Welcome!

Welcome to the 2014-15 school year and the inaugural year of Portola Springs Elementary! I am proud and honored to be the principal of a community where students, parents, and staff work together to provide students with a positive educational experience. In the short time that I have been working with the Portola Springs Elementary community, I can tell that we have supportive parents, dedicated teachers, and conscientious students. I am sincerely impressed by the staff members’ high expectations, commitment, and compassion. The vision of Portola Springs Elementary is to inspire students, parents, and staff to communicate and collaborate, creating a vibrant learning community that is safe, inclusive, innovative, and encourages a growth mindset. Our focus is to instill a joy for learning, and empower our students to become creative problem solvers and responsible caring members of our local and global communities. In a community that seeks the best for its youth, among students who are hungry to learn, we invite you to experience the vision of Portola Springs Elementary by becoming as involved as possible in our new school. Please take time to read the information provided in this brochure and review pertinent sections with your children. Additional information and updates regarding school activities, programs, and policies will be disseminated throughout the year via the Grizzly Bizz Newsletter, the Grizz Buzz Principal Report at PTA meetings, and our Portola Springs and classroom websites. Once we are up and running, you’ll be able to access each of these through the main website at www.iusd.org/ps.

Attendance Procedures Hotline 949-936-8801

Studies show that there is a direct correlation between good school attendance and student achievement. Therefore, we encourage you as parents to reinforce the importance of good school attendance and to make every effort to send your child to school on a regular basis. Please call 949-936-8801 before 8:45 a.m. each day if your child will be absent or tardy. The above line is dedicated specifically for this purpose. All tardy students must sign in at the front office before going to class. Parents of students who are bused, please also call the transportation department at 949-936-5370.

Attendance and tardies are monitored at the District level and, per CA Ed Code, letters will be generated if your child has three or more tardies of 30 minutes or more, ten tardies of less than 30 minutes, or three unexcused absences. Per CA Ed Code, a student shall be excused from school when the absence is due to: illness, medical/dental appointments, funeral for immediate family members, observance of a holiday or ceremony of his or her religion, attendance at religious retreats, or student’s appearance in court.
Bell Schedules

**TK/Kindergarten**
(Monday-Friday)
AM 8:20-11:40
PM 10:15-1:35

**Grades 1-3**
(M,Tu,Th,F)
8:20-2:15
(Wednesday)
8:20-1:20

**Grades 4-5**
(M, Tu, Th, F)
8:20-2:55
(Wednesday)
8:20-1:25

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**Playground Supervision**

Playground supervision begins at 8:05 a.m. Students are not to arrive on campus before that time. There is no supervision after school. All students must go directly home when dismissed. Primary students who are dismissed early may not wait for older siblings. The school grounds/playground are for the sole use of Portola Springs Elementary students during the school day, and are not open to siblings during school hours.

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**Tardy/Leaving Early**

Students are considered tardy if they are not in their class line at 8:20 a.m. If your child is tardy to school, he/she must report through the front office to allow us to update our attendance records for that day.

Should you find it necessary to schedule a medical appointment during your child's class time, please sign out your child in the office. Do not go directly to the classroom at any time. This minimizes disruption to our instructional program and maintains student safety. Students leaving school before dismissal time must be signed out in the front office by a parent, guardian, or other adult listed in the Emergency Contacts on the computer. Students will be released only to those whose names are listed on the Emergency Contacts.

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**Homework Requests for Absent Students**

If you wish to pick up homework for your absent child, please call the office prior to 9:15 a.m. It will be available for pick-up after class is dismissed.

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**Independent Study Contracts**

We realize that there are times during the school year when families are out of town for one reason or another. These are considered UNEXCUSED absences. We do not offer independent student contracts to excuse these unexcused absences.

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**Forgotten Items**

One of our priorities is to have students develop personal responsibility. To this end, staff members will not accept homework or library books once school begins. The front office staff will accept forgotten instruments. Late lunches are to be labeled with your child’s and teacher’s name and placed in the late lunch box in the office.

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**Lost and Found**

A lost and found cart is located outside the MPR in the lunch area courtyard. Small items, such as glasses and retainers, as well as musical instruments, are kept in the office. We encourage parents and students to check the cart regularly for lost items. Please label everything that is sent to school.
Lunches

The Irvine Unified School District offers a hot lunch program for students. The cost of an elementary lunch is $3.25 per meal and milk alone is $0.50. Each student has been assigned a personal identification number. Parents are asked to deposit funds in the student’s account either electronically or by sending a check to school with your student. The goal for the school and the school district is to be cashless. Money will not be handled in the lunchroom—please do not take your money to the cafeteria.

Option 1 - Go to www.MySchoolBucks.com and register for an account (see details below)

Option 2 - Send a check to the school office made payable to IUSD Nutrition Services. Include your student’s number on the memo line of the check.

Another option to consider: the National Lunch Program. Complete a free/reduced lunch application by October 1st. If you qualify, your child never has to purchase a lunch at school. Qualifications for free/reduced lunch is confidential. Applications will be available on the school website.

Student Dress Policy

Portola Springs Elementary School promotes a standard of appearance which enhances the learning environment while allowing for reasonable comfort and individuality for all students. With the support of the student’s guardian, each student is expected to appropriately groom and dress themselves, keeping clothing clean, comfortable, and appropriate for all elementary school activities. A student’s clothing should not be a distraction or disruption in the classroom. The following is Portola Springs Elementary School’s Dress Code:

♦ Shoes should be practical, appropriate and sturdy enough for all school activities, including physical education. For students’ safety, no flip flops, crocs, clogs, open-toed sandals or backless shoes can be worn at school.

♦ Approved hats, hoods and caps are acceptable for outside activities only. No headwear may be worn inside the building, except if it is worn for or a special event. This includes hooded sweatshirts.

♦ No distracting hairstyles or hair colors.

♦ No jewelry that distracts from the educational environment or could be unsafe during physical activities should be worn. Earrings that dangle and could become dangerous when playing. Sunglasses may not be worn inside the building.

♦ Clothing may not contain inappropriate graphics or messages.

♦ Shirts must be long enough to keep the midriff covered when the arms are raised. Bare midriffs, sheer or see-through clothing, bare backs, off-the-shoulder tops, tank tops, spaghetti straps, muscle shirts, and other revealing garments are not allowed.

♦ Shorts and pants must be of appropriate size. Overly baggy or saggy pants will not be allowed. No short shorts or skirts. The hemlines should be no higher than mid-thigh (pockets should not hang below the bottoms of shorts).

♦ Undergarments or boxer shorts must be totally covered by outer clothing. Sleep and loungewear are not appropriate.

Parents can help monitor the dress code by purchasing clothing that is in good taste; seeing that each child leaves for school properly dressed; and encouraging each child to take pride in his/her appearance. The school will monitor this dress code and inform parents in the event that a student’s dress or grooming is not appropriate for school.

Below is an excerpt from the IUSD’s Board Policy governing Dress and Personal Appearance: 

Appropriate dress and personal appearance at school and school-related activities shall not include any clothing, attire, or accessory that by its manner of appearance, arrangement, trademark, fit, or any other attribute, is unsafe; disruptive; unhealthful; obscene; profane; ethnically, racially or sexually degrading; libelous or slanderous; exposing undergarments; provocative or revealing; advocating unlawful behavior or illegal substances; or suggesting or promoting any affiliation with any street gang or other group that commits unlawful acts [see Board Policy 5132(a) - Dress and Personal Appearance and Board Policy 5136(a) - Gang Affiliation].
General School Rules

- Personal belongings, such as skateboards, roller blades, scooters, Heelys, and hand-held laser pointers, are not permitted on school grounds.
- Students may not talk or text on their cell phones or listen to messages at any time during the school day. Cell phones confiscated for failure to adhere to these rules will be turned into the principal and will be returned to the student’s parents only.
- Students are not allowed to use the front office phone for non-urgent matters. In order to minimize classroom interruptions, we also do not deliver non-emergency phone messages from the office to individual classrooms. We ask that you take care of all after-school arrangements with your child before he/she leaves for school. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.
- Students will use appropriate language both in the classroom and on the playground.
- Students must have a pass to be in the buildings or atriums before school, during recess, or during lunch periods.
- Students are allowed on campus no earlier than 15 minutes before their school day begins and no later than 10 minutes after their school day ends.
- Students must use cross-walks or a corner when crossing the street, even if an adult is with them.
- Playing in or near the bathrooms is not permitted.
- Gum is not permitted at school.
- Unsafe play (wrestling, tackling, etc.) is not permitted.
- Closed toe shoes must be worn at all times.

Animals on Campus: For the safety and comfort of our students and staff, animals are not permitted on campus, even if they are on a leash or are carried. Please be aware that pursuant to Orange County Ordinance 41.46, dogs are not to be on school grounds at any time.

Zero Tolerance

We enforce a policy of Zero Tolerance, which means that the following violations will result in immediate SUSPENSION or EXPULSION from the Irvine Unified School District.
- Possession of a firearm
- Brandishing a knife
- Sale of controlled substance
- Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault

In addition, the following violations may result in immediate SUSPENSION and a determination of further action that may result in EXPULSION proceedings.
- Serious physical injury to others
- Possession of knives, explosives, or other dangerous objects
- Possession of controlled substance
- Robbery or extortion
Portola Springs School Bring Your Own Device (B.Y.O.D.)
Responsible Use Policy – Parent / Student User
(iPads/tablet, iTouches, laptops, phones with connectivity)

*Portola Springs Elementary is committed to aiding students and staff in creating a 21st century learning environment. We are piloting a new policy which will aid in this goal. Students and staff will now be able to bring electronic devices to school. Students may use their own devices with classroom teacher approval to access school-appropriate material for educational purposes. By allowing students to use their own technology on campus, we are hoping to increase the access all students have to the resources they need to succeed.*

Teachers may allow students to utilize devices for instructional purposes (novel studies, book reports, historical primary source documents, web-based applications and simulations, non-fiction reading in relation to content area curriculum, self-selected reading, research) and in accordance with IUSD’s board policy and IUSD’s Acceptable Use Policy. The teacher has the discretion to allow and regulate the use of personal devices in the classroom and for use during specific projects. Teachers may require a hard copy of a book in certain situations such as a specific translation of the text; illustrations and/or cover art; or foreword, appendix, or other literary additions required for class.

Ability to use electronic devices on campus is a privilege, not a right. All material on any electronic device must be appropriate for school. All users shall be required to acknowledge understanding of all administrative regulations governing use of the device and shall agree in writing to comply with such regulations and guidelines. Noncompliance with applicable regulations may result in suspension or termination of privileges and other disciplinary action consistent with district policies. Students may not use devices to record, transmit, or post photographic images or video of a person or persons on campus during school activities and/or hours unless otherwise allowed by a teacher. Devices may not be used for non-instructional purpose (such as making personal calls, sending personal e-mails and/or texting, etc.).

**Device Types:**
For the purpose of classroom use, the word “device” means a privately owned wireless and/or portable electronic piece of equipment that includes laptops, iPads, tablets, iPod Touches, cell and smart phones. No gaming devices are allowed (to include: Nintendo DS, PlayStation Portable PSP, etc.)

**Guidelines:**
- It is imperative that both students and parents agree to the classroom guidelines.
- All students are expected to exhibit digital citizenship in accordance with SVMS school rules. This is a privilege, not a right.
- We would also like to make clear that parents are not expected to purchase a device for their child. We do have a very limited number of sharable devices that are available for class-time use.
- If a student owns a device, has parent permission, and agrees to the guidelines, only then will the student be allowed to bring his/her device to school for use during class-time only, on teacher-approved days.
- Students may not use their own devices during instructional time unless approved by the classroom teacher.
- Clearly and permanently label all devices and power cords with your student’s name.
- Devices may not be used for non-instructional purposes (such as making personal calls, sending personal e-mails, texting, social media, etc.).
- The student takes full responsibility for his or her device and keeps it with him/her at all times. The school, nor the teacher, is responsible for the security of the device.
- The student is responsible for the proper care of his or her personal device, including any costs of repair, replacement, or any modifications needed to use the device at school.
PBIS Overview

Portola Springs G.R.E.A.T. is a school-wide commitment to positive behavior support. Identifying, teaching, and reinforcing the expected behaviors allow students to achieve academic, behavioral, and social success. Portola Springs G.R.E.A.T. stems from the University of Oregon’s Center of Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (P.B.I.S.). Portola Springs Elementary staff has undergone extensive training and has experience with the P.B.I.S. philosophies. Our staff adopted the P.B.I.S. philosophy and our first step was our behavioral statement of purpose: **Portola Springs Elementary is a family of respectful and responsible learners. Together with our community we empower our students to be compassionate, empathetic citizens who make a positive difference in our world.** Our school-wide matrix will soon be available on our Portola Springs website (www.iusd.org/ps/pbis). We encourage you to check it out to learn more about Portola Springs Elementary’s expected behaviors.

**Our PBIS slogan is ... Grizzlies are GREAT!!!**

**Grizzlies are ...**
- Respectful
- Empathetic
- Always positive
- Truly responsible

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G.R.E.A.T. Grizzly Cards—We will provide students with positive, immediate, and frequent reinforcement for these positive behaviors. When students are caught doing the right thing, Portola Springs Staff will reward them with “GREAT” tickets. Other student acknowledgement opportunities will include: GREAT card drawings in the classrooms, recognition at assemblies, and opportunities for special drawings where students are selected for prizes!

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P.B.I.S. Basics

Utilizing the "Systematic Change Model", attention is focused on creating and sustaining primary (school-wide), secondary (classroom), and tertiary (individual) systems of support that improve lifestyle results for all children. This makes problem behavior less effective and desired behavior more functional. It is research-based, and it works!

**Key Components**
- Clearly defined school-wide expected behaviors
- Expected behaviors are intentionally taught in all school settings
- Purposeful reinforcement for demonstrating positive school-wide expected behaviors
- Consistent consequences and opportunities for re-teaching positive expected behaviors
- Use of data to make decisions about school-wide practices
- Comprehensive staff and student involvement

**Goals**
- Improve the academic culture through increased instructional time
- Improve the behavioral culture through a decrease in office discipline referrals
- Improve school safety and positive peer interactions
Health Office

A District nurse, health clerk, or office staff are available on campus to assist with the illness or injury of a child. Parents will be contacted to pick up their child if he/she needs to go home or see a physician. Information and guidance is provided to staff, parents, and students when medical conditions affect academic and/or social growth.

When Your Child is Ill

Germs spread very quickly. If your child tells you that he/she does not feel well, please take the time to take his/her temperature BEFORE sending your child to school. We know that a child does not always have a fever when feeling ill, but most often we find ourselves sending home children who do. Listen to your child and take their temperature! A temperature of 99.8 degrees + will result in a phone call for him/her to be picked up.

Vision and Hearing Screenings

District nursing staff provides students with vision and hearing screenings for grades K, 2, 5, new students, or at parent or teacher request.

Breakfast

Please make certain that your child eats breakfast before arriving at school. Often times a “sick” child is just hungry.
Student Accident & Health Insurance

The school district makes available to parents a low cost accident and health insurance for their children. Forms are distributed to parents on the first day of school. Additional forms are available in the office. The desirability of having such a plan can provide benefits and coverage when help is needed.

Emergency Preparedness

At Portola Springs, we are constantly concerned for the safety and welfare of each of our students. We hold regular drills to teach children the appropriate way to safely exit the building in the event of a fire, to “duck and cover” in the event of an earthquake, and to respond to lockdowns. The school will be fully equipped with search and rescue materials, first aid supplies, food, and water. Staff are assigned emergency preparedness roles and undergo specific training as needed. Our school staff is prepared to deal with a major emergency and to provide for the physical and emotional needs of students while they are under our supervision, as well as their orderly and safe release.

Access to students, in the event of an emergency, will be carefully controlled so that we may account for every child. Students will be released ONLY to adults designated on their emergency data.

In the event of an emergency, we will attempt to contact the parent community using emergency systems linked to phones and email.

To assist us in this effort, we require parents to do the following:

- Keep your contact information (including home phone, cell phone, email, and emergency contacts) on the MyIUSD parent portal up to date.
- In the event of an emergency, check in at the designated student-release area to pick up and sign out students.
Arrival and Dismissal

Bicycles

It is requested that each parent discuss the following bicycle rules with your rider:

- Parents assume FULL responsibility and liability for the rider’s conduct and bicycle.
- **Bicycles are allowed for students in grades 3-6 only.**
- All bicycles MUST be parked in the bike rack and LOCKED. Students may not share a bicycle lock—only one bicycle per lock!
- Helmets MUST be worn by all students riding to and from school.
- All bicycles must be walked on school grounds.
- Children should never ride two on one bicycle.
- Bicycles must be in safe working condition.
- Students are not to loiter in or around the bike rack area at any time.

Walking To and From School

Parents are urged to discuss safety rules and the responsibilities of good citizenship with their children in regard to walking to and from school. These points should be stressed:

- Come directly to school from home.
- Walk on the sidewalk and inside the crosswalks.
- Cross streets only at the corners and crosswalks and with the crossing guard who is on duty before and after school. Jaywalking is a citable offense by the Irvine Police Department.
- Go directly home after school.
- Do not talk to strangers.

Driving and Parking

If you drive to school, we ask that you be aware of the safety of children when driving in the vicinity of the school.

Parking lot: Please follow the arrows in the parking lot and drop off and pick up student by the curbside in front of Sierra Vista Middle School. Do not park your car in this area. Parked cars impede the safe drop off and pick up of our children. Students are not to be motioned or called off the curb into the parking lot. The children will be told to wait on the sidewalk until you pull up to the curbside. If your child is not at the curb, please continue to slowly drive around the parking lot following the arrows and enter the traffic flow again or park in a parking slot. **Safety must be our first priority as we drive our students to and from school.**

Busing

Transportation will be provided for students who reside in Portola Springs, Lambert Ranch, and Stonegate neighborhoods for the 2014-2015 school year. Transportation includes morning pickup from three central locations in Portola Springs and one in the Stonegate community to the interim facility and afternoon drop-off back to Stonegate and the central locations in Portola Springs. For specific details on busing routes, including pick-up locations and times, please visit the Portola Springs website at www.iusd.org/ps. Transportation has updated their pick-up locations, so please check it out! In order to ride the bus, your student must have a bus pass. Bus passes are available from the IUSD Transportation department and can be picked up after August 1, Monday-Friday between the hours of 7 a.m.-4 p.m. The IUSD Transportation department is located at 100 Nightmist. For questions about busing, please call Rose Clegg at (949) 936-5375.

Several families have asked about the drop off time at the end of the day for bussing. The bus driver waits for 7 minutes after the dismissal bell to allow time for students to leave class and board the bus. On the first couple of days there may be some delay leaving the school to ensure all the students who are supposed to ride the bus get on and their bus passes are checked. The estimated time for arrival at the bus stop is within a 30 min window after leaving the school.
Dear Parents:

In cooperation with the Irvine Police Department and the Transportation Services Division of the City of Irvine, we have identified a Suggested Route to School for children who walk or ride bicycles to school. We strongly encourage you to review the plan with your child and, if possible, walk the route to make sure he/she understands the route.

In the City of Irvine, bicycles may be legally ridden on sidewalks, but must yield to pedestrian traffic. Students on bicycles should always walk their bicycles across streets and look both ways before entering the street. Students who ride their bicycles within the on-street bicycle lanes are required to obey all the rules of the road. This includes riding in the same direction as vehicular traffic. All bikes must be locked in the bike racks located in the front of the school.

This neighborhood is served by one Crossing Guard to assist children when crossing at Mayflower and Westwood. When the Guard is on duty, the children are to obey the Guard’s Instructions.
Visitors & Volunteers

Student Safety

All visitors (parents, volunteers, and guests) are required to sign in at the school office prior to conducting business on campus. No parent is to be on campus at any time during the school day without signing in at the office first. Please do not enter any classroom, the playground, or lunch table area directly from the parking lot or back of the school.

Visitor Badges

Visitors on campus will be given a visitor’s badge upon signing in and MUST wear the badge in a visible location at all times while at school. Any visitor without a name badge will be asked to return to the office to sign in.

Volunteer Form

All parents or guests volunteering in the classroom or helping in any way at school must complete a Volunteer Form. This form is available in the office and will be forwarded to the District for filing. This form needs to be completed only once for the Irvine Unified School District.

Parent Involvement

Parent involvement is critical to the mission of Portola Springs; it supports the staff and helps reinforce the importance of education to your child. There are many ways to get involved. Following are details of organizations available for parent volunteers.

Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)

Portola Springs is fortunate to have the support of an active group of parents who devote their time and talents to promote activities and events for our students. Our PTA assists in community building, planning, and providing financial support, not available by other means, which improves the quality of learning and increases opportunities for enrichment for all students. Parents are encouraged to attend meetings, support activities, and volunteer. Dates and times of meetings and activities will be posted on the PTA link of the Portola Springs website and on the Portola Springs PTA Facebook page.

School Site Council (SSC)

The School Site Council is a group of parents and school personnel whose responsibility is to plan, monitor, and evaluate our School Improvement Plan. Parent members are elected by vote of all parents in the fall. Meetings are open to the general parent community and the schedule of times will be listed on the Portola Springs Website and in the Grizzly Bizz Newsletter.

English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC)

The ELAC is composed of the principal, staff, and parents of English Language Learners who meet to review our instructional support of English Language Learner students. Sometimes this committee is combined with the SSC.

If you are interested in being a part of any of these organizations, please call the office at 949-936-8800.
**Student Birthday Celebrations**

While we appreciate the joy and excitement that accompanies our students’ birthdays, we do not allow parents to bring food items to their child’s classroom to commemorate their child’s special day. Dietary restrictions, food allergies, and the varied nutritional preferences of our parent population require considerable and deliberate coordination of any event involving food, and we cannot facilitate such oversight for every student’s birthday. Party favors are seen as more appropriate for a private setting, but if strongly desired, a parent may bring non-food items such as pencils, stickers, stamps, etc. for classmates. A more lasting gesture would be the donation of a Birthday Book to our library. Our library/media clerk has excellent suggestions for choosing an appropriate Birthday Book. A special dedication card will be placed in the book. Then, the book will be shared with your student’s class. After that, the book will be placed in the school library as a continuing memory of your child’s special day.

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**Classroom Volunteers**

Portola Springs welcomes and values our volunteer assistance. In addition to the organization opportunities detailed on page 11, parents and guests may volunteer in classrooms and the library.

**Classroom/Library Assistance**

Classroom teachers and our library staff will recruit parent help at the beginning of the school year. There are opportunities for parents to work directly with students, to complete clerical tasks, and to complete tasks at home. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact your child’s teacher. If working in the library is of interest to you, please contact our library staff.

We want your experience as a classroom or library volunteer to be a successful one. Here are some suggestions that might be of interest to you when you come to help out:

1. Meet the students in a relaxed, friendly manner.
2. Learn student names and pronounce them correctly.
3. Let the students know that you are truly interested in them by asking about interests, friends, etc.
4. Give students your full attention. Listen to what they have to say.
5. Set an example for students by being courteous and respectful to them.
6. Build students’ self-confidence. Let them know you expect them to try and to succeed.

As you work with students, keep these ideas in mind:

1. Be consistent when working with students.
2. Learn school rules and be sure to follow them.
3. Be dependable. The teacher and students are depending on you.
4. Be prepared. Have everything ready when you start to work with students.
5. Reward students with positive praise.
6. Help students learn HOW to do their work.
7. Ask for help if you find a problem that you feel you may not be able to handle.
8. Your interest and enthusiasm as a volunteer may be the single most important part of success in learning for many students.

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**Confidentiality**

All student information observed or obtained while volunteering is to remain confidential. Adults who breech this confidentiality expectation will not be invited to return.

Please recognize that when volunteering in the classroom, you are offering your assistance to the classroom teacher. If you are interested in observing your child’s classroom, you are allowed up to three observations of no more than one hour each during the school year, per IUSD Board Policy. Please request your desired observation in writing at least two school days in advance.
Parent Communication

Our commitment is that we will regularly and thoroughly communicate with parents. This communication will be accomplished through a variety of methods and formally scheduled activities throughout the year.

Back to School Night

During the first month of school, we schedule a formal evening meeting for the teachers to present the curriculum, policies, and procedures for the year. It is also an opportunity for parents to sign up for a variety of volunteer opportunities. This is a night for parents only. Staff will present general information, not specific student progress.

Report Cards

Three times per year, report cards are issued for all students in grades TK-6. The report card is no longer printed, but rather is available on the MyIUSD Parent Portal (https://my.iusd.org).

Parent Conferences

Conferences are scheduled two times per year, once in the fall and once in the spring. The fall conference is a goal setting conference to select goals for each child and to review early progress. The spring conference is optional and serves as follow-up when necessary. Teachers are always available to schedule an individual meeting to discuss concerns or issues.

Open House

Open House is scheduled in February to showcase students' progress. This event is an acknowledgement of the commendable efforts our students make throughout the year. Family and friends are invited to experience this popular event with their student.

Portola Springs Website

The Portola Springs website offers a plethora of information about our school program, staff, and events. Be sure to check it regularly!

Grizzly Bizz

The Grizzly Bizz is issued periodically throughout the year. It contains more detailed information about our school programs. Look for it on the Portola Springs website.

Thursday Folders

In an effort to ensure that materials reach home, each child has an envelope or folder that parents should expect to be brought home every Thursday afternoon throughout the school year. The conduit might contain both school communication and schoolwork/homework. We hope that you will allow time each Thursday to review the information with your child and return the envelope or folder to school on Friday.

Grade Level/Teacher Websites

Our TK-5th grade teachers utilize classroom or grade level websites to communicate grade level news and information. These links can be located on the Portola Springs website (www.iusd.org/ps).

Email and Voicemail

All staff members have a phone message line and are requested to check it regularly. The phones in the classrooms revert to voicemail during the school day. Each staff member also has an email address, which they check at least once per day, when present at school. Staff email addresses are listed on the staff page of the Portola Springs website (www.iusd.org/ps/our_staff.html). Please call the office for any emergency issues as teachers will not answer the phone or check email during instructional time.
Special Programs and Support Services

In addition to our outstanding general education program, Portola Springs has a variety of other programs and services.

Gifted and Talented Education Program

The GATE Program is available to identified students grades 4-6 with exceptional learning abilities. The program consists of small clusters of identified students within the general education classrooms with a teacher who has been trained in meeting the needs of the gifted student. Appropriately differentiated instruction including depth, complexity, acceleration, and novelty is taught within the core curriculum. You may obtain further information by calling the district office at 949-936-5000, or by visiting the Gifted and Talented Education page of the IUSD website at www.iusd.org

Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) II Classes

IUSD provides students with a minimal or total support system (academic, behavioral, personal, vocational, transition) through which he/she can acquire knowledge and those skills necessary to function in the regular classroom and ultimately in society.

Psychological Services

The school psychologist provides assistance for behavioral, social/emotional, and cognitive needs of students. Diagnosis of student needs, guidance for students and parents, testing, and consultation are available.

SAI I (Resource Specialist) Program

This program is designed to assist children who demonstrate significant deficits in academic skills. A student can qualify for this program by demonstrating a specific learning disability or a significant discrepancy between ability and academic achievement. After a student is identified as qualifying for this program, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is designed to assist the student to make reasonable academic gains utilizing his/her strengths and remediation of weaknesses. This program is designed and implemented by the resource specialist in classrooms and in a one-on-one or small-group learning situation.

Speech and Language Pathologist

This program is designed to diagnose and provide therapy for students who demonstrate difficulty in speech, language development, and language-based skills. Students who qualify for this program have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) designed for them and receive individual or small group assistance as appropriate.

English as a Second Language

Our staff recommends that children learning English as a second language enroll in the IUSD Newcomer Program. Students are much more successful in English acquisition through this specialized district program. After students reach an intermediate level, they will return to their neighborhood school. Students who have been identified as English Learners receive additional support to assist them in reading, writing, listening, and speaking standards.

Rainbow Rising

The Rainbow Rising Child Care Program at Portola Springs provides affordable, quality childcare and day camps in a warm, encouraging environment. The program operates daily, Monday–Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For further information, please call (714)508-1030.

Other Services and Special Programs

- Art Specialist: 4-6
- Instrumental/Choral Music: 4-6
- Music: K-3
- Library/Media Center: K-6
- Health Education: K-6
- Science Specialist: 4-6
- Student Success Team: a problem-solving team approach for students, parents, and staff
- DARE Program: a special drug awareness program for 6th grade, sponsored by the Irvine Police Department
- ACE after school classes
Student Fee Information

California’s Constitution affirms that students and parents cannot be required to pay money to gain access to educational activities, nor can they be charged for materials and supplies necessary to participate in educational activities.

“Educational activities” has been clearly defined to include extracurricular offerings such as music, sports and some clubs. Moreover, the rules described above are believed to apply to all affiliated groups supporting district and school programs, including PTAs, boosters and foundations.

In 2010, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit against the state over impermissible fees, charges and deposits imposed on public school students. Two years later, Governor Jerry Brown signed legislation that codified existing laws and judicial decisions while establishing reasonable enforcement measures for schools and districts. The ACLU subsequently dropped its suit.

It should be noted that IUSD was in the process of analyzing its own practices even before the ACLU suit, looking specifically at funding requests that were made to help offset the cost of transportation, elective courses, summer school classes and essential supplies and equipment. The district has since worked to clarify that parent donations for most educational activities are voluntary, and that students will not be denied participation if their families choose not to contribute.

For further information, please check the following link on the Irvine Unified School District website: http://www.iusd.org/student-fee-info/
Homework Plan

The Portola Springs Elementary Staff is committed to supporting children in realizing their full academic, social and emotional potential. An essential component in working to meet this goal is the establishment of a strong partnership between staff, students and their families. We believe that homework should be purposeful, reflect the rich instruction in our classrooms, and provide a vehicle for increased communication between staff, students and families.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part 1: Purpose Statements</th>
<th>For each grade level or department, articulate the purposes for which homework is assigned.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Practice concepts and skills taught in class to check for understanding or develop mastery.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Preview assignments to prepare for subsequent lessons</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Extend assignments to transfer new skills or concepts to new situations</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Create activities to integrate many skills toward the production of a response or product</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Support creative, logical, critical, evaluative, and analytical thinking</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Develop and strengthen study habits and responsibility.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Communicate to parents the skills and concepts in class</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part 2: Appropriate Parent/Guardian Involvement</th>
<th>For each grade level or department, a description of appropriate parent/guardian involvement.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Set up a consistent organized distraction-free place for homework.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Help your child establish either a consistent schedule for completing homework or help him/her create a schedule each week that reflects that particular week's activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Prompt your child by reviewing the directions and the completed work.</td>
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<td>• Encourage your child but if the work cannot be completed, contact your teacher.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• If your child is practicing a skill, ask him/her to tell you which steps are easy, which are difficult and how she/he is going to improve.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• There is a strong correlation between reading to or with children every day and increased student achievement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Recognize that each child learns differently.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part 3: Informing Parents &amp; Guardians</th>
<th>The means by which parents/guardians shall be informed about: homework expectations; how homework is factored into student grades, when it is factored into student grades; how to respond when homework demands feel excessive.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td><strong>HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time:</strong></td>
<td>Homework will come home nightly and should take no longer than 20 minutes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Independent Reading</strong></td>
<td>There is a strong correlation between reading to or with children every day and increased student achievement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Listen to an adult read daily.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Practice reading aloud.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Complete a monthly reading log.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Complete weekly homework packet in a timely manner and with best effort.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Time:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homework will come home nightly and should take no longer than 20 minutes.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Independent Reading</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There is a strong correlation between reading to or with children every day and increased student achievement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Grade</td>
<td><strong>HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time:</strong></td>
<td>Homework will come home nightly and should take no longer than 20 minutes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Independent Reading</strong></td>
<td>There is a strong correlation between reading to or with children every day and increased student achievement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Practice math facts and read aloud nightly.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Do work independently and ask questions if needed.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Demonstrate your personal best effort.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Time:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homework will come home nightly and should take no longer than 20 minutes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Independent Reading</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There is a strong correlation between reading to or with children every day and increased student achievement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Second Grade
- Complete all written work neatly in pencil.
- Practice math facts and read aloud nightly.
- Do work independently and ask questions if needed.
- Demonstrate your personal best effort.

**Time:**
Homework will come home nightly and should take no longer than 20 minutes.

**Independent Reading**
There is a strong correlation between reading to or with children every day and increased student achievement. Each child is encouraged to have a nightly reading experience.

### Third Grade
- Record nightly homework assignments in planners.
- Complete nightly homework neatly in pencil.
- Study for tests

**Time:**
Homework will come home nightly and should take no longer than 30 minutes.

**Independent Reading**
There is a strong correlation between reading to or with children every day and increased student achievement. Each child is encouraged to have a nightly reading experience.

### Fourth Grade
**Time**
Students should expect 30-45 minutes in the first term. As they adjust to upper grade expectations, the amount of time will increase to 40-50 minutes.

**Independent Reading**
Students are encouraged to read independently daily. Homework assignments will include the practice of reading skills, but we hope that reading for pleasure as well as for information will become a daily routine for our students.

### Fifth Grade
**Time**
Students should expect 30-45 minutes in the first term. As they adjust to upper grade expectations, the amount of time will increase to 45-60 minutes.

**Independent Reading**
Students are encouraged to read independently daily. Homework assignments will include the practice of reading skills, but we hope that reading for pleasure as well as for information will become a daily routine for our students.

### Part 4: Student Access
**The access that students shall have to obtain: resource materials from the library media center including online materials, assistance and/or tutoring.**

- Access to the library/media center print resources occurs either when the student comes to the MC with a teacher as a class or individually with a pass. (Primary students can come individually to check out materials if they missed a class check out due to absence or small group pull-out session.)
- Online access 24/7 to Destiny catalog and IUSD’s subscription to Encyclopedia Britannica
- We have the ability to allow students to access videos that are part of the Discovery Streaming database from home if teachers choose to make that an option (cannot require it.)
- Assistance and/or tutoring
  a. EL support (EIA Instructional Assistants)
  b. Extended learning (based on CST scores, grades, teacher recommendation)
  c. Middle School Exploratory class (Study Skills)
  d. Middle School after school help with counselor: Cheryl Linquist (teacher recommendation, parent option)
  e. District tutor list online

**Ways to disseminate the above information:**
- Direct parent contact
- Direct student instruction (library resources)
- BTSN flyers
- Conferences
- Teacher website
- School website
- Destiny homepage
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<tr>
<th>Part 5: Coordination of Assignments</th>
<th>The means by which teachers shall coordinate assignments so that students do not receive excessive daily homework assignments.</th>
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</table>
Each grade level team works together to create daily and weekly homework. Students are encouraged to read nightly; specific reading assignments may be given.

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<tr>
<th>Part 6: Excused Absences</th>
<th>Notification to parents/guardians that no student may have his/her grade reduced or lose academic credit for any excused absence when missed assignments and tests are satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time. Such notification shall include the full text of Education Code 48205. (Education Code 48980)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Students are encouraged to complete missed homework within 3 days of their absence. Annual Parent Notification document sent via email at the beginning of the school year and available on IUSD website.

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<tr>
<th>Part 7: Student Suspensions</th>
<th>Notification to parents/guardians that the teacher of any class from which a student is suspended may require the student to complete any assignments and tests missed during the suspension. (Education Code 48913)</th>
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</thead>
</table>
Parent notification included in suspension letter that must be signed by both student and parent. General notification on district website and in annual Parent Notification document.

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<tr>
<th>Part 8: Academic Breaks</th>
<th>A description of when academic breaks will occur that acknowledges that students need and will receive time without homework assignments.</th>
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</table>
It is recognized that homework, like all educational curriculum, should be developmental in nature. In this light, we will strive to build all academic programs from a developmental perspective beginning in early grades. Additionally, we will make every effort to progress over the years to an academic level that will help assure success at the high school level for those individuals who take advantage of the opportunities afforded them. It is further recognized that in order to accomplish this goal, students need to be nurtured in such a manner to ensure the most positive experience we can envision for each child. Clearly, children need a combination of free time and meaningful work to progress. The word balance is the key, and it is, by necessity, determined on a student by student basis.

With these constructs in mind, the following points shall serve as conditions for intersession homework across all grade levels:

- Homework assignments may include the following: (1) Reading – Benefits include a higher aptitude for learning in general, better communication skills, as well as an ability to grasp abstract concepts, apply logic in various scenarios, and recognize cause and effect; (2) Music Practice – To master your chosen instrument and become good players, students should aim to practice daily.
- Assignments will be available to all students.
- Students shall not be penalized for circumstances beyond their control. For example, if the student is out of town during the entire intersession break and unable to bring their instrument, his/her parent can write a note to excuse the student from music practice.
- Students will be provided with sufficient time during the quarter (whether before break, after break, or both) to complete assigned work. In other words, additional homework shall not be assigned over the break, though students may have assignments they choose to work on during the break.
- Students failing to meet the grade level criteria may be encouraged to take remedial action with parental assistance during intersession.