



# CHERRY PARK ELEMENTARY

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE IMMERSION

## Where Are We?

Back in early November, I noted that we will go through three phases in our transition to Cherry Park ESOLI. Dr. Williams Bridges says the first stage is **Meaningful Endings** where we say goodbye and let go. The second stage is **The Neutral Zone** where there is lots of curiosity, uncertainty, highs and lows, and instability. In this stage, we need information, communication, plans and structures. This is right where we are. I appreciate how well you have responded to the “new way” of Cherry Park. Attached is a summary of arrival, dismissal, and lunch procedures. We want to keep you informed and we want to hear your feedback and questions. Know that you can continue using the Transition Survey link (see below) to ask them and find out information. Here are answers to a few questions for this week. **1. How did this week go?** To be honest, I expected to see a few tears and some worried looks. I witnessed only smiles and hugs instead. We had a fantastic week!! Kids (and adults) are making new friends and they are adjusting to their new school home. Everyone is enjoying being together. Our little people are following such a great example of our big people (both staff and parents.) **2. Hey, Mr. Maness, can't we open the gate at the Caswell Entrance?** During high traffic volume times (such as in the morning), we are required to keep the gate locked so that traffic doesn't build up on Caswell Street and Cherry Road. That regulation is determined by the Department of Transportation. We are thinking through all options in the afternoon after we have dismissed our car riders. We must think about the safety implications and necessary signage and adjustments that would have to be made. That is the reason why we can't simply open the gate. We hope to have a clear answer and solution by the end of this week. **3. Can we come and eat lunch with our child(ren)?** Yes, we welcome you to come. Thanks for giving us this first week to settle into procedures. Tables are set up between the stairwell and the windows for parents to eat with their children. Please be sure to let the teacher know you are eating with your child and when the class is ready to go, please have him/her join up with the class when they leave the cafeteria. Please say goodbye there instead of walking with your child back to class. (This helps your child easily transition back to the teacher and class.) For any exceptions to this procedure, just talk with your child's teacher. **4. If my child is late and I'm dropping off at the Cherry Road Entrance, do I have to go to the Caswell Entrance to sign in my child?** Yes. We will not have outside supervision after 7:45 at the Cherry Road Entrance (or the Caswell Entrance). You will need to either drive around to the Caswell Entrance or park and walk up the ramp to the Caswell Entrance. All students should be at CPESOLI by 7:40 and they are late at 7:45. Late arriving students must be signed in by their parents at the office. **5. Do I have to have a CPESOLI car tag to get my child at dismissal?** Yes. Starting tomorrow, if

you do not have a CPESOLI car tag, you will be asked to provide identification to make sure we are delivering the right child to the right person. Car tags are given out in the office. Know that as we move through the next few weeks, you will continue to receive updates on adjustments that we are making in our procedures and schedules. We appreciate your patience and kindness as we work together to ensure a safe learning environment for our kids. We are so glad you are a part of the Cherry Park Elementary School Family.

Mr. Maness, Principal

**Sullivan Middle School Immersion Parent Night (For Current 5<sup>th</sup> grade & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Immersion Families.)** Thursday, February 7 at 6:00 PM in the Sullivan Auditorium

Everyone is welcome! We will:

- Inform immersion families about immersion at Sullivan
- Provide insight into the transition from Cherry Park Elementary to Sullivan Middle immersion
- Explain the 6th-grade immersion curriculum
- Current 6th-grade students will share testimonials
- Explain 7th-grade immersion

**First Grade French Immersion Next Fall**

Please help pass on the word to other families that we are going to allow a limited number of new students to join our First Grade French classes next fall. Current kindergarten students who are not at CPESOLI can apply for First Grade French Immersion for next fall. They must complete the application by February 28. Limited slots are available. (This is only for French Immersion in first grade for next year.)

**School of Choice Calendar**

The application window opened **December 3 and stays open until February 28**. If you have a rising kindergarten student who has a sibling already in the immersion program, you need to complete a School of Choice application. Rising K5 students who have siblings already in the program are grandfathered into the program if an application is filled out during the application window. You can go to the [School of Choice Webpage](#) to complete the application. Please tell friends and neighbors about our program. We will have tours at CPESOLI on Wednesday, January 30 at 8:00 AM and Tuesday, February 12 at 6:30 PM.

**Parent Teacher Organization and School Improvement Council Update**

The PTO serves to raise funds, coordinate volunteers and encourage teachers through appreciation activities. We had a great meeting last week and minutes from the meeting were sent out earlier this week. We will meet again on **Tuesday, January 22, at 6:30 PM** to continue organization efforts. We encourage all parents to come and participate. We will meet in the Cherry Park Elementary Library starting in January. Meeting dates have been set for the following Mondays at 6:30 PM for the rest of the year: **February 18, March 18, April 22 and**

**May 20. Our School Improvement Council will meet on the same days at 5:30 PM** in the Office Conference Room. All parents are invited to attend either or both meetings. Both groups are working on bylaws and have started organizational efforts. There will be a table at Open House to sign up for PTO and to volunteer. **We would like to have at least one representative from each of the schools on the PTO Leadership Team** so we can take the best ideas from all the PTO's and put them into practice for our CPES PTO. The group at PTO divided into committees to work on Bylaws, Fundraising, Volunteers and Teacher Appreciation. We hope you can come and join one of these subcommittees.

### **Got Questions?**

Attached are answers for our Transition FAQ. Please don't forget that you can ask them at our [Transition Survey](#) site. These are being collected and will be answered on our FAQ page on our school website as well.

### **Calendar Dates**

Monday, January 21--Martin Luther King Holiday

Tuesday, January 22—5:30 PM School Improvement Council (Office Conference Room); 6:30 PM Parent Teacher Organization Meeting (Media Center)

Wednesday, January 30--Prospective Parent/School of Choice Tour for CPES at 8:00 AM

Wednesday, February 6--CARLA Conference School Visit (During the morning we will host 40 attendees of the Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition Conference that will be in Charlotte, NC.)

Thursday, February 7—Current Fifth Grade and Sixth Grade Immersion Parent Meeting at 6:00 at Sullivan Auditorium

February 12--Prospective Parent Tour for CPES at 6:30 PM

February 14—Valentine's Day

February 15 and 18—Bad Weather Makeup Days (School is in session.)

February 18--5:30 PM SIC (Office Conference Room); 6:30 PM PTO (Media Center)

### **Attachments:**

 [Arrival, Dismissal, and Lunch Procedures 2019 .docx](#) (17.4 KB)