



2023-2024

**CUSHING  
LOWER  
ELEMENTARY**

**STUDENT/PARENT**

**HAND  
BOOK**

**CUSHING PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **School Contact Information**

Cushing Lower Elementary  
1601 S Harmony Rd  
Cushing, OK 74023

Principal: Nancy Dowell  
(918) 225-4697

Cushing Public Schools  
1401 N Little Ave  
PO Box 1609  
Cushing, OK 74023

Superintendent: Dr. Melissa Amon  
(918) 225-3425

Website: [cushingtigers.com](http://cushingtigers.com)  
Closing/Information Line: (918) 223-9615

# **DISTRICT INFORMATION**

## **Enrollment Information**

### **New Student Enrollment**

All enrollment is online through our Infinite Campus enrollment portal. Instructions and more specific information are available on our enrollment page found at [www.cushingtigers.com/page/enrollment](http://www.cushingtigers.com/page/enrollment). If you need additional support for enrollment you may contact the District office at (918) 225-3425 or email [enrollment@cushingtigers.com](mailto:enrollment@cushingtigers.com). Office Hours are from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (District offices are closed on Fridays in June and July). New enrollees must present the following information in order to enroll:

1. Student Birth Certificate
2. Student Immunization Record or Signed Exemption Form
3. Proof of Cushing Residency

For more information on enrollment, please visit the enrollment page found at [www.cushingtigers.com/page/enrollment](http://www.cushingtigers.com/page/enrollment)

## **General Information**

### **Infinite Campus Parent Portal**

Cushing Public Schools use Infinite Campus ([bit.ly/cushingparentportal](http://bit.ly/cushingparentportal)) to provide parents with information on account balances, attendance, grades, etc. Parents can access the Infinite Campus Parent Portal by using the username and password they created when activating their Parent Portal. Students can access the Infinite Campus Student Portal through their Google Accounts. If you forget your username or password you can click "Forgot Username" or "Forgot Password" to reset/retrieve the details. If you need to update your email address on file, please contact your child's school office.

### **Visitors**

All visitors to any Cushing Public Schools site are required to check in at our SchoolSafe ID kiosk with a valid State-issued ID. SchoolSafe ID kiosks are located in the main office of all Cushing Public School sites. Visitors will be provided with a visitor's badge while they are in the building. All visitors should check out through the School Safe ID kiosk when leaving. Student visitors are not permitted.

### **Textbooks**

Textbooks are the property of Cushing Public Schools. Students receive textbooks with the understanding they are responsible for them and will take care of them. If a textbook is lost or destroyed, the student is responsible for the replacement cost. Lost textbooks are to be reported to the teacher who issued the textbook. Misplaced textbooks may be found in the lost and found area of the student's school. An additional textbook will not be issued until the school is reimbursed for the lost or destroyed textbook.

## **School Closing due to Weather**

School closings will be posted on all local television stations (channels 4, 5, and 9), broadcast on KUSH radio (1600 AM 101.5 FM), posted on the CPS website ([www.cushingtigers.com](http://www.cushingtigers.com)), and on all CPS social media platforms as soon as the decision to close school has been made. In addition, our automated calling system will call all families with information about school closing. You can also always check the status of Cushing Public Schools by calling our Closing/Emergency Information Line at (918) 223-9615.

**Please make sure your phone number is kept up-to-date in your child's student information.**

## **Media Release Statement**

Please be advised that during the year your child may be photographed, videotaped, or interviewed at various school sponsored events. With your consent, the photograph or interview may be reproduced and released for use in the media, i.e. newspapers, brochures, videos, television, the internet, and Cushing Public Schools websites and social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.

## **Attendance**

The board of education believes that in order for students to realize their fullest potential from educational efforts, they should attend all classes to the extent possible. Realizing that some absences may be beyond a student's control, the board has established a policy requiring students to be in attendance a minimum of 90% in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve, each semester to receive credit for any course in which the student is enrolled. Exceptions to this requirement will be considered by the building principal, on an individual, case by case basis. The superintendent is directed to establish an attendance regulation, subject to Board approval, which supports this policy. (REFERENCE: 70 O.S. § 10-105, § 10-106).

Students not in attendance a minimum of ninety percent (90%) of the time during a semester will receive "No Credit" (NC) as their final grade.

**The "NC" is calculated in the grade point average as an "F".**

Students missing more than 10% of school days of a class during a semester will receive a "NC" for their grade in that class. All absence codes will count against students' attendance requirements with the exception of:

1. School activities. (Per State Regulations)
2. Out of School Suspensions and In-School Suspension Placements
3. Administrative (AD) Any absences of a nature deemed unavoidable by the school principal. When such a condition exists, the student and/or parents must petition in writing prior to or within two (2) days following the student's return to school the building principal to request a waiver of penalty.
4. Administrative (AD) Upon a parent's request to an administrator, a student's absence from school on a recognized religious holiday.
5. Documented (D) Any absence verified with a doctor's note, court order, or funeral memorial card.
6. College Visit (CV) Students will be allowed up to three (3) college visits during their high school career and will need to provide documentation from the college verifying the date of visitation for the absence to be considered non-chargeable. If college visits exceed three (3) visits, the subsequent visits will count against the ninety percent (90%) attendance requirement.

Parents should call in to report that their child will be absent for the day.

Absences without valid excuse: If a student has been absent for four (4) or more days or PARTS of days within a four-week period, without a valid excuse, the parent/guardian of the student is in violation of the Oklahoma Compulsory Education Law.

### **Non-Chargeable Absences**

- Non-chargeable absences will not count against the student's 90% attendance requirement. These absences are coded as: AD, D, CC, SA, NC, ISS, OSS, and CV.

### **Administrative Approval (AD)**

- This code will be given when any absence is deemed unavoidable by an administrator. This code does not charge against the 90% attendance requirement.

### **Documented (D)**

- This code will be given when the absences are verified with a doctor's note, court order, or funeral memorial card. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to deliver the documents to the attendance office. This code does not charge against the 90% attendance requirement.

### **Counselor (C)**

- This code will be given when a student has been seen by one of our school counselors or an outside counselor while at school.

### **Competition (CC)**

- This code will be given when a student represents the school in a school approved activity organization that is sanctioned by the OSSAA. This is a non-chargeable absence in terms of the 90% attendance requirement.

### **School Activity (SA)**

- This code will be used when a student is on a field trip. The "SA" code indicates the student is present. This is a non-chargeable absence in terms of the 90% attendance requirement.

### **Qualifying Event (NC)**

- This code will be given when a student is absent from school for an OSSAA, NASSP, OBA, or other school approved sanctioning organization for interscholastic and other competitive events that are also sanctioned as post-season, state-qualifying events (e.g., OBA State Championship, State Wrestling Tournament, State Academic Team Championship). This absence does not count toward the ten (10) allowed activity absences or the 90% attendance requirement.

### **In-School Suspension (ISS)**

- This code will be given when a student attends school in the In-School Suspension classroom.

### **Suspension (OSS)**

- This code will be given when a student has been suspended out-of-school.

### **Chargeable Absences**

- Chargeable absences will count against the student's attendance requirement. These absences are coded as A, VA, or TR.

### **Verified Absence (VA)**

- This code will be given for a call from a parent verifying knowledge of the student's absence.

### **Truant (TR)**

- Definition of Truant: A student is identified as truant when he/she is absent and neither the parents nor school officials know of his/her whereabouts. Issued when:
  - A student is absent and neither the parents nor school officials have knowledge of his/her whereabouts,
  - Parent fails to notify the school of a student's absence,
  - A student leaves a class on campus without permission from a school official,
  - Student is more than ten (10) minutes late for any period.

It is the responsibility of the parent to notify the school between 7:45 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. if the child is to be absent that day for one of the above reasons. Parents are required to contact the school and provide documentation regarding illnesses, court appearances, first attempts for driver's license, family emergencies or other reasons for student absence. The student must make up all work missed, and, if timely submitted, the district will accept it at full credit. It is the responsibility of the student, on the day of return, to make arrangements to see that the work is made up.

Any student and/or parent of a student who exceeds the 90% attendance rule and feels that he or she has extenuating circumstances that explain the absences that exceed this number may request review by the district's attendance committee. The committee will consist of a building level administrator, two teachers and a counselor. This committee may, at the discretion of the superintendent be the same as the Internal Activities Review Committee ("IARC"). Consideration will be given as to the reason for the absences (such as extended illnesses of the student or immediate family members as documented by a physician, family emergencies or death of an immediate family member) as well as to the attempts by parents to minimize the absenteeism.

## **Chronic Absenteeism**

1. A student will be considered chronically absent if he or she meets both of the following criteria:
  - a. The student was absent from school on at least ten percent (10%) of the days during the current school year on which school was in session at his or her school site and the student was included in the District's average daily membership, and;
  - b. The student enrolled with the District within the first twenty (20) instructional days of the current school year and has not experienced an enrollment gap of ten (10) or more instructional days during the course of the school year.
2. Except as provided in this policy, all student absences, whether such absence is excused or unexcused pursuant to law and/or District policy, shall count toward a student's total absences during the year for the purposes of determining whether the student is chronically absent.
3. A student on an Individualized Education Program ("IEP") or Section 504 plan shall not be deemed absent for purposes of determining whether the student is chronically absent when the student is receiving services outlined in the student's IEP or Section 504 plan in an offsite location.
4. A student is not deemed to be absent for the purposes of determining whether the student is chronically absent on days when that student is receiving homebound educational services from the District.

## **School Activities**

- 1. Students involved in school sponsored activities are limited to ten absences per school year per class period. Ten additional absences may be granted for state and national events as long as the student has earned the right to participate and is participating in the state or national event.
- Students will be allowed to make up any work missed while participating but must make up the work within the period established by the assigned teacher. Reasonable time to make up work missed shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- Absences for the following reasons will not be charged against the ten-absence limit:
  - Activities held on campus, sanctioned by the superintendent;
  - Serving as a Page in the Legislature;
  - On campus visits by college representatives/career technology representatives;
  - College entrance exams;
  - Field trips in conjunction with a unit being taught in an academic class;
  - Students excused to make appearances before local civic groups;
  - Grade level field trips to area technology centers.
- Students must assume responsibility for their absences. Student responsibilities include but are not limited to notifying instructors of an absence, a reasonable time prior to the absence, making arrangements with instructors to make up work, and working cooperatively with teachers and administrators when absences cannot or will not be approved even though a student's request is not otherwise unreasonable.

- Principals will keep or cause to be kept a record of those days or class periods missed by students due to school sponsored activities. These records will be open for inspection by the student, parent or guardian of the students, sponsors, coaches and teachers with a need to know this information.
- Absences that exceed the maximum permitted by this policy and which do not have the written permission of the IARC shall be counted as an unexcused absence in accordance with board policy.

## **Internal Activity Review Committee (for extracurricular Activities)**

The board of education has established an IARC composed of the following positions: the principal or principal's designee, regular classroom teacher (in a core subject), athletic director, coach/sponsor, parent. The individuals who shall serve on this committee shall be appointed annually by the board following a recommendation by the superintendent. The superintendent may suggest additional individuals to serve on the committee but shall not have fewer than 5 individuals recommended to serve on the committee. The committee shall resolve questions regarding excused or unexcused absences related to extracurricular activities using procedures that the committee shall designate which allow for consideration of the district's policy, emphasis on the importance of students attending classes on a regular basis, and an opportunity for the student and student's representatives and school representatives to be fully heard regarding the treatment of and consequence of an absence. The committee shall also be responsible for resolving any dispute regarding whether a student made up his or her work within a reasonable period designated by the instructor or administrator.

Any party who objects to a decision of the IARC may appeal the decision to the board of education by filing an appeal within 5 business days of the IARC's written decision with the clerk of the board of education with a copy of the appeal to the superintendent of Schools.

In addition to the above responsibilities the IARC shall review and recommend to the board policy changes or additions designed to ensure that the district's treatment of school attendance and opportunity for participation in extracurricular activities is consistent with applicable law, school board policies and rules and regulations adopted by the Oklahoma State Board of Education and athletics associations in which the district participates.

The board of education has final authority in deciding if a student's deviation from the ten day or class period rule shall be approved. The board can exercise this authority by conducting a hearing in which all sides shall be heard or can exercise its authority by voting to uphold a decision of the IARC or voting not to reconsider the IARC's decision or findings in a particular matter.

## **Neglect of Refusal to Compel a Child to Attend School**

It shall be unlawful for a parent, guardian, or other person having custody of a child who is over the age of five and under the age of eighteen to neglect or refuse to cause or compel such child to attend or comply with the rules of some public, private or other school. 70 O.S. Section 10-105

## **Tardies (Cushing Middle School and Cushing High School)**

1. A student is tardy who is not in the student's seat when the bell to begin the period sounds.
2. A student who is more than 15 minutes late is counted absent for the period.
3. Three tardies will constitute a chargeable absence from that class.



## **Late Arrival and Early Dismissal (Cushing Lower & Upper Elementary)**

1. Students who arrive at school after the start of the school day, but before 10:20 a.m. will be considered Late Arrivals.
2. Students who check out of school before the end of the school day, but after 2:00 p.m. will be considered Early Dismissals.
3. Students must have attended school for a minimum of 120 minutes to be credited with a partial day's attendance.
4. Any combination of three (3) Late Arrivals or Early Dismissals will be counted as an absence toward the student's absence limit for the year.
  - a. Chronic Late Arrivals or Early Dismissals due to the parent's failure to compel their child to attend or stay in school may be subject to the terms of the Oklahoma Compulsory Attendance Law and referred to the City Attorney.

## **Extended Illness**

When student absences are due to extended or repeated illness, parents may need to meet with the building principal and/or other school personnel to provide documentation to excuse the absences, determine possible causes, and explore the need for remedial health and/or educational programs for the student, including 504 education plan, homebound instruction, or other interventions deemed appropriate.

## **Makeup Work**

Each student will have one day for each day absent to make up work beginning with the second day of return to school. More time may be allowed at the discretion of the teacher, depending on the nature of the assignment(s) and the length of the absence. No penalty shall be assessed against work made up for excused absences. Students absent at the time a test is announced shall have the same number of days to make up the test as the number of days missed unless additional time is granted by the teacher. Students who are in attendance when the test is announced will be responsible for taking the test when returning unless the teacher grants additional time.

Any exception to this procedure shall be limited to those exceptions made by the classroom teacher and the building principal.

## **Truancy**

Truancy is defined as being absent from school one or more class periods without the knowledge or approval of either the school or the parent and/or if the parent does not compel the student to attend school.

Students who are truant shall not have the opportunity to make up any of the work missed. If students are truant in one or more classes, they will not receive credit for the work given for the classes missed and will receive a zero (0). The procedure shall also be in effect on semester (secondary) and nine weeks (elementary) test days.

If students are absent without a valid excuse four (4) or more days or parts of days within a four-week period or ten (10) days within a semester, they are truant. The principal or their designee shall notify the parent, guardian, or custodian of the student and immediately report the absences to the county



district attorney and/or the Cushing City Attorney for juvenile proceedings pursuant to Title 10 of the Oklahoma statute.

## **Automated Calling System**

Cushing Public Schools utilizes an automated calling system that will contact parents/guardians for the following:

1. Absent Unexcused during the school day
2. Important school announcements
3. School Cancellations
4. Emergency situations at school

**Because this calling system uses the phone numbers we have in our student information system, it is important you inform your child's school office of any changes in contact information.** Automated calls are typically made at 12:00 p.m. for secondary morning attendance and 5:30 p.m. for secondary afternoon attendance and elementary daily attendance.

## **Technology**

This handbook contains a general overview of all Cushing Public School's technology policies. Students are expected to comply with all policies adopted by the Cushing Board of Education. For complete text of all policies, consult the Cushing Board of Education Policy Book: Section 12 - Technology.

### **Internet Acceptable Use (All Students)**

Students agree to access material in furtherance of educational goals for personal leisure and recreational use which does not otherwise violate this policy. No student may make an electronic or digital communication which disrupts the educational environment - even if that communication is made outside of school or on personal equipment. Types of electronic or digital communications which can disrupt the educational environment include, but are not limited to:

- Sexting
- Harassing, intimidating, threatening, or bullying posts, tweets, blogs, images, texts, etc.
- Distributing pictures, recordings, or information which is harmful or embarrassing

Students who engage in electronic or digital communications which disrupt the educational environment are subject to disciplinary action, including the possible suspension from school. Depending on the nature of the electronic or digital communication, students may also be subject to civil and/or criminal penalties.

All users specifically agree they will not use the internet to access material which is: threatening, indecent, lewd, obscene, or protected by trade secrets. Users further agree they will not use the District's electronic resources for commercial activities, charitable endeavors (without prior written administrative approval), product advertisement, or political lobbying.

The District's electronic resources, including internet access, are a privilege which can be revoked at any time for misuse. Prior to receiving internet access, all users may be required to complete an internet training program administered by the District.

Internet Etiquette: All users are required to comply with generally accepted standards for electronic or digital communications including:

1. Appropriate Language: Users must refrain from the use of abusive, discriminatory, vulgar, lewd, or profane language in their electronic or digital communications.
2. Content: Users must refrain from the use of hostile, threatening, discriminatory, intimidating, or bullying content in their electronic or digital communications.
3. Safety: Students must not include personal contact information (name, address, phone number, banking numbers, etc.) in their electronic or digital communication. Students must never agree to meet with someone they met online and must report any electronic or digital communication which makes them uncomfortable to their teacher or principal.
4. Privacy: users understand that the District has access to and can read all electronic or digital communications created and received with District resources. Users agree they will not use any District resources to create or receive any electronic or digital communications which they want to be private.
5. System Resources: Users agree to use the District's electronic resources carefully so as to not damage them or impede others' use of the District's resources. Users will not:
  - a. Install any hardware, software, program or app without approval from the IT Department
  - b. Download large files during peak usage hours
  - c. Disable security features
  - d. Create or run a program known or intended to be malicious
  - e. Stream music or videos for personal entertainment
6. Intellectual Property or Copyrights: Users will respect others' works by giving proper credit and not plagiarizing, even websites designed for educational and classroom purposes. Users agree to ask Media Center Director for assistance in citing sources as needed.

## **Chromebooks (Grades 1-12)**

Students are responsible for the general care of the District-owned Chromebook. Chromebooks that are broken, or fail to work properly must be immediately reported to a classroom teacher or school office as soon as possible. If a spare Chromebook is necessary, one may be issued to the student until their Chromebook can be repaired (subject to availability). Students may be selected at random by teachers or administrators to provide their Chromebook for inspection for damage or misuse.

### General Care and Precautions

- Chromebook battery must be fully charged before the start of each school day
- Vents are not to be obscured
- Cords, cables, and removable devices must be carefully inserted into the Chromebook
- Chromebooks should be kept away from food and drinks
- Do not bump the Chromebook into or against lockers, walls, floors, etc.
- Chromebooks must never be left in an unsupervised area. Unsupervised areas include, but are not limited to school grounds, cafeteria, bathrooms, computer labs, library, unlocked classrooms, and hallways. If a Chromebook is found in an unsupervised area, it should immediately be returned to the school office.

## Chromebook Repairs

- Any Chromebook which is damaged or fails to work properly must be taken immediately to a classroom teacher or the school office. This includes, but is not limited to Chrome OS, battery issues, loss of internet connectivity, failure of apps to launch, etc.
- If deemed necessary, a replacement will be issued if one is available.
- The Technology Department will document the issue and collect the device for repair
- If a repair is required as a result of abusive handling or negligence, there may be a fee for any necessary repairs, not to exceed the cost of the Chromebook per incident
- The school may refuse to provide a loaner or reissue a Chromebook in certain circumstances.

## Student Email (Grades 2-12)

- All student electronic mail (email) accounts are property of Cushing Public Schools. Email activities must comply with all Cushing Public Schools policies. The user accepts all responsibility to understand the policy. Each user is responsible for his or her own communication and the consequences thereof.
- Student email use for upper elementary and middle school students is limited to only the Cushing Public Schools domain and/or other approved educational domains.
- Student email use for high school students is not restricted as high school students may have a need to email outside the Cushing Public Schools domain for educational purposes such as college and scholarship applications.
- Student email accounts should not be used for personal communications, they are intended for academic use only.
- The student's account will be removed from the system after graduation, leaving the school district, or any infraction of this or other Cushing Public Schools policy.
- Use of the district's email system is a privilege. If necessary, Cushing Public Schools may close accounts at any time.
- Intentional distribution of viruses, worms, defects, Trojan horses, corrupted files, hoaxes, or any other items of a destructive or deceptive nature is strictly prohibited.
- Use of the district's email system will align with the school's code of conduct and the code will be used for disciplinary purposes. Communication through the district's email system will exhibit common sense and civility. It will abide by the district's acceptable use policy. Students are responsible for messages sent from their accounts. Students should never share their passwords.
- Messages posted on the district's email system cannot cause disruption to the school environment or normal and acceptable school operations.
- Students will report any unusual activities such as "spam" communications, obscene email, attempts by adults to lure them into dangerous behaviors, or any other inappropriate communications. Students should not forward chain letters, jokes, or any other non-educational materials.
- Email sent or received by the district system is not confidential. Although Cushing Public Schools does not make a practice of monitoring electronic mail, the administration reserves the right to retrieve the content of user mailboxes for legitimate reasons such as to find lost messages, to conduct internal investigations, and to comply with investigations of wrongful acts or to recover from system failure.

# **Bullying/Harassment**

This policy is a result of the legislative mandate and public policy embodied in the School Bullying Protection Act, 70 O.S. § 24-100.2 et seq. ("Act"). The district intends to comply with the mandates of the Act and expects students to refrain from bullying. Bullying is expressly forbidden and students who bully are subject to disciplinary consequences as outlined in the district's policy on student behavior. Bullies may also be provided with assistance to end their unacceptable behavior, and targets of bullies may be provided with assistance to overcome the negative effects of bullying.

## **Bullying/Harassment**

It is the policy of this school district that harassment of students by other students, personnel, or the public will not be tolerated. This policy is in effect while the students are on school grounds, in transportation, or attending school-sponsored activities, and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management, and welfare of the school district. Bullying/harassment of students by electronic communication is prohibited whether or not such communication originated at school or with school equipment, if the communication is specifically directed at students or school personnel and concerns harassment, intimidation, or bullying at school.

Harassment is intimidation by threats of or actual physical violence; the creation by whatever means of a climate of hostility or intimidation; or the use of language, conduct, or symbols in such manner as to be commonly understood to convey hatred, contempt, or prejudice or to have the effect of insulting or stigmatizing an individual. Harassment includes but is not limited to harassment on the basis of race, sex, creed, national origin, religion, marital status, or disability.

As used in the School Safety and Bullying Prevention Act, "bullying" means any pattern of harassment, intimidation, threatening behavior, physical acts, verbal or electronic communication directed toward a student or group of students that results in or is reasonably perceived as being done with the intent to cause negative educational or physical results for the targeted individual or group and is communicated in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school's educational mission or the education of any student. Such behavior is specifically prohibited.

The "Reasonable Person" Standard – In determining what a "reasonable person" should recognize as bullying, staff will consider the point of view of the intended target, including any characteristics unique to the intended target. Staff may also consider the discipline history and physical characteristics of the alleged bully.

## **Bullying/Harassment**

1. Physical Bullying – includes harm or threatened harm to another’s body or property, including but not limited to threats, tripping, hitting, pushing, pinching, pulling hair, kicking, biting, starting fights, daring other to fight, stealing or destroying property, extortion, assaults with a deadly weapon, other violent acts and homicide.
2. Emotional Bullying – includes the intentional infliction of harm to another’s self-esteem, including but not limited to insulting or profane remarks or gestures, or harassing and frightening statement.
3. Social Bullying – includes harm to another’s group acceptance, including but not limited to gossiping; spreading negative rumors to cause a targeted person to be socially excluded, ridiculed, or otherwise lose status; acts designed to publicly embarrass a targeted person, damage the target’s current relationships, or deprive the target of self-confidence or the respect of peers.
4. Sexual Bullying – includes harm of a sexual nature, including but not limited to making unwelcome sexual comments or gestures to or about the targeted person; creating or distributing vulgar, profane, or lewd words or images about the target; committing a sexual act at school, including touching private parts of the target’s body; engaging in off-campus dating violence that adversely affects the target’s education opportunities; making threatening sexual statements directed at or about the target; or gossiping about the target’s sexuality or sex life. Such conduct may also constitute sexual harassment which is prohibited by the district.

## **Student Reporting**

Students are encouraged to inform school personnel if they are the target of or a witness to bullying. To make a report, students should notify a teacher, counselor, or principal. The employee will give the student an official report form, and will help the student complete the form, if needed.

Students may make an anonymous report of bullying, and such report will be investigated as thoroughly as possible. However, it is often difficult to fully investigate claims which are made anonymously and disciplinary action cannot be taken against a bully solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

Staff members will encourage students to report bullying. All employees are required to report acts of bullying to the school principal on an official report form. Any staff member who witnesses, hears about, or suspects bullying is required to submit a report.

## **Bullying Investigators**

Each school site will have a designated individual and an alternate to investigate bullying reports. These individuals will be identified in the site’s student and staff handbooks, on the district’s website, and in the bullying prevention education provided annually to students and staff. The district’s anti-bullying program is coordinated at the district level by its bullying coordinator, the Superintendent.

## **Investigating Bullying Reports**

For any alleged incidents of bullying reported to school officials, the designated school official will investigate the alleged incident(s) and determine (i) whether bullying occurred, (ii) the severity of the incident(s), (iii) the potential for future violence and (iv) the reason for the actual or perceived bullying.

## **Parental Notification**

The assigned investigator will notify the parents of a target within one (1) school day that a bullying report has been received. Within one (1) school day of the conclusion of the investigation, the investigator will provide the parents of a target with the results of the investigation and any community resources deemed appropriate to the situation.

If the report of bullying is substantiated, within one (1) school day of the conclusion of the investigation, the investigator will contact the parents of the bully to discuss disciplinary action and any community resources deemed appropriate to the situation.

The timelines in this parental notification section may be reasonably extended if individual circumstances warrant such an extension.

## **Parental Responsibilities**

All parents/guardians will be informed in writing of the district's program to stop bullying and will be given a copy of this policy upon request. An administrative response to a reported act of bullying may involve certain actions to be taken by parents. Parents will be informed of the program and the means for students to report bullying acts toward them or other students. They will also be told that to help prevent bullying at school they should encourage their children to:

- Report bullying when it occurs
- Take advantage of opportunities to talk to their children about bullying
- Inform the school immediately if they think their child is being bullied or is bullying other students
- Watch for symptoms that their child may be a target of bullying and report those symptoms
- Cooperate fully with school personnel in identifying and resolving incidents

## **Monitoring and Compliance**

In order to assist the State Department of Education with compliance efforts pursuant to the School Safety and Bullying Prevention Act, 70 OKLA. STAT. § 24-100.2 et seq., the district will identify a Bullying Coordinator who will serve as the district contact responsible for providing information to the State Board of Education. The Bullying Coordinator shall maintain updated contact information on file with the State Department of Education and the school district will notify the State Department of Education within fifteen (15) days of the appointment of a new Bullying Coordinator.

A copy of this policy will be submitted to the State Department of Education by December 10th of each school year as part of the school district's Annual Performance Report.

**A full copy of the District's bullying policy can be found on the Compliance/Transparency page of our website at [www.cushingtigers.com/page/compliance](http://www.cushingtigers.com/page/compliance)**

# Cyberbullying (All Students)

People can be bullied in lots of ways, including through cyberbullying. Cyberbullying occurs when someone sends or posts things (words, pictures, recordings, etc.) that are mean, embarrassing or makes people feel scared, embarrassed, or uncomfortable. Even if they don't do this at school sometimes cyberbullying makes things at school hard. No student is allowed to disrupt school through cyberbullying.

Cyberbullies work in lots of ways, but here are some of their most common:

- Send or post mean messages
- Make up websites or accounts with stories, cartoons, pictures, or "jokes" that are mean to others
- Take embarrassing pictures or recordings (without proper consent)
- Send or post things to embarrass others
- Hack into other's accounts and read messages/posts
- Hack into other's accounts to send or post private or privileged information
- Impersonate another to gather private information of someone else
- Send threats

If someone is cyberbullying you, there's something you can do about it:

- Don't respond to and don't ignore a cyber-bully. Instead, tell a trusted adult. If cyberbullying follows you to school, tell a teacher, counselor, or principal
- Even if what the bully does is embarrassing, don't delete it. Instead, get a copy so you can prove what happened
- Have an adult help you contact a company representative (cell phone company, Yahoo, Facebook, Twitter, Google, etc.) about blocking or removing the bullying items

You can't always stop people from being mean, but there are ways to help yourself:

- Don't give out your personal information in electronic or digital communications.
- Don't tell anyone except your parents your login name, email address, password, or PIN number.
- Don't post or send embarrassing pictures or recordings (even on your own sites) – bullies love to copy your postings.

Suggestions for Parents:

- Help your child understand how permanent electronic and digital communications are.
- Talk to your child about understanding, preventing, and responding to cyberbullying.
- Contact your student's school for help if you suspect your child is being cyberbullied – or if you suspect your child is engaging in cyberbullying.

It shall be the policy of this district that cyberbullying will not be tolerated under any circumstances. A student caught violating this policy will lose all district technology resource privileges and these actions may result in further disciplinary actions including possible suspension or expulsion from school of the student(s) involved. In addition, violators and their parents/guardians may be subject to civil and/or criminal penalties specified by Oklahoma and/or federal law.



# **DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION**

The school district is committed to providing all students and employees with a safe and respectful school environment. Both state and federal law specifically prohibit harassment of or by employees and students in connection with the district.

The district prohibits discrimination, harassment, or retaliation based on real or perceived race, color, sex, pregnancy, gender, gender identity or expression, national origin, religion, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, or genetic information. This prohibition applies to students, employees, and board members in any aspect of the district's programs, including during school hours, extracurricular activities, school-sponsored events, or outside of school hours if the conduct affects the education or working environment.

"Discrimination" means unfair treatment which is based on a person's real or perceived race, color, sex, pregnancy, gender, gender identity or expression, national origin, religion, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, or genetic information.

Examples of discrimination include, but are not limited to: Refusing to consider a person for a position or declining to enroll a student in a program based on legally discriminatory factors. Harassment can be a specific form of legally prohibited discrimination.

"Harassment" means repetitive, unwelcome conduct which is based on a person's real or perceived race, color, sex, pregnancy, gender, gender identity or expression, national origin, religion, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, or genetic information.

Examples of harassment include, but are not limited to: slurs, epithets, insults, jokes or derogatory comments; verbal or physical abuse; intimidation (physical, verbal or psychological); impeding or blocking a person's movement; unwelcome touching, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics, pressure for sexual activity whether written, verbal or through physical gestures, display or sending of pornographic pictures or objects, obscene graffiti, and spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities. Demeaning comments about a student's ability to excel in a class historically considered a "boy's" or a "girl's" subject may also constitute harassment.

"Sexual harassment" is a type of harassment which includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature which:

- is made an explicit or implicit term or condition of an employee's employment or a student's ability to obtain an education; or
- is used as a basis for decisions impacting either an employee's employment or a student's education; or
- has the purpose or effect of unreasonably or substantially interfering with an employee's work performance or a student's educational performance, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

In order to constitute sexual harassment, the conduct at issue must be unwelcome. Sexual conduct between minor students and employees will always be considered unwelcome. Sexual harassment also includes conduct such as rape, sexual assault, stalking, and any other form of sexual violence.

Sexual harassment may occur between persons of the same gender or sex.

Nothing in this policy precludes legitimate, nonsexual physical contact to avoid physical harm to persons or property.

## **Reporting**

Students who have been harassed or discriminated against, or who witness such conduct, are encouraged to report the offensive conduct to any teacher, counselor, administrator, or board member.

Employees who witness, suspect, or receive a report of harassment or discrimination must immediately report the incident to the superintendent or a board member – even if that report must be made after hours to the Superintendent or Board Members home or cell phone.

Any employee who receives a harassment, discrimination, or retaliation report will immediately refer the matter to the superintendent or the Title IX coordinator, unless the superintendent or Title IX coordinator is the alleged malfeasant. In such circumstances, the complaint will be referred to the Board President or the District's legal counsel. To ensure impartiality, no person who is the subject of a complaint shall conduct any investigation into the improper conduct.

If possible, reports should be made in person and/or in writing, and be signed by the reporting party. However, in order to encourage full, complete and immediate reporting, any person may report such incidents anonymously in writing by mailing the report to the personal attention of either the superintendent or a board member. All reports should state:

- The name of the alleged harasser
- The person(s) being harassed
- The nature, context, and extent of the prohibited activity
- The dates of the prohibited activity
- Any other information necessary to a full report and investigation of the matter

Title IX Coordinator: Dusty Hancock, CMS Assistant Principal, [dusty.hancock@cushingtigers.com](mailto:dusty.hancock@cushingtigers.com), (918)225-1311.

# Prohibition on Race and Sex Discrimination in Curriculum and Instruction

The district does not engage in and prohibits discrimination on the basis of race or sex in the form of bias, stereotyping, scapegoating, classification, or the categorical assignment of traits, morals, values, or characteristics based solely on race or sex. The district does not and shall not engage in race or sex-based discriminatory acts through utilizing these methods which can result in treating individuals differently on the basis of race or sex or can result in the creation of a hostile environment.

As an accredited State of Oklahoma public school, the district is required to teach students history, social studies, English language arts, biology, and other subject matter areas consistent with the Oklahoma Academic Standards as adopted and approved by the State Board of Education and Oklahoma Legislature. In the performance of this obligation, no teacher, administrator, or other employee of the district shall require, or make part of a course, the following concepts or principles (the "Prohibited Concepts"):

- One race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex.
- An individual, by virtue of his or her sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously.
- An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of his or her race or sex.
- Members of one race or sex cannot and should not attempt to treat others without respect due to race or sex.
- An individual's moral character is necessarily determined by his or her race or sex.
- An individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex.
- An individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account of his or her race or sex.
- Meritocracy or traits, such as a hard work ethic, (a) are racist or sexist, or (b) were created by members of a particular race to oppress members of another race.

Importantly, none of the Prohibited Concepts shall prevent the teaching of principles that align to the Oklahoma Academic Standards.

# **Prohibition on Race and Sex Discrimination in Curriculum and Instruction**

## **Reporting and Complaint Procedure**

Any parent, student, teacher, district employee, or member of the public may file a Complaint alleging a violation of this Policy, which addresses the provisions of OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 24-157, and regulations regarding it adopted by the State Department of Education.

To be accepted for investigation, the Complaint must:

1. be submitted in writing;
2. be dated;
3. contain the handwritten or electronic signature of the complainant;
4. identify the date(s) the alleged discriminatory act occurred; and
5. explain the alleged violation(s) / discriminatory conduct and how Section 24-157 or an administrative regulation thereto has been violated.

While not mandatory, a complainant is encouraged to also identify witnesses to the alleged violation(s) / discriminatory conduct so that such witness(es) can be interviewed by the district.

The district has designated the following individual(s) to receive reports of alleged violation(s) / discriminatory conduct (referred to as the Section 24-157 Coordinator”):

Dr. Melissa Amon  
Lead Sec. 24-157 Coordinator  
Superintendent  
Cushing Public Schools  
1401 N. Little Ave.  
Cushing, OK 74023  
918-225-3425  
Melissa.amon@cushingtigers.com

Mike Wayland  
Deputy Sec. 24-157 Coordinator  
Assistant Superintendent  
Cushing Public Schools  
1401 N. Little Ave.  
Cushing, OK 74023  
918-225-3425  
Mike.wayland@cushingtigers.com

# **Student Health**

## **Medication: Administering to Students**

It is the policy of the Cushing Board of Education that if a student is required to take medication during school hours and the parent or guardian cannot be at school to administer the medication or if circumstances exist that indicate it is in the best interest of the student that a non-prescribed medication be dispensed to that student, the principal, or the principal's designee may administer the medication only as follows:

1. Prescription medication must be in a container that indicates the follow:
  - a. Student's name
  - b. Name and strength of medication
  - c. Dosage and directions for administration
  - d. Name of physician or dentist
  - e. Date and name of pharmacy
  - f. Whether the child has asthma or another disability which may require immediate dispensation of medication.

The medication must be delivered to the principal's office in person by the parent or guardian of the student unless the medication must be retained by the student for immediate self-administration. The medication will be accompanied by written authorization from the parent for administration at school. Full text of this policy can be found in the Cushing Public School Board of Education Policy Book, policy FFACA.

## **Head Lice**

The Oklahoma State Health Department considers head lice contagious and students will be sent home and will not be readmitted until the provisions of Board Policy Section 3 are followed. Specifically, the student must have a clearance note from the Health Department or doctor and must be nit free.

## **Illness at School**

If a student becomes ill at school, he/she should tell their teacher. The student's temperature will be taken in the office. If the child has a fever, a parent/guardian will be contacted. If there is no fever, the student will rest in the office and if there is no improvement a parent/guardian will be contacted.

## **Injury at School**

If a student is injured at school, we attend to minor incidents. If it is apparent that medical attention is needed, we will attempt to contact a parent/guardian. If a parent/guardian cannot be located in an emergency situation, we will use the emergency medical form to seek immediate medical attention.

## **Diabetic Students**

Diabetic students should have a Diabetic Medical Emergency Plan on file with the school office. Please contact your child's school office to request the appropriate paper work.

## Information about Meningococcal Disease and Vaccines

Meningococcal disease is a rare but sometimes fatal disease caused by a bacterium. The disease causes either meningitis, severe swelling of the brain and spinal cord, or meningococemia, a serious infection of the blood. Teenagers and young adults, aged 15 to 22 years, are at increased risk because of behaviors that spread the disease. On average two to three people in this age group get meningococcal disease every year in Oklahoma. More than half of these could be prevented by vaccine. For more information contact your healthcare provider or local county health department or visit these websites:

National Meningitis Association at [www.nmaus.org](http://www.nmaus.org)

Immunization Action Coalition at [www.vaccineinformation.org/menin/index.ast](http://www.vaccineinformation.org/menin/index.ast)

Institute for Vaccine Safety, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health at [www.vaccinesafety.edu/cc-mening.htm](http://www.vaccinesafety.edu/cc-mening.htm)

## Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, and E-Cigarettes (Vapes)

The use or possession of illicit drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and E-Cigarettes (Vapes) is unlawful and potentially harmful to all Cushing Public School students. Students are prohibited from the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, or any paraphernalia for use of these substances (including lighters) on school premises or as a part of any of its activities. The school will not tolerate the use or possession of prohibited drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, or paraphernalia by any of its students. Any student apprehended using or in possession of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, or paraphernalia **will be subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension, and notification to the ABLÉ commission (which may include a monetary fine), and/or police involvement.**

## Medical Marijuana, Hemp, and Cannabidiol (CBD)

Regardless of a student, employee, parent or any individual's status as a medical marijuana license holder, marijuana is not allowed on the premises of the district or in any school vehicle or in any personal vehicle transporting a student under any circumstances. While the use of medical marijuana in conjunction with the possession of a medical marijuana license is legal in the State of Oklahoma, marijuana is a prohibited controlled substance under federal law regardless of the use being for medical purposes. Accordingly, possession of marijuana by a student, employee, parent or any individual, notwithstanding the possession of a medical marijuana license, is strictly prohibited while on the premises of the district and in school vehicles; going to and from and attending district sponsored functions, events, and athletic activities, including those district sponsored functions, events and/or athletic activities which occur in a location other than the premises of the district; utilizing district equipment or transportation; and in any other instance in connection with the district where the district reasonably deems the possession of marijuana to be illegal.

In the event that a student, employee, parent or any individual is found to possess or to have possessed marijuana in any of the instances stated above, the district will proceed with all actions and consequences that are afforded to the district under any state or federal law, employment contract, district policy, student handbook provision, or any other authority applicable to or adopted by the district.

## Student Searches

The superintendent, principal, teacher, or security personnel of any public school in the State of Oklahoma, upon reasonable suspicion, shall have the authority to detain and search or authorize the search, of any pupil or property in the possession of the pupil when said pupil is on any school premises, or while in transit under the authority of the school, or while attending any function sponsored or authorized by the school, for dangerous weapons, controlled dangerous substances, as defined in the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act, intoxicating beverages, low-point beer, as defined by Section 163.2 of Title 37 of the Oklahoma Statutes, for missing or stolen property if said property be reasonably suspected to have been taken from a pupil, a school employee or the school during school activities. The search shall be conducted by a person of the same sex as the person being searched and shall be witnessed by at least one other authorized person, said person to be of the same sex if practicable. 70 O.S. Section 24-102

## Searches of School Property

Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in school lockers, desks or any other school property- without notice or reason.

# School Nutrition

## School Meal Program

Cushing Public Schools participates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast program. Nutritious meals are served every school day.

School Site	Full Price Breakfast	Reduced Breakfast	Full Price Lunch	Reduced Lunch
CPK	\$1.50	\$0.30	\$2.25	\$0.40
CLE	\$1.50	\$0.30	\$2.25	\$0.40
CUE	\$1.50	\$0.30	\$2.25	\$0.40
CMS	\$1.50	\$0.30	\$2.50	\$0.40
CHS	\$1.50	\$0.30	\$2.50	\$0.40

Adult breakfast at all sites are \$2.30 and adult lunches at all sites are \$4.85.



Children from households whose income falls within the federal income guidelines are eligible for free meals or reduced-price meals for both lunch and breakfast. Free and reduced lunch forms are available to students in the office at any time.

Cushing Public Schools offers a breakfast and lunch program at all school sites. Meals may be purchased by placing money on your child's lunch account. Only when the student eats will money be deducted from the account. All cafeteria payments will be made in the office at your child's school or by credit card via Infinite Campus. Reminders will be sent home with students when the account is running low. Lunch money will be collected on the first day of school for the student's initial payment. Students at Cushing Public Schools use lunch cards to get a cafeteria tray at CPK, CLE, and CUE and enter Student ID numbers at CMS and CHS for charging their tray. Contact the main office of your child's school for any questions regarding cafeteria accounts.

## **Meal Charge Policy**

The Cushing Public School district will implement the following policies for collections of delinquent meal charges.

It is the practice of Cushing Schools to collect meal payment before a school meal is purchased by a student, student guest, or adult. Payments are made at the school site office of the attending school. Meal payment is preferred to be made before school but may also be made at the point of purchase.

### **Lunch payments can be made online through Infinite Campus.**

Meal payment reminders will be issued by school sites as the meal account approaches overdraft limits. Meal reminders will be sent home with the students and/or by email.

It is the practice of this school district to allow meal recipients to charge one day in meal costs to their account without having funds deposited to their child nutrition account. On the next occasion, the recipient will receive an alternative meal. This means the meal will consist of the main entree plus milk.

Cushing Public Schools will actively pursue the collections of past-due meal account.

### **School Food Authority Policy – Indebtedness Policy**

- It is the goal of the School Food Authority that all meals shall be paid in advance of receiving the service.
- The point in time when a student shall be denied food services will occur after a \$4.00 indebtedness limited is incurred to the local School Food Authority.
- Any student not receiving food services shall be entitled to a milk and a cheese sandwich until payment for past services is rendered.
- All guests of the school cafeteria are to prepay before receiving food services from the local School Food Authority.
- The employees of Cushing Public Schools are to prepay before receiving food services from the local School Food Authority.

## Child Nutrition Accounts Refund Policy

The Cushing Public School district will implement the following refund policy/procedures for prepayment of student meals:

1. Refunds will be made upon written request for students with a balance in their prepayment child nutrition meal account. The refund request will be presented to the school board for approval, and after approval, the refund will be forwarded to the main office.
2. A notice will be sent before the end of the school year to every parent/guardian with a balance in their prepayment child nutrition account. This notice will include the student's current prepayment child nutrition meal balance.
3. Any balance in a student's child nutrition meal account will be carried over and will be applied to the student's child nutrition meal account in the next fiscal school year if a written request for a refund is not received.
4. When a student leaves the school district without requesting a refund, any balance below ten (10) dollars will be considered a donation to the non-profit food service account. If the student's child nutrition balance is ten (10) dollars or more, the cafeteria secretary will submit a written request for a refund, and upon school board approval, the refund will be forwarded to the last known address of the student. If the envelope is returned unopened, the money will be treated as a donation to the non-profit food service account.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's

TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## **District-Wide Parental Involvement (Parents' Bill of Rights)**

The board supports parents' efforts to be involved in the District's education programs. This policy outlines the district's efforts to educate parents and support parent involvement in response to the 2014 Parents' Bill of Rights.

Parents have the right be involved in their minor child's education, including directing that education. Parents are encouraged to exercise their rights in conjunction with district guidance so as not to inadvertently impede their minor child's compliance with federal and state-mandated requirements – including requirements related to graduation. Parents also have the right to review school records related to their minor child.

Parents generally have the right to consent prior to an audio or video recording being made of their minor child. This right does not preempt the district's right to make recordings (without specific parental approval) related to:

- safety, general order and discipline
- academic or extracurricular activities
- classroom instruction
- security/surveillance of the buildings or grounds
- photo ID cards

Parents have the right to receive prompt notice if their minor child is believed to be the victim of a crime perpetrated by someone other than the parent, unless law enforcement or DHS officials have determined that parental notification would impede the related investigation. These notice provisions do not apply to matters which involve routine misconduct typically addressed through student discipline procedures.

School personnel will not attempt to encourage or coerce a child to withhold information from parents.

1. The district will promote parent participation at the site level with the goal of improving parent and teacher cooperation in areas such as homework, attendance and discipline. This will be accomplished through activities such as:
  - A. Parent teacher conference
  - B. Back to school/meet the teacher nights
  - C. District sponsored webpages with class information available to parents
  - D. School newsletters
2. The district will inform parents about their children's course of study by disseminating this information:
  - A. During annual enrollment
  - B. In student handbooks
  - C. On the district's webpage

Parents may review learning materials affecting their minor children's course of study, including supplemental materials, by making a request through the building principal.

3. Parents who object to a learning material or activity may withdraw their minor child from the class or program in which the material is used. In order to withdraw a student, the parent must submit a written request, signed and dated by a parent, to the building principal. Parents who choose to withdraw their minor child from a required class are responsible for making alternate arrangements for the child to earn credit for the class.
4. The district does not offer sex education programs at this time, but in the event future classes are offered parents who object to their minor child participating in the district's sex education program must submit a written notice, signed and dated by a parent, to the principal in order for their child to be excused from participation. Students who are not participating in the district's sex education program will be permitted to study in the school library or office during sex education instruction.
5. If a teacher is going to provide instruction or presentations regarding sexuality in a course apart from formal sex education, the teacher will send written notice home to parents three (3) days in advance of the presentation. Parents who object to their minor child's participation in such instruction may send a written request to the building principal to have the student excused from the presentation. Any such student will be permitted to study in the school library or office during the presentation.
6. Parents may learn about the nature and purpose of clubs and activities which are part of the school curriculum by reviewing student handbooks and the district's website. The district's extracurricular clubs and activities are also published in student handbooks, the district's policy manual.
7. Parents have numerous rights and decision-making responsibilities concerning their minor children. To assist parents in meeting these responsibilities and to fulfill its obligations under the 2014 Parent Bill of Rights, the district has compiled the following information for parents:
  - A. The district does not currently provide sex education to students. If sex education is offered in the future, parents may opt their student out of the district's sponsored sex education program by following the procedures established in item 4 above.
  - B. Parents who are not residents of the district may enroll their minor children in the district's schools in accordance with the district's open transfer policy. A copy of that policy is available in the superintendent's office.
  - C. The district utilizes a number of resources to educate students. Parents who object to an assignment based on sex, morality or religion may opt their minor child out of the assignment by following the procedures established in item 3 above.
  - D. Students are generally required to receive a predetermined set of immunizations prior to enrolling in school and to receive additional boosters throughout enrollment in the district. This requirement may be waived if the parent submits a note from the minor child's physician stating that the child should be excused from the immunization for health reasons or if the parent submits a note objecting to the immunization of the child.
  - E. Students are required to meet certain obligations in order to be promoted to a subsequent grade, particularly with regard to learning to read. Parents can learn about these requirements – including efforts the district will take in order to help students become successful readers – by reviewing the district's policies on Reading Sufficiency Act testing, and student promotion. Copies of these policies are available in the Superintendent's office.

- F. Students are required to meet certain obligations in order to graduate from high school. Parents can learn about these requirements each year during course enrollment. This information is also available in student handbook and on the Oklahoma State Department of Education's website ([www.ok.gov/sde/](http://www.ok.gov/sde/)).
- G. The district provides AIDS education for students in grades 8 and 11. Parents may opt their minor student out of this education by submitting a written request, signed and dated by a parent, to the building principal. Students who are not participating in the district's AIDS education program will be permitted to study in the school library or office during the scheduled instruction.
- H. Parents have the right to review student test results related to their minor student. Parents may review the results of classroom exams by contacting their child's teacher. Parents may review the results of state-wide testing by contacting their child's building principal.
- I. Qualifying students have the right to participate in the district's gifted and talented program in accordance with the district's policy regarding the program. A copy of the policy is available through the superintendent's office.
- J. Parents have the right to review teachers' manuals, films, tapes or other supplementary instructional material if the materials are being used in connection with a research or experimentation program or project. In order to review these materials, the parent should contact the building principal.
- K. Parents have the right to receive a school report card. Information regarding these report cards will be provided through school publications, but a copy of the actual report card is available in the superintendent's office.
- L. Students are required to attend school regularly, and the district is required to notify parents of any student absence unless the parent has already contacted the school to report the absence. The district will send a written notice to parents if their minor student appears to be in danger of exceeding the maximum allowable number of absences and will notify the district attorney and the parent if a child may be considered truant. Parents may contact the child's principal for additional information regarding student absences.
- M. Parents have the right to review the district's courses of study and textbooks. Arrangements for this review can be made through the building principal.
- N. Students may be excused from school for religious purposes provided the parent contacts the building principal to request such an absence.
- O. Parents have the right to review all district policies, including parental involvement policies. Copies of these policies are available through the superintendent's office.
- P. Parents have the right to participate in parent-teacher organizations. Information regarding these groups will be made available during activities such as enrollment, schedule pickups and back to school night. Parents who wish to have additional information regarding these groups can obtain more detail through the principal's office.
- Q. Parents may opt out of selected district level data collection related to state longitudinal student data system reporting. Parents may not opt out of necessary and essential record collecting. Parents may file an opt out request through the Superintendent's office.

- R. The district will not procure, solicit to perform, arrange for the performance of, perform surgical procedures or perform a physical examination upon a minor student or prescribe any prescription drugs to a minor student without first obtaining a written consent for the proposed assessment or treatment. The written consent will be effective for the school year for which it was granted, and must be renewed each subsequent school year. If the assessment or treatment for which the written consent is provided is performed through telemedicine at a school site, and if the written consent is provided by the Parent and is currently effective, the health professional shall not be required to verify that the parent is at the school site.
- S. The district will not procure, solicit to perform, arrange of the performance of or perform an assessment for mental health therapy on a minor student without first obtaining consent of a parent or legal guardian of the minor. The written consent will be effective for the school year for which it was granted, and must be renewed each subsequent school year. If the assessment or treatment for which the written consent is provided is performed through telemedicine at a school site, and if the written consent is provided by the Parent and is currently effective, the health professional shall not be required to verify that the parent is at the school site. However, a student shall not be seen without consent.
- T. A student shall not be vaccinated at school or on school grounds or receive a vaccine as part of the mobile vaccination effort without prior written authorization, including the signature of the parent or legal guardian of the student for the vaccine or group of vaccines to be administered during a single visit.

Parents requesting information outlined in this policy should submit written requests for information through the building principal or superintendent's office, as noted in the respective section. Appropriate school personnel will either make the information available or provide a written explanation of why the information is being withheld within ten (10) days of the request. Any parent whose request is denied or who does not receive a response within fifteen (15) days may submit a written request for the information to the board of education. The board will include an item on its next public meeting agenda (or the following meeting, if time does not permit inclusion of the item on the agenda) to allow the board to formally consider the parent's request.

### **Information Regarding Section 584 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

Section 504 prohibits discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving federal financial assistance. ADA extends this prohibition of discrimination to include all services, programs, and activities provided or made available by state and local governments of any of their instrumentalities or agencies, regardless of the receipt of federal assistance. These Acts define a person with a disability as anyone who:

1. Has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities (major life activities include activities such as caring for one's self, performing many tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working);
2. Has a record of such impairment, or
3. Is regarded as having such impairment.

In order to fulfill its obligation under these Acts, Cushing Public School district recognized a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students. No discrimination against any person with a disability will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices in the school system. The school district has specific responsibilities under both Acts, which include the responsibility to identify, evaluate, and if the child is determined to be eligible, to afford access to the appropriate educational services. If the parent or guardian disagrees with the determination made by the professional staff of the school district, he/she has a right to a hearing with an impartial officer.

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) also specifies rights related to educational records. This Act gives the parent or guardian the right to: 1) inspect and review his/her child's educational records; 2) make copies of the records; 3) receive a list of all individuals having access to those records; 4) ask for an explanation of any item in the records; 5) ask for an amendment to any report on the grounds that it is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the child's rights; and 6) a hearing on the issue if the school refuses to make these amendments.

If there are questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Melissa Amon, Superintendent at (918)225-3425 or Kim Reese, 504 coordinator for the school district at (918)225-5600.

### **Family Education Rights and Privacy Act Annual Notification**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) afford parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate.

Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the school principal (or appropriate school official), clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.



One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a certain task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. (Note: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.)

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-5901

If you know of a student with special needs, please contact: Melissa Amon, Superintendent, (918)225-3425.

The **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act** (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Cushing School District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Cushing School District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Cushing School District to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- Playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height for team members

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local education agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without prior written consent.

If you do not want Cushing School District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing by **the first week of the beginning of school**. Cushing School District has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Address
- Telephone Listing
- Electronic Mail Address
- Photograph
- Date and Place of Birth
- Major Field of Study
- Dates of Attendance
- Grade Level
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems that cannot be used to access education records without a PIN, password, etc. (A student's SSN, in whole or part, cannot be used for this purpose.)

### **Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, 1987**

In order to comply with the requirements of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, 1987, the Cushing school board employed Asbestos Management Services of Cushing, Oklahoma to conduct a complete survey of all school facilities. This survey included visual inspections and samples from each area at the school sites.(All inspectors were certified and licensed by the Oklahoma State Department of Labor.)

As a result, in the inspection, building management plans were written, with copies on file at schools and the Central Office. Trained personnel, employed by the District, will carry out the necessary maintenance and operation. In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1987, the inspection and management plans are now complete and available at the administration offices, 1401 North Little, Cushing, Oklahoma. Any parties with an interest in the plans of implementation will be notified of steps taken to eliminate any asbestos-containing material which may be harmful to occupants at school sites.

## **Cushing Public Schools District Policy on Proficiency Testing and Proficiency-Based Promotions K-12**

The following policy describes the procedure by which students in the Cushing Public School District may apply for and achieve course or grade-level content. Students shall have the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in the core areas identified in 70 O.S. Section 11-103.6: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Language, and The Arts.

Oklahoma State Department of Education Standards for Accreditation of Elementary and Secondary, 1992, requires the following: Upon request of a student, parent, or guardian, a grade 1-12 student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in the Cushing kindergarten curriculum. Proficiency will be demonstrated by some means of assessment or evaluation appropriated to the curriculum area; for example, portfolio, criterion-referenced test, thesis, project, product, or performance.

Students demonstrating proficiency in a set of competencies at the 90% level shall be advanced to the next level of study in the appropriate curriculum areas. The decision will take into consideration such factors as social, emotional, physical, and mental growth. The school will confer with parents in making such promotion/acceleration decisions. For grades 9-12 high school curriculum areas, appropriate notation will be placed on the high school transcript and the unit will count toward meeting the requirements for the high school diploma.

It is therefore the policy of the Cushing Public School District that all children in grades K-12 will have the opportunity to move ahead under a proficiency-based promotion option in either grade level, subject, or course, by meeting the following requirements:

1. Applications for consideration for evaluation to advance may be filed by a student's parents, guardian, or teacher. Applications must be submitted to the office of the Superintendent of Cushing Public Schools.
2. Thereafter, the application for evaluation will be considered by the district two times each school year. All applications must be received at least two weeks prior to the upcoming date.
3. Students successfully demonstrating 90% proficiency on the criterion-referenced exam will be scheduled for assessment involving performance and/or demonstration criteria conducted by members of the professional staff, when applicable.
4. Students successfully completing all requirements will be awarded credit on the official school transcript for completion of the course, subject, or grade. The letter "A" will be recorded for both semesters on the transcript in accordance with the grading scale of the Cushing Public Schools. No reference or notation may be made on the official transcript of an unsuccessful attempt for advancement.
5. A placement conference will be conducted with the parents or guardians of participating student in order to determine the next appropriate academic or placement steps to be taken.
6. K-8 students must pass all sections of a test with 90% proficiency in order to be promoted to the next grade.
7. Students, parents, guardians, or teachers may request RETESTING of students on the next test date. Conferences to discuss the merits or timing of retesting are to be conducted prior to retesting or reassessing performance.

## **Hatch Amendment**

The school district is committed to enforcing the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. 1232h, included in the Goals 2000 Education America Act of 1994. PPRA applies to all funding provided by the United States Department of Education and seeks to protect the rights of parents to inspect surveys or instructional materials if these materials or surveys are funded by the United States Department of Education.

With respect to survey activities, survey materials, evaluation materials, instructional materials used by students and funded by the United States Department of Education, the school district will:

1. Make such materials available for inspection by parents.
2. Obtain written parental consent if students are required to participate in a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information such as:
  - a. Political affiliations
  - b. Mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student and his/her family
  - c. Sexual behavior or attitudes
  - d. Illegal or self-incriminating behavior (such as use or possess of tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs)
  - e. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships
  - f. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, doctors, and ministers
  - g. Income (other than required by law to determine eligibility in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such programs)

## **Nondiscrimination Statement**

The Cushing Independent School District does not discriminate against any person because of race, creed, national origin, age, sex, economic status, or handicapping condition, in employment promotions, or educational programming.

The Cushing Board of Education is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in relation to race, religion, sex, age, national origin, alienage, and handicap. This policy will prevail in all matters concerning staff, events, students, the public, employment, educational programs and services, and individuals, companies, and firms with whom the board does business.

Any employee, parent, or student who has a complaint or grievance which cannot be resolved at the campus level through the principal may submit such complaint or grievance in writing to the Superintendent of Schools in compliance with Title VI and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act. The board directs the superintendent of schools to prepare necessary rules, regulations, and procedures to ensure that all local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and guidelines are followed. By established procedure, all complaints go to the Superintendent who then may delegate the complaint. The Superintendent is Dr. Melissa Amon and she can be contacted at 1401 N. Little, Cushing, OK 74023, phone (918)225-3425.

There will be no discrimination in the district because of race, color, sex, pregnancy, gender, gender expression or identity, national origin, religion, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, or genetic information in its programs, services, activities and employment. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the district's non-discrimination policies:

Section 504/Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator (for questions or complaints based on disability):

Kim Reese, Special Education Director  
Cushing Public Schools  
1401 N. Little Ave.  
Cushing, OK 74023  
(918) 225-5600  
kim.reese@cushingtigers.com

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act Coordinator (for questions or complaints based on race, color and national origin):

Stacy Weaver, Principal Cushing Middle School  
Cushing Public Schools  
1401 N. Little Ave.  
Cushing, OK 74023  
(918) 225-1311  
stacy.weaver@cushingtigers.com

Title IX Coordinator (for questions or complaints based on sex, pregnancy, gender, gender expression or identity):

Dusty Hancock, Assistant Principal Cushing Middle School  
Cushing Public Schools  
1401 N. Little Ave.  
Cushing, OK 74023  
(918) 225-1311  
dusty.hancock@cushingtigers.com

Age Act Coordinator (for questions or complaints based on age):

Brian Busby, Assistant Principal Cushing Middle School  
Cushing Public Schools  
1401 N. Little Ave.  
Cushing, OK 74023  
(918) 225-1311  
brian.busby@cushingtigers.com

Any individual who has experienced some other form of discrimination, including discrimination not listed above, may contact:

Melissa Amon, Superintendent  
Cushing Public Schools  
1401 N. Little Ave.  
Cushing, OK 74023  
(918)225-3425  
melissa.amon@cushingtigers.com

Outside Assistance may be obtained from:

U.S. Department of Education  
Office for Civil Rights  
One Petticoat Lane  
1010 Walnut Street, Suite 320  
Kansas City, MO 64106  
(816) 268-0550  
(816) 268-0599 (Fax)  
(877) 521-2172 (TTY)  
E-mail: OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov

All district employees and students will be provided with age appropriate education regarding types of discrimination, harassment and bullying. Students and employees will also be advised of the district's expectations regarding appropriate conduct. Any student who is experiencing difficulty fully accessing the district's education programs should contact the appropriate coordinator so a success plan can be developed for the student.

**Cushing Public Schools**  
**Bullying Report Form**

**Instructions**

Complete the form below with as much information as possible. If you need assistance completing this form, contact the district's bullying coordinator Dr. Melissa Amon, Superintendent. Return the completed form to building principal or assistant principal.

Anonymous reports will be investigated to the best of the district's ability, but full information allows the district to conduct a more thorough inquiry. No individual will be retaliated against for filing a good faith bullying report.

**Individual Making the Report**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Report Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade / Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

**Incident Information:**

Date of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_  
Describe Incident: Use additional pages as necessary, and attach any relevant documents

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Witnesses: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The information in this report is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the District will not tolerate retaliation for filing a good-faith report of bullying. I also understand that if I knowingly file a false report of bullying, I may face disciplinary consequences.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Printed Name Date



# SCHOOL INFORMATION

## Cushing Lower Elementary

### Supply Lists

The supply list for Cushing Lower Elementary is also available on [cushingtigers.com/page/enroll-k1](http://cushingtigers.com/page/enroll-k1)

**Please do not put student names on any basic school supplies**

#### Kindergarten

1-Scissors 5" Kids, Blunt/Rounded  
5-Crayons, 24 Count  
1-Yellow #2 Pencils, 24 Count  
1-10 Count Washable Markers  
8-Small Glue Stick  
2-Facial Tissue, Box  
1-Plastic School Supply Box  
1-Watercolor Paint Set (8 Colors)  
1-Colored Pencils, 12 Count  
4-Play-Doh  
1-Plastic Supply Box  
1-Plastic Water Bottle (Labeled w/ Student's name)  
OPTIONAL: Disinfecting Wipes  
OPTIONAL: Baby Wipes  
OPTIONAL: Gallon or Quart Storage Bags

#### First Grade

1-Scissors 5" Kids, Sharp/Pointed  
5-Crayons, 24 Count  
1-Yellow #2 Pencils, 24 Count  
1-Plastic Water Bottle (Labeled w/ Student's Name)  
8-Small Glue Stick  
2-Facial Tissue, Box  
1-Plastic School Supply Box  
2-Pencil Cap Eraser, Package  
OPTIONAL: Disinfecting Wipes  
OPTIONAL: Hand Sanitizer  
OPTIONAL: Sponges

### Letter from the principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The faculty and staff of Cushing Lower Elementary are pleased to have you with us this year. We are excited to see great things happening between our students, staff, and parents/guardians.

The first few school days can be overwhelming, and we want you and your child to feel comfortable. Please contact us if you have any questions; we are here to help.

Your child/children's teachers are thrilled to be engaging your little ones' minds throughout this year. Empowering students to find their best is our main purpose. Please contact your teacher if you have questions and/or concerns. We are all on the same side, the side of the child.

With so much to see and do, the beginning of school can cause nervousness for some children. If you take the time to read all of the information provided in the Cushing Lower Elementary Handbook, you and your child will be more confident with this new beginning. You are encouraged to read the handbook and refer to it throughout the year as a resource.

When we all work together, we can help our children discover how exciting learning can be!

Sincerely,

Nancy Dowell

Principal, Cushing Lower Elementary

# **Cushing Lower Elementary Creed**

We are the Cushing K-1 team.

We learn and build our self-esteem.

We plan to thrive, grow, and always succeed.

Follow along as we become amazing indeed!

## **Mission Statement**

Cushing Lower Elementary, where minds are ignited.

## **Goal**

The goal at Cushing Lower Elementary is to provide all students with the knowledge base, skills, and abilities to apply knowledge through academic and social endeavors, which will enable them to meet or exceed their expectations.

## **Objectives**

1. Provide a learning environment that will foster confidence and a positive self-image in students.
2. Provide the opportunity to celebrate differences in others as students become responsible citizens.
3. Provide the tools necessary to enable students to become effective communicators (verbally and in writing).
4. Provide the tools necessary to enable students to become problem solvers (academically and socially).
5. Provide an environment conducive to critical thinking, enabling students to utilize higher thinking skills.
6. Provide an environment that allows students to nurture creative thinking.
7. Provide students with the ability to work collaboratively with others (within the classroom and the school as a whole).
8. Provide a knowledge base to students to help them become productive workers.
9. Provide the tools necessary to enable students to set personal goals, and enable them to recognize the importance of establishing and pursuing their goals.
10. Provide a safe, inviting environment to enable all students to develop a love of learning.

# General School Policies

## Attendance

School hours are from 8:20 -3:20 Monday through Friday. The doors open at 8:00 a.m. for student arrival. Children may enter from the car line beginning at 7:50 a.m. If not riding a bus, children must be dropped off from the car line and not walked into the building. Children may not be accompanied to class.

Children arriving after 8:20 a.m. MUST check in with their guardian before going to class. The check-in kiosk is located in the office. A guardian will check the child in along with the reason for the late arrival. Three 'late arrivals' constitute one absence. The maximum number of absentees during the year cannot exceed 10% of the total number of school days. A student with excessive absences and the student's parents will be required to work out an improvement plan with the principal.

## Arrival

Buses load and unload in front of the school. NO VEHICLES may park in the main driveway/bus lane from 7:50 a.m. through 8:30 a.m. This lane is for bus traffic only.

## Car Line

Students being dropped off or picked up from school during normal arrival or departure times must use the north door car line. All students must be released from the passenger side of the vehicle. The car line will be open from 7:50 a.m. - 8:20 a.m. and from 3:05 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.

## Dismissal

At 3:05 p.m. students will be dismissed to the car line. At 3:08 p.m. students will be dismissed to the bus line. NO STUDENT may be picked up in the main office from 3:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. The car line is the option for those children being picked up.

## Early Pick Up

When it is necessary for you to pick up your child during the school day, please report to the office and sign the child out. Office personnel will notify the child's teacher, and he/she will be sent to the office. Do NOT go to the classroom or playground to get your child without office clearance.

## School Bus

Riding the school bus is a privilege. The school bus drivers have a tremendous responsibility in transporting students safely to and from school. If a child cannot follow bus rules, he/she may lose bus privileges. The parent will then be responsible for the child's transportation to and from school.

## Change of Routine

In an attempt for school personnel to comply with parents' wishes, it is imperative that students arrive each day knowing precisely how they will go home that afternoon. Not having a consistent plan for getting your child home causes undue stress on students and increases the likelihood of a student being left at school or arriving home without a parent there to greet them. While occasional emergencies will arise resulting in a change of plans, children should have a regular means of transportation daily. That method should change only when unforeseen circumstances arise during the day. When emergencies arise, parents may call the office at 918-225-4697 before 2:00 p.m. to ensure delivery of the message to the teacher and student.

## Change of Transportation

If a student is changing their regular transportation routine, please send a note with specific instructions for what the child will be doing. If the child is to be picked up by an adult, the adult MUST be on the pick-up list. Changing buses can create an overloading problem and is not permitted without authorization from the Transportation Director.

## Cafeteria

Breakfast and lunch money is to be prepaid. The amount and whether to pay weekly, monthly, yearly, or any lump sum is your decision. Any amount will be applied to your child's account. Students may bring lunch but must eat in the lunchroom with their respective classes. According to Safe and Healthy Schools regulations, absolutely no fast food and/or soft drinks may be brought to school. Unless Covid restrictions are in place, parents are welcome to eat in the cafeteria, but should notify their child's teacher or the office by 8:45 a.m. the morning they plan to eat so ample service can be prepared.

**If you plan on applying for free or reduced lunches, please complete the application immediately, as it will be necessary for your child to pay for meals until notification is received that you have been approved.**

## Assemblies

Periodic assemblies will be held throughout the school year. Notification will be made ahead of time to parents of the exact date. Parents will be notified when parents may attend assemblies in the gym. Parents must check-in at the office. Varying communicable illnesses in the local community may impact our ability to have guests and/or assemblies during the school year.

## Conferences

Conferences are encouraged. They may be held during the teacher's plan time, before or after school, but not when a teacher is in class. Also, there will be two parent/teacher conference opportunities. Those will be held in the fall and spring. If you desire a conference, please call the school office to arrange a time at 918-225-4697. If a problem or concern arises, please discuss the situation with the involved staff member. The next step is to contact the principal. If no resolution is found after these two steps, the superintendent will be contacted by the principal.

## Grades

Cushing Lower Elementary utilizes a Standards-based grading system. Report cards will reflect the 'standards-based system. Information will be provided to parents before the first report card. Report cards will be issued after each quarter.

## Dress Code

Listed below are the guidelines for appropriate school dress.

- 1.No spaghetti straps. Tank tops are acceptable, provided they are 2 adult fingers wide.
- 2.Writing or pictures on shirts or patches that suggest obscenity, vulgarity, or drug and/or alcohol trademarks are prohibited.
- 3.The bottom of the shirt should touch the top of jeans, shorts, skirts, etc. Shirts should be buttoned and there should be no midriff showing. When in a seated position, shirts should cover all areas of the midsection and back.
- 4.Shorts should be mid-thigh length. When your child is standing, his/her shorts should not be shorter than the tips of his/her fingers.
- 5.Caps and hats are not to be worn inside the school building.

## **Parties and Deliveries**

There will be 2 class parties: Winter Holiday (Christmas) and Valentine's Day. Invitations for personal parties may NOT be distributed at school unless the entire class is invited (or all girls or all boys invited). Due to academic awareness, NO DELIVERIES of any kind will be accepted. Deliveries interfere with the focus of the educational process. We respect your desire to celebrate special occasions, but these celebrations must occur outside of school hours.

## **Personal Items**

Students should not bring toys, money, expensive jewelry, trading cards, fidget spinners, or animals to school except for special occasions and with teacher permission. The school would prefer that students refrain from wearing hats and bringing cell phones/smartwatches to school. If a hat is worn, it cannot be worn inside the building. If a cell phone/smartwatch is brought to school, it MUST be kept inside the child's backpack and turned off. The school will not be responsible for the damage or loss of any items that should not have been brought to school.

## **Medication**

Students may NOT bring any type of medication to school. Parents or guardians must deliver the medicine to school and if possible, administer the proper dosage. If school personnel are to administer the medication, time of administration, the termination date for taking medication, dosage and direction for administration, name of physician or dentist, and the date and name of pharmacy must all be provided. The school system retains the discretion to reject requests of the administration of medicine. NEVER SEND MEDICINE TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHILD ON THE BUS!

# **Expectations**

## **General**

- Be respectful of others and school property.
- Use appropriate language; no fighting
- No weapons of any kind (toy weapons are not allowed)
- Gum is not allowed
- No rolling shoes, skates, etc...
- No buying, selling, or trading items
- No electronic items of any kind
- Cell phones are NOT to be used while in school. They MUST be turned off and in a backpack.
- No toys (unless approved by the teacher)
- Do not bring items that could be distracting to yourself or others

## **Building/Hall**

- Keep to the right side of the hall in a single file with hands to your side
- Keep feet to yourself
- No playing in the hallway or restroom
- No running in the building
- Hats or head coverings will be worn outside only
- Clothing should be appropriate for school (see dress code)

## **Cafeteria Rules**

- Use good manners
- Use inside (quiet) voices while eating
- Keep your eating space clean
- No throwing of items
- Raise a hand if help is needed
- Ask permission to be excused
- No canned or bottled pop, soda, or other soft drinks

## **Playground**

- Use and share playground equipment properly
- Stay off fences
- Stay in the fenced area
- Do NOT throw anything that was not originally meant to be thrown (rocks, sand, sticks, etc.)
- NO tackling, tripping, pinching, kicking, or hitting of any kind
- Shoes should remain on at all times
- Gymnastics stunts are not allowed
- Pencils, papers, and books are left inside
- Pick up equipment after recess
- Coats/jackets/sweaters are to be worn ONLY by the student who owns them
- Coats/jackets/sweaters are to be tied around the waist if the student chooses not to wear it
- Ask permission from an adult before leaving the playground

## **Bus**

- The same behavior that applies at school also pertains on the bus

## **Discipline Policy**

While most students consistently observe expectations, standards, and behave safely and appropriately, there are times when misbehavior warrants intervention and consequences. Teachers and other staff use a variety of incentive plans and behavior management strategies to address such behavior. When these strategies are not successful in changing that behavior and/or serious incidents occur, it is necessary for additional action to be taken. Careful consideration is given to individual situations so that the school's response to the student is appropriate. Consequences may be increased in cases of repeat offenders.

## **Possible Disciplinary Consequences**

Verbal warning, staff/student conference, removal from situation, referral to administration, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian meeting, loss of privileges, detention, or 'Home-Based Education'.

# Playground Rules

## Safety Precautions

- Real or pretend fighting and rough play are not allowed
- Keep shoes on and jackets/sweatshirts/coats around the waist
- Use play equipment as they are intended to be used
- Leave rocks, bark, sticks, and other objects on the playground alone

## Play Equipment Area

- Do not run in the play equipment area
- Tag and other chasing games are not allowed in the play equipment area
- No balls, jump ropes, etc. are allowed in the play equipment area
- Do not grab anyone to pull them off the play equipment areas

## Swings

- Students may only sit on swings facing forward
- Students should never jump over the swing seats, twist swings, or stand on swings
- Students should not jump out of the swings
- Students must swing independently (no sharing a swing)

## Slides

- Only one person at a time on a slide
- Only slide when the person ahead of you has cleared the slide
- Always slide feet first, facing down the slide
- Do not climb up the slides nor climb on top of the tubes covering the slides

## Big Playground Toy

- No jumping off any platforms to the ground
- No tag games
- One person at a time on the bars

## Bars/Jungle Gym

- No hanging upside down
- Only one person at a time across bars
- No tag games on jungle gyms
- No standing or sitting on top of the bars

# Approved Snack List

**Please use this list when purchasing items to send for your child's class for snacks.**

- Trail Mix
- Cheese-its
- Goldfish (baked preferred)
- Granola Bars
- Jello
- Gogurt
- Pudding
- Individual applesauce cups
- Individual mandarin orange cups
- Pretzels
- Yogurt covered pretzels
- Raisins
- Yogurt covered raisins
- Fruit snacks
- Fruit Rollups
- Individual packages of dried fruit
- Ritz Bits
- Rice Krispy Treats
- Beef Jerky
- Pickles
- Popcorn
- Bagels
- Low-fat crackers
- Raw veggies (ready to serve)
- Fresh fruit (ready to serve)
- String cheese
- Whole grain chips
- Graham crackers
- Animal crackers

Drinks are OPTIONAL

- Water (individual bottles)
- 100% fruit juice (individual boxes/bottle)
- Flavored water (individual bottle)