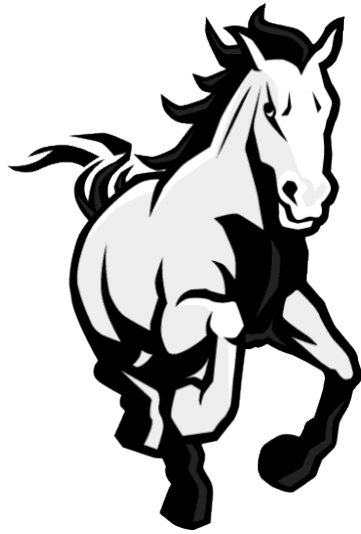


Murphy Ranch Elementary



MURPHY RANCH MUSTANGS

PARENT / STUDENT HANDBOOK

*Murphy Ranch Elementary School
16021 Janine Drive, Whittier, CA 90603 (562) 789-2150 Fax (562) 902-0267
Principal: Tim Strand*

Welcome to Team Murphy Ranch! The school year is upon us and we want to welcome all of our new and returning Mustangs to Murphy Ranch Elementary School. Our students excel academically, work collaboratively, and positively influence our community. Team Murphy Ranch was built on the belief that it is the positive working relationship between parents, teachers, staff, and the community that allows our students to reach their full potential. For many years this team effort has made Murphy Ranch the school of choice for many families. We are excited to work with you this school year!

In this handbook, you will find the information regarding schedules, procedures, and services that will assist in the success of every student. *Please read through it carefully* and do not hesitate to contact us if there is a question as we will be more than happy to assist you.

At Murphy Ranch, we are committed to insuring that our students are safe and that we respect our neighbors as well. Please follow all parking signs and traffic regulations. It will be important that you allow enough time in the morning to make sure students are on time and in class ready to receive instruction. Please note: There is a strong correlation between student achievement and their attendance and tardy record. All students may be dropped off as early as 7:50am. Please do not drop your students off before this time as we do not have supervision until 7:50am.

After you have reviewed this packet with your child please sign and return the handbook signature page (This will be distributed at the beginning of the school year) and return it to the classroom teacher.

Thank you for your wonderful children! We are looking forward to an exciting year!

Tim Strand
Principal

STUDENT ARRIVAL AND DISSMISAL PROCEDURES

Procedures for Morning Drop Off

Kindergarten: If you are dropping off your kindergartner, please park in the green zone in front of the school and walk your child to his/her classroom. Supervision begins at 8:00am for our Kindergarten students. Do not enter the drive through at the front of the school. This is for day care vans, buses, ER vehicles, and handicapped parking only.

Grades 1st-2nd Grades

The Valet Drop-off Program is available on Grovedale in the morning. Cars can drive up to the loading zone along the edge of the school and drop off their child beginning at 8:00 a.m. You may not leave your car for any reason in this area. A teacher will be on duty in the lunch area for your child's protection. If you need to park and leave your car, you may do so by parking north of the loading zone (along side of the field area). Please be aware that the west side of Grovedale across from our drop-off area is identified by signs as a no parking zone. As you exit the valet area, you must continue straight ahead on Grovedale and loop around to Janine. Do not turn around on Grovedale during traffic, as it creates a safety hazard for children.

Grades 3rd-5th Grades

Students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades are to be dropped off in the former teachers parking lot off of Janine. Please do not continue up the drive way to the new teachers parking lot or block the driveway leading to the new teachers parking lot. Unless you park in a designated parking space you may not leave your car for any reason in this area. Once your child has exited the car turn right back onto Janine. Students are to walk up to the basketball court and wait for their teacher to come get them at 8:08 a.m. Supervision will begin at 7:50. Teacher

- **Please note – the staff parking lot is NOT available for use in the mornings for dropping off students and it is NOT available for parent or volunteer parking. Please park on Janine or Grovedale. Thank you! Students may be picked up in this parking lot after school. (see below)*

Procedures for After School Pick-up

Kindergarten: Parents must park on Janine and walk in to kindergarten area for pick-up. Kindergarten pick-up is at 2:01pm. The bus driveway is reserved for childcare vans that pick up from kindergarten. **Cars in the front driveway are an extreme safety hazard for our kids!**

If you are picking up a kindergartener and you have a student in grades 1st-5th you are welcomed to wait in the parent reception area or to return to your car and use the valet pick-up. The parent reception area is the lunch tables and the benches by the Grovedale gate. It is important that we do not interrupt classrooms that are still in session. Please help us with this by supervising young children and by staying in the parent reception area (lunch tables and benches by Grovedale entrance).

Grades 1st and 2nd: If you have students only in primary grades 1 & 2: Pick up all primary students on Grovedale. Please follow the same procedures as in the morning. If waiting in the loading zone, do not leave your car.

If you have students only in upper grades 3 – 5: Upper grade students should be picked up in the parking lot on Janine. Again, if coming from the West, you must turn left on Grovedale and loop around to Janine. Left turns into the parking lot are not allowed. Parents are to drive into the parking lot and remain in their cars in one of two pick-up lanes. We do not want to block traffic on Janine so we ask parents to stay as far to the right as possible. Parking along this area of Janine is prohibited. Violators will be cited by Whittier PD.

Students wait on the ramp until they see their cars. As their ride approaches, they wait in the “Student Zone” until the car comes to the front of the line to leave the lot. At that time they get into the car. Students may not walk through the lot to a car in line or to a parked car, or cross the street to a parked car without a parent. It is not safe. If your child is not readily available for pick-up, please pull out of the lot and circle around. The Murphy Ranch staff is committed to release all students on time, but once released it is the student’s responsibility to get to the pick-up area immediately.

If you have a primary and an upper grade student: You may inform your teacher that you will pick-up both students along Grovedale. Please go over these instructions with your care providers. Thank you so much for your help as we work together to show respect for each other and to our neighbors!

Murphy Ranch School Mission Statement

Murphy Ranch is a school that genuinely cares about the social, emotional and academic needs of all students and provides a well-rounded, rigorous, and standards-based curriculum to meet those needs. Our mission is to improve learning and foster critical thinkers so that every student will experience success and develop a love for learning!

Murphy Ranch Goals

- Students, parents, and teachers will be a valued and contributing member of the Murphy Ranch Community
- We will work to meet the needs of each child. From our struggling learners to our GATE students we will actively engage all learners.
- Murphy Ranch will continue to maintain a high level of positive support for each child.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ABSENCES

Each day of attendance is important to a child's academic growth. However, to protect your child's health and that of his/her classmates, no child should be sent to school with symptoms of illness.

Upon appropriate verification, absence for one or more of the following

reasons is allowable . . . illness, quarantine, medical, dental, chiropractic or optometric services, and attending funeral services for a member of the student's immediate family to the extent of one day in California and three (3) days outside of California. Up to five (5) days is allowable when a student is excluded to obtain proper immunization. EWCS Board Policy AR 5113(a)

ATTENDANCE

To report an absence please Email MRAttendance@ewcsd.org or call (562)789-2155 Please call or email the school office by 10:00 a.m. if your child will be absent from school. Messages should include the child's name, date(s) of the absence, reason for absence, and the signature of a parent or guardian. If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent, please notify the school office and the child's teacher.

*Assignments missed due to an excused absence may be made up within an appropriate period of time. Typically, students will have the same number of days to make up work as the number of days they were absent. You may call the school and request homework. If your child will need to be absent for five days or more and it is not due to an illness, please contact your student's teacher two weeks in advance. For any questions, please call our school office.

*Permits may be revoked for poor attendance or tardiness throughout the year. Poor attendance and tardiness is indication that perhaps your home school would be a better choice for your student as it is closer to your home.

AWARDS

The staff of Murphy Ranch School believes that positive reinforcement of appropriate behavior and academic achievements is very important. As a result many opportunities are taken to recognize success and their wonderful behavior. Award opportunities are tiered, so that as children achieve greater independence in their work, they can be rewarded for those greater expectations. We encourage families to join us at the Trimester Awards Assemblies to participate in the celebration of excellence.

BICYCLE REGULATIONS

The East Whittier City School District allows students in grades 4 and higher to ride bicycles to school. Please review safe bicycle practices with your child and remember that all students must wear a helmet when riding their bicycles. Students must walk their bicycles on campus at all times. Bicycles must be left in the bicycle racks and chained or locked at all times. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen bicycles or bicycle parts. Students who are unable to abide by safety rules will lose the privilege of riding their bicycles to school.

CARE OF BOOKS & BINDERS

Children are expected to take care of their books & school-owned binders. All lost or damaged school and library materials must be paid for before the last day of school. Student Yearbooks will be withheld until library books are either returned or paid for at the end of the year.

CHANGE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

Please notify the office any time there has been a change of address, telephone number or work location. This is particularly important for your child in case of an emergency.

DISASTERS

In the event of a disaster, the East Whittier City School District Disaster Plan outlines the procedures that will be used to protect children while they are at school. The purpose of the plan is to keep your child safe and to ensure the release of students as soon as possible. It is not intended to provide long term shelter. Our PTA organizes the collection of some emergency food supplies each year should short term sheltering be necessary.

In the event of a natural disaster or civil disruption, the building Principal shall retain students at the building when:

1. The District office specifically advises the Principal by telephone or

- other communication device not to release students.
2. The reports generated over the radio on the Emergency Broadcast System indicate, in the Principal's judgment, that it is unsafe to release children.
 3. It is apparent to an ordinary, reasonably prudent person using common sense that it is unsafe to leave the building, due to fallen electrical wires, uprooted trees, damaged streets, broken gas lines or water mains or any other damage that would impede the ability of an average child to safely traverse a route home.

Children will be released to those individuals named on the emergency card.
The following will be required of the adult (18 years or older) to whom the child is released:

Picture identification, Signature, Telephone number, Location where the child will be taken

SCHOOL RULES AND CONSEQUENCES



DRESS CODE and HAIR STYLES

- Clothes should be clean and free from dirt, soil or odor.
- Hairstyles cannot be unnatural, bizarre or extravagant. No Mohawks or design shaved hair. No colored hair or glittered hair.
- No Makeup
- Shoes must be safe for usual school activities- We highly recommend tennis shoes.
(E.g. thongs, tennis shoes with built in skates are not appropriate)
- No clothing which depicts violence, obscenity, alcohol, gangs or graffiti
- No low cut tops, bare midriff, strapless tops, spaghetti straps, underwear showing, inappropriate tank tops.
- No shorts or dresses with length shorter than mid-thigh.
- No excessively torn pants, and none above the knee.
- Hats & Sunglasses can be worn only outside

Additional Guidelines provided by the East Whittier City School District are banned for safety reasons, as they can be misinterpreted as being-gang related clothing:

- Oversized, baggy clothing, including pants (waist and legs)
- White T-shirts, white tank tops and prison-type jackets
- Oversized belts/initial or insignia buckles, steel-toed boots
- All caps/knit or other hats not worn specifically for sun protection (this includes hats with visors worn backwards)

Students must be dressed correctly to be at school. If a child is not correctly dressed he/she must change clothes here at school or parents will be contacted to bring appropriate clothing.

If you are not sure whether or not a piece of clothing is appropriate, ask your teacher or the principal.

DISCIPLINE

Our students have the right to a safe and secure school environment. The school, in cooperation with parents and the Board of Education, will work to achieve an optimal learning environment for all students. In the mail, you will receive a copy of the District's Discipline Policy, which delineates expected student behavior. I encourage you to read it and discuss its content with your child. During Back to School Night all Murphy Ranch teachers will review their classroom discipline plan. Permits may be revoked for excessive disciplinary problems.

Standards and Rules for Students

- Be responsible.
- Be considerate, kind and respectful to all staff and students.
- Be in control.
- Be smart ... make good decisions.
- Be a team player.

Please note students are not allowed to chew gum on campus.

Transitions

1. Walk directly to and from the restroom, office, or other classes.(with a hall pass)
2. Do not touch any property belonging to teachers or other students without permission (this includes animals or special projects that may be on display).
3. Arrive at school no earlier than 8:00 a.m. for K through 5th graders and go directly to the lunch table area (or cafeteria on rainy days).
4. If you arrive at school early, before the gates are opened for any reason wait in front of the office for the supervising teacher.
5. After school, go directly to your assigned waiting area to be picked up.
6. If you are walking home after school, leave immediately otherwise we will ask you to wait in the office and a parent will need to be called to pick you up.

Rules for the Halls

1. Always walk in the halls.
2. Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourselves.
3. Do not hang from pipes or beams anywhere in the school.
4. Balls may not be bounced, thrown, or played with in the halls.
5. No skateboarding, biking, or rollerblading on campus at any time

Rules for Library and Classrooms

1. Obey classroom rules.
2. All books leaving the library must be checked out first.
3. Respect schoolbooks by not writing in them.
4. Items may not be taken from other students or teachers without their permission.
5. Students may not be in a classroom unless supervised by a teacher, custodian, aide, or principal

Rules for the Playground

1. Abide by the rules of the games on the playground.
2. Abide by the rules of use for the stationary playground equipment.
3. You may not borrow equipment from other tubs when up at recess.

4. If walking in groups, do not bother other students at play.
5. Everyone may play school games at recess; you cannot exclude individuals.
6. If you join a soccer game late in the recess, you need to find a partner to play opposite you.
7. Get permission from the supervisor or teacher on duty before leaving the playground.
8. When you are on the sidewalk, always walk.
9. Walk around or step over all walls on the playground; do not jump over them.
10. Walk around games in progress.
11. Do not play on the trees or roots of the trees. (This is to protect you from injuries)
12. Balls are the only articles to be thrown on the playground. A ball is to be thrown only to someone who is expecting to receive it.
13. Soccer balls and kick balls are the only balls that may be kicked.
14. All ball kicking is restricted to the grass area.
15. Baseballs and hard balls are not allowed on the playground.
16. Personal equipment is to be brought to school only with the permission of the teacher. You cannot exclude individuals from games even when personal equipment is used. The school is not responsible for any personal equipment that is lost or stolen.
17. The supervising adult may restrict the use of any play areas or any game or activity he/she feels necessary for student safety.
18. At the bell ending recess, all play stops and students are to immediately freeze until the supervisor blows the whistle. Upon the sound of the whistle, the students are to walk directly to their line and sit down. Students may choose to crouch or squat.
19. At all times, be respectful of others...this includes their personal property and their feelings. Teasing and/or taunting another students is an act of bullying.

Rules for Lunch

1. You may sit with friends at your assigned table only.
2. You may talk with people at your table only.
3. You may not change seats once seated.
4. Students will wait at their table until dismissed by a noon supervisor to go to the playground.

5. You will be dismissed by table (according to polite manners and cleanliness) to throw away your trash and walk up to the playground.
6. You may not throw food of any kind.
7. All unopened food should be taken home.
8. 5th Grade – ONLY 5th graders will be allowed to sit on the grass next to the lunch area. This is a privilege given to 5th graders. If food or trash becomes a problem, students will be reassigned to the tables.

Consequences

It is your responsibility to follow all school rules. When you choose not to follow the rules, there will be a consequence. The type of consequence depends on the seriousness of your behavior. It also depends on how often you break the rules. The consequences can be such things as:

Warning	Assembly Exemption	Sent to the Office
Parent Contact	Parent Conference	Counseling
Recess Detention	After-School Detention	Suspension

Offenses that may lead to a Suspension

The following are examples of activities that often result in suspension. It is not meant to be a complete list, but to give you information about why most suspensions happen.

1. Purposefully injuring other students.
2. Using profanity.
3. Defacing school property: graffiti on desks, chairs, in bathrooms, etc.
4. Theft
5. Defiance
6. Sexual harassment
7. Possession of a dangerous object.
8. Group intimidation of another student.
9. Having or selling illegal substances on campus.

10. Bring a look-alike weapons to school
11. Bringing air-guns or paint guns on school grounds before, during or after school.
12. Repeated offences of any rule* Such as use of profanity.
13. Making fun of, using unkind words, name calling, or taunting other students.

* These offenses indicate chronic defiance of authority.

HOMEWORK (District Board Policy 6154)

It is the intent of the East Whittier City School District Board of Education that homework be an integral part of the total instructional program. Its purpose is to reinforce previous learning, develop independent study skills, and encourage parent involvement in the instructional process. The amount of time the average student is expected to spend on homework each day is indicated below:

- Grades K-2 10-30 minutes per night
- Grades 3-5 30-60 minutes per night
-

What if your child continually finishes homework early or doesn't seem to have enough homework?

- Focus on quality. If quality is a concern, it is often the result of students thinking that the quicker they finish, the quicker they can go out to play. You can set up a homework period at home that meets your expectations for time spent on homework. They can fill the remainder of the time with reading, writing short stories to share with their teacher/family members, write letters to family members, or practice arithmetic skills. You will find that if students know that they are going to work for a certain period of time regardless of whether or not the school assignments have been finished, they will slow down and produce quality work.

What if your child continually has homework that takes a great deal of time beyond the recommended homework guidelines?

- First, monitor their homework closely to determine if they are staying on task throughout the time. Sometimes when children are alone in their bedroom doing homework, they tend to become distracted frequently.
- Second, if you've determined that they are regularly taking longer than the recommended guidelines, contact your teacher to set up a conference.

Specific timelines are difficult as each child works at a different pace. It is important to work together with your teacher.

- Third, sometimes homework time is extended due to long term projects. Some children try to complete six-week projects in the last two weeks. To deter this from happening, work with your child to set up a schedule for a long-term project work immediately when the assignment is announced

Conflict Resolution – Solving Problems

Problems are a part of life. You may have problems with other students in class, on the playground, going to school or going home after school. You need to learn how to solve problems on your own.

One way to help a situation when someone is treating you unfairly or not being nice to you is to do the following:

- Look him/her in the eye.
- Say, “____, I don’t like it when you” (Put name in blank.)
- Then say how it made you feel when they said or did it.
- Then say, “I would like you to stop.”

The other person will probably say they are sorry and will stop it.

Here are some other ways to deal with conflict:

Talk it over	Listen	Share
Walk away	Ignore it	Say "I'm sorry"
Do something else	Wait	Use humor
Ask for help	Compromise	Take Turns

People to Talk to If You Need Help

If the problem continues tell someone who can help you. Here are some people you can ask for help:

Parents	Teachers	Noon Supervisors
Aides	Nurse	Principal
Counselor	Bus Driver	Secretary

LOST AND FOUND

Each year many articles of clothing are turned into the "Lost and Found". It is much easier to return lost items to their owners if they are labeled. The Lost and Found is in the cafeteria. Any items that go unclaimed will be donated to charitable organizations at the close of each month.

MEDICATION

Any child who is required to take medication prescribed by a physician during the school day will be assisted by the school nurse or other designated school personnel. The prescribing doctor must supply written directions on a designated school form detailing the method, amount, and time for administration of the medication. This form can be faxed to your doctor or you may pick it up in the office at any time. Students may not keep any form of medication with them during the school day, nor may they administer their own medications (exceptions due to life-threatening conditions must be confirmed by written verification from doctor and approved by school nurse). This includes over-the-counter cold tablets, allergy sprays and aspirin.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Formal parent-teacher conferences are scheduled twice each year. It is of vital importance that parents attend conferences, and it is now a state law that employers must allow you leave time to attend. You may request an informal conference with your child's teacher at any time during the year as needed. Please call the school office at (562) 789-2150 to schedule the appointment.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

There are many ways to become involved in the educational process of your child. PTA and School Site Council are two of the groups that rely on parent involvement. Please feel free to attend any of these meetings even if you are not a member. Many teachers ask for parents to volunteer in their classrooms to assist with their programs. Thankfully, our school enjoys very supportive parents!

PARENT VISITS

Parents must register in the office and wear a visitor's badge when on the campus for any reason. This is to provide for student safety and security. Even if you are a regular volunteer, we ask you to follow this procedure.

If a parent is not volunteering but wants to observe his/her own child in the classroom, a request form must be approved by the principal at least 24 hours in advance of an intended visit.

The visit must be at a time convenient to the school and the parent/visitor and will be limited to 15 minutes in duration. Parent/visitors will be escorted to the room by the principal (or designee). As disturbances to the classroom are not in the best interest of children, all visits must be non-intrusive. Small children are NOT permitted to accompany the visitor. As teachers will not be available during this visit to answer questions, conferences can be arranged with the teacher at a later time.

Visitations in classrooms, other than that of a parent's own child, are not allowed. Although visitations on the playground or in our lunch areas are not allowed, parents are welcome to sign out and sign in their child during the scheduled lunch times. These rules are not intended to be unwelcoming, but rather to insure that your child is safe on our campus at all times.

In consideration of nearby residents, please park in legal parking locations only and do not block their driveways.

PARTIES

Each class has three class parties per year before the winter holidays, at Valentine's Day, and at the end of school. Room parents will coordinate these events. The East Whittier City School District has adopted a new School Wellness Policy to help students learn healthy eating skills in the classroom and dining areas. It is important that a positive, consistent message be sent to students about nutrition. This includes times set aside for class parties. Therefore, when snacks are served, they should be healthy and lower in fat and calories.

Individual birthday parties are not celebrated in our classrooms. Each teacher takes special care to honor their students on their birthday in a fun way.

Food treats will not be served during the school day, however, parents are encouraged to talk with their child's teacher for suggestions of ways to celebrate such as donating a new read aloud book to be read by the teacher that day. Individually wrapped, store bought treats may be distributed at the end of the school day. Please follow the nutrition services guidelines detailed above.

Additionally, party invitations are not to be handed out at school for any parties being held outside of school hours. These invitations need to be distributed off campus. Parties that begin immediately following the school day must be organized off campus. Students cannot leave school with another child's parent for a party unless that parent is on the emergency card and checked out through the office. Aside from the safety and security issues, this avoids hurt feelings among those not invited.

Food Allergies

Please be aware that a number of our students have a variety of food allergies. Please check with your child's teacher and/or room parent to make sure that any food served during a classroom party will be acceptable for all students to consume. We do not want students with food allergies feeling left out. Some healthy suggestions being provided by our Nutrition Services Department are: fresh fruits (such as apple slices, bananas, kiwi, grapes, orange wedges, pears, strawberries, or dried fruit); raw vegetables (such as baby carrots, pea pods, cherry tomatoes, broccoli florets, or celery); crackers (such as animal, graham, or cheese); or other miscellaneous items (such as granola bars, pretzels, baked chips, air-popped popcorn, string cheese, fat-free pudding cups, yogurt pops, or juice bars). Peanut or peanut products are not allowed at any time for any class party or other classroom activities.

During lunch time there is a special table for students with peanut allergies. This seating area is reserved for students with peanut allergies and their friends that do not have peanuts or peanut products as part of their lunch.

RELEASING STUDENTS

If your child will be leaving school during the day, he/she must be signed out in the office. We will send for your child. Please do not go directly to the classroom. If your child should return to school later in the day, please register his/her attendance in the office before the student goes to class.

Students will be released only to individuals who are listed on their emergency cards.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment is a serious offense that can result in disciplinary action. District and state rules addressing sexual harassment apply to 4th through 12th graders. If you have a concern, contact your child's teacher.

STUDENT NEEDS

The teachers and principal give careful consideration to the formation of next year's classes. If you feel that your child has a need which should be considered in assigning him or her to a class, complete an Identification of Student Needs form. The form is available in the office in the Spring. Contact the school office for this form. According to district policies, specific requests for a particular teacher will not be accepted. The purpose of the form is not to identify teacher preference, but rather to detail a particular academic, social, or emotional need of an individual student.

TARDINESS

If tardy, please escort your child to the front office for an "Admit to Class" slip. Do not drop off your child or send your child directly to class. Tardies are listed as excused or unexcused. The State Law is very clear that illness or extreme emergencies are the only acceptable reasons for an excused absence or tardy. *Permits may be cancelled for excessive tardiness and or unexcused absences. This may occur at any time during the year.

TELEPHONE

School telephones are available for business calls by school personnel and for emergencies. If it is necessary for a child to call a parent during school hours, they will be allowed to use an office phone. Reminder: Students wanting permission to go to another student's home to play must make those arrangements prior to coming to school.

TRUANCY (District Board Policy 5113a)

Each day a student is absent from school, they miss an important portion of their education. *Make up homework cannot replace the academic opportunities*

presented to the students daily. We ask that you please schedule your vacations and family trips for the three breaks we have during the school year (fall – one week, winter – two weeks, and spring – one week) and for the even longer summer break. We value family time, but experience has also revealed to us that students with the least amount of absences take on new learning with the greatest success and ease. In addition to the academic loss due to absences, there is also a great financial loss to the school even for illnesses. We recommend that absences be reserved for illnesses and family emergencies. Thank you!

Any student subject to compulsory full-time education who is absent from school without valid excuse three (3) or more days or tardy in excess of 30 minutes on three (3) or more days in one school year is a truant and shall be reported to the attendance supervisor or the Superintendent. (See reasons for valid excused absences under the section Attendance. (Education Code 48260). Any absences, regardless of reason, in excess of 10 per year are considered above the average and are subject to review and possible referral to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB).

Your children must be picked up from school at the dismissal time. Your promptness is greatly appreciated.

VALUABLES AT SCHOOL

The school cannot be responsible for personal property at school. Unless specifically requested by the teacher for a special event, students may not have toys, games, trading cards, personal sports/playground equipment, or electronic games at school. Anything considered too valuable (or important) to be lost or stolen should be left at home. Children should not be carrying money to school beyond what is needed for lunch. Cell phones brought to school should be off and out of sight.

Permits

Permits expire at the end of each school year. As you know, parents must apply each school year for permits. Any permit may be revoked for any of the reasons stated in Board Policy. Reasons that a permit may be revoked are as follows:

- Continuance would lead to program or enrollment overload.
- Student is excessively tardy or absent from school, or student is brought to school excessively early or left excessively late.
- Student fails to uphold appropriate behavior standards.
- Student fails to make appropriate academic efforts.
- False or misleading information was provided.
- Other conditions that occur that would render continuance inadvisable.
- Reason for the original issuance of the permit by the district of residence is no longer valid. (Inter-District Permit ONLY)

Special Services – Help for Your Child

STUDENT SUCCESS TEAM

The Student Success Team (SST) works to find appropriate assistance for students who need academic, behavioral, social or emotional help. Any student experiencing difficulties in his/her program may be referred to the SST by the teacher or parent. The team (made up of teachers, the principal, and the parents) works to develop appropriate interventions to enhance achievement in the areas of concern.

COUNSELING

Counseling is available to all students. A teacher or parent may refer a student for counseling. A student will not receive ongoing counseling without parent permission.

GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION (GATE) PROGRAM

Guidelines for students to qualify for GATE vary from district to district. In the East Whittier City School District, GATE identification is available for 3rd through 5th graders via testing. Teachers are notified of the GATE students in their classroom and work with them accordingly. We are pleased to offer a

GATE club for our 4th and 5th grade students that have been GATE identified. GATE testing occurs for all 3rd graders (with parent permission) and for 4th and 5th grade students by parent or teacher request.

LEARNING CENTER PROGRAM

Children may be referred by the Student Success Team (SST) and/or parents for special education testing, if they are experiencing learning difficulties that have not been resolved through general education intervention programs. If he/she qualifies for special education, a child will receive assistance in our learning center on the subjects with which he/she is having difficulty. This center provides individual and small group instruction by a certificated teacher and an instructional assistant.

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Children on an IEP will receive individual or small group assistance to improve his/her speech or language development.