

CGCS Newsletter

Country Gardens Charter School
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July 27, 2023

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.

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 with your child the student dress code found in our handbook.

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. 1st-5th will pick up in front of the log cabin. 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.

REQUIRED SCHOOL IDs

All 3rd-12th grade students will be required to have a school ID. These were required to be purchased during the summer but if you did not, you **MUST** buy them the first week 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 your child to check out their required books for reading homework. It will also get them into some events for free! Physical IDs will be passed out after picture day.

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 placed 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. Lost and found is located on the front deck of the log cabin. Items placed there are not available for students to look though, parents must come to search the lost and found.

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 Out of School suspensions.
3. Homework turned in at 90%, including reading.
4. Have a good attitude and be trustworthy.
5. Attend all state testing.

Our Costa Rica Sea Turtles Trip is coming up fast – H.S. students wishing to go need to contact Mrs. Way ASAP.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

You should have received the student handbook by the first day of school. Please sign and return ALL colored pages for each student so that they can participate in all campus activities.

Important Dates

July 27	First Day of School – Early Dismissal
July 28	Early Dismissal
August 4	Movie Madness K-3 rd /4 th Class
August 11	Movie Madness 9-12
	Game Day 5-8 (FREE EVENT with Student ID)
August 18	Game Day 9-12 (FREE EVENT with Student ID)
	Movie Madness 4 th /5 th Class – 8
August 25	Pool Event – All Grades

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 are allowed.

PAST TIMES CAFÉ & SCHOOL LUNCHES

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. However, this cannot be a regular occurrence. If it becomes one, students will be required to pay cash for lunch or bring their lunch to school.

Breakfast is sold every morning till 8AM. You may send money for your child to purchase breakfast at the school, breakfast runs between \$2 and \$5 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. Lunch items are sold à la carte, ranging from \$2 to \$5.00 per item or the daily special for \$6.00 that includes a drink.

Please do not pack soda in your child's lunches. Only Capri Suns, juice boxes and unopened, new 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.

RESUMES OF CURRENT STAFF & TEACHER QUALIFICATION

These are available in the office for all teaching staff members. Please notify the Assistant Principal if you would like to see them. Kim.wav@cacsaz.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 except from their disposable water bottles. These bottles must be unopened before getting onto 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-6 will have swimming. Swimming will take place in Aug, Sep, and Oct. and again after Spring Break. Your child will swim 4 days a week – **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday**. 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. 6th – 12th grade students that have a PE/Swimming elective must have their swim stuff on their swim days, no exceptions.

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 allowed. 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, in a plastic bag – **NO BACKPACKS**.

DISCIPLINE

Assistant Principals Mr. Nick and Mr. Jones, will handle 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 the student handbook with them.

CELL PHONES

Students **MAY NOT** bring cell phones to school. Students who are 4th grade and up, that ride a bus, will only be allowed to 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 put away and cannot be turned on again, or taken out, until they get off the bus in the afternoon. 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 violating the cell phone policy. Please review the handbook so that you are familiar with the cell phone policy

COMPUTERS IN CLASSROOMS – GRADES 6th – 12th ONLY

Students may periodically be using computers. 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 using the school computers for personal use or inappropriately will be suspended and will lose their privileges to use the computer for the rest of the year.

SICK/INJURED 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. Students “not feeling well”, that do not meet the below criteria, will be evaluated on a case-by-case situation but will be encouraged to remain in school for as long as possible.

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

Parents will be called if a child needs something like Tylenol or ibuprofen.

Children injured on campus, where the injury is minor and requires only an ice pack or band aid, will not result in having parents contacted. Any injury requiring more attention, involving the head or face, or that we feel might require doctor evaluation, will include us contacting parents for them to make a decision on treatment.

CLOSED CAMPUS

For the safety and security of our students, 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 building next to our pool. Please only call the front office for emergencies and/or to communicate changes in your 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.

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