

August 2015

Dear Cypress Woods Elementary Parents,

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year!! We are looking forward to your family joining our journey towards 100% student success. We welcome back our returning families and extend a big welcome to our new families too! **Our first day of school will be on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:35 a.m.** We want to be sure you have all the information you need to make the transition back to school easy for everyone. We are looking forward to a great school year and have a lot of wonderful activities and learning experiences planned for your child. Many of the teachers are already working hard in their classroom preparing for our students. Here is some information that we would like you to keep in mind as you prepare for the upcoming school year.

- We will be mailing postcards with tentative student classroom assignments to each student on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Please note that all classroom assignments are tentative due to state class size requirements. **No class changes will be made unless it is absolutely necessary to meet the state mandates.** If you do not receive a postcard in the mail by **August 19<sup>th</sup>**, there is a good chance the registration process is incomplete or we do not have the correct address on file. Please visit the front office to ensure all documentation and medical records are complete. Your child will not be placed in a class until all registration documents have been turned in.
- Meet the Teacher for Grades K-2 will be held on Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Meet the Teacher for Grades 3-5 will be held on Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:30 p.m. -2:30 p.m. This is a time for all of our families to familiarize themselves with our campus, visit the classrooms, and meet the teacher. Our PTA will be selling school t-shirts and other spirit products.
- If your child will need to have prescription or over the counter (OTC) medication during school hours, it is important for you to visit the front office **prior** to school starting. Both prescription and OTC medications require additional paperwork to be completed by the parent and/or doctor. Prescription medication may **ONLY** be brought in by the parent and must be in the original prescription bottle.
- Our school hours are from 8:35 a.m. - 2:35 p.m. Students are not permitted on campus until 8:05 a.m. unless they are registered in the YMCA before care program or have written permission from their teacher.
- All students are eligible to participate in the Universal Free Breakfast program. Breakfast will be served from 8:05 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. each morning in the cafeteria if you wish for your child to participate. New Eagles Welcome will be sponsored by our AWESOME PTA on August 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. at Cypress Woods Elementary. This will provide parents an opportunity to meet other CWE parents. PTA will also sponsor a Kindergarten Playdate at John Chestnut Park on Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. We invite you to join us for a time to network with current and new Eagle parents. Please keep in mind as you are finishing up your school shopping that Pinellas County Schools' dress code requires all students to wear blouses or shirts with sleeves. Shorts and skirts must be more than halfway to the knee in length.
- A current school supply list is posted on the Cypress Woods Elementary school website at <http://www.pcsb.org/cypress-es>. It is also available at local retail stores. Don't forget that many retailers participate in programs that help earn money for schools. Target is a business partner

that supports education.

- Just a friendly reminder that all parents and visitors must visit our front office to sign in before entering the main building. We ask for your patience during the first few weeks of school as we sign in visitors. We will have a few extra staff members to assist with visitor sign in during the first couple of days. However, it could take a little longer to sign everyone in using the computer in the front office. Please use the main lobby doors and be prepared to a photo ID to enter the campus. **All visitors are required to wear a visitor badge while on campus.**
- Students may purchase a school lunch for \$2.00 daily. Our food service manager, Ms. Bukovey, will be sending more information out the first day of school concerning breakfast and lunch programs. Parents may also choose to create an online lunch account for their child at [www.schoolpaymentsolutions.com](http://www.schoolpaymentsolutions.com).
- On the first day of school, parking is extremely limited on campus! We encourage parents wishing to walk his/her child to class to please park at East Lake Library and use the sidewalk to enter the campus. For obvious safety reasons, please do not allow your child to walk unescorted through the parking lot. No student drop off will be permitted in the bus circle. Parents will be able to walk his/her child to class on the first day of school only. Staff members will be available around campus to assist students who may need additional assistance after the first day of school.
- **Please be sure your child knows how he/she will be getting home from school each day!!** We encourage parents picking up his/her child to use our car circle. We will have staff directing parents to the traffic patterns in the car circle. Please adhere to the directions from our staff. Safety is our number one priority and we need parents to follow the traffic patterns in order to ensure everyone's safety. We will be passing out cards to place in your front window for those students who will be regular car riders during the first week of school. This will assist our staff to have your child (or carpool) ready as you enter the pick-up zone. However, you can help us out the first couple of days by having your child's name and grade visible in the front window. Returning families may use cards from last year. This will help with a smooth dismissal.
- Students who are bus riders should receive a postcard in the mail sometime the first week of August with his/her assigned bus stop, route number, pick up time, and drop off time. If you have not received a postcard in the mail or have a questions about transportation you can call the help line at 587-2020 or visit the transportation link on the Pinellas County Schools website: [www.pcsb.org](http://www.pcsb.org).
- Save the date for our annual Open House Nights. Open House will be on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. More information will be coming out soon about times.
- We have several ways for parents to stay connected with the happenings at Cypress Woods Elementary. Please visit our school website at <http://www.pcsb.org/cypress-es> or visit the Cypress Woods PTA website for important school events, calendars, and contact information. These communication tools are a great way to stay in touch with our school. As always, you can contact the school at 727-538-7325 with any questions you may have.

We are excited to work with all of our returning Eagles and to get to know our new-to-Cypress Woods Elementary. See you soon!