

## HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE

In light of the budget crisis and in an effort to reduce costs, we have placed the student handbook online at our website, [www.cullenelementary.com](http://www.cullenelementary.com). However, we have printed a few copies available to be picked up in the office for those families who may not be able to access the handbook online.

Please take the time to access and review the handbook with your child(ren) and then sign and return this form confirming your review in the next 2 weeks.

Our family has read and discussed the information in the *Parent & Student Handbook*. We understand the rules, expectations, and dress code and are committed to positively supporting our child's social, emotional, and academic growth within the school setting at Cullen. We have read and discussed the Schoolwide Discipline Plan and will support the teacher and the school in its implementation.

*Please check all that apply and sign below:*

\_\_\_\_\_ My child has an **allergy to peanut butter/cheese and/or bread** and therefore cannot be given a peanut butter/cheese sandwich if he/she forgets lunch.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do **not** give permission for the school to provide my phone number or address to PTA, School Site Council, or room representatives for school use.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Teacher      Room #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Thank you for your cooperation in this effort to provide a safe, exciting, and quality educational program for your child. Together we can make a positive difference in the life of every student at Cullen.*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Cullen Elementary School! This *Parent & Student Handbook* was designed to provide helpful information about the school for both parents and students. It is hoped that by providing this information, parents and school personnel can work closely to insure a rewarding educational experience for each child.

We must set high expectations for each student in order to effectively foster an attitude of life-long learning within each student and to maintain a high degree of excellence in education. These high expectations, set both at school and at home, are most important for a child's success. Concurrently, we must also recognize that each child is an individual with individual abilities and needs. It is the intention of the faculty and staff of Cullen School to help each student appreciate his/her contributions and uniqueness while attaining high educational goals.

It is my hope that this *Handbook* will foster positive and effective communication among parents, teachers, and students. Please read and review this handbook with your child(ren) and then sign the signature page at the beginning of the handbook and return it to the teacher during the first two weeks of school.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to talk with your child's teacher or call me directly at the school office.

Thank you,

Cheryl Bonner  
Principal

P.S. At the back of this handbook is a tear out page of schedules, including holidays, early dismissals and minimum days. This is to help you with planning pick-ups and vacations.

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# MISSION STATEMENT AND BELIEFS OF THE GLENDORA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## **Mission Statement**

The Glendora Unified School District is committed to providing a quality standards based education. Through a partnership of students, parents, staff, and community, students are given the opportunity to reach their full potential, be independent thinkers and demonstrate responsibility toward others.

## **Beliefs**

- Students are our greatest priority.
- All people have the right to a safe, nurturing, and secure environment.
- All people deserve a quality education.
- Successful education is the shared responsibility of the parents, students, educators, and community.
- Challenges that lead to successful experiences build feelings of confidence and self-worth.
- Education is a foundation for individual freedom, responsibility, justice, and democracy.
- Education empowers students to meet the challenges of our ever-changing world.

The staff and parents of Cullen Elementary School are committed to the work of actualizing the mission and beliefs of the District.

## CULLEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Cullen Elementary School is to provide each student with opportunities to reach his/her full potential as a lifelong learner through implementation of high academic standards, providing differentiated instruction to all students, in a safe and nurturing learning environment while maintaining strong home-school-community connections and promoting individual responsibility.

## ATTENDANCE

### Reporting Absences

The importance of regular school attendance cannot be stressed too much. It affects both individual student progress at school and the status of our school funding, which is based on daily attendance figures. When a student is absent from school, the absence is either classified as **excused** (necessary because of illness or injury, vision, dental and medical appointments, quarantine and bereavement) or **unexcused** (reasons that may include vacations, babysitting problems, etc.). If your child must be absent from school, please:

- Call the school office prior to 9:30 a.m. on the day when your child is absent. A reason for the absence is a legal requirement by the State for its verification report. If the absence is verified by phone, a note is appreciated but not necessary.
- If your child will be out of school for an extended time (5 days or more), please notify the school so arrangements can be made in advance for possible independent study or home instruction.

Excessive absences and tardies (10 or more is considered excessive), will be referred to the School Attendance and Review board (SARB) for further action. This is a function of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office working with schools to support student attendance.

### Tardiness

Being on time to school everyday is very important for several reasons. First, punctuality for your child insures that he/she is not missing any part of the instructional day. Second, when all students are on time in the morning, classroom interruptions are minimized thereby maximizing the best possible use of each instructional minute. Please help your child to be on time for school everyday. Plan your family's morning routine to allow your child to arrive on campus between 8:00 and 8:15 a.m. (grades K-5).

A student is considered tardy if he/she is not ready to enter the classroom with his/her classmates when the 8:15 a.m. bell rings. Every late student must report to the office to explain the reason for the tardy and to get an admittance slip from the office staff before entering the classroom. At this time, the student must also inform the office staff if he/she is buying a cafeteria lunch in order to ensure an accurate lunch count. Students with

repeated tardies may be required to serve recess or after-school detention as a consequence. Excessive tardies will be referred to the School Attendance Review Board for appropriate follow-up. Tardies are also reported quarterly on students' report cards.

## **Truancy**

A new city ordinance took effect January 12, 1996. This ordinance makes it unlawful for any minor, who has not graduated from high school, to loiter in public between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on days when school is in session. Any student found in violation of this truancy law will be issued a citation and the student's parents will be expected to pay a fine and/or appear in court.

In addition, in accordance with Ed. Code 48260, any child with 3 tardies of 30 minutes or more without a valid excuse is considered truant.

## **BICYCLES, SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS, SKATES, AND ROLLER BLADES**

*Only students in grades 3, 4, and 5 are allowed to ride bicycles or scooters to school.* Bike riders must obey all safety rules and the California Vehicle Code. Students must walk their bicycles and scooters at all times while on school grounds. This includes the parking lot, playgrounds, fields, and to and from the bike rack. Students who ride a bicycle or scooter to school must park and lock their vehicle in the bike rack at school. The school does not provide locks for students. Students are allowed in the bike rack area upon arrival and at dismissal.

For the safety of all bicycle riders, students must wear protective bike helmets, as per California law.

Repeated or serious infractions of school and safety rules may lead to the suspension of the student's privilege of riding the bicycle or scooter to school.

**No students or members of the public are allowed to ride bicycles, scooters, skateboards, skates, or roller blades on school property at any time! Violation of this school rule is also violation of Glendora Municipal Code and may result in a citation from the police department.**

Parents are urged to monitor the after-school and weekend activities of their children to insure that this municipal code is not being violated. Your assistance in this regard is greatly appreciated.

## STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Each student is responsible for his/her own actions. Parents and teachers both have an important part in helping a student develop responsibility. Discipline is necessary in any group if the goals of the group are to be realized. Orderly conduct is both a necessary condition and an important goal of learning.

Since all individuals are unique, no one procedure or method for a given situation is appropriate in every case. In an effort to ensure safety for the school community and to help all students to develop individual responsibility, classroom discipline plans and a schoolwide discipline plan are implemented.

### Classroom Discipline

Classroom teachers develop individual classroom discipline plans that are age appropriate and effective in assisting students to develop individual responsibility. Rewards for good behavior and consequences for inappropriate behavior are included as part of each plan. We firmly believe that education is a partnership; therefore, teachers take a proactive approach in contacting and communicating with parents regarding discipline issues.

Teacher/student conferences, time-outs, phone calls, requiring the parent to stay at school with the child, after-school detentions, parent/teacher/principal conferences, in-house suspension, suspension, and/or expulsion are interventions used to help the student attain responsibility. Please be advised that a student may be detained after school for 15 minutes without parental notification and up to one hour when parents have been notified.

### Schoolwide Discipline

At Cullen, a Schoolwide Discipline Plan has been developed to further ensure student safety and compliance with school rules. This plan, which is detailed on the next three pages, is supported by Board of Education Policy and the

Education Code. (Please refer to the District Summer Letter to Parents for details regarding districtwide discipline practices.) In the case of suspension, the parent will be notified in writing, indicating the offense and length of suspension. A telephone conference with the parent will be conducted and a personal conference may also be requested.

## **SCHOOLWIDE DISCIPLINE PLAN**

### **DESIRED BEHAVIORS**

#### GENERAL SCHOOL RULES

1. Follow directions the first time they are given.
2. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
3. Use appropriate language at all times.
4. Do not fight.
5. Respect school property.
6. Pick up litter and throw it away.
7. Do not bring dangerous objects, gum, candy or toys to school.
8. Never leave the school grounds without permission.

#### PLAYGROUND RULES

1. Follow directions of all school staff
2. Use equipment properly.
3. No rough or dangerous play.
4. Play in assigned areas only.
5. No bad language, teasing or fighting.
6. Walk on the blacktop.
7. Use only your room's equipment.
8. Observe the freeze bell. Line up quickly and quietly.

#### HALLWAY RULES

1. Follow directions of all school staff.
2. Always walk. Do not run.
3. Use a soft voice. Do not yell.
4. Use restrooms and drinking fountains properly.
5. Stay out of red safety zones.
6. Be sure an adult can see you at all times.

#### CAFETERIA RULES

1. Follow directions of all school staff.
2. Listen respectfully to cafeteria staff.
3. Use a soft voice. Do not yell.
4. Use good manners.
5. Do not throw food.
6. Walk. Do not run.
7. Clean up your area after eating.
8. Remain seated until dismissed.

### **POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENTS WHO FOLLOW SCHOOL RULES**

#### GOLD SLIPS

Gold Slips are given to students who choose to follow the school rules. They serve as a means for rewarding students who behave appropriately both inside and outside of the classroom. They are not used to reward academic achievement. Students receiving Gold Slips deposit them in a designated box, can or basket in their classrooms for a weekly raffle, which is generally a certificate from a local business partner in education (usually a restaurant). One name will be drawn from the Gold Slips deposited that

week. Teachers may choose to use the remaining Gold Slips to raffle other small rewards.

### **AWARDS ASSEMBLIES AND SPIRIT DAY**

#### **Awards Assemblies**

At Cullen, we firmly believe that there is a direct relationship between self-esteem and school success. Therefore, it is our goal to publicly recognize the achievements of students on a regular basis in a variety of ways. One of the many ways in which we recognize students is through trimester awards assemblies for grades K-3. These assemblies are an opportunity to recognize students before their peers for outstanding progress and/or effort in the areas of academic achievement, citizenship, physical fitness, the arts, and a variety of other themes. (Upper grades will recognize on the trimester with awards within their classrooms.)

### **OTHER REWARDS AS PART OF THE CLASSROOM TEACHER'S PLAN**

Teachers daily "catch students being good" by highlighting their strengths and recognizing their achievements through a variety of rewards and special privileges. Examples include free recesses, homework passes, etc.

### **CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENTS WHO CHOOSE NOT TO FOLLOW SCHOOL RULES**

As indicated above, each student is responsible for his/her own actions. Parents and teachers both have an important part in helping a student develop responsibility. Discipline is necessary in any group if the goals of the group are to be realized. Orderly conduct is both a necessary condition and an important goal of learning. Since all individuals are unique, no one procedure nor method for a given situation is appropriate in every case. In light of this, listed below are steps that are typically taken as interventions to assist students in behaving more responsibly at school.

#### **PINK SLIPS**

Pink Slips are written for students who break any **OUT OF CLASSROOM** General, Playground, Hallway, or Cafeteria Rule. These are not for classroom use, and are not used to punish students for lack of academic achievement.

When a student chooses to break a school rule, and a staff member has observed or has concrete proof of a student breaking a rule, a Pink Slip will be issued in the name of the student. (Students causing severe problems, which endanger others, are sent immediately to the Principal's Office.) It is the responsibility of the teacher to consistently implement the appropriate consequence for each issued Pink Slip.

### THINK TANK

The Think Tank, located in the cafeteria, is one consequence assigned to students who choose not to follow school rules and is intended to provide a quiet place for students to reflect about their actions. The Think Tank is also provided to allow students time to complete homework and/or class assignments. Students report to the Think Tank during the morning recess. (Students are allowed a five minute drinking fountain/restroom break.) Teachers or the Principal may send students to the Think Tank with a Pink Slip or Think Tank Pass for any of the following reasons:

- To make up or finish incomplete homework (Think Tank Pass)
- Poor classroom behavior (Think Tank Pass)
- Misbehavior on the playground (Pink Slip and/or Think Tank Pass)

A pink slip may result in the requirement of serving time in Think Tank. Students not reporting to or misbehaving in the Think Tank will report again the following day. If students misbehave during the second visit, they must report to the Principal's Office. The Think Tank is supervised by a yard duty supervisor. In the event of three Pink Slips issued within one week, the parent is notified and usually a conference with the teacher is requested.

### ALTERNATIVES TO THE THINK TANK & OTHER POSSIBLE INTERVENTIONS

Recognizing that the Think Tank may not be an effective deterrent to misbehavior for all students, the following options may be investigated as individual needs arise:

- After-school detention
- "Work off" the Pink Slip/Think Tank Pass (by providing a service to the teacher or to the school)
- Parent/Teacher/Student Behavior Contracts
- Time-out in the office or an alternate classroom
- In-house suspension
- Suspension
- Expulsion

## REFERRAL TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Students may be sent to the Principal's Office for disciplinary reasons when sent as a consequence of the classroom teacher's established discipline plan or in the event of a severe infraction (e.g., intentionally harming another student, theft, etc.). Each time a student is formally counseled by the Principal, parents may be contacted by telephone or in writing.

The first time a student is referred to the Principal, except in the event of a severe infraction, he/she will be counseled by the Principal and will receive a warning. If a student must visit the Principal again within a short period of time, parents will be contacted and the student will face the appropriate consequence(s) of his/her actions. If a student must visit the Principal a third time within a short period of time, other more effective interventions will be considered.

## ADDITIONAL SCHOOL POLICIES

1. **Students are not to arrive at school before 8:00 a.m. unless they are here for the district breakfast program which is available at 7:45 a.m.**
2. **Students are not allowed on the playground before 8:00 a.m. when supervision begins.**
  - a. If students arrive before 8:00 a.m., families may be requested to enroll them in Daycare.
3. Students should promptly head home or be picked up at their dismissal time. **There is no after-school supervision, and no playing on the equipment.** (If a student is waiting for an older sibling, they are to be seated on the bench outside the library.)
4. All playing stops when the bell rings at the end of recess. Students are to "FREEZE" until dismissed by the supervisors.
5. Balls should be hit, not kicked against the ball walls. "Butt ball" is not permitted due to the rough, unsafe nature of the game.
6. Balls should only be kicked in the grassy areas of the playground, not on the blacktop. Balls should only be bounced up against handball walls and never in the hallways or against the buildings. There is no running in the hallways or on blacktop.
7. Students should only be in the hallways or around buildings during recesses or lunch except to place lunch pails and to get balls. No running or sliding in the hallways.

8. Loitering is not permitted in restrooms or other areas of the school grounds at any time. During recesses, all students are strongly urged to be safely and productively involved in an activity or game.
9. All games remain open until they exceed the maximum number for safe play as determined by the yard supervisors.
10. No drinks or use of the restroom after the bell rings without teacher or supervisor permission.
11. Games which involve tackling, wiping out, shoving, keep-away, riding on another's back or chasing are **never** permitted at school.
12. Climbing on backstops, fences or in trees is unacceptable. Students must remain where they can be seen by supervisors at all times.
13. Only school play equipment is allowed on the playground. Students are not to bring toys or other personal belongings to school. This includes pogs, yoyo's, beany babies, electronic games, collectible cards, jacks, and personal radios. Exceptions: Students in grades 4-5 may bring mitts for organized games with a teacher; teachers may give special permission for students to bring personal belongings as they relate to a unit of study and/or will be used under the supervision of the teacher. (Any other items needed for playground games will be decided upon on a case by case basis.)
14. Playground equipment in the primary areas is for primary grade use only. Students are always to play in their assigned areas.
15. Throwing of rocks, sticks, or projectiles other than playground balls is not allowed.
16. Scissors, knives, sharp objects, and glass containers are not to be brought to school.
17. Students must obey regulations as described in the State Education Code and School Board Policy regarding the use of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol on campus. **NO USE IS THE RULE.**

### **Spirit Day**

The last Friday of the month is designated as Spirit Day. On this day, all students are encouraged to wear blue and white, Cullen's school colors. The primary and upper grade classes with the highest percentage of students wearing blue and white will receive the school banners to display in their rooms for the month.

Students may also receive positive phone calls home, notes, or informal thumbs up.

## School Spirit Information

The school colors are blue and white. The school mascot is the condor. The school song is as follows:

### "You're A Grand Old School" (to the tune "You're A Grand Old Flag")

You're a grand old school,  
You're a high-ranking school.  
You're the best in the west we all say.  
Here the kids are smart, and do our part,  
We're loyal to you every day!  
Every heart beats true for our own white and blue.  
You're the best school in every way.  
Should old acquaintance be forgot,  
But CULLEN IS HERE TO STAY!

## DRESS CODE

All students are expected to dress sensibly for school. Students' attitudes, conduct, and safety during school hours can be affected by the clothing they wear. In accordance with the California Administrative Code, Title 5, Section 302, students shall be neat, clean, and properly attired for school in a safe, appropriate manner for learning. Please use the following information as you plan your child(ren)'s wardrobe.

### Standards of Dress for Students

- Students shall be neat, clean, and properly attired for school.
- Students must wear shoes that fit securely and have non-skid soles. Tennis shoes are ideal. Backless shoes, open toed shoes, sandals of any kind, and shoes with a high heel are not permitted. Skate shoes/heelies are not permitted.

- Half shirts, crop tops, tube tops, see-through shirts, shirts with straps of less than 2" width, or short shorts are not permitted. Rear ends must be covered when seated.
- Hats with a brim and no logo are permitted at recess and P.E. Brim must face forward, not backwards. Beanies are acceptable during cool weather only. Hats or hoods should not be worn in the classroom.
- Shirts or blouses that advertise items that are illegal for minors (such as alcohol or tobacco), contain profanity or suggestive double meanings are not permitted.
- Attire or grooming worn or displayed in such a way as to identify students with gangs/hate groups is not permitted (e.g., T-shirts with gang symbols, wallet chains, baggy pants, etc.)
- **Hair painting, tattoos, and body art are inappropriate and not permitted. (Hair painting will only be tolerated for Halloween & 5<sup>th</sup> grade party).**
- Jewelry that dangles is not appropriate. Earrings should be posts or no longer than    inch.
- Make-up is unacceptable for any student in elementary school. Nails should be a students' own and groomed.

This district takes a strong stance against gang-affiliated clothing and/or styles of dress or grooming affiliated with gangs/hate groups, due to safety concerns for students while at school or going to and coming from school.

Because of changing trends in such attire, specific clothing, jewelry, accessories, and/or grooming style restrictions may change during the school year. Notice will be given to students and parents/guardians as soon as it is reasonably possible after these trends have been identified through the assistance of the local law enforcement authorities.

It is hoped that this information will not offend, but rather assist you in determining those clothes that will positively influence your child's school experience. Teachers may also use their discretion in determining if a student's dress is inappropriate. Any time a member of the staff believes that a student is disrupting the educational process by his/her appearance, or believes that the student's safety is in jeopardy, the teacher may send the student to the office. Students whose attire is inappropriate will be removed from class until the attire is corrected.

### **Related Issues**

- Brushes, combs, cosmetics, and/or mirrors should not be brought to school as they can pose a safety issue, cause students to be

- distracted from classroom activities, and/or cause problems on the playground at recess times.
- Please label all jackets, sweaters, backpacks, etc. with the student's name for easy identification.

### Cell Phones

Students are permitted to have cell phones in their possession on campus during the school day, however, such devices shall be **deactivated (turned off)** and their use strictly prohibited on campus during the regular school day. **Vibrate/silence mode is not considered "off"**. Cell phones may be used after school to contact parents or secure a ride home. If a student needs to speak with a parent/guardian during the school day, they should go to the office to make the contact. Any device that is on, activated, in use, or openly displayed during school hours, will be confiscated and held in the office for parent/guardian to pick up after school. Any subsequent offenses will be considered an act of defiance and appropriate discipline measures will be taken. Ultimately a student may have the right to possess such a device revoked.

## EXPECTATIONS

People tend to work best when they understand what is expected of them. This is especially true in a school setting. The development of self-discipline is essential to the building of a good self-image and successful school experiences. At the elementary school level, students are expected to understand the importance of following school and classroom rules and procedures in order to help themselves and others to become responsible citizens. Good sportsmanship, manners, and proper respect for fellow students and those in authority will be insisted upon at all times.

1. All students are expected to follow the school rules. (Please refer to the Schoolwide Discipline Plan on pages 4-10 for details.) At the beginning of each school year, teachers review and discuss the rules with all students. The rules will also be reviewed periodically as needed.
2. New students to the school will immediately be informed of the rules through use of this *Parent & Student Handbook* and through interaction with the teacher and classmates.
3. A copy of the rules is posted in each classroom and the cafeteria.
4. Electronic devices (ipods, pagers, game boys, etc.) are not allowed on campus. Personal items will be taken away and parents will have to

5. come to the office to pick them up. We do not assume responsibility for any personal items.

## **FOOD SERVICES AND OTHER RELATED INFORMATION**

### **The Breakfast Program**

The school cafeteria provides your child with a hot, nutritious breakfast daily. It is served with \_ pint of milk. Breakfast costs \$1.25 per day. New menus are sent home with students at the beginning of each month and are also posted in the office and classrooms. Breakfast is served daily beginning at 7:45 a.m. At 8:00 a.m., students are dismissed to the playground when regular before-school supervision begins.

### **Mid-Morning Nutrition**

Students may bring a snack to school to be eaten at the morning recess. They must finish their snacks and dispose of wrappers before going onto the playground. Parents are strongly urged to provide healthy snacks (and lunches) for their children to bring to school as this will be more conducive to a productive learning experience for the remainder of the instructional day. (Please avoid snacks/lunches with a high content of sugar, chocolate, and caffeine.)

### **The Lunch Program**

The school cafeteria provides your child with a hot, nutritious lunch daily. It is served with \_ pint of milk. Lunch costs \$3.00 per day. Students who bring a lunch from home may purchase milk at school for \$.50. New menus are sent home with students at the beginning of each month and are also posted in the office and classrooms. Generally, both students who purchase lunch at school and those who bring their lunch from home eat at the tables inside the cafeteria. The noon supervisors will direct children regarding cafeteria procedures and will reinforce expected good behavior in the cafeteria.

### **Breakfast and Lunch Accounts - (Point of Service)**

At Cullen School parents may prepay food services for lunches and breakfasts. We will continue to utilize the electronic PIN number for food services. Each student has an individual number assigned to them that will be

theirs until they graduate. **It is helpful for each child to have this memorized.** Deposits may be made at any time by cash or check payable to GUSD Food Services. When money has been deposited into student accounts, students do not need to bring any money to school but simply input their account number when purchasing breakfast or lunch.

### **Free and Reduced Price Meals**

Provisions are made for free and reduced price breakfasts and lunches for qualifying students. The reduced price for breakfast is \$.25 and the reduced price for lunch is \$.40. An application, available from the school office, must be completed to determine if a family qualifies for free or reduced price meals.

### **Late Lunch Deliveries**

Parents are expected to provide their children with a lunch or lunch money before the student comes to school; however, if an emergency occurs and lunch/lunch money is forgotten, please follow the procedures described here. Parents who deliver late lunches should bring them to the office.

Please be sure the student's name and room number are visible on the lunch bag/pail. Place lunch money in an envelope marked with the student's name and room number, then leave it in the office. Students are encouraged to check at the office for forgotten lunches at the morning recess. With teacher permission, students will be allowed to call home for forgotten lunches and/or lunch money by morning recess. However, it is the parent's responsibility to be sure that the student has lunch. The office does not assume responsibility for forgotten lunches, lunch money, or late lunch deliveries. (This is an additional benefit to having money on account, a child may still get lunch from the cafeteria if they have forgotten their lunch.)

A child who does not have a packed lunch or sufficient lunch money will be given milk and crackers.

**Please indicate on the return form at the front of this handbook if your child has an allergy to peanut butter, cheese or bread.**

## **INURIES AND ILLNESSES**

A new WHITE emergency card must be filed in the office each September for every child. Please call the school if any information on your child's card

changes during the year. These cards serve as the only authorization the school has to care for your child in case of an emergency. Consequently, if the information is incorrect or incomplete, your child's health and well-being may be at risk. We request that local names and addresses (neighbors, friends, or family) be provided on the card in case the parents are unavailable. Please be sure that phone numbers of those listed on the card are current and that you have given at least 2 other names to be contacted if we are unable to reach parents. You may update the card as the need arises.

In the event of injury or illness, the procedure is as follows:

1. Basic first aid is given for minor injuries. The child is allowed to rest in the office if complaining of a slight illness (stomachache, headache, etc.). The child's temperature will be taken.
2. If there is any question as to the seriousness of the injury or illness, the parent will be called and asked to come for the child.
3. If the parent cannot be reached or is otherwise unavailable, a person designated on the WHITE emergency card will be contacted. **Please remember that the school will not release your child to anyone not listed on the WHITE emergency card.**
4. In the event of an extremely serious or life threatening accident, the paramedics will be called and the parent will be contacted immediately.

## LEAVING THE CAMPUS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

It is necessary for the student's protection that he/she be accounted for and on school grounds at all times during school hours. For this reason, the following rules are enforced:

1. Students are not dismissed during regular school hours without a release from the office staff. This applies to mid-day releases to go to a doctor's appointment, or home for lunch, or out with a parent for lunch, etc.
2. If a parent needs to take a child out of school during regular school hours, the parent must sign the child out at the office and be able to show identification if asked. The child will be called to the office to meet the parent. **Please do not go to the classroom.**

3. In the event of illness or emergency, a child can only be released to the parents or those individuals listed on the WHITE emergency card. For this reason, please keep the card current!
4. A child returning to school during the day must first check in at the office for an admittance slip before returning to class.

## LOST AND FOUND

A Lost and Found rack is maintained outside the office building at all times. If your child has misplaced an article of clothing or a lunch box, he/she is encouraged to check the office, classroom, and the Lost and Found rack carefully. In an effort to avoid loss of personal belongings at school, please write your child's name on all belongings. **The school cannot assume responsibility for any personal property!** Items not claimed from the Lost and Found are periodically donated to charity.

## MEDICATION

The school may not administer medication without a form completed and signed by both the parent and the prescribing physician. These forms are available at the school office. Medication should be kept in the original containers and must be checked in at the office. It will be dispensed only through the office. Under no circumstances are students to bring other medications onto campus, even simple remedies such as aspirin or aspergum, first aid creams, etc.

## PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Only school play equipment is allowed on the playground. Students are not to bring toys or other personal belongings to school.

Items that may be needed in the classroom, such as notebook binders in the upper grades, may be brought to school. However, the school is not responsible for lost or missing items. Additionally, students should bring no more money to school than is necessary to buy lunch if they have not prepaid into their account.

## STUDENT PHONE CALLS

Students are discouraged from using the phone at school, but are allowed to call home under certain circumstances with permission from the teacher or office. Frequent calls home for homework, lunches, and after-school arrangements are not allowed. Parents are expected to pick students up promptly after school or make other arrangements in advance to avoid excessive after-school telephone use in the school office.

## SAFETY TO AND FROM SCHOOL

At the beginning of each school year and at periodic intervals throughout the year, safety instruction is given to all students. Parents are urged to help their children learn the proper and safe way to travel to and from school. A route should be planned by the parents and reviewed with their children with full regard to sidewalks, street crossings, bike lanes, parking lot safety, and the property of others.

Parking lot safety is an ongoing concern. In order to reduce congestion and related safety problems, please use the following guidelines when delivering and retrieving your child from school:

1. Use the street parking along Live Oak and Leadora. Determine a meeting place and wait for your child there.
2. If you park across the street, please do not ask your child to cross in the middle of the block. Instead, teach your child to properly use the crosswalk and/or cross the street with your child.
3. Help to decrease congestion in the parking lot by walking or joining a carpool. Families are encouraged to form "walking pools" so children do not walk alone.
4. Remember that older children (grades 3-5) are allowed to ride bicycles and scooters to school.
5. Remain in your car when waiting in the parking lot. **Do not park at the curb.** Use only Visitor (not Reserved) parking spaces.

Please be advised that the PTA safety committee is considering the possibility of closing the parking lot at starting and dismissal times, as has been done at several other schools in the district. We may also implement student greeters to facilitate the flow of traffic. This may be necessary to successfully ensure student safety in the parking lot.

## **Parking Lot Etiquette**

Due to ongoing concern about the parking lot during the before and after school periods of high traffic flow, please be reminded of the following safety rules:

- Please do not park your car in the loading zone or parallel to other cars in the loading zone.
- Please do drop off and pick up your child(ren) quickly; if you do not see your child(ren) immediately upon driving to the front of the school, please move forward and drive through again.
- If you are asked to move your car, return to your car, or park your car on the street, please do not be offended. We are simply trying to ensure the safety of our students.

Your efforts to protect the safety of our students are appreciated.

## **Parking Enforcement on School District Property**

The Glendora Unified Board of Education Board policy 3513.2, covers *Parking Enforcement on School District Property*. The purpose of the policy is to provide for the safety of all persons on school property, by facilitating vehicular movement and parking, as well as keeping fire lanes clear. This policy provides a code of traffic and parking regulations that will be enforced by the Glendora Police Department at all of our sites. Please be aware of the following parking regulations and drive safely wherever you are in Glendora!

### **General Traffic Regulations**

- No person shall fail to obey any sign or signal erected or maintained to carry out these regulations pursuant to the California Vehicle Code.
- The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way to a pedestrian crossing on any roadway.
- No driver approaching from the rear of a vehicle which is yielding the right of way to a pedestrian shall overtake or pass that vehicle.
- No person shall drive any vehicle in willful, wanton, or reckless disregard for the safety of persons or property.
- No person shall drive or ride a motor driven scooter, motorcycle, skateboard, inline skates, skates, or bicycle on any school sidewalk.
- No person shall walk on a school road which is paralleled by a sidewalk.
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- No person shall drive or park a motor vehicle on any sidewalk, unpaved pathway, or on any lawn or landscape area except emergency or maintenance vehicles.
- No person shall drive his vehicle into school parking areas except by using roadways and drive lanes, and all vehicle must travel in the direction of directional arrows in the parking lot drive lanes.

### **Speed Regulations**

No person shall drive a vehicle at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent, but in no case greater than 15 mph on school property.

### **Parking Regulations**

- All vehicles shall be parked clearly within a designated parking stall and failure to do so will constitute illegal parking.
- All vehicles shall be parked facing into diagonal parking stalls. Vehicles backed into or facing out of diagonal parking stalls are illegally parked.
- No person shall stop, park, or leave standing any vehicle, whether attended or unattended, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directive of an officer or official control device, in any of the following places:
  - On a crosswalk.
  - In a designated fire lane.
  - On a sidewalk, lawn or landscaped area.
  - So as to obstruct the passageway, walkway, or doorway of any building.
  - Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
- Painted curbs are an indication of restricted parking and the color denotes the type of parking allowed. The following color code is adopted:
  - RED ZONE - Indicates no stopping, standing or parking, whether the vehicle is attended or not.
  - YELLOW ZONE - Indicates an area for loading and unloading of vehicles and the parking of service vehicles. Vehicle may not be left unattended.
  - GREEN ZONE - Parking is allowed.
  - BLUE ZONE - Indicates vehicle parking for handicapped persons in wheelchairs only. These vehicles must display a valid sticker on the lower right side corner of windshield.
- No student, faculty, or staff member shall park in an area designated as visitor parking only.

- No student or visitor shall park in any area designated as FACULTY or STAFF ONLY (indicated by Reserved).
- Bicycles shall be parked in designated bicycle parking areas.
- Visitors shall park in designated visitor parking areas.

### **Abandoned Vehicles**

- No person shall abandon, or leave standing any vehicle on school district property for 72 or more consecutive hours. All such vehicles will be stored under authority of Section 22669 of the California Vehicle Code, or any successor thereto.

## **SMOG ALERT INFORMATION**

In the event of a Health Advisory Episode or Smog Alert, everyone, including healthy adults and children, should avoid prolonged, vigorous outdoor exercise. Susceptible individuals, especially those with heart or lung disease, should avoid all outdoor activity. If this event should occur during the school day, all students, staff, and other adults on campus will be alerted and warned of the condition. We are informed of smog alerts by district staff.

## **STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

The Glendora Unified School District does not have accident or medical insurance coverage. Parents may, however, purchase optional accident insurance for their children. Forms for independent coverage are available in the school office.

## **VISITATION AND COMMUNICATION**

Parents are welcome at school. However, to protect the safety of all of our students, it is imperative for parents and all visitors to the campus to check in at the office first. If you have a need to visit your child during the school day or wish to check your child out from school early, please come to the office; your child will be called to come to the office.

If you would like to meet with your child's teacher, please call or visit the office to make an appointment. Near the end of the school day, please wait for your child at the front end of the hallway or in front of the school rather than outside your child's classroom. During the opening weeks of the

school year, especially in kindergarten through grade two, teachers walk their students out to the front of the school to meet their parents.

It is imperative for parents to make after-school arrangements with the child before the start of the school day. It is difficult to relay the numerous telephone messages the office staff receives from parents to students.

## **CORE CURRICULUM**

The Glendora Unified School District is committed to providing a high quality education for all students. In an effort to implement educational programs that are of the highest quality for all students, we at Cullen are committed to the following:

- The alignment of our school's instructional program to the District's established core curriculum and grade level expectancies, as well as to the state curriculum frameworks and state standards;
- Ongoing staff development focuses on the content of the state curriculum standards and proven, effective instructional strategies.
- The effective use of state-approved textbooks and other state-approved instructional resources in all of the required curricular areas: language arts, mathematics, science, history/social science, health education, physical education, and visual and performing arts;
- The use and integration of technology to support the core curriculum and to familiarize students with real-world tools;
- The articulation of essential learnings and expected student outcomes from one grade level to the next, including the transition from elementary school to middle school;
- The modification of the instructional program to meet the needs of all students, including students who are considered at-risk due to learning disabilities, limited English proficiency, and/or social/emotional challenges; and
- A high degree of parental involvement through the provision of parent education about the core curriculum and effective ways to help their children at home, volunteerism in the classroom, and through assuming leadership roles such as are encouraged through the PTA.

## **EARLY INTERVENTION FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS**

The Early Intervention for School Success (EISS) Program was a special grant funded program recently implemented at Cullen. The grant was administered through the Orange County Department of Education and was funded through the United States Department of Education's National Diffusion Network. EISS was authored by Senator Diane Watson in 1985 and was later included as one of Governor Wilson's Prevention Initiatives. To date, more than 770 schools have actively participated in the EISS Program.

The purpose of EISS is three fold: 1) to increase the strength of teaching in primary classrooms in an effort to create developmentally based, child centered classrooms where children are happy, busy, and intellectually engaged, 2) to boost the achievement of all kindergarten, first grade, and second grade students and to instill a love of learning, and 3) to effectively engage parents in the teaching the learning process.

The EISS program at Cullen targets all K-2 classrooms. Through discussion, collaborative planning, and special training, our EISS team of teachers, instructional aides, and other support staff provides early literacy and hands-on mathematics programs which are child centered and focused on the use of an integrated curriculum, heterogeneous groupings, manipulatives, thematic units, a wide variety of children's literature, multiple reading strategies, print rich learning environments, cooperative learning, and a balance of teacher directed and teacher facilitated activities. Further, this developmentally based instructional program highlights students' strengths and utilizes authentic assessments, learning centers, small groups, Reader's and Writer's Workshop, and a wide variety of teaching strategies.

We, at Cullen are very excited about this ongoing adventure and we look forward to sharing more information with you about the successes of our very youngest life-long learners.

## **EVALUATION OF STUDENT PROGRESS**

Teachers evaluate the progress of their students in a variety of ways. The following list includes some of the many strategies and/or tools teachers use to assess student progress: observation, checklists, teacher-made tests, publisher's tests, skills-based tests and quizzes, running records of students'

oral reading progress, standardized tests, portfolios of student work samples, etc.

### **Report Cards**

Report cards are issued on a trimester schedule (3 times a year) to all students in kindergarten through grade five. The purpose of the report card is to report student progress to parents and to identify students' strengths and areas of needed improvement. The report card should function as a tool to: 1) assist parents in better understanding their child's academic progress and 2) pinpoint areas for parents to support their child's progress at school. If a student is achieving at an unsatisfactory level with respect to attitudes/citizenship and/or academic progress, a progress report will be mailed to parents in the middle of the twelve week trimester. The trimester report card is given to parents at conferences (December and April) and sent home with students at the end of the year.

### **Parent - Teacher Conferences**

Parent-teacher conferences are held in December (at the end of the first trimester) and in April (at the end of the second trimester). These conferences focus on discussing student progress, presenting test scores, if appropriate, and planning new goals. The trimester report card is given to parents at the conference (December and April) and sent home with students at the end of the year.

### **Testwiseness**

During the school year, students are engaged in a variety of testing situations. Generally, the purpose of testing is to assess student progress in order to most effectively plan strategies and instructions which will motivate, challenge, and prepare students for the learning of new concepts information. At school, we also teach the students how to effectively take tests by presenting them with many strategies that will help them now in elementary school as well as later as they progress through their academic experience. You can help your child to do his/her best on tests by being aware of when tests are scheduled and by ensuring that he/she gets plenty of rest, eats a healthy breakfast, and gets to school on time on the day of a test.

### **Standardized Testing**

Each spring, students in grades 2-5 are administered a state-mandated, standardized test which is normed to age appropriate achievement levels of students throughout the state of California. This test provides a snapshot perspective of student achievement in the areas of reading, written

language, and mathematics. Parents receive a report of their child's scores and are encouraged to confer with the teacher about the report, as desired.

## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips reinforce classroom lessons and enhance a child's educational experience. Every effort is made to arrange field trips so that they occur during regular school hours. Information regarding these trips is sent home prior to the day of the trip. Some field trips may require special arrangements regarding lunches and/or clothing. Please read all information and return necessary forms so that your child will be properly prepared.

**Please note that if the school does not have a signed field trip authorization form on file, the child will not be allowed to go on the trip!**

Occasionally, parents are asked to act as chaperones on their child's field trips. However, it is not appropriate to bring other children on these field trips. The role of a chaperone is to help with supervision and it is difficult to attend to the students if you are distracted by another child. You are encouraged to be involved in your child's educational experiences in this very special way, however, it is with the ability to be undistracted. Field trips are usually very good learning experiences and enjoyable for parents, too!

It should be noted that from time to time, there are field trips where no or limited chaperones are requested due to a limit on the number of chaperones that are allowed. Your cooperation and understanding when this occurs is very much needed.

### Unapproved drivers and parents who check their children out:

- May only check their own child out of school to ride with them.
- May only be a part of the school group at the venue if they are with the school group for the entire trip (they leave and return to school with the group.)
- May not be a chaperone of anyone other than their own child.

**If the field trip is a bus field trip, all students must go and return on the bus.** Should a parent choose to check their child out of school during a bus field trip, they will not be counted or enter the venue as part of the school group.

**Absolutely no siblings may attend.**

## GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION (GATE)

The Gifted and Talented Education Program is designed and integrated into our classes in grades 3-5 for qualified students in the school. In the spring, students in second grade are screened and tested for possible participation in the GATE Program.

Identified students are provided an appropriate education, which is challenging and motivational. Differentiated instruction, which involves higher level thinking skills and the use of problem solving strategies, is utilized in the regular classroom.

### HOMEWORK

Because of individual differences and needs of students, purposeful homework will vary from day to day and from student to student. The teacher will assign homework that will help students develop good study habits and practice learned concepts and skills. Assigned homework may be an extension of the school day or may involve special reports and/or projects.

Parents can help their children with homework by providing a quiet place to study, setting aside a specific time each day for homework, assisting with drills (math facts, spelling words), and listening to oral reading. Although one goal of homework is to help the child develop a sense of responsibility, your child may initially need help in making sure the work is completed and returned on time.

Use the following time increments as a general guide in establishing and maintaining an appropriate time frame for daily homework assignments. If you find that your child is spending significantly more time than this on a consistent basis, please contact your child's teacher for clarification.

Grades K-1	15-30 minutes
Grades 2-3	30-45 minutes
Grades 4-5	45-60 minutes

On days when your child is not assigned homework by the teacher but you would like your child to do some home study, the following assignments are suggested:

- READ, READ, READ!
- Write in a personal journal or dialog in writing with a parent.

- Practice math facts, letters, words, etc. with flash cards.
- Study newly learned words from books.
- Practice handwriting (printing or cursive).
- Write a story or report of interest.
- Write a letter to someone.
- Practice measurement by measuring objects at home.
- Memorize a poem or story to recite to the class.
- Read some more!

## LIBRARY

The school library is designed to promote literacy and support the instructional program for students at Cullen. All students visit the school library on a weekly basis to check out books for pleasure and for use with class projects. The school library is also used as a reference center under the direction of the teacher during class time. Students assume responsibility for books when checking them out.

Please help your child take proper care of books as we will expect reimbursement for lost or badly damaged books and materials at the end of the school year before issuing report cards.

### Textbooks

Since textbooks are expected to last for several years, students must cover them as soon as they are received. If necessary, it is requested that parents help with this task. Protecting textbooks in this way helps ensure that they will be usable for many years.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is required by state law and is included as an integral part of the instructional program for all students at Cullen. Teachers of kindergarten through grade three plan and implement a physical education program for their students that is developmental, age appropriate, frequently integrated with other aspects of the curriculum, and is in alignment with the Physical Education Framework for the State of California.

The physical education program for students in grades four and five is planned and implemented by a district PE teacher. All students are

expected to participate in the program which also is aligned with the Physical Education Framework for the State of California. PE for fourth and fifth graders focuses on sportsmanship, flexibility, agility, aerobic endurance, the skills needed to play various games and competitive sports, learning the rules associated with those games/sports, and practicing the games/sports.

Fourth and fifth grade PE lessons are held every other day, alternating with the vocal and instrumental music program. It is important for students to remember this schedule as they must remember to dress appropriately on PE days. (If students abide by the Dress Code as described in this Handbook, they will be dressed appropriately for PE.)

### **Excused from PE?**

If a student is unable to participate in PE for one or two days, a written excuse must be sent by the parent or guardian. If a student is unable to participate for more than three days, a written statement from a physician is required. The student should tell his/her regular teacher of the note, then present the note from the parent or the written statement from the physician directly to the PE teacher to insure clear communication with the PE teacher. It is important to note that the school office cannot excuse students from participation in the PE program.

### **School Site Council (SSC)**

The purpose of this Council is: 1) to recommend to the Board of Education a plan for a School Based Coordinated Program which is consistent with and supportive of the goals of the District, 2) to establish a budget based on the plan, 3) to review the implementation of the plan on an ongoing with the principal, teachers, and other school personnel, 4) to assess periodically the effectiveness of the plan, and 5) to annually review the plan and recommend to the Board any modifications to the plan and the proposed budget for the expenditure of State SBCP funds.

The membership of the School Site Council consists of an equal number of school staff and parents who are elected by their peers to serve in this capacity. The school principal serves as an ongoing member of the Council. If you have an interest in being elected to the School Site Council, please watch for the nomination form to come home with your child during the first few weeks of school. (A parent can nominate him/herself or another Cullen parent.) Meetings are held quarterly during the school year. All official

meetings are open to the public and are announced by an agenda which is posted in the office window one week in advance of the meeting.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

At Cullen School, we were fortunate to open a new computer lab in 2001. There continues to be a growing emphasis placed upon technology use for all students and we are committed to growing as a school in our own expertise in technology. Thank you for all of your help and support in making the Cullen Computer Lab a reality.

In addition to the computer lab, the district provided each classroom with a new computer a few years ago. Each computer is networked to the server and hooked up to a TV/VCR for the purpose of using the computer as a tool to enhance instruction in the classrooms.

We anticipate that future fund raising efforts will be needed for the purposes of keeping our technology up to date and in good condition as well as look forward to the time when we will add a projector, scanner, and CD burner as well as full time personnel to work with students and staff integrating technology throughout the curriculum. Additionally, staff will continue to look for opportunities to attend technology related conferences and then share their learning with students and staff. We all look forward to learning from our teacher leaders throughout the next year and reaping the benefits of their knowledge and expertise.

## **VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

All students in grades four and five participate in the district music program. Early in the year, students must decide whether to take classes in vocal or instrumental music. Each group participates in a vocal or instrumental concert later in the school year. This concert includes music students from throughout the district.

Classes are held every other day, alternating with the physical education program. It is important for students to remember this schedule as they must remember their musical instruments on music days. When a student decides to take instrumental music, he/she is also assuming the responsibility of being prepared for that class. This includes the commitment to practice and to remember to bring the instrument and music.

In the past, there has been an ongoing problem with students forgetting to bring their instruments. **Students are asked NOT to call home for forgotten instruments.** They will, however, attend the music class and listen to the instruction. If the student regularly forgets the instrument, the music teacher will contact the parents about the problem. (Grades for these classes are included on the report card.)

If a parent notices that his/her child forgot the instrument and the parent chooses to bring the instrument to school, the parent will be asked to leave the instrument in the cafeteria on the stage for the student to retrieve. It is important to note that the office staff will not interrupt classes to inform students that instruments are in the cafeteria; however, students are encouraged to check the cafeteria on their way to music class.

**All instruments and cases are to be clearly labeled with the student's name.** Instrument cases look alike and students have inadvertently taken the wrong instruments. This creates much confusion for the office, music teacher, and family.

## **DISASTER/EMERGENCY AWARENESS PROGRAM (DEAP)**

Cullen School has an emergency preparedness plan which we will use in the event of a disaster that might occur during school hours. Periodic safety drills are held to comply with state law and district policies. These drills include fire drills, duck and cover drills, and evacuation drills.

A task force consisting of staff and parents exists to analyze and improve the plan on a regular basis. Each year, significant progress is made with respect to plan improvements, training of staff for their specific roles, and restocking of materials. Although we hope that the plan will never have to be utilized, it is designated to ensure the welfare and safety of the students and staff during school hours.

As part of the plan, each classroom is equipped with a DEAP backpack, which includes a small first aid kit for minor injuries, class lists, emergency cards, and activities for the students to help them remain as calm and comfortable as possible while detained at the school. In addition to classroom supplies, the school maintains a central bin that is stocked with water and food, blankets, first aid supplies, and other needed materials in the event of a disaster.

Additionally, in past years, PTA has provided every child with a Ziploc bag labeled with their name, teacher's name and room number on it. Should we do this again, it is our hope that you would put some items in the bag that your child might find comforting in the event of an earthquake or disaster that may cause us to be on campus for a period of time. Items for the bag might be snacks, family pictures, a small book, or even a note of encouragement from you. These bags will be put in bins identified by class and stored in the disaster bins at the back of the campus. At the end of the year, the bags will be returned to the students to bring home. Look for more information on this in September.

It is important to note that your child may be required to remain in the care of the school in the event of a major disaster until it is considered safe for the child to be released. Your child can only be released to you or someone you designate on the PINK emergency card. Please be sure to notify those designated people that they are listed on the card.

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) contributes significantly to the DEAP Program through its gifts of time, supplies, and resources. The staff is greatly appreciative of their efforts and volunteerism. If you would like to donate your services or resources with respect to disaster preparedness, please call the school office.

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**ALERT! IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY DURING SCHOOL HOURS, YOU WILL NEED TO CHECK OUT YOUR CHILD AT THE CHECKOUT TABLE SET UP NEAR THE EVACUATION SITE.** To ensure safety for all students, a student release procedure is in place and has been practiced by school staff. You will be required to show identification and sign your child out through school staff.

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## **EXTENDED DAY CARE PROGRAM**

The Extended Day Care Program is coordinated at the district level and housed at each of the elementary schools. The program provides quality after-school care and serves as an extension of the school day. Day Care is

available before and after school from 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. for students in grades K-5.

Fees, which are payable monthly, are \$15 per day for the first child and \$14 per day for each additional child in the same family. If you are interested in this program for your child(ren), please contact the Extended Day Care office at 963-1611, extension 330 for more information.

## HEALTH SERVICES

Health Services for students at Cullen are coordinated through the efforts of the district nurse. Vision, hearing, and pediculosis screening tests are administered annually to students in kindergarten, special day classes, and grades 1, 2, and 5. **All of the above screenings will be conducted annually at the grade levels as designated unless the parent requests in writing that his/her child be excluded from screening.**

Vision and hearing tests are administered to students in other grades upon teacher referral or to meet special program requirements. Scoliosis screening is provided for students in grade 5 and the upper grade special day class students.

## PTA

### Parent Teacher Association

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at Cullen very actively supports the educational process for all students. In fact, in recent years, Cullen's PTA has been recognized for its valued efforts through the awarding of State and National honors. In accordance with the National and California State PTA, its objectives are:

1. To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community and place of worship.
2. To raise the standard of home life.
3. To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
4. To bring into closer relation the home and school, that parents and teachers may cooperative intelligently in the education of children and youth.

5. To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

Among the activities and programs the PTA has helped to sponsor recently are: room representative program and classroom parties, school spirit days, school yearbooks, two annual book fairs, enrichment assemblies and programs for students, field trips, equipping classes with emergency supplies for disaster preparedness, fingerprinting for incoming students, and various fundraising activities. A well-developed Arts and Science Day is held each June.

Administrative and procedural decisions concerning PTA are handled by an executive board, elected by the general membership of the Association. The Board consists of the positions of president, vice-president/programs chair, second vice-president/membership chair, third vice-president/ways and means chair, fourth vice-president/assemblies chair, secretary, historian, treasurer, parliamentarian, auditor, and chairs of standing committees. Budget approval and major policy decisions are made by a vote of the general membership.

Membership in Cullen School PTA is open to any adult and requires the annual payment of a small membership fee. Joining the PTA does not obligate you to attend meetings, work in classrooms, serve on committees, or hold an office. It does enable you to support the objectives and programs of PTA, to become more involved in your child's school, and to meet other parents who are also interested in supporting the educational process for all students at Cullen School.

For parents who are interested in active involvement in PTA, a variety of volunteer opportunities are available. PTA needs room representatives, parents to help with sales at various fund-raising activities, and those to serve as representatives to district programs such as Glendorans for Drug Free Youth and Disaster/Emergency Awareness Program (DEAP). Assistance is also needed in planning new activities such as after-school enrichment classes for students.

If you have ideas or time to contribute, please contact the PTA President by calling the school office and asking for her telephone number.

## PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Parents are encouraged to volunteer in classrooms at Cullen School. Teachers appreciate parental support in a variety of areas, such as listening to a child or small group read, writing young children's dictated stories, artistic pursuits such as helping with bulletin boards and special projects, etc. Your help, periodically or on a regular basis, is greatly appreciated and enriches the educational experiences of the students.

Please remember that it is important that you check in at the office before proceeding to the classrooms. For the safety of our students, it is imperative that all people on campus are authorized to be there.

In addition to checking in at the office, the PTA has provided a volunteer sign-in log in the office in an effort to keep a running total of volunteer hours in the school. Please sign-in on this log each time you come to the school to volunteer.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

A variety of special education programs are provided for identified special needs students. These programs are made available through the coordinated efforts of the support staff at the district office and the Cullen team of professionals. We firmly believe that all students can learn; therefore, we strive to provide the appropriate learning environment for all students. Currently at Cullen, we provide a Resource Special Program (RSP) and one Special Day Class (SDC) for students who qualify for these programs. Other special education programs are available to our students who qualify for them and are located at other school sites in the district and other local school districts.

Generally, it is the classroom teacher who recognizes special needs of students related to learning and/or speech difficulties. Learning difficulties can stem from a variety of sources, such as a delay in visual and/or auditory processing. After recognizing such a delay or other social, academic, or behavioral difficulty, the teacher will contact the parent(s) and seek advice from the Student Study Team.

The Student Study Team is composed of the principal, the school psychologist, the speech/language therapist, the resource specialist teacher and/or the special day class teacher. The team will meet together to

discuss the student's strengths and weaknesses and to give advice regarding appropriate teaching strategies and interventions to use with the student. Usually, the team will meet again within three to six months to evaluate the effect of these interventions on the child's school success.

At the second Student Study Team meeting, formal testing may be recommended. Parental written consent is required for this formal testing. Upon completion of the testing, an Individual Educational Plan meeting will be held. In attendance will be the members of the Student Study Team, the student's teacher, the parents, and sometimes a district representative. Test results and available placements or programs will be reviewed and acted upon with the written consent of the parents.

**Cullen Elementary School**  
**Schedules – bell, early dismissal, holidays**

*This page shows all dismissal times (regular and early dismissal days) with dates as well as holidays. Please note different dismissal times and holidays on the family calendar so that children are picked up on time and family vacations can coincide with days school is not in session. Have a great year!*

**Daily Schedule**

<b><u>GRADE</u></b>	<b><u>SCHOOL DAY</u></b>	<b><u>LUNCH</u></b>
Kindergarten	8:15 am – 1:30 pm	11:20 - 12:00 pm
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	8:15 am – 2:02 pm	11:30 - 12:15 pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	8:15 am - 2:02 pm	11:40 – 12:25 pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	8:15 am – 2:02 pm	11:50 – 12:35 pm
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8:15 am – 2:25 pm	12:00 – 12:45 pm
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8:15 am – 2:25 pm	12:10 – 12:55 pm

*Students in grades 1-3 who wait for older siblings before walking home from school, are to wait in front of the library on the blue bench. Students are not to wait by the upper grade classrooms as this disturbs students and teachers who are engaged in important end-of-the-day activities. Further, students are not to loiter in the restrooms, play on the playground or wander around the campus as there is no supervision after school.*

**Early Dismissal Schedule**

Kindergarten 8:15 – 11:35 am  
 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades 8:15 – 12:31 pm

**Dates of early dismissal (conferences/ and district staff development)**

Tuesday, September 1, 2009  
 Tuesday, October 6, 2009  
 Friday, October 30, 2009  
 Tuesday, November 3, 2009  
 Tuesday, November 10, 2009  
 Mon.-Fri., Nov. 16-20, 2009 Parent/teacher conferences  
 Tuesday, December 1, 2009  
 Tuesday, January 5, 2010  
 Tuesday, February 2, 2010  
 Tuesday, March 2, 2010  
 Tuesday, March 9, 2010  
 Mon.-Fri., Mar. 15-19, 2010 Parent/teacher conferences  
 Tuesday, April 13, 2010  
 Tuesday, May 4, 2010  
 Tuesday, June 1, 2010  
 Thursday, June 10, 2010 Last day of school

*Please note that up to 3 additional minimum days may be added to the schedule.*

**Holidays/No student days**

Monday, September 7, 2009  
 Monday, October 12, 2009  
 Wednesday, November 11, 2009  
 Mon.-Fri., Nov. 23 – 27, 2009  
 Mon. – Fri., December 21 – Jan. 1, 2010  
 Monday, January 18, 2010  
 Monday, February 15, 2010  
 Monday, February 22, 2010  
 Mon.-Fri., April 5-9, 2010  
 Monday, May 31, 2010

Labor Day  
 Staff Development Day  
 Veterans Day  
 Thanksgiving & Local Holiday  
 Winter Break  
 Martin Luther King’s Birthday  
 President’s Day  
 Washington’s Birthday  
 Spring Break  
 Memorial Day

