



New Parent 101



Cottonwood School - "A Joyful Learning Community"

Cottonwood Lingo:

- * **MPR** = Multi Purpose Room
The large greenhouse near the main building is where you'll find your family mail box and CSPA info.
- * **Brick House** = Senior Elementary Classrooms, Music/Drama, and Elementary After Cool programs are found in this building on the northeast end of parking lot.
- * **After Cool** = the before and after school program for Elementary students.
- * **Tree House Conference Room or Loft** = multi use adult meeting space on the second floor of the Main Building
- * **FACTS** = school tuition payment system
- * **CSPA** = Cottonwood School Parent Association. Every family is a member! The CSPA is the parent association that fundraises for the school, offers support, and hosts special events.
- * **NUT FREE** = we are a "nut free" school. Please do not send any nut products for snack or lunches.

WELCOME TO COTTONWOOD SCHOOL!

We are so glad you joined our diverse community! You'll know the ropes before long, but until you do, please use this as a quick resource to navigate your first year at Cottonwood!

Room Parents = these are "veteran" parents in each room that will be calling you from time to

time to check in or notify you of class or school events. Ask them questions!

You can find current school info on our website and our Facebook Fan page. Fun family ideas are on our Pinterest Boards! You'll also be receiving weekly email updates from the Director, monthly

newsletters from the school, class emails from your teacher, and a school wide report each year!

Check your family mail box daily for school fliers, periodicals, class information, or occurrence reports.

We love to communicate with you!

SAFETY FIRST!

Please be aware of your speed when pulling into Cottonwood School. There is a flashing crosswalk for students and pedestrians located right in front of the school's driveway. The speed limit on the driveway is 5 MPH.

All cars should park in the main parking lot located on the north side of the property. Parking in front of the school is prohibited, unless the vehicle has a handicap marker. No drop-offs are allowed.

When walking your child to the playground or school building **DO NOT walk in the road or cross over to the main driveway.** This is the most dangerous and unpredictable place to cross. Use

the designated pathway on the east side of the MPR in front of the greenhouse (and Elementary Complex) to come into school. Not only will this keep your family safe from incoming traffic, but you and your child will enjoy a short walk through our campus together allowing for a few special moments before the day begins.

Please respect the "New Parent" parking spaces in the main lot and save them for those families with infants and strollers.

Finally, be aware when backing out of your parking space. Keep your children close and to the front of your vehicle and look in all directions before leaving campus.

Enter School Here!



EVENTS AT COTTONWOOD SCHOOL! Please attend!

SEPT: Family Picnic & Grandparent/Grandfriend Day!

Every September we hold a Family Picnic out on the large field to welcome Fall and spend leisurely time with our families. We ask everyone to bring a picnic lunch, blankets and chairs, and join us for lunch, entertainment and family activities. This is a perfect time to bring grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins - any special family member that you want to share your school with, for an Open House and classroom visit!

OCT: Fall Festival AKA Homecoming

Our annual Fall Festival held the third Friday in October brings together our current students and families, alumni students and families, and guests. This fun event includes a hot dog dinner, bonfire, sing along, hayride, live music, s'mores, games, chili cook off, and fall themed activities. We support the community by providing bowls, filling them with homemade soup, and selling them to support the Empty Bowls Project. By doing this each year, we raise several hundred dollars for the hungry in our community. Our "Dessert Dance" and 'Cottonwood Family Cookbook' proceeds are also donated to support other hunger initiatives in NM. Entrance to the event is a canned food donation, which is given to a local Food Bank.



Join us for "Sing Along"
EVERY Friday at 8:30AM in
the MPR! All of our
preschool and elementary
classes gather together
for a thirty minute
assembly to sing, perform,
and hear school news and
parents are invited to join
us.
(Toddlers and transitions
classes will come later in
the year so please check
with your child's teacher.)

NOV: Thanksgiving Feast

The day before Thanksgiving break all of the classes prepare a community meal to share with each other. Typically the food served follows the theme of the unit they have been studying. The students bring in items, cut, prepare, cook and serve the food to each other! This event is for students only, but we ask for parents to participate by sending along food items and a formal place setting.

DEC: Peace Concert

The first Sunday in December is our annual Peace Concert. This choral presentation is held at the Albuquerque Academy Performing Arts Center. All classes perform vocal and instrumental pieces and the students wear white tops with black bottoms. The CSPA hosts a Bake Sale following the performance and family dinner out at Tomato Café. Extended family is welcome to attend.

MAY: Auction

The Auction is the largest school fundraiser of the year! The Cottonwood Auction Committee works all school year to procure auction donations, sell tickets to our families and friends, and plan the food, décor, and entertainment. We ask that all families support the event by donating an item, volunteering their time, or buying a ticket. It is an amazing night with amazing items up for bid, delicious food and drink, and great music. Babysitting is offered for an additional fee.

BIRTHDAYS:

Birthdays are celebrated during class time, with the students sharing compliments with the birthday boy or girl. **No special food or drink is allowed.** A book may be donated to the school library in your child's name. See your teacher for details.