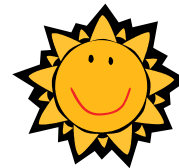


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Westpark Elementary Summer Newsletter



Dear Westpark Families,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! This marks the beginning of the 20th year of Westpark and the students, staff and families are excited to celebrate. Three of our staff members have been working at Westpark for the entire 20 years; Mary Bentley, Laura Otis and Lonnie Bremby.

This is sure to be an exciting and memorable year! If you are new to the Westpark Elementary School family, you are entering a wonderful place for students to learn and grow. Our school has a Positive Behavioral Intervention System. The students use the acronym AIR, which stands for Accountability, Integrity, and Respect. Students are taught what AIR behavior looks like at various places throughout the school including: the MPR, the lunch area, hallways and in classrooms. You can ask your child about AIR to learn more. A second grader explained

Integrity as showing AIR behavior, even when no one is watching.

I look forward to a wonderful year of success for your children and honor partnerships with you to continue our legacy of academic excellence along with a positive environment and sense of family.

Ann Marie Simmons
Principal

Important Dates:

- Conference Week (Minimum Days)—August 22nd-August 26th
- Conference Day (No Students)—Tuesday, August 25th
- Labor Day Holiday—Monday, September 5th
- Family Lunch Day—Friday, September 9th
- Last Day of Summer Quarter—Friday, September 23rd (Minimum Day)

Eagle Announcements

Last year Westpark began sending out weekly announcements with information about upcoming events and schedules. This was instituted based on the suggestions of teachers and families. Each week an Eagle Announcement is emailed to all families who are in our database. Special events are re-capped as well.

Homework

Westpark teachers design homework with specific purpose. The design of the lessons and homework are coordinated to reinforce skills, concepts and learning. As students mature and get into grades 4-6, teachers include preparation for future academic demands and responsibilities. Please see page seven for grade level specifics on homework.

From the Health Office...

A healthy school environment is essential for student learning. Preventing the spread of infectious disease is one of the ways the school seeks to provide a healthy learning environment. The IUSD Health Services Department prepared the following guidelines to assist you in decisions relating to your student's health and school attendance. A student who has a temperature of 100

degrees Fahrenheit or higher, has an undiagnosed rash or experiences nausea and vomiting needs to stay home from school. Any student suspected of having an infectious disease/condition should also stay home and may not return to school until he/ she has been symptom free for one full day or a physician provides a written statement that child is not contagious. A student who

has a cold needs to remain home if he/she has an excessive runny nose, excessive coughing, elevated temperature, or is too uncomfortable to function at school. If your student has diarrhea two times within a day, he/she needs to remain home until diarrhea subsides and no other signs of illness exists.



Riding Bicycles to School

Here in Irvine, only students in grades 3 and up may ride bicycles to school. Skateboards, razor scooters, and in-line skates are not permitted. Also, shoes that have the ability to convert to skates are not permitted. If your child rides a bicycle to school, it must be licensed with the Irvine Police Department, the child must wear a helmet, and parents must provide a lock for the bike while in the school bike rack. For the safety of all, bicycles must be walked once the student is on school property.



Parent Involvement

Parent involvement is critical to the mission of Westpark; it supports the staff and helps reinforce the importance of education to your child(ren). There are many ways to get involved. Two main ways are through the PTA and School Site Council (SSC). We also encourage parent volunteers. Please remember to sign in at the office and get a volunteer sticker when you come on campus.

Parent Teacher Association

Our PTA holds meetings most months of the year and organizes fundraising and community building events. Please visit the link on our homepage for more information. Your volunteerism and financial support is incredibly appreciated and invaluable. The home-school partnership is critical to overall school success. The PTA would like to extend an invitation to all parents to participate at any level. The PTA Board members would love to hear from you and help you find an area where you can really help support all they do.

School Site Council

The SSC meets five to six times per year and the group's primary responsibility is to develop and recommend a plan for continuous school improvement in all areas of the curriculum. Following the approval of the IUSD Board of Education, the Council continually reviews the implementation of the plan and periodically assesses its effectiveness. The SSC is composed of equal number of parents and staff members. The majority of the staff membership is classroom teachers, as required by law. Classroom teachers Christina Austin, Emily Bucago, Cynthia Martinez as well as Principal Ann Marie Simmons, represent the staff on SSC. The parent community selects the parent representatives. Two new members were selected this past spring: Laura Wakeham and Lisa Villanueva. They join Juan Pacheco as our parent representatives. Terms are three years.

Parent Volunteers

All parent volunteers are a valuable and integral resource to the success of our school. In order to promote clear understanding of the expectations and appropriate use of volunteers, we ask that all volunteers complete the appropriate paperwork before working on campus. Guidelines and forms can be accessed at our website. We also ask that our volunteers appreciate the importance of confidentiality in regard to information about student work, progress, grades, and behavior. We truly thank our parent community for your continued support of our students and staff.

Thank You!

School Lunch Information

Free and Reduced Lunch Application

The Irvine Unified School District offers a hot lunch program for students. The cost of an elementary lunch is **\$3.25** per meal, and milk alone is **\$.75**. Each student has been assigned a personal identification number. Parents are asked to deposit funds in the student's account either electronically or by send-sending a check to school with your student. The goal for the school and the school district is to be cashless. Money will not be handled in the lunchroom—please do not take your money to the cafeteria.

Option 1- Go to the IUSD website http://www.iusd.org/district_services/food_services/index.html

Option 2- Send a check to the school office made payable to IUSD Nutrition Services. Include your student's Lunch Box number on the memo line of the check. Another option to consider: the National Lunch Program. Complete a free/reduced lunch application by October 1st. If you qualify, your child never has to purchase a lunch at school. Qualifications for free/reduced lunch is confidential. Applications are available on the school web-site.

Look for information online regarding free/reduced lunch. This confidential program ensures that all students receive breakfast and lunch; no Westpark staff are privy to information.

If your family has a limited income, you may qualify to participate in the free and reduced lunch program. A form is available at <http://www.iusd.org/pv>. Scroll down to the lunch application.

Please take a moment to look over the application to determine if your family can participate. It is a benefit to your family and our school.



Other Important Westpark Elementary School and IUSD Information

Report Cards—Last year IUSD moved to **all** electronic/on-line report cards for the school year. If you need help setting up your myIUSD.org account, please come to the front office. If you already have an account you do not have to do anything! You will be able to access your child's grades online.

Parents' Rights—Along with the move to online report cards, in the continuing efforts to be not only a green school but a green district, IUSD is again placing the Parents' Rights Brochure online this year. The student services department has directed all schools to refer parents to the following link: http://www.iusd.org/parent_resources/ParentsNotification.pdf. If you desire a hard copy you may download one from the website.

Arrival & Dismissal—Students may not be on campus prior to 15 minutes before their school day begins and all students must be picked up and/or must leave directly and go home after school as supervision is not provided. The school grounds are for the sole use of Westpark students during the school day and are not open to preschoolers or older/younger siblings during school hours. Thank you for your assistance with enforcing these rules.

Please do not allow your child to bring balls to play with before and after school. Often the balls are dropped while students are navigating the parking lot only to cause a dangerous situation. Students often bring balls that are too hard and students get hurt. Our staff on duty are there to assist students getting to and from class not to monitor students playing.

Attendance—If your child is not in school for any reason, please telephone the attendance line before 9 a.m. at 949-936-6401 to report your

student's absence. Each student must sign in at the front office if he/she is tardy.

Dropping off Items at School—in regards to forgotten items (lunches, musical instruments, and homework assignments), we are attempting to minimize classroom interruptions and encourage responsibility. At the same time, we also do our best to take the nutritional needs of our students into consideration.

If a parent delivers lunch for a student, office staff will notify the classroom teacher via email.

All students are also informed by teachers at the beginning of the year that if they forget their lunch, they should check up in the office.

Of course, if there are extenuating circumstances in regards to the child's health, exceptions are made. We also encourage parents to place money into their child's Lunch Box account in the event their child does not remember to bring lunch. Students who do not have lunch can go to the cafeteria and they are given milk and crackers.

The school office staff works hard to provide the best quality services to children, staff, and parents. We ask that you sign in with the office and pick up a visitor or volunteer badge before visiting the instructional area. The office is open from 8 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Westpark Elementary School maintains its own website to provide information about the school, including school calendars, bell schedules, grade level supply lists, newsletters, school policies, staff contact information, classroom information, and parent involvement. Our website can be viewed at <http://www.iusd.org/wp/>.



Westpark Homework Purpose Statements 2011-2012

Kindergarten & First Grade

Engage in independent thinking and reflect on classroom learning; practice skills taught in class, establish routine and teach accountability.

Second Grade

The purpose of grade 2 homework is to practice/reinforce the skills and concepts taught in class. Homework is seen as the building blocks of homework habits and responsibility leading to good study skills.

Third Grade

The purpose of homework is to practice and apply what has been learned in class. It is an opportunity to engage in self-reflection, assess individual learning needs, and learn time management skills and responsibility.

Fourth Grade

The purpose for homework in fourth grade can vary by assignment and subject matter, but should connect to one of the following:

- Reinforce concepts taught during class time
- Spiral review of previous learning
- Opportunities to extend classroom instruction and apply it to real world situations
- Development of positive study habits

Fifth Grade

When homework is assigned in fifth grade, the purpose is to:

- Reinforce what was taught
- Build responsibility and discipline
- Build time management skills
- Learn how to use technology and research skills to support a topic
- Finish work from class

Sixth Grade

Homework is assigned with purpose:

- To review and extend concepts
- To develop study habits for assessments
- To teach responsibility and accountability for unfinished assignments to be completed at home
- To prepare for homework demands of middle school
- To teach time management skills