

# Cypress Elementary School Student/Parent Handbook 2018-2019



Cypress Elementary School District #64  
4580 Mt. Pisgah Road  
Cypress, IL 62923  
618-657-2525  
[www.cypressgradeschool.org](http://www.cypressgradeschool.org)

**Cypress Elementary School  
2018-2019**

August 13 <sup>th</sup> –	Teachers Institute
August 14 <sup>th</sup> –	First Day of Student Attendance – Half Day Inservice Dismiss @ 11:30
August 15 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> –	2:00 Dismissal
September 3 <sup>rd</sup> –	Labor Day No School
September 14 <sup>th</sup> –	MidTerm 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter – Half Day Inservice 11:30 Dismissal
September 18 <sup>th</sup> –	MidTerms Sent Home
September 21 <sup>st</sup> –	Grandparents Day Dinner
October 5 <sup>th</sup> –	Teacher Institute Day – No Student Attendance
October 8 <sup>th</sup> –	Columbus Day – No School
October 12 <sup>th</sup> –	End 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter – 2:00 Dismissal
October 16 <sup>th</sup> –	Report Cards Sent Home
October 18 <sup>th</sup> –	Dismiss @ 2:00 Parent Teacher Conference 3:00 – 6:30
October 20 <sup>th</sup> –	PTO Fall Festival
October 23 <sup>rd</sup> –	Dismiss @ 2:00 Parent Teacher Conference 3:00 – 6:30
November 3 <sup>rd</sup> –	Homecoming
November 9 <sup>th</sup> –	Veteran’s Day Program
November 15 <sup>th</sup> –	Mid Term of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter
November 16 <sup>th</sup> –	No School
November 20 <sup>th</sup> –	MidTerms Sent Home
November 21 <sup>st</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> –	Thanksgiving Break
December 11 <sup>th</sup> –	Christmas Concert 6:30
December 21 <sup>st</sup> –	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr - 2:00 Dismissal
December 24 <sup>th</sup> –	January 4 <sup>th</sup> – Christmas Break
January 7 <sup>th</sup> –	Teacher Inservice – No Student Attendance
January 9 <sup>th</sup> –	Report Cards Go Home
January 21 <sup>st</sup> –	Martin Luther King’s Birthday – No School
February 8 <sup>th</sup> –	MidTerm of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter
February 12 <sup>th</sup> –	MidTerms Go Home
February 15 <sup>th</sup> –	Half Day Teacher Inservice Dismiss @ 11:30
February 18 <sup>th</sup> –	President’s Day – No School
March 4 <sup>th</sup> –	Pulaski Day – No School
March 8 <sup>th</sup> –	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter – 2:00 Dismissal
March 12 <sup>th</sup> –	Report Cards Sent Home
April 5 <sup>th</sup> –	MidTerm 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter
April 9 <sup>th</sup> –	MidTerms Sent Home
April 15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> –	Spring Break
May 21 <sup>st</sup> –	Half Day Teacher Inservice – 11:30 Dismissal – Last Day of Student Attendance
May 22 <sup>nd</sup> –	Teacher Inservice
May 23 <sup>rd</sup> – May 30 <sup>th</sup> –	Emergency Days

\*\*This calendar is subject to change. Please see monthly calendars for most up to date information\*\*

## INTRODUCTION

Dear Students and Parents:

It is the goal of the Board of Education, Administration, Faculty & Staff of Cypress School District NO. 64 to provide the best education possible to every student as a basis for continued education and future success. With that goal in mind, we have developed this parent/student handbook. We encourage you to become familiar with its contents and work together with us in this common endeavor.

Cypress School is a child centered school where parents are recognized as team members in support of our children. Parents are invited to be classroom/school volunteers, attend PTO meetings, support school wide activities, and involve themselves positively in support of our “kids”. Please let your child(ren) know that we are working together to make Cypress School the very best. Communication is important to our team building activities, so please feel free to discuss areas of concern with your child(ren)’s teacher.

We look forward to a successful and pleasant school year. Please discuss the school handbook with your child(ren). Discussion will assist in making attendance of Cypress School a wonderful experience.

Kimberly Shoemaker, Superintendent

### *School Vision Statement*

The vision of Cypress Elementary School District 64 is to develop a lifelong love of learning. Our knowledgeable, dedicated, and passionate staff strives to increase achievement while recognizing the diverse needs of each student. Together we will promote a safe and nurturing learning environment, which fosters respectful, responsible, productive, and honest citizens in a caring atmosphere. Students are provided with the opportunity to reach their full potential through the use of challenging, rigorous, and innovative curriculum to meet high expectations of personal growth.

It is the responsibility of the school, home, and community to work cooperatively to help all students develop understanding and respect for themselves, as well as others, in their daily lives. Families are their children’s primary teachers and are encouraged to be actively involved in education. When we work together, student achievement increases and the community strengthens.

# Table of Contents

<b>I. GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	
Admission to School	6
Non-Discrimination in Programs	6
Morning Supervision	6
Pick Up/Drop Off, Transportation	6
Visitors	7
Telephone	7
Parent Involvement	7
One Call Now System	7
Use of Name and Photograph	7
<b>II. RESIDENCY/ATTENDANCE</b>	
Residency	7
Student Absences and Tardiness	7
Student Attendance Policy	8
<b>III. STUDENT RECORDS</b>	9
<b>IV. SCHOOL SUBJECTS AND PROGRAMS</b>	
Discrimination and Equity	10
Student Fees	10
Curriculum	10
System of Grading	11
Requirements for Promotion	11
Awards and Rewards	12
Student Testing	12
Response to Intervention	12
Music Program	12
Title I Parental Involvement	12
Field trip Notice	13
Parental Right to Review Instructional Material /Notice of Instruction	13
Food Service Program	14
<b>V. STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	
Student Searches	14
Tobacco/Drug/Alcohol Use	15
Child Abuse	15
Harassment	15
<b>VI. HEALTH/SAFETY</b>	
Allergies	15
Health, Immunizations, Vision, Dental, & Physical Examination	15
School Insurance	16
Accident/Illness Reports	16
Student Medication	16
Unauthorized/Illegal Drug Use	17
Drills/Weather/Emergencies	17
Pesticide Notice	18
<b>VII. DISCIPLINE</b>	
Student Conduct and Discipline Policy	18
General Discipline Authority	18
Aggressive Behavior	19
Bullying Policy	19
Off Campus Computer Use	22
Weapon Policy	22
Student Dress	23
Conduct at Extra Curricular Activities	23
Toys and Personal Property	23
Cell Phones	23
Smoke Free Campus	23
Gym Shoes	24
Suspensions/Expulsions	24
<b>VIII. ATHLETIC/EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS</b>	
Sports Program/Eligibility	26
Attendance and Extra-Curricular Activities	26
Concussion Information	26

## Cypress Board of Education

Member .....	Mr. Ted Beggs
Vice President .....	Mrs. Mandy Moore
Member .....	Mr. Richie Oliver
Member .....	Mr. Howard Penrod
Secretary .....	Mrs. Tracy Racey
President .....	Mrs. Angela Rudluff
Member .....	Mr. Roy West

## Cypress Elementary Administrative and Teaching Staff

Superintendent/Principal .....	Mrs. Kimberly Shoemaker
Pre-K .....	Mrs. Jessica Sommer
Kindergarten .....	Mrs. Cindy Gholson
First Grade .....	Ms. Melissa Maze
Second Grade .....	Mrs. Jessica Bevis
Third Grade .....	Mrs. Lisa Davison
Fourth Grade .....	Mrs. Kristy Duncan
Fifth Grade .....	Mrs. Michelle Quertermous
Sixth Grade .....	Mrs. Kristine Reid
Seventh Grade .....	Mrs. Tara Peas
Eighth Grade .....	Mr. Rusty Marks
Special Education .....	Mrs. Ashley Lascelles
Band .....	Mr. Kevin Thomas
Speech Therapist .....	Mrs. Rainey Weaver

## Cypress Elementary School Support Staff

Secretary/Bookkeeper .....	Mrs. Christine Ross
Head Cook .....	Mrs. Christie West
Bus Driver/Cook/ .....	
Teacher Aide .....	Mrs. Deanna Penrod
Teacher Aide .....	Mrs. Carrie Hutchison
Head Custodian .....	Mr. James Baker
Evening Custodian .....	Mr. Jay Terry

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Admission to School**

A child must be five years of age on or before September 1 of the school year in order to enter kindergarten. A child entering kindergarten or transferring in from another district must present an original birth certificate indicating their legal name and date of birth as well as proof of legal residence in the school district. No student shall be denied enrollment because of failure to present his/her student permanent or temporary record from a school attended previously.

### **Non-discrimination in Programs**

Notice is hereby given that Cypress Elementary School District #64 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, age, physical or mental disability, gender identity, residency status (i.e. homeless student), and/or order of protection statues, in admission or access to its program and or activities. For any inquiries regarding Title IX, please contact the Superintendent, who has been designated by the Board of Education to coordinate the District's efforts in compliance with the regulations implementing Title IX of the Educational Amendments. All persons within the district between the ages of 5 - 21 are accorded the right and opportunity to a free and equal education.

### **Morning Supervision**

The school does not have staff assigned for supervision until 7:45am. For the welfare and protection of your child(ren), please be sure he/she does not arrive at school prior to 7:50am.

1. The school will be locked until 7:45 a.m. No students will be admitted into the school building unless specifically permitted by a teacher prior to 7:45 a.m.
2. Upon arrival students will go:
  - a. Directly to the cafeteria.

### **PARENT PICK-UPS, DROP-OFFS, TRANSPORTATION**

Parents should drop off and pick up students at the front entrance. Please do not drop off or pick up students at the cafeteria entrance. Busses will be loading and unloading at the cafeteria entrance.

**After 8:15 A.M. Parents** must enter the building at the front entrance and go directly to the office and sign their child(ren) in at the office. All other doors will be locked. Students will need a pass before proceeding to class.

The district provides bus transportation to and from school for all students living 1.5 miles or more from the school. While students are on the bus, they are under the supervision of the bus driver. In most cases, bus discipline problems can be handled by the bus driver. In the case of a disciplinary referral, student bus problems will be investigated and handled by the building principal. Parents will be informed of any and all inappropriate student behavior on a bus. Parents are encouraged to discuss bus safety and appropriate behavior with their children before the beginning of the school year and regularly during the year. In the interest of the student's safety and in compliance with State law, students are expected to observe the following rules:

1. Choose a seat and sit in it immediately upon entering the bus. Do not stand in the entrance or in the aisle.
2. Do not move from one seat to another while on the bus.
3. Keep all parts of the body and all objects inside the bus.
4. Loud conversation, singing, boisterous conduct, unnecessary noise or profanity is not allowed.
5. Enter and exit the bus only when the bus is fully stopped.
6. All school rules apply while on the bus, at a bus stop, or waiting for the bus.
7. Use emergency door only in an emergency.
8. In the event of emergency, stay on the bus and await instructions from the bus driver.
9. Good behavior and behavior that will not distract the bus driver from operating the bus safely is required. Crowding, pushing, scuffling, and other needless commotion are grounds for disciplinary action.

10. Keep the bus neat and clean.
11. Athletic footwear equipped with cleats or spikes are not allowed on the bus.
12. Inappropriate behavior will be reported to school authorities and failure to observe safety rules may result in suspension from bus services.
13. Be waiting at your bus stop on time.
14. Never tamper with, damage, or deface anything in or on the bus, or any of the bus or school equipment.
15. Keep book bags, books, packages, coats, and other objects out of the aisles. Keep all body parts clear of the aisles when seated.
16. Eating is not permitted on the bus.
17. Parents will be liable for any defacing or damage students do to the bus.

Students may be suspended from riding the school bus for up to 10 consecutive school days for engaging in gross disobedience or misconduct. If a student is suspended from riding the bus for gross disobedience or misconduct on a bus, the school board may suspend the student from riding the school bus for a period in excess of 10 days for safety reasons. Video and audio cameras may be active on busses to record student conduct and may be used for the purposes of investigation into misconduct or accidents on the bus.

### **Visitors**

Visitors are welcome at CGS. All visitors must sign in at the office upon arrival to school. Any person wanting to confer with a staff member shall make prior contact with the staff member to make an appointment. Conferences with teachers are held outside of school hours or during the teacher's preparation period. CGS does comply with the Parental Involvement Policies and Activities as specified under Title I provision and mandates. All visitors are expected to abide by all school rules during their time on school property.

### **Telephone**

Messages for students may be taken by the office when there is an emergency or when it is essential for a student to receive information. Since office telephones are consistently in use for school business, students will not be allowed to use the office phone unless there is an emergency.

### **Parent Involvement**

Parents are encouraged to visit and contact our school as much as possible. Communication is facilitated by newsletters, progress reports, newspaper articles, the School Report Card, open house events, parent conferences, phone calls, etc. The Board of Education may designate, from time to time, various committees comprised of community members to help the decision making process. These committees may be selected to meet the educational needs on the local level or those which may be a requirement on the state or federal level. These groups shall act in an advisory capacity only.

### **One Call Now System**

Cypress School utilizes an all call system that distributes a recorded message from the school to all parents for information in regard to announcements, snow days, other days with inclement weather, cancellations, and other general information that pertains to the school. If phone numbers change during the school year please contact the school with these changes.

### **Use of Name and Photograph**

Cypress Elementary School may publish articles and photographs in local newspapers and to gain exposure of its activities on television. Please complete the permission slip on the attached form indicating whether or not your child's name and/or photograph may be used in media coverage.

## **II. RESIDENCY/ATTENDANCE**

### **Residency**

Non-resident students may not attend Cypress Elementary School except when any State or Federal law or court order mandates the acceptance of a non-resident student or a non-resident student has paid tuition costs for attendance in the district. This does not include students participating Joint Agreement programs where space is leased from District #64.

The Illinois State Board of Education requires school districts to develop procedures that will be used to determine pupil residency. Cypress Elementary School is required to verify the addresses submitted by parents/guardians at the time of registration.

Parents/Guardians should have available a driver's license and one other source of credible documentation, which could include a telephone bill, utility bill, credit card bill, or tax bill for the reported address. The address that is provided to the school should be the 911 address of the residence. Post office boxes will not be accepted for residency requirements.

A person who knowingly or willfully provides false information to a school district regarding the residency of a pupil for the purpose of enabling the pupil to attend any school in the district without the payment of a non-resident tuition charge commits a Class C misdemeanor (not more than thirty days in jail and/or fine not to exceed \$1,500.) In addition, a pro-rated per capita tuition charge will be assessed against the person enrolling the student in Cypress Grade School.

A student who meets the criteria for "homeless" has equal access to the same, free, appropriate education as provided to all students. A "homeless" child is defined by the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act and State Law. The Superintendent shall act, or appoint a Liaison for Homeless Children to coordinate this policy's implementation. Information regarding the educational rights of homeless students living within the District may be solicited from the District Superintendent.

### **Student Absences and Tardiness**

Regular attendance is a definite factor in good scholarship. Parents/Guardians and students share the responsibility of the student's attendance and timeliness in reporting to school and classes.

The school day begins at 8:00 a.m. At this time, all students are to report to the cafeteria. Students in grades 6-8 will be counted tardy if they arrive after 8:10am. Students in grades 4 – 5 will be counted tardy if they arrive after 8:15am. Students in K – 3 will be counted tardy if they arrive after 8:20 am. **Five tardies will count as an absence.**

In order to lessen the spread of contagious disease in school, it is requested that children remain at home if they show any sign of the following symptoms: acute cold, fever or discolored discharge from the nose, swollen glands, sore throat, skin eruptions, unexplained rashes, signs of weakness, listlessness, flushed skin, vomiting, with a temperature of 99 or diarrhea.

If your child must remain at home, parents/guardians should contact the school office by 9:00 a.m. If no contact is made, office personnel will make an attempt to contact you. If no contact is made with the school, the absence will be marked as unexcused. After 6 unexcused absences, students will be required to attend Saturday School to make up the excess absences before they will be eligible for promotion. Absences will be excused for: illness (with a dr. note), death in the immediate family, and other situations beyond the control of the student as determined by the Board of Education.

Students reporting to school late or departing early must sign in/out in the office. **A PARENT MUST ACCOMPANY THE STUDENT TO SIGN THE PROPER FORM IN THE OFFICE. STUDENTS WILL NOT BE DIMISSED EARLY IF A PARENT/GUARDIAN OR DESIGNEE IS NOT PRESENT.**

### **Student Attendance Policy**

1. We believe that a student's attendance in classes is the most important part of the student's experience. A student can never really make up or compensate for absence from class.
2. All students are expected to attend school regularly and to be on time for classes in order to get maximum benefit from the instruction program and to develop the habits of punctuality, self-discipline and responsibility.
3. We believe it is the parents and/or guardians responsibility to decide at what times and for what reasons a child should not come to school, except it becomes the schools responsibility to set limits upon a student being absent from school to comply with state law and for the student to benefit from the educational program.



Illinois Law requires regular attendance for school age children. The maximum compulsory attendance age is 17 years of age. Your responsibility as a parent or guardian is established under the School Code of Illinois. The School Code defines a “truant” as a child subject to compulsory school attendance who is absent without valid cause from such attendance for a school day or a portion thereof. “Valid cause” for absence shall be illness, death in the immediate family, family emergency, and shall include such other situations beyond the control of the student as determined by the Board of Education in each district, or such other circumstances which cause reasonable concern of the parent for the safety or health of the student.

Any person having custody or control of a child subject to compulsory attendance to whom notice has been given of the child’s truancy and who knowingly and willingly permits such a child to persist in his/her truancy within that school year, upon conviction thereof shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor and shall be subject to not more than 30 days imprisonment and /or a fine up to \$1000.

### III. STUDENT RECORDS

*The student’s written records are in two categories: permanent and temporary.*

The **Permanent Record** means and shall consist of the following information: 1) Basic identifying information, including the student’s name and address, birth date and place, gender, the parents’ names and addresses; 2) Academic transcript, including grade, class rank, graduation date, grade level achieved and scores on college entrance exams; 3) Attendance record; 4) Accident reports and health record ; 5) Record of release of permanent record information; 6) Scores received on all state assessments tests administered at the high school level (grades 9-12); 7) Honors and awards; 8) Information concerning participation in school-sponsored activities or athletics or offices held in school sponsored organizations. *No other information shall be placed in the permanent record of the student.*

The **Temporary Record** means all information contained in a school student record but not contained in the permanent record. Such information may include: 1) Family background information; 2) Intelligence test scores, aptitude test scores from elementary and junior high school; 3) Psychological and personality test results; 4) Teacher evaluations, and other such information of clear relevance to the education of the student.

Student’s written records are kept on file in the District Office and are available to students, parents and/or legal guardian for inspection. Students and/or parent(s)/legal guardians may inspect the written records with a designated employee of the school during regular hours of the school day. A parent, student, and/or legal guardian may contact the administrator to gain access to the records. Access will be granted within a reasonable amount of time but not more than fifteen days (15) after receiving the request. “Parent” means a person who is the natural parent of the student or other person who has the primary responsibility for the care and upbringing of the student. All rights and privileges accorded to a parent under this Act shall become exclusively those of the student upon his 18th birthday, graduation from secondary school, marriage or entry into military service, whichever occurs first. The student may also exercise such rights and privileges at any time with respect to the student’s permanent school record.

If information contained in the records is disputed by the parent, student, and/or legal guardian, a request to meet with the Principal or Superintendent must be made within a reasonable time after the review of the record to provide for the correction, deletion, or further explanation of such information.

In the absence of any court order to the contrary, to require, that upon the request of either parent of a pupil whose parents are divorced, copies of the following reports or records which reflect the pupil’s academic progress, reports of the pupil’s emotional and physical health, notices of school initiated parent-teacher conferences, notices of major school sponsored events, such as open house, which involve pupil-parent interaction and furnished by the school district to one parent be furnished by mail to the other parent.

The school will review student’s records periodically to make certain they are accurate. Permanent records will be maintained for not less than sixty (60) years after a student has graduated or otherwise permanently withdrawn from school. Temporary records will be maintained for one year following graduation and/or withdrawal and will be destroyed on July 1. A parent, student, and/or guardian have the right to inspect and copy such records before destruction. A charge of the actual cost for providing a copy of the school record will be paid by the requesting party, but may not exceed 35 cents per page.

Upon graduation or permanent withdrawal of a handicapped student, the psychological evaluation, special education files and other information contained in the student temporary record may be of continued assistance to the student may, after five (5) years be transferred to the custody of the parent or to the student if the student has succeeded to the rights of the parents. The school shall explain to the student and the parent the future usefulness of these records.

If a certified copy of an order of protection has been filed with a school district, then the district shall notify its school employees that the student records or information in those records of a protected child identified in the order shall not be released to the person against whom the order was issued.

### RELEASE OF INFORMATION

The school shall transfer the student record to another school in which the student has enrolled or intends to enroll upon a signed parental release form. The parent will receive prior written notice of the nature and substance of the information to be transferred and an opportunity to inspect, copy, and challenge such information. If the address of the parents is unknown, notice may be served upon

the records' custodian of the requesting school for transmittal to the parents. Such service shall be deemed conclusive, and ten (10) calendar days after such service, if the parents make no objection, the records may be transferred to the requesting school.

No individual or agency can force an individual to release his/her records. A release of students' written record will not be made to persons or agencies unless written consent is given by parents, students, or a court order is issued. However, a release of records without parental consent could be made due to an emergency release of personally identifiable information from education records to provide for release of information for medical health or safety. In certain instances where consent is not required, written notification of such information will be given to the parents.

Directory information is limited to: a student's name, address, gender, grade level, birth date and place, parents'/guardians' names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers; photographs, videos and digital images used for informational or news-related purposes of a student participating in school or school-sponsored activities, organizations and athletics that appear in school publications such as yearbooks, newspapers or sporting or fine arts programs; academic awards, degrees and honors; information in relation to school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics; major field of study; and period of attendance at the school. Any parent/guardian or eligible student (student 18 or older) may prohibit the release of directory information by delivering a written request to the building principal. The contact must be made by September 15 of each school year or the information will be released at the appropriate time.

#### **RULES REGULATING THE INSPECTION OF STUDENT'S WRITTEN RECORDS**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (eligible students) certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are: 1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within fifteen (15) days the district receives request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal or representative written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parents or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected; 2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records, that, the parents or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, irrelevant or improper. The parents or eligible student may ask C.U.S.D. No. 10 to amend records that they believe are inaccurate or misleading, irrelevant or improper. They should write the school principal; clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parents or eligible student, the District will notify the parents or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing; 3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorized disclosure without consent. Disclosure is permitted without consent in the case of directory information and to school officials with legitimate educational or administrative interests. Disclosure is also permitted without consent to: any person for research, statistical reporting or planning, provided that no student or parent/guardian can be identified; any person named in a court order; appropriate persons if the knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons; juvenile authorities when necessary for the discharge of their official duties who request information before adjudication of the student; and in other cases permitted by law. 4) The right of parents, eligible students, and/or guardians to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA (Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, D. C. 20202.

### **IV. SCHOOL SUBJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

#### **Discrimination and Equity**

It is the policy of Cypress Elementary School that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the basis of color, race, national origin, age, gender, or disability in any program or activity supported by Cypress Elementary School District #64 funds. Further information may be received by request on Title IX Complaint & Grievance procedure from the Administration. Cypress Elementary School is an equal opportunity employer. Allegations of harassment or discrimination should be reported to the building principal.

It is the policy of Cypress Elementary School not to discriminate on the basis of disability in access to, use of, or employment in its programs, services, or activities. The Superintendent is authorized to establish rules and regulations to implement and enforce this policy. The Superintendent is further authorized to adopt as the District's own, any procedures developed by JAMP Special Education Services regarding implementation of the School District's obligations to students with disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (hereinafter "Section 504").

#### **Student Fees**

Cypress Elementary School does not charge any student fees.

#### **Curriculum**

Classrooms are self contained in grades K – 5 and are departmentalized for grade 6 – 8. The curriculum includes:

- Mathematics
- Language Arts (reading, language, spelling, writing)
- Social Studies (Geography, History, Civics, Current Events)
- Science (science and Health)
- Fine Arts

- Physical education/Health, Life and Safety(including Internet Safety)
- Special education/Title I Program
- Alternative Learning Opportunities and Supplemental Services
- School Wide Character Education Program & Anti-bias curriculum
- Response to Intervention Program
- Computer Education

Other opportunities for student growth include:

- Extracurricular athletic programs including softball, baseball, girls and boys basketball, cheerleading, girls and boys track, and intramural volleyball
- Special Olympics for those students who qualify
- Christmas and Spring Concerts
- Band
- Beta Club

### **System of Grading**

A system of grading indicating progress will be used on all report cards. The meaning of the various markings is clearly stated on each report card. Any question concerning these markings should be directed to the student's teacher. Report cards are issued to parents on a quarterly basis. Deficiency reports and notices of concern are sent home with students to parents at the mid-term of each quarter and at other necessary times. Student progress reports are also available upon student and parental request. Student progress may also be accessed online through the TeacherEase program. Conferences for all parents/guardians will be scheduled at the end of the first quarter. Additional conferences can be arranged at the parent's and/or teachers' request. Appointments should be prearranged by phoning or writing the school.

### **Requirements for Promotion**

The decision to promote a student to the next grade level shall be based on successful completion of the curriculum, attendance, and testing. The administration shall determine remedial assistance for a student who is not promoted. Each student with an IEP has an active committee to address promotion and other educational decisions. Each decision is made on a case-by-case basis.

State Law provides that as student cannot be promoted solely on the basis of age. The school will provide assistance to any student in jeopardy of failing provided the student and parents are committed to the remedial process.

To be promoted to the next grade a student must be doing passing work and not have more than six (6) unexcused absences. Students that have more than 6 unexcused absences will be required to attend Saturday school to make up for excessive absences. (Students who will be missing extended time due to illness or injury will be provided with homebound teaching.)

For the purpose of this requirement – if a student misses more than ½ of a day, the student shall be considered absent for that day. Absences will be excused for illness (with a dr note), death in the immediate family, family emergency, and shall include such other situations beyond the control of the student as determined by the Board of Education in each district. Dr notes must be submitted upon return to school and family emergencies must be reported upon return to school.

### **Appeal Process**

If a student fails to be in attendance the minimum days required, the parent and/or student may submit a letter of appeal to the Principal requesting that extenuating circumstances be considered by the Attendance Review Board. Such requests must include supporting documentation for consideration by the board.

### **Attendance Review Board**

The attendance Review Board will be composed of the Principal and three classroom teachers. The Review Board will meet quarterly to review student attendance.

### **Awards and Rewards**

Students will be recognized throughout the school year for specific achievements. Students earning a 3.0 to 3.74 grade point average at the end of each quarter will be placed on Honor Roll. Students earning a 3.75 to 4.0 will be placed on the High Honor Roll. These students will be given a certificate at the end of each quarter acknowledging their accomplishment.

At the end of the school year, an awards program will be conducted to recognize the accomplishments of Cypress Elementary School Students.

### **Student Testing**

The program for testing at Cypress Elementary School helps to meet the needs of your child by giving information about each student's ability, knowledge, experience, and interests. Periodical testing shows their progress and provides the teacher with information necessary to further help each student. Testing data becomes part of the student's permanent record file.

Students in third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades will participate every spring in a state mandated test, the PARCC Assessment. **The District #64 School Report Card is available at [www.cypressgradeschool.org](http://www.cypressgradeschool.org) and also at [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net).**

### **Response to Intervention**

Response to Intervention (RtI) is a program designed to identify and resolve students' academic or behavioral difficulties through the use of scientifically based teaching practices based on the individual students' needs. RtI provides extra support to students who are identified as having difficulties through the MobyMax assessment program and/or their classroom teacher. The MobyMax assessment will be given to students in grades kindergarten through fifth in the fall, winter, and spring. If a student is found to be having difficulties and referred to the RtI team, parents will be notified and are encouraged to participate in planning for their child's instructional or behavioral needs.

### **Special Education**

Cypress Elementary School offers Special Education services for those students who meet the criteria.

### **Music Program**

Classroom music will be offered to all students, at all grade levels. Throughout the school year special events will be planned such as Christmas Program, Spring Concert, etc. Beginning Band instruction is available for students in the fifth - eighth grades. Band instruction is available for students in grades sixth through eighth. Band students are expected to attend and perform in the Christmas concert as well as the Spring Concert. There may be some after school practices held prior to these concerts at the discretion of the band instructor.

### **Title I Parental Involvement**

The District maintains programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents/guardians of students receive services, or enrolled in programs under Title I. These programs, activities, and procedures are described in District-level and School-level compacts. District-Level Parental Involvement Compact: The Superintendent or designee shall develop a District-Level Parental Involvement compact according to title I requirements. The District Level Parental Involvement compact shall contain: (1) the District's expectations for parental involvement, (2) specific strategies for effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, and (3) other provisions as required by federal law. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the Compact is distributed to parents/guardians of students receiving services, or enrolled in programs, under Title I. School-Level Parental Involvement Compact: Each Designees shall develop a School Level Parental Involvement Compact according to Title I requirements. This School-Level Parental Involvement Compact shall contain: (1) a process for continually involving parents/guardians in its development and implementation, (2) how parents/guardians, the entire school staff, and

students share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement, (3) the means by which the school and parents/guardians build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards, and (4) other provisions as required by federal law. Each Building Principal or designee shall ensure that the compact is distributed to parents/guardians of students receiving services, or enrolled in programs, under Title I.

### **Highly Qualified**

In accordance with ESEA Section 111(h) (6), each Title I school must notify the parent of every student that you have the right and may request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher. This information includes the following:

1. Whether the teacher has met State Qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived.
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
4. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

### **Field Trip Notice**

Occasionally students of Cypress Elementary School are asked to participate in educational field trips. Additionally, once during the school year students may also take one "fun" trip. Field trips, not taken primarily as an educational field trip will be limited in trip length, destination and time available for the trip. In order for proper planning, it is necessary for the school district to obtain parental permission. When field trips are planned, parents will be notified by their child's teacher in writing. If you give your consent with a signed "Field Trip Permission Slip," your child will be expected to attend the trip unless written notification is received before departure. Students who have not returned the permission slip will remain at school under the supervision of school personnel. For students to participate in field trips they must be in school the day of the trip. They are required to ride the school bus to the field trip site and back to school. Any exceptions to these requirements must have prior administrative approval. Should a student not follow these guidelines disciplinary action may be taken. **No parents/chaperones will be allowed to ride the bus unless requested in advance by the teacher and approved by the Superintendent. Siblings will not be allowed to ride the bus.**

Since school-sponsored field trips are an important part of the educational environment, you are asked to complete the parental/guardian signature sheet for Field Trip Permission and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

### **Parental Right to Review Instructional Material**

Parents/Guardians of a CGS student have the right to review the instructional material used by their child's classroom teacher(s). Such requests may be forwarded to the building principal.

### **Notice of Instruction in Recognizing and Avoiding Sexual Abuse**

Cypress Elementary School will provide not less than five days written notice to parents/guardians of K-8 students before commencing any class or course providing instruction in recognizing and avoiding sexual abuse to afford parental opportunity to object to their child's participation.

### **Parent Objections to Sex Education Instruction and/or Family Life Instruction**

Parents/ Guardians of CGS students have the right to object in writing to their children talking or participating in a sex education, family life, or AIDS instruction course or class and to examine instructional materials to be used in such class or course. All written objection shall be forwarded to the building principal.

### **Parental Objections to Instruction on Diseases**

Parents/Guardians of CGS students have the right to object in writing on constitutional grounds to their children taking or participating in a course or class on disease. All written objections shall be forwarded to the building principal.

### **Bilingual Education Availability**

CGS will provide the availability of a transitional bilingual educational program for students of limited English-speaking ability and, where applicable, timely notice of a child's enrollment in a transitional bilingual program.

### **Food Service**

*Breakfast \$1.20 Reduced Breakfast \$.30 Lunch \$1.70 Reduced Lunch \$.40 Milk \$.30 Water \$.25*

Our lunchroom is operated as a non-profit service to the students. At times, surplus food commodities are received through the Federal Subsidy Program which helps keep the cost of food servicing at a reduced expense. All money received and spent through the program is audited by the State School Lunch Program that directly supervises every aspect of our program. A second audit is made by an agency employed by the Board of Education.

Students may bring their lunch from home or purchase lunches in the school cafeteria. Partial lunches are not served. All students eating lunch from home must eat in the school cafeteria, unless an individualized educational plan mandates otherwise. Under the State of Illinois Wellness Policies for public school buildings (k-8), soft drinks are strongly discouraged. For safety reasons, no glass bottles, cans, or plastic soda bottles are allowed in the cafeteria.

**ALL BEAKFAST AND LUNCH MONEY MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.** Money is collected on a daily basis during breakfast and at lunch time. All money must be in an envelope with your child(ren)'s name, amount of money, and the number of meals being paid. **Report cards will not be released to students who have a negative balance on their account. Lunch accounts must be paid in full before students will be eligible to register for school.**

Students will receive credit to the following week or month when prepaid meals are not used due to absence. Parents/guardians will be notified of the current and overdue balances in the following manner:

- Email at the close of the month when a student has a negative balance.

Application forms for free and reduced lunches may be obtained in the main office. Prices are subject to change. Free and reduced priced lunches are not available until the application is properly completed and filed in the main office. Further questions regarding free and reduced eligibility can be made to the Superintendent's office.

Breakfast is served daily from 8:00 am until 8:20 am. Milk is available for kindergarten milk break. Students with allergies may substitute juice; however, parents must provide a written request from a doctor for orange juice to be substituted. Juice is \$.30.

## **V. STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Students have the responsibility to obey school rules. Classroom teachers provide discussion and clarification of school rules at the beginning of each school year as well as periodically throughout the school year.

### **Student Searches**

To maintain order and security in the school and on school property, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy on the school campus or in their personal effects left on school campus.

School property (such as lockers, desks, parking lots, etc.) as well as personal effects left there by students (Such as purses, book bags, lunch boxes, etc) may be inspected or searched without notice to or consent of the student when there is reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will produce evidence the particular student has violated or is violating either the law of the District's student rules of conduct.

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating the law of the District's policies or rules, such evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities. Disciplinary action may be taken for such violations. When appropriate, such evidence may be transferred to law enforcement officials.

### **Tobacco/Drug/Alcohol Use**

In case of a suspected drug/alcohol problem, students and/or parents should contact a teacher, counselor, social worker, administrator, a drug crisis center, or a hospital to receive help. Illinois law requires that the parents of a person under the age of 12 be informed if situations in which drugs/alcohol have been used. Tobacco, e-cigarettes, drugs, and alcohol use on school property is strictly prohibited.

### **Child Abuse**

School personnel must immediately report to the Department of Children and Family Services when child abuse or neglect is suspected.

### **Harassment**

Harassment of students (sexual and otherwise) is prohibited. District measures to prevent harassment of students may include but are not limited to conducting periodic harassment training for staff and surveying students to find out whether or not harassment is occurring in the school. Violations of this right should be reported to the principal's office immediately. Allegations of harassment are promptly investigated. This policy is covered by Board Policy of the Cypress Elementary School and by Title IX of The Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C. 1681 et. seq.

## **VI. HEALTH/SAFETY**

### **Allergies**

Cypress Elementary School is a **peanut/tree nut free school**. Peanut items will not be served in school lunches. Students will not be allowed to bring peanut items in their sack lunch. Peanut items will not be allowed to be brought in for class parties.

### **Health, Immunizations, Vision, Dental, & Physical Examination**

In compliance with the School Code of Illinois, a medical examination by a physician shall be required for each student BEFORE entry into kindergarten and the sixth grade. A record of such examination from another Illinois school system will be accepted. If a student enrolls from another state, a current physical shall be required and filed in the school office within 15 calendar days of enrollment.

Athletic physicals are required for those students wishing to tryout and/or participate in an athletic activity. The physical form must indicate that it is a current physical and the student may actively participate in athletic activities. A current physical is one that has been performed within the last calendar year.

**Dental examinations** are now mandatory for grades Kindergarten, Second and Sixth Grade. Dental exam forms can be picked up in the school's office. Please have these done as quickly as possible.

**Vision Exams** are now mandatory for students entering Kindergarten or for students entering the state of Illinois for the first time. Forms need to be turned in at the office.

### **Vision & Hearing Exams**

Cypress Elementary School provides Vision and Hearing Screenings for all students in Kindergarten through Eighth Grade by a certified nurse. Children will be tested in the fall of the school year and some will be re-

screened in the spring. Parents will be notified by mail if their child fails the screening. This notification will provide parents with information to help with setting up an appointment with the eye doctor and with their physician.

### **Immunizations**

Every child shall present, on or about the same time as he/she receives a health examination, proof to the local school authority of having received such immunizations as the State shall require in Section 695.10 of the Immunization Code. Every child, prior to enrolling in any public school in Illinois shall present to the school proof of immunity against: Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Rubella, Mumps, Haemophilus influenza type b, Hepatitis B, Varicella. The health care provider verifying the administration of the required immunization shall record as indicated on the Certificate of Child Health Examination that the immunizations were administered.

Any child who does not submit proof of having protection by immunity as required must receive the needed vaccine. Unless an exemption or extension applies, the failure to comply with the above requirements by October 15 of the current school year will result in the student's exclusion from school until the required health forms are presented to the District. New students who register after October 15 of the current school year shall have 30 days following registration to comply with the health examination and immunization regulations. If for medical reasons one or more of the required immunizations must be given after the date of entrance of the current school year, a schedule for the administration of the immunizations and a statement of the medical reasons causing the delay must be signed by the health care provider who will administer the needed immunizations and be kept on file at the local school.

### **School Insurance**

A 24 hour student insurance program is available from Illinois School District Agents. The cost of the 24 hour student insurance program varies from year to year. The school office will provide the fee on the insurance forms to be distributed the first day of school. All students are covered by insurance during school time. Remember that this plan is excess to all other valid coverage's. You must file a claim with your insurance carrier first, even if you have a large deductible. A parent letter will be sent home explaining your coverage.

### **Accident/Illness Reports**

If a child is injured at school or at a school sponsored activity, an accident report will be completed by supervising teacher. A copy of the report will be kept in the office. If a child becomes ill at school, a record will be kept of the symptoms and action taken by school personnel.

If a child is too ill to remain at school, the parents/guardians will be contacted. If contact cannot be made, the school will provide every comfort possible for the ill child until the end of the school day or until parents/guardians) or another individual listed on the emergency card) can be reached. Any change in a phone number should be reported to the office. Any person(s) designated as an emergency contact should be aware that we will call them in the event that a parent/guardian cannot be reached.

### **Student Medication**

Parents are reminded that medication should be given to students at home whenever possible. Only medication prescribed by a doctor which is essential for the student to remain in school shall be given under the conditions outlined below and with the approval of the school administration. We recommend that the parents consult with their doctor to see if midday medication can be adjusted and given by the parent to the school principal or principal's designee by telephone, but must be followed by completion of the School Medication Authorization Form on the next page.

1. Prior to making medication available at school, the School Medication Authorization Form shall be completed by the parents. Authorization forms shall be updated every year and filed in the student's health record when medication is given on a long-term basis.



2. Medication shall be brought to school in a container with a current pharmacy label clearly marked with the student's name, doctor, the name of the medication, and pertinent instructions. Parents or students (with a note from parents) may pick up unused medication.
3. The only way over-the-counter, including aspirin, Tylenol, and cough drops can be given at school is with written parental permission or doctor's orders and in the correct over-the-counter container with the student's name and directions.
4. The parent or physician must report immediately and change in prescription dosage. Written documentation is required. The school principal will review the change and verify if necessary.
5. The consumption of the medication is to be supervised by the person designated by the principal. The school principal will interpret to school personnel and parents, if necessary, the need for observation of the student, the potential benefits, and possible reaction to the medication, or refusal to accept medication.
6. Students may bring in their own medication and take it directly to the office. Medications are kept in a locked area. Students should not have medication in their possession.
7. In all cases, the school retains the right of discretion to reject a request for administering medication to a student. At the school's discretion, a representative of the school may request a physician's signature authorizing a school employee to administer medication and a written release form from the parent giving permission for the school to exchange information with the child's physician prior to the administration of medication on school property.
8. Parents wishing to have their child carry asthma medication or epinephrine auto-injector(EpiPen)) for self administration must complete and return signed copies of the school's Self Administration of Asthma Medication form that may be obtained from the principal's office.

### **Unauthorized/Illegal Drug Use**

It is the interest of Cypress Elementary School to shield and provide counseling and understanding for any of its students who find themselves involved in drug and alcohol abuse and wish to be helped. The school will provide assistance of its own and will cooperate with the student and his/her parents. The school also encourages the parents/guardians and students to seek assistance from local agencies (Southern Seven Health Department, Counseling center, personal physician, etc.) in assisting the student with alcohol/drug dependencies.

Southern Seven Health Department – 634-9405/658-5011

Family Counseling – 658-2611

Students who possess illegal drugs, cannabis, other controlled substances, or alcoholic beverages on the premises of the school or who come to the school or its activities under the influence of the illegal substances will be subject to disciplinary action from the Board of Education and legal authorities. (This includes inhalants and other items used for purpose of getting “high.”)

Students who violate this policy shall be referred to the Board of Education for possible expulsion.

### **Fire and Natural Disaster Drills & Lock Down Drills**

All teachers will instruct students during the first week of school on the proper procedures to follow in the event of a lock down, fire or other natural disaster drills. Emergency plans shall be posted in every classroom and in the hallway near the office.

Lock Down, fire and natural disaster drills will be held periodically at the discretion of the teaching and/or administrative staff. Students will be notified with an “all clear” or signal by the principal or designee at the conclusion of the drill and/or when it is determined safe to return to the building.

### **Threatening Weather Conditions & Other Emergencies**

In the event of inclement weather conditions or other emergency situations affecting the school schedule, the following radio and television stations will be contacted, when possible, prior to 6:30 a.m. of the

affected day: WDDD Radio in Marion, WMOK Radio in Metropolis and all local television stations: WPSD, WSIL, KFVS.

If inclement weather conditions occur after school is in session, and a decision is made to dismiss classes early, the announcement will also be placed on the above listed radio and television stations. If no announcement is made, school will be conducted as scheduled.

On rare occasion, emergencies may arise which make it necessary to dismiss classes at any time during the school day. You are urged to plan for such contingencies. All emergency cards need to indicate at least three alternate persons or telephone numbers where someone can be reached in case such an emergency arises.

### **Pesticide Notice**

**Policy** - In accordance with The Structural Pest Control Act (225 ILS 235) administered by the Illinois Department of Public Health, it is the policy of Cypress School district #64 to implement Integrated Pest Management procedures to control structural and landscape pests and minimize exposure of students, faculty, and staff to pesticides.

**Pesticides** – It is the policy of Cypress school district #64 to reduce exposure to pesticides in the school environment. Efforts will be made to:

- Select the least hazardous methods and materials effective for control of targeted pests.
- Use non-chemical prevention of pest populations using such methods as sanitation, exclusion, and cultural practices when possible.
- Target pesticides to area not contacted or accessible to students, faculty, and staff.
- Apply pesticides only “as needed” to correct verified problems.

### **Procedures –**

- The Cypress School District #64 Integrated Pest Management coordinators will be the principal and the custodians.
- Cypress School district #64 will maintain records of pest management efforts in the principal’s office.
- District staff will inform administration of pest sightings.
- The district will maintain an ongoing effort to sample and assess pest populations.

Citizens may request in writing to the principal if they would like to be notified 2 days in advance of a non-bait type pesticide application. Three (3) attempts will be made to call phone numbers listed in the request. In the cases of immediate danger, citizens making this request will be notified after the applications (hornets, wasps, etc.)

## **VII. DISCIPLINE**

### **Student Conduct and Discipline Policy**

Cypress School adheres to the School Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is designed to improve the school climate and to ensure the safety of our students at all times. Cypress School’s discipline program focuses on positive behaviors. An emphasis will be placed on personal responsibility for one’s actions. Parents/Guardians will be notified by the teacher and/or principal of any behavioral problems. We believe in encouraging consistent behavior by recognizing and rewarding positive student behaviors. **Please discuss the Discipline Policy with your child(ren) and sign the form indicating that you have reviewed the Handbook.**

### **General Discipline Authority**

Because the Board of Education is entrusted with protecting the safety, health and welfare of the students, staff and property of the School District, it may be necessary at times to discipline students whose conduct affects the well-being of the schools. In accordance with constitutional due process and statutory requirements, the Board of Education may suspend or expel students in cases of gross disobedience or misconduct that occurs **on or off campus**, including such conduct that occurs on school buses, at bus stops, and while students are traveling to or from school or school bus stops; at school sponsored events and activities connected with the school program; any event having a nexus with the school; and at any other time such action

is necessary for the safety and supervision of students. Only the Board of education may determine to expel a student from school or from the school bus. The Superintendent/Principal may suspend students from school or the school bus for up to ten (10) school days.

In the event a student engages in any misconduct off-campus and such conduct results in a material and/or substantial disruption to the school district, the student may receive disciplinary consequences appropriate for the frequency and severity of the violation consistent with the established disciplinary rules and procedures.

Suspensions or expulsions of students shall occur in compliance with procedural regulations to be promulgated and implemented by the administrators of the district. Disciplinary measures other than suspension or expulsion shall be determined by the administration and establish in general regulations governing student discipline.

### **Aggressive Behavior**

Cypress District 64 has established an anti-bullying procedure to comply with Public Act 98-0801. For students who demonstrate a continued pattern of aggressive behaviors such as repeatedly starting fights or continually bullying other students, verbally or physically, the following early intervention courses of action will be taken. Case by case circumstances will be considered and courses of action may begin at any of the steps below:

1. A conference will be held with the student, an administrator, and other involved personnel to discuss the consequences of the student's actions. Parents/guardian may be notified depending on the severity of the violation. Appropriate discipline will be administered which could include suspensions, expulsions, or placement in a safe-school environment.
2. A conference will be held with the student. Parents/guardians will be contacted. A formal conference may be held with the student, the administrator, and the parents/guardians. Appropriate discipline will be administered which could include suspensions, expulsions, or placement in a safe-school environment.
3. A formal conference will be held to discuss the student's behavior. The conference will include the student, an administrator, the parents/guardians, and other local resource personnel. Appropriate discipline will be administered which could include suspensions, expulsions, or placement in a safe-school environment.
4. A formal conference will be held to discuss the student's behavior. The conference will include the students, an administrator, and the parents/guardians. Appropriate discipline will be administered which could include suspensions, expulsions, or placement in safe-school environment.
5. The school may seek permission to involve Family Counseling Center, Inc. to begin counseling or may involve other local resource personnel. Appropriate discipline will be administered which could include suspensions, expulsions, or placement in a safe-school environment.
6. Appropriate discipline will be administered which could include suspensions, expulsions, or placement in a safe-school environment.

### **Bullying Policy**

Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important goals at Cypress Elementary School.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, military status, unfavorable discharge status from the military service, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, status of being homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental

status, including pregnancy, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic is prohibited in each of the following situations:

1. During any school-sponsored education program or activity.
2. While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities.
3. Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.
4. Through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a nonschool-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the Cypress Elementary School School District if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school. This paragraph (item #4) applies only when a school administrator or teacher receives a report that bullying through this means has occurred; it does not require staff members to monitor any nonschool-related activity, function, or program.

#### Definitions from Section 27-23.7 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/27-23.7) 1

Bullying includes cyber-bullying and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
3. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance; or
4. Substantially interfering with the student(s) ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Bullying may take various forms, including without limitation one or more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. This list is meant to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

Cyber-bullying means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, including without limitation any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic system, photo-electronic system, or photo-optical system, including without limitation electronic mail, Internet communications, instant messages, or facsimile communications. Cyber-bullying includes the creation of a web page or weblog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages if the creation or impersonation creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying. Cyber-bullying also includes the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons if the distribution or posting creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Restorative measures means a continuum of school-based alternatives to exclusionary discipline, such as suspensions and expulsions, that: (i) are adapted to the particular needs of the school and community, (ii) contribute to maintaining school safety, (iii) protect the integrity of a positive and productive learning climate, (iv) teach students the personal and interpersonal skills they will need to be successful in school and society, (v) serve to build and restore relationships among students, families, schools, and communities, and (vi) reduce the likelihood of future disruption by balancing accountability with an understanding of students' behavioral health needs in order to keep students in school.

School personnel means persons employed by, on contract with, or who volunteer in a school district, including without limitation school and school district administrators, teachers, school guidance counselors, school social workers, school counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, school resource officers, and security guards.

#### Bullying Prevention and Response Plan

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain a bullying prevention and response plan that advances the District's goal of providing all students with a safe learning environment free of bullying and harassment. This plan must be consistent with the requirements listed below; each numbered requirement, 1-12, corresponds with the same number in the list of required policy components in 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7(b) 1-12.

1. Cypress Elementary School District uses the definition of bullying as provided in this policy.
2. Bullying is contrary to State law and the policy of this District. However, nothing in the District's bullying prevention and response plan is intended to infringe upon any right to exercise free expression or the free exercise of religion or religiously based views protected under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution or under Section 3 of Article I of the Illinois Constitution.
3. Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the District Superintendent or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the District Superintendent or any staff member. Anonymous reports are also accepted.

---

Name  
 Superintendent

---

Address  
 4580 Mt Pisgah Road Cypress, IL 62923

---

Email

---

Telephone : 657-2525

4. Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, the Superintendent or designee shall promptly inform the parent(s)/guardian(s) of every student involved in an alleged incident of bullying and discuss, as appropriate, the availability of social work services, counseling, school psychological services, other interventions, and restorative measures.
5. The Superintendent or designee shall promptly investigate and address reports of bullying, by, among other things:
  - a. Making all reasonable efforts to complete the investigation within 10 school days after the date the report of a bullying incident was received and taking into consideration additional relevant information received during the course of the investigation about the reported bullying incident.
  - b. Involving appropriate school support personnel and other staff persons with knowledge, experience, and training on bullying prevention, as deemed appropriate, in the investigation process.
  - c. Notifying the Building Principal or school administrator or designee of the reported incident of bullying as soon as possible after the report is received.
  - d. Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, providing parents/guardians of the students who are parties to the investigation information about the investigation and an opportunity to meet with the Building Principal or school administrator or his or her designee to discuss the investigation, the findings of the investigation, and the actions taken to address the reported incident of bullying.

The Superintendent or designee shall investigate whether a reported incident of bullying is within the permissible scope of the District's jurisdiction and shall require that the District provide the victim with information regarding services that are available within the District and community, such as counseling, support services, and other programs.

6. The Superintendent or designee shall use interventions to address bullying, that may include, but are not limited to, school social work services, restorative measures, social-emotional skill building, counseling, school psychological services, and community-based services.
7. A reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying is prohibited. A student's act of reprisal or retaliation will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.
8. A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the District's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, knowingly making a false accusation or providing knowingly false information will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

9. The District's bullying prevention and response plan must be based on the engagement of a range of school stakeholders, including students and parents/guardians.
10. The Superintendent or designee shall post this policy on the District's Internet website, if any, and include it in the student handbook, and, where applicable, post it where other policies, rules, and standards of conduct are currently posted. The policy must also be distributed annually to parents/guardians, students, and school personnel, including new employees when hired.
11. The Superintendent or designee shall assist the Board with its evaluation and assessment of this policy's outcomes and effectiveness. This process shall include, without limitation:
  - a. The frequency of victimization;
  - b. Student, staff, and family observations of safety at a school;
  - c. Identification of areas of a school where bullying occurs;
  - d. The types of bullying utilized; and
  - e. Bystander intervention or participation.

The evaluation process may use relevant data and information that the District already collects for other purposes. The Superintendent or designee must post the information developed as a result of the policy evaluation on the District's website, or if a website is not available, the information must be provided to school administrators, Board members, school personnel, parents/guardians, and students.

12. The Superintendent or designee shall fully implement the Board policies and initiatives, including without limitation, the following:
  - a. Curriculum Content. Bullying prevention and character instruction is provided in all grades in accordance with State law.
  - b. Student Social and Emotional Development. Student social and emotional development is incorporated into the District's educational program as required by State law.
  - c. Access to Electronic Networks. This policy states that the use of the District's electronic networks is limited to: (1) support of education and/or research, or (2) a legitimate business use. Acceptable Use Policy.
  - d. Harassment of Students Prohibited. This policy prohibits any person from harassing, intimidating, or bullying a student based on an identified actual or perceived characteristic.
  - e. Teen Dating Violence Prohibited. This policy prohibits teen dating violence on school property, at school-sponsored activities, and in vehicles used for school-provided transportation.
  - f. Student Discipline. This policy prohibits, and provides consequences for, hazing, bullying, or other aggressive behaviors, or urging other students to engage in such conduct.
  - g. Restrictions on Publications. This policy prohibits students from and provides consequences for: (1) accessing and/or distributing at school any written, printed, or electronic material, including material from the Internet, that will cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities, and (2) creating and/or distributing written, printed, or electronic material, including photographic material and blogs, that causes substantial disruption to school operations or interferes with the rights of other students or staff members.

### **Off Campus Computer Use**

Using a home-based or off-campus computer such that the use results in material and/or substantial disruption to the school and/or a true threat will constitute grounds to investigate whether the use violates applicable law or school rules. Should such misuse be determined, the students may receive disciplinary consequences appropriate for the frequency and severity of the violation.

## **Weapon Policy**

A student, who uses, possesses, controls, or transfers a weapon, or any object that can reasonably be considered, or looks like, a weapon, shall be expelled for at least one calendar year, but no more than 2 calendar years. The Superintendent may modify the expulsion period and the Board may modify the Superintendent's determination, on a case-by-case basis. A "weapon" means possession, use, control, or transfer of (1) any gun, rifle, shotgun, a weapon as defined by Section 921 of title 18, United States Code, firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code, (2) any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including but not limited to knives, brass knuckles, billy clubs or (3) "look alikes" of any weapon as defined above. Any item, such as a baseball bat, pipe, bottle, lock, stick, pencil, and pen, is considered to be a weapon if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm. The Superintendent or designee may grant an exception to the policy, upon the prior request of an adult supervisor, for students in special projects, whether or not school-sponsored, provided the item is not equipped, nor intended, to do bodily harm.

## **Student Dress**

The dress and grooming of students shall be the responsibility of the parents/guardians and the students. A student is expected to be clean, neat, and decently dressed. Clothing and accessories shall not be hazardous to the health and safety of the students or disruptive to the educational program of the school. Any clothing that symbolizes a gang, cult or group considered disruptive to the educational process will not be allowed. Pajamas and house slippers are not to be worn to school. **Tank tops and midriff shirts are not to be worn to school. The length of shorts, skirts and dresses needs to be appropriate for a school setting must hit at mid-thigh. Yoga/Stretch pants are not appropriate when worn alone. They must be covered by a shirt/dress that sits at or below mid-thigh.** Students who are dressed inappropriately will be asked to change clothes. Parents/Guardians will be called to bring appropriate clothing. Dress code will be enforced at all school-sponsored activities.

## **Conduct at Extra-Curricular Events**

The students of Cypress Elementary School are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly manner at all school events. The student conduct at extra-curricular events is to be the same as during the school day. Any student who violates such rules may be denied admission to school events the remainder of the year. Students attending ballgames may not leave the building until the event is concluded.

All students who exhibit unacceptable behavior at any ballgame will not be permitted attendance at the next game and may result in suspension from attendance at ballgames for the remainder of the season. Only cheerleaders, ball players, chaperones and other team personnel may ride the bus to away games unless otherwise approved by the principal. These students should know departure and arrival times prior to leaving school the day of the game.

## **Toys and Personal Property**

Students are encouraged to leave toys and personal belongings at home. Although lockers, cubbies, etc, are provided for students, occasionally toys and personal belongings will be lost or damaged by another student. The faculty and staff will make every effort to assist students in protecting their belongings; however, the school will assume no responsibility for lost or damaged items.

Students are not allowed to bring skateboards, skates, roller blades, play weapons, radios, CD/Cassette tape players Game Boys, hand-held video games, or all other electronic items to school.

## **Pets at School**

All pet visits must be approved by the Superintendent before being brought in for show and tell in the classroom.

## **Cell Phones**

If it is necessary for a student to bring a cell phone to school, it is to be turned off on the bus and during the school day. Cell phones/smart watches/electronic devices are to be turned off during school hours. The only exception to this rule will be for educational use with teacher permission in the classroom. Students who do not

follow this policy will have their phone confiscated. The phone will be kept in the office until a parent can pick the phone up.

### **Smoke Free Campus**

According to the *Smoke Free Illinois Act 95-0017* (and the Illinois Department of Public Health), the entire District #64 campus is a **smoke free campus at all times**.

### **Gym Shoes**

Our school has a gymnasium with a hardwood floor. For the coming school year we are asking students to have an extra pair of tennis shoes, with non-marking soles that can be kept at school. Students will wear them only when they play in the gymnasium. Students must have gym shoes or socks to participate in P.E. or recess. This will help to keep the gym floor clean and free from scratches, and make our floor last much longer.

### **Discipline**

School officials shall limit the number and duration of expulsions and out-of-school suspensions to the greatest extent practicable, and, where practicable and reasonable, shall consider forms of non-exclusionary discipline before using out-of-school suspensions or expulsions. The District does not allow for zero tolerance discipline except as required by federal law or in the Illinois School Code. All discipline is administered on a case-by-case basis. Potential disciplinary measures include, without limitation, any of the following measures:

1. Notifying parents/guardians.
2. Disciplinary conference.
3. Withholding of privileges.
4. Temporary removal from the classroom.
5. Return of property or restitution for lost, stolen or damaged property.
6. In-school suspension
7. Community service
8. Seizure of contraband; confiscation and temporary retention of the personal property that was used to violate school rules.
9. Suspension of bus riding privileges.
10. Suspension from school and all school activities for up to 10 days. A suspended student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
11. Transfer to an alternative program if the student is expelled or otherwise qualifies for transfer under State law.
12. Expulsion from school and all school-sponsored activities and events for a definite time period not to exceed 2 calendar years. An expelled student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
13. Notifying juvenile authorities or other law enforcement whenever the conduct involves illegal drugs (controlled substances), "look-alikes," alcohol, or weapons.

The above list of disciplinary measures is a range of options that will not always be applicable in every case. In some circumstances, it may not be possible to avoid suspending or expelling a student because behavioral interventions, other than a suspension or expulsion, will not be appropriate and available, and the only reasonable and practical way to resolve the threat and/or address the disruption is a suspension or expulsion.

### **In-School Suspension**

In-School Suspension is a program designed to handle student discipline, which calls for action firmer than detention but not as severe as out of school suspension. Students are allowed to work on assignments during In-School Suspension and must turn the assignments in to their classroom teachers.



## Suspension

The District Board of Education stipulates that any or all of the following acts may be considered as evidence of gross disobedience or misconduct and may cause suspension or expulsion. Fighting, Striking School Personnel, Weapons Violation, Drug Policy Violation, Intimidation, Stealing, Cursing School Personnel, or Harassment.

\*\*\*\*This list is not intended to be comprehensive, but instead represents examples which assist in determining gross disobedience or misconduct\*\*\*\* Students suspended from school will receive full due process rights and have the right to appeal their suspension to the Superintendent and the Board of Education. While suspended, students are NOT to be on the school grounds or at any school related activity either on the school grounds or at any school activity scheduled away from school property. Violations of this restriction will result in an arrest for trespassing. Extra-curricular activities are considered privileges granted to students and not educational rights.

\*\*\*\*Students suspended from school will be able to complete their daily assignments, turn in written documents, take exams, etc. that were given on the day/days of the student's suspension. \*\*\*\*

Suspension Procedures:

1. Students will be given oral or written notice of the charges against them and, if they deny them, an explanation of the evidence the school authorities have, and an opportunity to present their side of the situation. Prior to suspension, all facts will be reviewed before any decision is reached concerning the necessary disciplinary action. This will be done prior to suspension unless the student presents a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disturbing the academic process.
2. Any suspension shall be reported immediately to the parent or guardian of such pupil along with a full statement of the reasons for such suspension and a notice of the right to review, a copy of which shall be given to the Superintendent and Board of Education. The principal or designee will attempt to contact the parent or guardian by phone. In all cases, the parent will be contacted.
3. The building principal will send a certified letter to the parent(s) or guardians(s) which specifically states the reason(s) for suspension, the number of days of the suspension, and the rights of the student and/or parent(s) or guardians(s). Out-of-school suspension means that a student has been removed from all aspects of school life.

## Expulsion

Expulsion - The Board of Education may take action upon the recommendation of the administration to expel, for periods in excess of 10 days and up to 2 years, a student guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct.

1. Prior to expulsion, the student will be provided written notice of the charges and the time and place of the hearing. If the charges are denied, the student will have an opportunity for a hearing, at the time and place designated in the notice, conducted by the Board or a hearing officer appointed by the Board. If the Board appoints a hearing officer, he/she will report to the Board the evidence presented at the hearing and the Board will take such final action as it finds appropriate.
2. The Board or its designee will provide written notice to the parent or guardian of the time, place, and purpose of the hearing by registered or certified mail, and request the appearance of the parents or guardian at the expulsion hearing.
3. During the expulsion hearing, the student and his/her parents or guardian may be represented by counsel, present witnesses and other evidence on his/her behalf and cross-examine adverse witnesses. The expulsion hearing will be a two-part proceeding. - First - the Board or hearing officer will hear evidence on the issue of whether the student is guilty of the gross disobedience or misconduct as charged. After presentation of the evidence, the Board will decide the issue of guilt. - Second - If the Board or hearing officer finds the student guilty of the gross disobedience or misconduct as charged, it will then hear evidence on the appropriate level of discipline. After the presentation of the evidence or receipt of the hearing officer's report, the Board will decide whether expulsion or some lesser form of discipline will be imposed upon the student.

The following are examples of extremely serious violations that may result in a recommendation for expulsion:  
- Arson - False Fire Alarms - Bomb and fire threats - Possession of weapons or explosives - Physical attack on a staff member - Supplying drugs, look-a-like drugs, or alcohol for other students - Criminal vandalism or theft, Physically striking or abusing faculty or staff members, Possession of an unauthorized weapon on school

property, or possession of ordinary items that have been altered in such a way as to become a weapon, Participation in group, gang or mob violence, Subsequent fights and/or suspensions during a school year.

## **VIII. ATHLETIC/EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS**

### **Sports Program**

The sports program will be under the direction of an athletic director and designated coaches. The program may include baseball, basketball, track, softball, and cheerleading.

Student athletes will be issued a uniform for the sport they are participating in. Uniforms are to be returned within one week after their season concludes. Uniforms should be worn for the appropriate school function and should not be considered part of a child's personal wardrobe. Students not returning uniforms in good condition will be charged for its cleaning or replacement.

Participation in sports and extra curricular activities at Cypress Grade School is a privilege and not a guaranteed right. Any student desiring to participate in any athletic program is required to have insurance. Members of athletic teams must also have a necessary physician's certificate showing them to be physically able prior to practice and participate. Student participating in any sports program must complete and sign the Agreement to Participate form. This will be passed out to all students participating in sports.

**To participate in extra-curricular activities, students must have a C average in each of the core classes (Math, Lang. Arts, Science, Social Studies).** The first time students' grades are not satisfactory they will be given a warning. The students will have one week to make the improvements necessary. If improvement is not made the student will be placed on probation. During the probationary period, students will attend practice and contests, but will not dress. The student will sit with the team during contests. Students must be completing work and making academic progress during the probationary weeks. If students have any incomplete assignments, they will not be allowed to attend practices or games during this probationary period. If after two weeks on probation, the student has not brought their grades up they will no longer be eligible and will not be allowed to attend practice or contests.

In order to participate in sports a student must have a current physical on file in the school's office and fill out an Agreement to Participate in Interscholastic Sports Form.

### **Attendance and Extra-Curricular Activities**

If a student wishes to participate in or attend an extra-curricular event of a day when school is in session, he/she must be in attendance for at least half of the day except in when the student's absence is "excused" for reasons other than illness (such as funeral, emergency illness or injury in the family, or other bona fide excused absence). The student or his/her parents are required to notify the school in advance of the absence, in order to determine the student's eligibility to participate in or attend extra-curricular activities that same day. If the absence is considered "unexcused" or if the school is not notified in advance, the student will not be permitted to participate in or attend the extra-curricular event.

### **Concussion Information**

A concussion is a brain injury and all brain injuries are serious. They are caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. They can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Even though most concussions are mild, all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly. In other words, even a "ding" or a bump on the head can be serious. You can't see a concussion and most sports concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Signs and symptoms of concussion may show up right after the injury or can take hours or days to fully appear. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms or signs of concussion yourself, seek medical attention right away.

**Symptoms may include one or more of the following:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headaches</li> <li>• “Pressure in head”</li> <li>• Nausea or vomiting</li> <li>• Neck pain</li> <li>• Balance problems or dizziness</li> <li>• Blurred, double, or fuzzy vision</li> <li>• Sensitivity to light or noise</li> <li>• Feeling sluggish or slowed down</li> <li>• Feeling foggy or groggy</li> <li>• Drowsiness</li> <li>• Change in sleep patterns</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amnesia</li> <li>• “Don’t feel right”</li> <li>• Fatigue or low energy</li> <li>• Sadness</li> <li>• Nervousness or anxiety</li> <li>• Irritability</li> <li>• More emotional</li> <li>• Confusion</li> <li>• Concentration or memory problems (forgetting game plays)</li> <li>• Repeating the same question/comment</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

**Signs observed by teammates, parents and coaches include:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Appears dazed</li> <li>*Vacant facial expression changes</li> <li>*Confused about assignment</li> <li>*Forgets plays</li> <li>*Is unsure of game, score, or opponent</li> <li>*Moves clumsily or displays incoordination</li> <li>*Answers questions slowly</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Slurred Speech</li> <li>*Shows behavior or personality changes</li> <li>*Can't recall events prior to hit</li> <li>*Can't recall events after hit</li> <li>*Seizures or convulsions</li> <li>*Any change in behavior or personality</li> <li>*Loses consciousness</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

Any athlete even suspected of suffering a concussion should be removed from the game or practice immediately. No athlete may return to activity after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear, without medical clearance. Close observation of the athlete should continue for several hours. Athletes will be required to provide their school with written clearance from either a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches or a certified athletic trainer working in conjunction with a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches prior to returning to play or practice following a concussion or after being removed from an interscholastic contest due to a possible head injury or concussion and not cleared to return to that same contest.

You should also inform your child’s coach if you think that your child may have a concussion. Remember it is better to miss one game than miss the whole season. And when in doubt, the athlete sits out. For current and up-to-date information on concussions you can go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/ConcussionInYouthSports/>

**ALL HANDBOOK AND SCHOOL RULES APPLY TO ALL SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS. EVEN THOSE ACTIVITIES OCCURRING OFF-CAMPUS.**