

# Ceres Unified School District

## Virginia Parks Elementary School

Scott Siegel, Ed.D.  
District Superintendent

Jennifer Backman  
Principal

### Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Students,

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome back all of our returning Virginia Parks Panthers 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. I want to commend our staff and teachers for working hard to provide our students with high expectations and a standards-based education. We encourage you to attend Back to School Night on Wednesday, August 21st from 6:15PM to 7:30PM. It is critical for you to be informed and attend the parent informational evening if you did not attend last school year.

As many of you are aware, Ceres Unified School District is a 1:World district. As we enter into the 2019-2020 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 new Chromebook that they will use throughout the school year. This chromebook will be assigned to this student for the next few years. Technology plays a large part in 21<sup>st</sup> 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 our goal, which is to equip students and teachers with the right tools to enhance classroom learning, and this will support students on their path to become college and career ready. There is an affordable technology 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 even if insurance is not purchased.

This year will also be a pilot year for Free Lunch for all students. Part of the grant requirement is that ALL families must turn in the Lunch form. Since this is our baseline year students will need to enter their student ID or scan their card so we can record the numbers. Please fill the form out and submit as soon as you receive it. 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 2019-2020 school year. Ms. Rodriguez will join our Special Day Class. Mrs. Gaylor is our new Assistant Principal. Mrs. Mendoza has accepted a Learning Director position at Cesar Chavez Jr. High and we welcome Daniel Hernandez as our new Administrative Assistant.

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 effort. 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,  
Ms. Backman