

CHERRY ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2025 - 2026 Family Handbook

201 Cherry Road
Syracuse, NY 13219

315-426-3300 (Main office) 315-468-0623 (Main office fax)
315-426-3320 (Health office) 315-426-3324 (Health office fax)

crs.main.office@westhillschools.org



Dear CRS families,

On behalf of the entire staff, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child. We're so excited to start this new school year together and create a community where every student can thrive.

This handbook is designed to be a helpful guide throughout the year, providing you with important information about our school's policies, programs, and expectations. We believe that a strong partnership between home and school is essential for a child's success, and we encourage you to use this as a resource and to stay connected with us.

We are dedicated to providing a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment where your child can grow academically, socially, and emotionally. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or the school office.

Here's to a fantastic school year!

Sincerely,

Meaghan Stanton
Principal

CRS Staff

Meaghan Stanton: Principal

Marnie Medeiros: Building Secretary

Kelly Jackson: Main Office Typist 1

Beth Nagraj: School Nurse

Rich Lucio: School Resource Officer

Dena Connelly: School Psychologist

Tammy Hollis-Breen: School Social Worker

Cheri King: Helio Health Provider

Diblay Chivala: Promise Zone Student Engagement Specialist

2nd grade: Shelby Dusart, Maria Geiss, Kristie Kisselburgh, Derek Prosser, Brenda Umbrianna, Megan Vertucci, Deanne Ziober

3rd grade: Kayla Abulencia, Laura Jackson, Sarah Lootens, Rick Mace, Kathy Neumire, Amy Tooley

4th grade: Kassie Appel, Nina D'Amico, Christian Engle, Taylor Heffron, Sarah Peer, Melissa Prior

Special Education: Adam Linden, Stefanie Mangovski, Sunny McDermott, Tammy Phillips

Occupational Therapist: Maureen Henesey

Physical Therapist: Margaret DeRuijter

Speech Language Pathologists: Kathlene Hunter, Erin Macko

ENL: Mary Mitchell

Interventionists: Mary Ellen Guinto, Jen Hodgins, Wendy Smith

Special Areas: Jon Connelly (PE), Sarah Collaluca (Music), Karin Backus (Library), Colleen O'Brien (Art)

Instructional Coaches: Mary Pat Hoag (ELA), Kim Kennedy (Math)

Teaching Assistants: Linda Abear, Zari Abedrabbah, Aicha Biad, Svitlana Bidna, Kelly Collins, Jenelle D'Agostino, Kevin Donath, Nancy Downs, Ashley Gardner, Morgan Gehm, Amber Goldthwaite, Jordan Gunnip, Diane Hausman, Kerry Kelly, Nell Killoran, Megan Kinney, Gloria Li, Reinette Mullenix, Casey Ryan, Tara Sampo, Courtney West

Cafeteria: Patti Klinger (cafeteria manager), Mary Diligent, Joanne Riker, Renee Strelec, Felna Sweet (cafeteria aide)

Custodial Staff: Joe Farino (Head custodian), Robert Daley, Kathryn Micho, Greg Simmons, Liam Smith

School Hours

8:50am - Students begin arriving

9:00am - School Starts

9:05am - Morning Announcements

3:15pm - Dismissal begins

Please note that supervision is not available before 8:50am so children should not arrive early. If students arrive prior to 8:50am, they are asked to wait with a parent at the front triple doors (door #2) until they are unlocked when the bell rings.

Main Office Communication

The Cherry Road Office staff utilizes the following email address for all correspondence regarding pick-ups, early dismissals, transportation changes, bus changes, absences, etc.: **crs.main.office@westhillschools.org**. We ask that you do not send paper notes. This email is checked frequently throughout the day by the office staff. In order for us to get our dismissal list to the classroom teachers, we ask that you email us no later than 2:15 pm. The email eliminates multiple calls and disruptions to the classroom.

Transportation/Walkers

A crossing guard provided by the Town of Geddes crosses the children in front of the school (on the Cherry Road side of the building) at the end of the sidewalk closest to the playground. Only children who actually walk home will be dismissed as walkers.

Transportation/Pick-Ups

Please provide an email to the main office email prior to 2:15pm with a pick up schedule. Arrive beginning at 3:15pm and wait in a line at the cafeteria doors (doors to the right of the main doors-door #15) on the Cherry Road side of the building to meet your child. Students will be waiting in the cafeteria. You will be asked your child's name and they will radio in to the cafeteria to send your child out to meet you. There is no need to sign your child out - their name is already on a list from the office and their name will be checked off the list as they exit the building. All students must be picked up by **3:25pm** since our office staff leaves for the day at 3:30.

Bussing

If you are making changes to a permanent drop off location for your child, please send those notices to the CRS email (**crs.main.office@westhillschools.org**). If you have specific questions about bussing, please call the transportation office at (315) 426-3030. Please remind your children about bus safety. Bus passes will only be issued in cases of emergency, not for play dates, birthday parties, etc.

Student Arrivals via Parent Drop-Offs

For parents dropping off students in the morning, please do so on the Cherry Road side of the building. Parking and drop offs in the bus circle (on the Maple Road side of the building) is prohibited. Walkers and drop-offs should all enter through the front triple doors (doors to the left of the main CRS entrance-door #2).

Early Dismissal of Students From School

If you are picking your child up early from school, parents will buzz the front door (main doors under the clock-door #1). A main office employee will ask your name, the students name and the reason you are here. You will be buzzed into the main vestibule and wait there. We will call your child's classroom to let the teacher know that you have arrived. The student will then be sent to meet you in the vestibule where you will leave with them. There will be no parent signout needed. Please ensure that you have sent an email to crs.main.office@westhillschools.org with the child's name, teacher, grade, reason for early dismissal and the time. An email must be sent **each day** there is a change. Emails for multiple days can only be accepted if they are for consecutive days within the same week. Parking in the bus circle is prohibited during school hours so please park on the Cherry Road side of the building.

Breakfast and Lunch Prices

The breakfast cost for 2025/2026 is free and the lunch cost is free. Milk is \$.60, ice cream is \$.75, healthy snacks are \$.75 (fresh fruit, animal crackers, Goldfish crackers, and occasional other items may be available). Breakfast is served every morning from 8:50-9:00am. We strongly encourage parents to visit our website for information about prepaying for your child's food account. To prepay on your child's account, you can go to www.westhillschools.org and click on Food Service, click on the link to MySchoolBucks.com directly or you can send a check payable to **Westhill Cafeteria Internal Fund** to the school cafeteria. Any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Patti Klinger, Cafeteria Manager at (315) 426-3300, ext. 3351.

Snacks

All students should bring a healthy snack to school daily (e.g. pretzels, breakfast bar, celery, carrots, fruit, popcorn, etc.). Healthy snacks can also be purchased in the cafeteria for \$.75. Please note - if there are any allergies in the class and the teacher/nurse sends a note, we must follow restrictions for student safety.

Recess

Sneakers are required on the playground equipment (if you have an extra pair it is a good idea to keep a pair at school)! We try to go outside as much as possible (even in the winter months, unless the feels like temperature is below 14 degrees) so please have your child dress appropriately. Snow pants, boots, hats, mittens, scarves, etc. will be needed during the cold winter months. We have indoor activities in the classrooms on rainy and very cold days.

Code of Conduct

At Cherry Road School, a proactive and restorative approach to student conduct is employed. A number of opportunities, both in the classroom and school-wide are provided to teach children appropriate behaviors. This is done through modeling and follow-through, and positive reinforcement of appropriate behaviors. PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports) and our SEL program promote respectful, responsible and cooperative actions.

It is important that a Code of Conduct is understood by students to enable them to practice the desired behaviors. Therefore, the following “CRS Promise” was established as the code for our elementary school:

The Cherry Road Promise

I promise to myself and others today

To be respectful and responsible in a safe way

I pledge to do this every day

Because it is our Cherry Road way.

Consequences

At the elementary level, consequences for inappropriate behavior may include the following:

- verbal reminders
- taking a break from an activity
- loss of a privilege
- apologies in verbal or written form
- conference with the principal
- implementation of a behavior modification program
- suspension from school

The selection of the appropriate consequence will include consideration of the following:

- consistency of the inappropriate behavior
- nature of the inappropriate behavior
- circumstances leading to the inappropriate behavior
- age-appropriateness of the behavior
- pertinent information from parents and school personnel
- extent to which prior consequences have been effective
- extent to which the inappropriate behavior interfered with the safety, learning and property of others

Also, please note our district's policy on Dignity for All Students Act and the plain language summary of the Code of Conduct. These policies can be found on the district's website.

Specials Area Classes

We will be utilizing a 6 day rotation for specials again this year. Should there be an emergency closure day we will skip the day and return on the following day maintaining the rotation. For example, if Tuesday is scheduled to be day 2, and we have a snow day on Tuesday, when we return on Wednesday that will be day 3. This will help to avoid confusion on schedules, especially because of cancellations.

Student Support Team (SST)

SST is a multidisciplinary team that provides consultation and support to classroom teachers as part of the Response to Intervention (RtI) model. Specific needs of students will be discussed and strategies to assist the students will be developed, implemented and monitored. The effectiveness of interventions will be evaluated at follow-up meetings. Parents are informed prior to student referral, however parent permission is not sought as this is a collegial resource for educators. Classroom teachers will report results of the discussion to parents.

Support Services

A variety of support services are offered for children in need of support who qualify for these services. These include:

- Response To Intervention Services (RtI)
- Special Education Services
- Adaptive Physical Education
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech/Language Therapy
- English Language Learners (ELL)
- Social Worker and School Psychologist Counseling (groups and individual/groups include Changing Families, Making Friends, Dealing with Anxiety and Grief, and Newcomers Group.
- Helio Health

Health Requirements

- A physical exam is required for all students in grade 3 and new students to the district.
- Immunizations must be current for children to attend school.
- Please advise the health office of any medical or health information that may affect the child in school.
- If medication **must** be taken at school, a parent/guardian(s) must bring it directly to the health office in the original prescription container labeled by the pharmacy. A written order from the physician and a written parental consent are required.

Attendance

Consistent attendance is imperative for school success. Did you know that missing 2 days a month leads to missing 10% of the school year? Teachers or the School Social Worker may reach out when concerns surface surrounding a student's attendance. If this does not help to resolve these issues, then contact from the principal will occur to discuss a child's absenteeism or tardiness, and to help create a plan to rectify the situation. If you are ever in need of support ensuring your child's regular attendance at school, please reach out to your child's teacher, Mrs. Hollis Breen or Mrs. Stanton.

Please email the Cherry Road School Main Office at:

crs.main.office@westhillschools.org no later than 8:55am if your child will be absent.

Note that tardiness adversely affects the learning environment as other students become distracted by late arrivals. If a student is tardy, the parent should walk their student to the main Cherry Road entrance, buzz the door and office personnel will ask the student name, teacher and the reason you are tardy. We will note the tardiness in our student database. There is no need for the parent to sign them in. The student can go directly to their classroom.

Emergency School Closings

Closings or delays due to inclement weather will be communicated via Parent Square. Additionally, you can watch/listen to local TV and radio stations for school closing information due to inclement weather. For emergencies other than weather related situations, the district will use ParentSquare. The designated emergency number on file will be used for notification. Please keep this number current at our Main Office.

Security/Safety

Please note for the health and safety of all students and staff, we limit the entrance of visitors to the school. **ALL** visitors must stop in the Main Office and obtain a Visitor's Badge. A driver's license must be presented to expedite the process of sign-in through the Raptor-ware System. **ALL** doors to the school building are locked at all times. You must be buzzed in at the front door by the Main Office Staff. The entrance and grounds of the school are monitored by security cameras. Children may not leave the playground or other recess areas to speak with adults. Adults dropping off items to their child will be asked to have all items labeled with their **name and teacher**. Parents will be directed to leave the item(s) on the front desk in the office. Office staff will call the child to the office to pick the item up. Fire and lockdown drills will be practiced throughout the school year.

Emergencies

It is imperative that emergency contacts are kept current in our student database. Emergency Information should be returned in September and updated as needed throughout the school year. Work numbers of friends/relatives are needed in case parents cannot be reached.

Parent Communication

The following opportunities help us to keep in close contact with parents:

- Parent/Guardian & Teacher Conferences: December 9, 2025 and December 11, 2025
- Progress Reports - These go home to parents/guardians on Friday, December 12, 2025, Friday, March 27, 2026, & Wednesday, June 25, 2026.
- Cherry Road and Westhill website: www.westhillschools.org
- Email and Voicemail: All teachers have email and voicemail that you may access.
- ParentSquare updates

WEST (Westhill Elementary Schools Together)

We hope you'll participate in our wonderful parent organization! Without WEST, there are many activities that would not take place for children. They sponsor authors, musicians, workshops, family events and celebrations. Please consider attending one or more of WEST's meetings to show your support. Check the district calendar for dates and times. WEST has a page on the district's website as well. They welcome and need volunteers to make events happen for our kids!

Lost and Found

Please check our Lost and Found regularly. It is located in the cafeteria. Please label **ALL** of your child's items so things will not end up there.