

Country Gardens Charter School
6313 West Southern Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85339
(602) 237-3741
www.cgcsaz.com

August 12, 2011

WELCOME

We are glad you have chosen Country Gardens as the school for your child. This is our 12th year! Please be sure to talk to your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks for a great first week!

THANK YOU PARENTS

Breakfast was provided to staff by Margo Smith, Nora Vileikis, Devon Colston, and Alyson Hartmark for teachers on the first day back to school. It was delicious! Also thank you to Claudia Noriega for the new trees donated to the school. They are planted and look great!

TRUANCY/ATTENDANCE

Any student who is between the ages of six and sixteen must be in school. Truant means a child who has missed school for at least five school days within a school year or exceeds 10% of the school days, which is 18 days for our school. There is a \$50.00 diversion fee if students are cited. If students are cited you will need to report to court with your child. Students who miss 20 days of school will be retained. Please help get your child to school. **Students will receive free ice cream on Fridays if they are not absent all week. Please make appointments for Wednesday afternoons so students do not miss school.**

PARENTS DRIVING TO SCHOOL

If you are dropping off/picking up students please pull up to the curb and have your child exit or enter the car quickly. This will help with the flow of traffic. If you need to leave your vehicle you must park in the field. All kindergarten parents need to park in the field for dismissal and use the cross walk. Staff will be present at 7:45 AM to supervise students on campus. School begins at 8:00 AM. This is for the safety of all students.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Please make sure that your child brings in their school supplies. All students need to buy reading journals. They can be purchased from the office for \$3.00 and are needed for their weekly homework assignments. Students need supplies so that they can complete their class work and homework.

E.E.L.S. PROGRAM

Experiential Education on Land N' Sea (E.E.L.S. Program) is a program available to all students in grades K-12. To qualify for the trips students must meet the following criteria:

1. Have good attendance and not miss more than 3 days for the first 100 days. That is 97% attendance.
2. No out of school suspensions.
3. Homework turned in at 90%.
4. Have a good attitude and be trustworthy.
5. Attend all state testing in April.

LABELING STUDENT ITEMS

Labeling your child's lunch bags will help if your child loses an item.

SCHOOL LUNCHES AND BREAKFAST

Country Gardens does not offer free or reduced prices for lunches. Students in grades K-2 can eat for \$1.50. Older students should bring money depending on their choice of items. Your child may eat in the classroom the first few weeks of school until the weather cools down. Students can not bring soda to school in their lunches.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Students will be bringing home the copy of the handbook for you to preview and sign. Please have your child return the forms to their classroom teacher.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP/PTSO

If you would like to be involved please attend the first meeting on August 31 from 6:00 - 7:00 PM in room 6. Parents will assist with fundraisers, teacher recognition, and school events during the year.

Important Dates

August 25

Open House 6:00 - 8:00 PM

August 31

**Parent Support Group/PTSO
6:00 - 7:00 PM**

September 1

**Tutoring begins 3:30-4:30 PM
No bussing provided. Grades 1-12**

September 5

Labor Day—No School

September 21

Open Conferences 1:15 - 4:00 PM



HOMEWORK

Homework is posted weekly on the website. Visit www.cgcsaz.com. Then click on your child's teacher's name. Please look for this the second week of school.

Student Behavior

Please remind your child to be responsible for good choices at school. Students may be suspended for these infractions: Possession of weapons, tobacco, drugs and alcohol, vandalism to school property, body piercing except the ears, any coloring, bleaching, tinting of hair for students in grades K-8, student wearing artificial nails, make-up for students in grades K-8, any student harming or attempting to harm any animal on campus, ditching, truancy to class and/or school, out of school uniform, harassment toward other students, peer mediation with the same student after two or more times, continued classroom disruption, defiance and/or profanity toward authority, threats to others or school, fighting repeatedly, possession of electronic devices on school grounds, and including on the school bus, theft to any student or school property, and continued bus issues. Thanks for your support to help our campus be a safe learning environment for all students.

As a reminder cell phone, IPODS and other electronic devices are not allowed at school. If displayed they will be confiscated and not returned. **Students may not keep cell phones in their possession during the school day. Students must turn them into the office and get them at the end of the school day. IF STUDENTS ARE CAUGHT WITH AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY INCLUDING THE BUS THEIR CELL PHONE WILL BE CONFISCATED FOR A MINIMUM OF ONE MONTH.**

School Uniforms

Please make sure that your child has solid black or brown shoes with black or brown shoelaces. Students can not have any shoes with designs or white, they must be solid black or brown. Thank you for adhering to the dress code.

Attendance is IMPORTANT!

If your child is absent please call the school by 8:30 AM. You can reach us by calling (602) 237-3741. **Ice cream will be provided to any student who has not missed school all week on Fridays. Please help your child get to school everyday!**

Messages to Students from Parents

It takes a lot of time to run messages to students each day. Please call only if there is an emergency.

Special Education and Speech

We offer special education services for all students. Please contact the school office and speak to Mr. Vite if you have any questions regarding your child's Individual Education Plan (IEP). We will be reviewing your child's IEP annually. Speech services will be provided to your child if he/she qualifies for services.

English as a Second Language Services

Students who qualify for services will meet with teachers to review their ILLP—Individual Learning Plan. You will be notified of these meetings that will take place on September 7, 2011.

Reading With Your Child

As a parent/guardian you can be a good role model for your child by reading every night. Every child needs to read 15 minutes to 1 hour nightly depending on their age. Reading will improve your child's skills in all content areas. In Arizona a new law passed in 2011 that states the current first graders must pass the Arizona AIMS Reading test in third grade to be promoted to the next grade. Reading is an important skill that helps your child in all areas of education. Students in high school must pass the AIMS assessments in reading, writing, and math to graduate high school. These assessments are first offered their sophomore year of school for high school students.

Thanks again for reading with your child and setting aside a time for your child to complete their homework!