

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Students,

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome back all of our returning Virginia Parks Panther's and their families, as well as those of you who are new to us this year! There are many exciting things in store for the students at Virginia Parks as well as the students in the CUSD. I would like to take a moment to thank all of our families, community, staff and our PTC for staying focused on the main thing "instruction" and ensuring high levels of learning for ALL students. As we have transitioned into the common core, I commend our staff and teachers for working hard to provide our students with high expectations and a standards-based education.

As many of you are aware. Ceres Unified School District is a 1:World district. As we enter into the 2017-18 school year, ALL students will continue to have a technology device checked out to them. Beginning the first week of school ALL students in grades Transitional Kindergarten-6th grade will receive a Chromebook that they will use throughout the school year. As technology plays a large part in 21st century learning and having the devices in the classroom enables students to access online resources, research instantly, collaborate and communicate in ways that were not possible before. This has also equalized the playing field for students in preparation for career and college. The district has and will continue to meet the goal which is to equip students and teachers with the right tools to enhance classroom learning, this will support the student's path to become college and career ready. Back to school night is Tuesday August 8th for this school year. It is critical for you to be informed and attend the parent informational evening if you did not attend last school year. There is an affordable insurance plan available for \$10.00 a student. We can begin collecting the insurance cost beginning in July. If you plan to insure the device that will be given to your student you must take care of this at the beginning of the school year. All students will be issued a device within the first 2 weeks of school beginning even if insurance is not purchased. We will continue to use #PantherPride as we post to social media. Please follow us on Facebook "Virginia Parks Elementary" and on Twitter "Virginia_Parks_Elem."

We welcome our new staff members joining us for the 2017-18 school year. Mrs. Puccinelli and Miss Rodriguez will join our kindergarten team. Mrs. Wheeland will join our 2nd grade team. Miss Thele will join our 5th grade team. Mrs. Jackson will join our LH Special Day Class. Mrs. Crain will be moving to 4th grade.

We want to thank you for your continued support with checking in and signing in to the office before entering campus, ensuring safety for all of our students. Our goal is to make sure that all staff and students have a safe and secure learning environment. If you are planning to observe or assist in the classroom, please remember to contact the teachers and make arrangements 24 hours prior to the day you are requesting to join them. You must also complete the Volunteer application if you have not already done so in the past 2 years.

I also want to again recognize our PTC which consists of parents and teachers. They have provided many wonderful opportunities for students and families, from Family Safety Night, Cookie Dough Fundraiser, Fall Harvest Festival, Family Reading Night, PEP Health/Science Night, Family Valentine's Dance, and many other activities. We appreciate all of their hard work and efforts. We are still looking for volunteers to join our PTC to help support our students and staff. If you are interested please contact the office for details.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Backman