cell phones must be turned off before the child gets on the bus and cannot be turned on again until they get off the bus. Headphones and earbuds are not allowed and will be confiscated if found. School phones in the main office will be used if you need to be contacted during the school day by your child. There will be a suspension for students caught violating the cell phone policy. Please review the handbook so that you are familiar with the new cell phone policy

COMPUTERS IN CLASSROOMS

Students may be using computers that are placed in each classroom. Remind your child that he/she must adhere to the appropriate use of technology. Please make sure you return the student handbook pages so that they can use the computers. Students caught using the school computers for person use or inappropriately will be suspended and will lose their privileges to use the computer for the rest of the year.

COVID GUIDELINES

Country Gardens will be using CDC guidance to keep students safely in schools.

Students and staff may voluntarily wear a mask on school grounds. The school is allowing parents to make these decisions for their own child. The use of masks is not being mandated per the state and Maricopa County Health Department guidance.

If your child or a family member tests positive for COVID, please notify the front office immediately.

SICK CHILD

If your child is sick with any of the following, please keep them home. Students with any of these symptoms will be sent home from school if they attend.

- Fever of 101° or greater
- Throwing up in the last 24 hours
- Cough that cannot be controlled by medication

CLOSED CAMPUS

Country Gardens maintains a closed campus. This means that only **enrolled students** are allowed to pass the front and middle gates during school hours. Parents must drop off their children at the stop sign or sign them into the front office (if arriving after 8AM). Any vendors visiting our campus will be required to show ID and sign in at our front office and will be escorted to their necessary locations. This is for the safety of all our students and staff.

MAIN OFFICE

Our main office is located in the new building, next to our pool. Please only call the front office for emergencies and/or to communicate changes in child's transportation for the end of the day. Please call before 2PM so that we have time to notify your child. Do NOT EMAIL end of day transportation changes. If your child is a bus rider and we are not notified before 2PM, they will be placed on a bus to go home. Our office hours are 8AM to 5PM Monday – Friday with Wednesdays closing at 4PM. Other questions can be addressed to info@cgcsaz.com.

We at Country Gardens look forward to getting to know you and your child. We are ready for a great year!