

FAMILY HANDBOOK



STEVE LUTHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

4631 La Palma Avenue, La Palma, CA 90623

(714) 220-6918

Principal: Denine Kelly



Mission _____

We inspire and empower . . .
Every student,
Every moment, for
Every opportunity!

Vision _____

Engaging in dynamic learning for success
in an ever-changing world.

Core Values _____

In the Cypress School District,

- We work with respect and integrity;
- We embrace innovation and diversity;
- We model compassion, resilience, and perseverance



STEVE LUTHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2019/20 Daily Schedule

GRADE	DAY	BREAKFAST	START	RECESS	LUNCH	RECESS	END
Preschool SDC	M-F	-	9:00	10:05-10:25	12:00-12:45		1:45
TK	M-F	7:30-7:55	8:00	10:05-10:25	11:30-12:15		1:00
K	M-F	7:30-7:55	8:00	9:40-10:00	11:30-12:15		1:00
1, 2, 3	M,T,W,F	7:30-7:55	8:00	10:00-10:20	11:15-12:00	1:05-1:20	2:35
	Th/Early Release	7:30-7:55	8:00	10:00-10:20	11:15-12:00		1:05
4, 5, 6	M,T,W,F	7:30-7:55	8:00	10:25-10:40	12:00-12:45		2:35
	Th/Early Release	7:30-7:55	8:00	10:25-10:40	12:00-12:45		1:05

Last Day of School

GRADE	BREAKFAST	START	NUTRITION/LUNCH	END
Preschool SDC	-	9:00	TBD	11:30
TK, K	7:30-7:55	8:00	TBD	11:30
1, 2, 3	7:30-7:55	8:00	TBD	12:30
4, 5, 6	7:30-7:55	8:00	TBD	12:30

WELCOME TO LUTHER

It is our goal to provide a safe and orderly learning environment for all students. In order for us to achieve this goal, we need your help. Listed below are some important school policies and procedures. Please review these with your children to be sure they understand them. Your ongoing support of these policies will help keep our school a great place to learn!

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL: Supervision is provided in the morning starting at 7:45 a.m. Students are not to arrive before this time unless they are purchasing breakfast. Students purchasing breakfast may arrive between 7:30 and 7:50 a.m. and must go straight to the cafeteria.

After school, students are expected to be picked up or walk home immediately. Students may not remain on campus after school unless they are receiving assistance in the classroom or are attending an authorized afterschool activity. It is extremely important that you communicate with your child each morning about what they are to do after school (e.g., walk home, wait for you, etc.). We cannot interrupt classrooms to deliver messages to students unless it is an emergency, and we cannot guarantee that a message will be delivered to your child before dismissal. Therefore, be sure your child knows the plan each morning.

Transitional kindergarten/kindergarten students must remain with their parent or other supervising adult at all times until their teacher takes them into the classroom at 8:00 a.m. At dismissal time, students will be released to a parent or other designated adult at the classroom door. If the pick-up person is unknown to the teacher or substitute, photo identification will be required.

PARKING LOT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP: If you plan to drive your child to and from school, please enter the parking lot safely and observe directional signs. Parking is allowed in marked stalls only. The green curb at the front of the school is for loading and unloading only. Please advance all the way forward through the lane as cars pull out to leave. This helps us efficiently unload and load cars and keep traffic moving. The green curb in the front of the school is the only place where unloading or loading may take place. If you plan to get out of the car to help your child, please park in a designated parking place. While we know that parents are often in a hurry, it is necessary to follow the school plan for dropping off and picking up to ensure that all students are safe. We appreciate your support of these procedures, as student safety is our primary concern.

BICYCLES/SCOOTERS/SKATEBOARDS: All students who ride a bicycle, scooter, or skateboard to school are required to wear a helmet and individually lock their items in the bike rack area. Students may not ride a bicycle, scooter, or skateboard on campus. It is not recommended that students in grades TK/K-2 ride to or from school without proper supervision. Cypress School District is not responsible for lost or stolen personal property brought to school.

PICKING STUDENTS UP EARLY FROM SCHOOL: If it is necessary to pick your child up before the end of the school day, you must report to the office first and sign your child out. Please note that students can only be released to those persons listed in their emergency contacts. Please make sure this information is kept up-to-date at all times. Anyone picking up a child is required to show valid identification. Please allow sufficient time for us to retrieve your child. It is helpful if you send a note with your child in the morning if you are planning to pick them up early. If you pick your child up during lunch, it is unlikely we will be able to retrieve any belongings or homework from the classroom. Also, we will not allow students to be signed out the last 15 minutes of the school day unless it has been prearranged with the teacher.

CHILD CUSTODY: If applicable, it is the parent's responsibility to provide the school with written documentation of any custody orders or changes to custody as they occur.

ATTENDANCE: Students who are the most successful have good attendance. When students are absent or tardy, they miss out on valuable instruction. We appreciate your assistance in helping your child develop good attendance habits. If your child is going to be absent, please phone the school at (714) 220-6918 and press “1” when prompted. Provide your child’s name, grade level, teacher’s name, and reason for absence.

Excused absences are established by Education Code and include:

- Illness
- Medical/dental appointment
- Funeral service for immediate family member (parent/guardian, sibling, grandparent, or any relative living in the student's household)
- Observation of religious ceremony/holiday
- Court appearance
- Immediate family member called to or on leave from active military duty in a combat zone

Documentation for excused absences may be required. Please note that per Education Code Section 48260, any student who has three or more unexcused absences or is tardy three times for more than 30 minutes, or any combination thereof, is considered truant and shall be reported to the attendance supervisor for the school district. While attendance is important, please keep your child home if he or she has experienced any of the following within the last 24 hours: fever, diarrhea, pink eye, excessive mucus, or vomiting.

TARDY POLICY: Please help your child arrive on time each day. Students are considered tardy when they arrive anytime after the bell rings for the start of class. Students who are tardy to class are disruptive to the learning of others. In addition, they miss out on important information and instruction at the start of the school day. Tardy students need to sign in at the front office and pick up a tardy slip before being admitted to class. If your child is late due to a medical appointment, please bring an excuse from the doctor’s office. We can only consider it an excused tardy with a doctor’s note. After the third unexcused tardy per semester, parents may be requested to meet with the principal.

HOMEWORK: Meaningful homework assignments can be a valuable extension of student learning and assist in developing good study habits. Homework is assigned when necessary to support student learning and to fulfill academic goals. Homework assignments vary according to the grade level, the needs of the students, and the content area. Although it is a student’s responsibility to undertake assignments independently, parents may serve as a resource and are encouraged to ensure that their child’s homework assignments are completed. Completion of homework assignments is not included in a student’s academic achievement marks. It is reflected in the work and study habits portion of the report card.

HOMEWORK REQUESTS/INDEPENDENT STUDY: If you wish to request homework on a day your child is absent, you must make your request prior to 10:00 a.m. in order for it to be ready at dismissal time on the same day. This may be done on the absence line when reporting your child’s absence.

If your child needs to miss five or more consecutive days of school due to an emergency or extended family travel, you may request an Independent Study Contract. This contract lists the specific parameters and requirements associated with Independent Study. If you need to request Independent Study, please notify the office as soon as possible, but at least five school days prior to your departure date. Enrollment at a particular school is not guaranteed if your child begins the school year on Independent Study.

ITEMS LEFT AT HOME: In order to preserve the integrity of the instructional program, we are unable to interrupt classrooms to deliver items that were left at home (e.g., homework, jackets, lunches, etc.). These items may be delivered to a designated place in our office where students can come at recess or lunchtime to check for their belongings.

STUDENT NUTRITION:

- **Breakfast:** Breakfast is available to all students before school at 7:30 a.m. Eating breakfast can help improve a child's attention and increase their math, reading, and overall school success. Breakfast menus are available [online](#), or you may pick up a paper copy from the school office.
- **Lunch:** Lunchtime is provided each day with the intent that all students will eat a nutritious lunch. Students may bring their own lunch from home or purchase lunch from the school cafeteria. School lunch menus are available [online](#), or you may pick up a paper copy from the school office.

If your student brings lunch to school, please remember that glass bottles/containers are not allowed. Also, make sure your child is able to open the food and drink containers themselves. For health reasons, students may not share food with other students.

Students who forget their lunch should check the school office to see if their lunch has been dropped off. Please make sure to label the lunch with your child's name. Students who forget their lunch or money may request a lunch from the cafeteria. They will be expected to pay the cafeteria back the next school day.

- **Cafeteria Meal Payment:** You may prepay for breakfast and lunch [online](#) using a debit or credit card or by cash or check in the school office. Prepayment is highly encouraged as it helps the cafeteria lines move faster, giving students more time to eat, relax, and play.
- **Free and Reduced-Price Meals:** An application for free and reduced-price meals (breakfast and lunch) is available [online](#). Paper applications are also available on our school registration day and in the school office throughout the year.
- **Special Meal Accommodations:** If your child requires special meals or meal accommodations, please contact the Child Nutrition Services department by telephone (714) 220-6948 or [email](#).

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AT SCHOOL: Birthday parties are not allowed at school. We do not take instructional minutes away from our students for birthday parties. Any food dropped off or sent with students will be sent back home at the end of the day. Flowers and/or balloons will not be delivered to students, as this is disruptive to the instructional program. Some classrooms will acknowledge birthdays as part of the calendar and/or opening activities. If you would like to honor your child's birthday in some way, you may consider donating a book or other classroom item in their name. Please arrange any birthday acknowledgments in advance with your child's teacher. While we understand that birthdays are special to many young children, celebrations should take place outside of school.

MEDICATION: Medication, including over the counter remedies, may NOT be brought to school by students. If it is necessary for your child to receive medication at school, you must submit a [Request for Medication](#) form completed by both the parent and a physician. Medication must be in the original container and labeled with the student's name, dosage, etc. Please provide a medicine spoon/dropper if liquid medication is to be administered. All medications must be kept in the school office.

DRESS AND GROOMING STANDARDS: The district believes that appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive learning environment. Students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and wear clothing that is suitable for the school activities in which they participate. Students' clothing must not present a health or safety hazard or a distraction that would interfere with the educational process.

LOST AND FOUND: Items left on the playground or elsewhere on campus are placed in our Lost and Found, which is typically overflowing with jackets, lunch boxes, etc. If your child is missing something, please have them check the Lost and Found. Periodically during the year, unclaimed items are donated to charity.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY: Students must follow district guidelines and procedures regarding acceptable use of technology. The district makes a diligent effort to filter inappropriate or harmful matter accessible through the internet. In addition, students must take responsibility not to initiate access to inappropriate or harmful matter while using district technology. The attached Acceptable Use Policy outlines the district's policy for use of technology and the internet. Violation of the Acceptable Use Policy may result in disciplinary action, loss of the privilege to use technology, and/or civil or criminal liability.

CELL PHONES/CAMERAS/OTHER DEVICES: The personal use of cell phones or other electronic devices by students while on campus or a school bus is prohibited. Such devices must be turned off, except when being used for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose as determined by the teacher or other district employee. Electronic devices such as Kindles, Chromebooks, or other tablets are only allowable at school with completion of a Bring Your Own Device agreement signed by the parent. Please be aware that we cannot charge devices or secure them for your child. If a student has a cell phone out or is using it without permission, it will be confiscated and returned only to the parent. Any device with a camera, video, or voice recording function shall not be used in a manner that infringes on the privacy rights of any other person. Cypress School District is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal property brought to school.

ITEMS PROHIBITED AT SCHOOL: Students are not permitted to bring weapons, toys, games, electronic games, sports equipment, gum, candy, or any other valuable or unnecessary item to school. These items are disruptive to the instructional program.

VISITORS ON CAMPUS: Cypress School District utilizes a Visitor Management System by Raptor Technologies to screen all visitors and volunteers on campus. During school hours, ALL visitors, including parent volunteers, must check in at the main office and present a valid government-issued identification. The system scans the ID, checks it against the Megan's Law Registry, and issues a personalized visitor or volunteer badge. When leaving campus, visitors and volunteers must check out and exit through the front office, not through the gates. All visits to campus during instructional time must be prearranged with a teacher or the principal and are usually limited to 30 minutes. Unannounced classroom visitors are not permitted. We appreciate your cooperation with this procedure to help us ensure the safety of all students.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT AND VOLUNTEERING: We value parent involvement and support in the educational process. There are many opportunities to become involved, including volunteering with our PTA, participating on our School Site Council, or helping out in your child's classroom. Please contact our PTA president, your child's teacher, or the school office to learn more about volunteer opportunities on campus. Regular volunteers on campus must register and satisfy TB clearance requirements. Once registered, volunteers may check in and out each day using the self-help kiosk in the school office. For information on the registration process and TB clearance requirements, please visit the [Parent Involvement](#) page on the district website.

MEDIA RELEASE: District representatives will, from time to time, use still photography or videography for the purpose of highlighting student achievements or chronicling classroom/school activities. Those images may be used in informational newsletters, school brochures, class pictures/yearbooks, and other printed material; posted on the school and/or district websites or social media websites; or submitted to the news media for possible publication. To restrict the district from using your child's image, you must submit a request in writing.

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES: The school and district utilize a variety of communication methods to provide information to families. These include district and school newsletters, websites, social media, email, U.S. Mail, recorded telephone messages or text messages, and notices sent home with students. Please make it a practice to check your child’s backpack daily for information sent home from school. More information about how you will hear from our [school](#) and the [district](#) is available online. Non-district social media sites and other websites, such as GreatSchools, are not official or reliable sources of school information. If you have questions about something you have read on social media or other websites, we encourage you to contact the school directly to ensure you have the most accurate information.

If you have a question or concern regarding your child during the school year, please start by contacting your child’s teacher directly via phone or email. If necessary, after you have communicated with the teacher, you may call the office to schedule an appointment with the principal at (714) 220-6918. Cypress School District promotes mutual respect, civility, and orderly conduct. We encourage positive communication as we work together to educate and support all children at our school.

STUDENT STUDY TEAM: A Student Study Team (SST) is convened to assist students with academic and/or behavioral concerns that cannot be easily addressed by the classroom teacher alone. The team typically consists of the student’s parent(s), classroom teacher, principal, and other support staff. During the meeting, team members share information and observations about the student, focusing on areas of strength as well as areas for growth and improvement. Once the student’s specific needs have been fully identified by the team, an action plan is developed which details the strategies and interventions that will be used to resolve the concerns, including the person(s) responsible for providing them. It is important to keep in mind that the first step in addressing any student concern is always contacting your child’s classroom teacher.

SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: Services are available at all schools throughout the Cypress School District with a referral from the school psychologist and/or administrator. Students experiencing mental health disorders that impact their academic performance or school attendance may be eligible for services. Please contact your school psychologist or administrator for more information.

LEARNING CENTER MODEL: Our school strives to follow inclusive best practices. Students with disabilities are included in the general education setting to the greatest extent possible, and we use the Learning Center model to provide specialized academic instruction and other services based on unique needs. This model enables students with disabilities to access our educational program in the least restrictive environment while still receiving the support they need to be successful in school. Inclusive best practices also benefit typical students in the general education program by helping to develop compassion and an understanding of the challenges of others.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Cypress School District believes in cultivating citizenship and integrity. Character matters every day, and we honor positive displays of character throughout the year. Students are required to demonstrate honesty and abide by ethical standards on class assignments, tests and quizzes, reports, and projects, both in and out of class. Academic progress should reflect the student’s own work in the fairest possible way. Academic dishonesty involves any attempt of a student to substitute the product of another, in whole or in part, as his or her own work. This includes, but is not limited to, theft, possession, or unauthorized use of any answer keys or model answers; forgery; and plagiarism. Instances of academic dishonesty may result in a reduction of the student’s grade and disciplinary action.

DISCIPLINE POLICY: Our school is dedicated to an educational philosophy of shared responsibility for student behavior, which includes students, parents, and school staff. We recognize each student’s right to learn and each teacher’s right to teach in a safe and supportive environment.

BE SAFE

- ✓ Keep hands to yourself
- ✓ Use kind words
- ✓ Follow all school rules

BE RESPECTFUL

- ✓ Follow directions
- ✓ Use appropriate language
- ✓ Respect school & personal property
- ✓ Use polite words & good manners

BE RESPONSIBLE

- ✓ Remain on task
- ✓ Take care of equipment
- ✓ Come to school ready to learn
- ✓ Clean up after yourself

Behavior expectations are posted throughout the school. Students are to abide by these expectations and follow directions of staff members at all times. Students have many opportunities to be recognized as good citizens both in the classroom and outside of the classroom. Students exhibiting inappropriate behaviors will receive consequences, such as a verbal or written warning, loss of free time, etc. Behavior referrals are issued when a child continues to violate school rules or is involved in a serious offense. Suspension or expulsion may result for persistent or serious offenses as outlined in Education Code, Section 48900. For more information about student discipline, please refer to the Cypress School District [Parent/Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).

FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION & STUDENT FEES: California law requires that public education be provided to all students free of charge unless a charge is specifically authorized by law for a particular program or activity. However, voluntary donations to support school activities or specific classroom needs are always greatly appreciated. Students will fully participate in all school programs and services, regardless of the family's desire or ability to make a voluntary donation.

FIELD TRIPS: Field trips may be scheduled throughout the year to reinforce and enrich the curriculum. Before a student is allowed to participate in a field trip, we MUST have a permission slip signed by the parent/guardian. Handwritten notes cannot be accepted. If a permission slip is not returned, your child will not be permitted to participate in the field trip.

PLAY STRUCTURES: Play structures are available for student use during supervised recess time. Because playground supervision is not provided before or after school, play structures are off limits during these times.

STUDENT ACCIDENTS: Student safety is one of our most important concerns. Even so, accidents do occur, and the resulting medical treatment (ambulance transport, treatment, surgery, hospitalization, etc.) can be very expensive. Cypress School District does not assume responsibility for these costs. However, as a service to you and your child, we do offer families access to low-cost, voluntary-purchase student accident/sickness insurance. Information regarding this coverage is available [online](#).

SCHOOL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES: It is extremely important that your student's emergency contact information be kept up to date. In the case of an accident, injury, or other emergency, students will only be released to a person designated as an emergency contact. If an emergency contact person is unknown to staff, photo identification will be required.

During an emergency, you may not be able to reach the school by telephone as staff will be involved in caring for students. In the event of a school emergency or local disaster, you will receive notification from the school or district via telephone or text message. Information may also be provided on the district's website and/or social media sites. Non-district social media sites are not official or reliable sources of information.

Our school's comprehensive safety plan is available [online](#).

SECURITY CAMERAS: Security cameras are utilized in select areas throughout the district to protect district property, facilities, and equipment from vandalism and theft. Cameras are not placed in areas where students have a reasonable expectation of privacy, and only specific district personnel have access to the video recordings. These recordings may be used in disciplinary proceedings or referred to local law enforcement as appropriate. In the event of an accident involving injury to persons or loss of property, a copy of the video

recording will be preserved. Otherwise, recordings are allowed to expire. Unless otherwise required by law, requests for access to video recordings will be denied.

VANDALISM: Students/parents are financially responsible for damage to school property, whether it is an accident or malicious vandalism. This also includes damage to or loss of textbooks and library books checked out by students.

CYPRESS SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (AUP) – TECHNOLOGY & INTERNET

Cypress School District authorizes student use of technology for instructional purposes. Technology use is a privilege permitted at the district's discretion and is subject to the conditions and restrictions set forth in applicable Board policies, administrative regulations, and this Acceptable Use Policy. The district reserves the right to suspend access at any time, without notice, for any reason.

The district expects all students to use technology responsibly in order to avoid potential problems and liability. The district may place reasonable restrictions on the sites, material, and/or information that students may access.

Definition: Technology includes, but is not limited to, the internet, email, desktop computers, laptop/tablet computers, USB drives, smartphones and smart devices, MP3 players, wearable technology, the district's computer network including servers and wireless (Wi-Fi) computer networking technology, wireless access points (routers), and/or future technological innovations, whether accessed on or off-site or through district-owned or personally owned equipment or devices.

Online Accounts: Students are assigned a district Google account for instructional purposes through a filtered and monitored system while enrolled in the Cypress School District. This account provides access to the Google Suite of applications, including Google Docs and Google Slides, but does not include Gmail or YouTube. Student Google accounts are accessible at school and other places where access to the internet is available. Students may also be assigned accounts to district-owned instructional software while enrolled in the Cypress School District. These accounts will be accessible at school and, in some cases, other places where access to the internet is available.

Bring Your Own Device Program: At the direction of the classroom teacher, through the *Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)* program, students may bring a personal electronic device to school. In these instances, parents must sign a BYOD agreement.

The use of personal devices at school will be for the sole purpose of extending classroom instruction and learning. This program is completely voluntary; students are never required to bring personal electronic devices to school. No student will be left out of the instructional process because they did not bring an electronic device. For all assignments requiring technology, students will be provided with devices by the school if they have not chosen the option to bring their personal device. Regardless of whether students bring a personal device to school, all students will have equal access to the curriculum. Students will receive the same grade/credit for assignments, whether completed electronically or by other means, based on the teacher's established grading criteria.

Use of a personally owned device may subject the contents of the device and any communications sent or received on the device to disclosure pursuant to a lawful subpoena or public records request.

Cypress School District is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged devices. Parents/Legal Guardians acknowledge and agree that they assume the risk if they choose to allow their child to bring personal electronic devices to school. Risks may include, but are not limited to, theft, loss, or damage to the device and exposure to viruses or malware.

Student Obligations and Responsibilities: Students are expected to use technology safely, responsibly, and for educational purposes only. The student in whose name district technology is issued is responsible for its proper use at all times. Students shall not share their assigned online service account information, passwords, or other information used for identification and authorization purposes, and shall use the system only under the account to which they have been assigned.

Students are prohibited from using technology for improper purposes, including, but not limited to, use of technology to:

- Access, post, display, or otherwise use material that is discriminatory, libelous, defamatory, obscene, sexually explicit, or disruptive
- Bully, harass, intimidate, or threaten students, staff, or other individuals ("cyberbullying")
- Disclose, use, or disseminate personal identification information (such as name, address, telephone number, Social Security number, or other personal information) of another student, staff member, or other person with the intent to threaten, intimidate, harass, or ridicule that person
- Infringe on copyright, license, trademark, patent, or other intellectual property rights
- Intentionally disrupt or harm district technology or other district operations (such as destroying district equipment, placing a virus on district computers, adding or removing a computer program without permission from a teacher or other district personnel, changing settings on shared computers)
- Install unauthorized software
- "Hack" into the system to manipulate data of the district or other users
- Engage in or promote any practice that is unethical or violates any law or Board Policy, Administrative Regulation, or district practice

Consequences for Violation: Violations of the law, Board Policy, or this Acceptable Use Policy may result in revocation of a student's access to district technology and/or discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion. In addition, the violation may be reported to law enforcement agencies as appropriate.

Reporting: If a student becomes aware of any security problem (such as a compromise of the confidentiality of any login or account information) or misuse of technology, he/she shall immediately report such information to the teacher or other school/district personnel.

Privacy: Since the use of district technology is intended for educational purposes, students shall not have any expectation of privacy while using district technology. The district reserves the right to monitor and record all use of district technology, including, but not limited to, access to the internet or social media, communications sent to or received from district technology, or other uses. Such monitoring/recording may occur at any time without prior notice for any legal purposes including, but not limited to, record retention and distribution and/or investigation of improper, illegal, or prohibited activity. Students should be aware that, in most instances, their use of district technology (such as web searches and emails) cannot be erased or deleted.

All passwords created for or used on any district technology are the sole property of the district. The creation or use of a password by a student on district technology does not create a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Upon signing in receipt of the Family Handbook, the parent/guardian agrees to abide by this Acceptable Use Policy and other applicable laws and district policies and regulations governing the use of district technology. Further, there is an understanding that there is no expectation of privacy when using district technology and that any violation may result in loss of user privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.