

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2022-2023

**Sunnyslope Students are Respectful,
Responsible, and Safe**

“BE A SUPERSTAR EVERYDAY!”

SUNNYSLOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

4183 Sunnyslope Road SW
Port Orchard, WA 98367
(360) 443-3470
skschools.org/sunnyslope

Principal: Jamie Del Palacio

THIS PLANNER BELONGS TO:

Name _____

Teacher _____

Grade _____

OUR VISION

Sunnyslope Elementary School is a place where students, parents and staff strive to help each individual reach his or her maximum potential. Our vision “Reaching every star...Every star reaching” means that our entire staff is committed to helping every student become the best that they can be in all academic, social, physical, and emotional areas of their lives. No exceptions! It also means we expect each student to reach their highest to achieve success. We believe in preparing our students to be productive and contributing members of our communities, by instilling in them the love of life-long learning.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide you with a reference of some of the more pertinent policies and procedures of the South Kitsap School District and Sunnyslope Elementary School. Although the handbook does not contain every detailed policy and procedure, it should serve as a guideline for families and students. Please refer to the district’s “Rights and Responsibilities Handbook” for the policies, procedures and laws of South Kitsap School District.

SUNNYSLOPE ELEMENTARY GENERAL INFORMATION

(Times, prices, and procedures are subject to change.)

ARRIVAL

Students should arrive no earlier than 8:50 a.m. unless eating breakfast which is served each morning in the Kids' Café beginning at 8:40 a.m. If students are not having breakfast, they report to their class line location on the blacktop or by their exterior classroom door. Students report to class at 9:00 a.m. and school begins at 9:05 a.m. On Wednesdays, breakfast begins at 9:35 a.m., students report to class at 9:45 a.m. and school begins at 9:50 a.m.

ATTENDANCE- Please see Rights & Responsibilities Handbook Section 7

Regular school attendance is important to your child's progress. Please keep early dismissals, tardiness and absences to a minimum. Help your child develop consistent attendance habits. **Please call the office or email grunenfe@skschools.org before 9:30 a.m. to report your child's absence.** Please be aware that the office needs to be contacted directly even if you have informed your child's teacher. The school will call each morning to verify unexplained absences. This procedure assures parents that their child has made it safely to school. Absences will be identified as unexcused unless a phone call or note from the parent is received by the school. Illness, medical appointments, religious holidays, or bereavement are examples of excused absences. Pre-arranged vacations with prior approval from the principal and teacher may be excused. Teachers are not expected to make special preparations in advance for any student who is absent due to truancy, family vacations, etc. Please try to plan vacations and medical appointments around our school schedule whenever possible.

BIRTHDAYS

Classroom teachers have their own special ways for recognizing student birthdays. Please do not send cupcakes, cookies, or other treats to class. You're welcome to send a special treat for your student in his or her lunchbox! **WE ASK THAT YOU DO NOT SEND GIFTS TO SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD (e.g. flowers, balloons, etc.).** We prefer party invitations be distributed outside of school. Each teacher has his or her own invitation distribution policy. Please do not send invitations to class unless you've verified you're in compliance with your teacher's policy.

CELL PHONES / SMARTWATCHES- Please see Rights & Responsibilities Handbook Section 6

As cell phones are a source of distraction for students, it is preferred that they do not bring them to school. However, if parents require their child have a cell phone for safety purposes, they must adhere to our cell phone policy. Cell phones must be silenced and out of sight at all times on our school campus - see full policy on our website. **Smart watches will be treated as cell phones.** Please follow the same guidelines for smart watches as cell phones. The school is not responsible for loss or damage. If a student is found to be using a cellular device during the school day, the teacher/staff member will complete an office referral and discipline will be handled by the principal.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Character counts at Sunnyslope Elementary! We practice a Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS). It is a framework consisting of basic values to promote respectful, responsible, and safe behavior. We teach, model, monitor and reinforce school wide expectations. Our guidelines for success are enclosed.

Students are also taught social and emotional skills such as conflict resolution strategies, skills for learning, and empathy through a curriculum called *Second Step*. At Sunnyslope, we have five core values that we teach and celebrate.

Positive Leadership – I demonstrate positive leadership when I focus my attention on learning, use my self-talk to stay on task, listen and make good choices to do the right thing. I give gentle reminders and accept gentle reminders from others when I get off track.

Kindness – I demonstrate kindness when I think about how others feel and follow The Golden Rule – Treat others the way I want to be treated.

Courage – I demonstrate courage when I manage my feelings: stop, name the feeling, take a deep breath, and calm down. I take risks in learning even when I might make a mistake.

Creativity – I demonstrate creativity when I “STEP” up to a problem.

- Say the Problem
- Think of Solutions
- Explore Consequences
- Pick the Best Solution

Invincible Grit – I demonstrate invincible grit when I use my social-emotional skills to lead by example, be kind to others, have courage to manage my emotions and am creative in solving problems. I refuse to give up on myself or my learning, even when it's really hard!

CLOSED CAMPUS

The School District maintains a "closed campus" policy. Students are expected to remain at school from the beginning of the school day until the end of the school day. Visitors to campus must have the approval of the building principal and are to sign in at the office upon arrival. **Delivery of forgotten items (lunches, books, etc.) should be brought to the school office. The office personnel will deliver items to your child at a time least disruptive to the classroom.**

COMPUTER USE (Electronic Systems & Internet Acceptable Use Policy) **See Rights & Responsibilities Handbook Section 6**

Student use of our computers is a privilege and should be for school purposes only. Appropriate use of the computer and the internet means:

- Respect school property by not disrupting, destroying, modifying or abusing computer equipment or the network.
- Do not destroy other people's files with viruses or hacking tools
- Only access files that belong to me
- Use existing software and not install any other software without permission
- Use only teacher-approved media or devices
- Obey the restrictions of the network filter
- Report anything inappropriate to my teacher or another adult immediately
- Protect myself by not giving out personal information (including my password) or leaving my computer unattended
- Be a good cyber-citizen and not use the computer to bully, harass or put-down others
- Respect the copyright of software and web sites and not plagiarize the works of others

Failure to comply could result in disciplinary action according to district policy #2022.

COUNSELOR

Sunnyslope is pleased to have a certificated school counselor on staff. Our counselor provides a variety of school-wide services intended to reach all students. Classroom guidance activities increase student attachment to the school and encourage a positive school community. Our counselor provides social skills training, conflict and anger management, and much more. Our counselor is there to support students, parents and faculty members.

DEPARTURE

All students being picked up will meet their parent/guardian by the doors to the cafeteria. **If an early dismissal is necessary or your child will be going home different than usual, please contact the office PRIOR to 2:30 p.m. by sending a note with your child or calling the office.** We send notes to classrooms to notify and/or remind your child. Early dismissals should be avoided whenever possible. We appreciate your cooperation as we strive to make sure your children are where they are supposed to be! We will send your child home the usual way unless we hear from a parent/guardian. **Kindergarten pick-up locations are different; please check with your child's teacher for procedures. Please note it is still important to contact the office for any schedule changes.*

DISCIPLINE- Please see Rights & Responsibilities Handbook Section 3

At Sunnyslope Elementary, we believe that good discipline is essential in the teaching-learning process. This is accomplished through respectful and safe actions, and personal responsibility. We believe that discipline is a joint responsibility between the home and the school. Our goals are to be clear, consistent, fair and understanding of individual needs and circumstances. Students, parents, and school staff work together showing mutual respect for one another and personal and school property. Our guidelines for success and playground procedures and expectations are enclosed. Please refer to the district's "Rights & Responsibility Handbook" for the policies, procedures and laws of South Kitsap School District. This Handbook is provided on-line on our website (skschools.org). All families will receive an Acknowledgement of Receipt Form. This form must be signed electronically in Skyward or you can request a copy to complete and return to school after reviewing the handbook. Additional copies may be requested through the school office.

South Kitsap School District Policy #3330 Student Conduct states the following:

Any student who willfully performs any act, which materially interferes with or is detrimental to the orderly operation of a school, a school-sponsored activity or any other aspect of the educational process within the South Kitsap School District, shall be subject to discipline, suspension or expulsion.

"In cases involving any student who is determined to have carried a firearm onto, or to have possessed a firearm on public school premises, public school provided transportation or areas of facilities being used exclusively by public schools, shall be expelled from school for not less than one year under RCW 28.A.6000.010. The Superintendent of the School District may modify the expulsion of a student on a case-by-case basis."

DRESS FOR SCHOOL

Student dress will only be regulated when:

- A health or safety hazard will be presented by the student's dress or appearance including possible membership in a gang or hate groups. For example, footwear must be sturdy and cover the foot in order to protect feet during PE and recess activities (flip-flops, sandals, open toed shoes, and high heels are not safe).
- Damage to school property will result from the student's dress; or
- A material and substantial disruption of the educational process will result from the students' dress or appearance.

Staff have the ability to determine if clothing/appearance is disruptive to the school environment. Students who are dressed inappropriately will be asked to cover or change their clothing or be sent home. During cold and variable weather, students should have warm clothing. Students go outside rain or shine!

ETHNIC DIVERSITY

Students of all races and cultural diversity are represented in our student body. All students are expected to treat each other with dignity as they go through their day. All are encouraged to continue to develop a respect and an understanding for the contributions of all people in our society.

HOMEWORK

Practice at home of previously taught skills helps to reinforce skill development. Homework may include the application and practice of learned skills, silent reading, completion of work not finished during class time, and/or make-up work due to absence.

LATE START WEDNESDAY (STAFF COLLABORATION)

Each Wednesday that there is a full day of school, class begins at 9:50 a.m. This late start time allows our staff to collaborate together in order to align curriculum, assess student data, and improve instruction based on student needs. More information about collaboration time is available on the district website at skschools.org.

LEAVING SCHOOL DURING THE DAY

Early dismissal of a student may be granted at the request of the parent/guardian for reasons involving the student's health or a family emergency requiring his or her presence. Please send a note to school with your child informing us of the time you plan to pick him or her up. Students are to give the notes to their teacher in the morning at the start of school. To protect the safety of your child, teachers will only release a student if authorized by the office via a note from the parent. In order to release students from the building, they must be signed out in the office. Upon returning, they must be signed in again.

THE SCHOOL ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR PERSONAL ITEMS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL. Students are not to bring personal items or toys, such as I pods, video games, etc. The only exception is when classroom teachers make specific requests for sharing. Cell phones must be silenced during the school day and should be stored in backpacks. E-readers, such as Kindles, are allowed at school, but at your own risk. In the event a child brings an inappropriate item to school, it may be confiscated, dated, labeled with the child's name, and placed in the office for parent pick up.

LOST AND FOUND

All articles lost or found in the building or on the school grounds will be turned into the school office to be placed in the "Lost and Found". Articles left on the bus are usually turned in at the district bus garage or returned to the school office. **We request that personal possessions be labeled with your child's name so that we may easily locate the owner. Please check the "Lost and Found" periodically. Unclaimed items will be donated to charitable organizations.**

LUNCH/BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Nutritious lunches and breakfasts are available to all students each school day. Elementary lunches are \$3.50, milk - 50 cents, breakfast - \$2.15. Lunch accounts can be paid online on: **MySchoolBucks.com**. Your student may bring cash or check in the morning to purchase meals.

There is no limit to the number of credits which may be purchased at one time. Some students are eligible for free or reduced-price breakfast or lunch. This eligibility is determined by federal guidelines. Information is available in the school office and online.

Parents are welcome to eat with their child. Please call the office before 9:00 a.m. to reserve a hot lunch. We stress nutrition and healthy eating, so please do not send sodas and/or energy drinks with students.

No gum is permitted at school unless teacher permission is given (special circumstances).

MEDICATION- Please see Rights & Responsibilities Section 13

Administration of oral medications (including over the counter medications) will only be conducted for the medications listed and the dates indicated on the "Administration of Medication at School" form (available in the school office) which must be authorized by a licensed healthcare practitioner. All medications must be in their original containers. Containers must be labeled with the student's name, name of the medication, dosage, mode of administration and name of physician. All medications will be administered by a trained staff member. **Children cannot carry medication with them during the school day (including aspirin, inhalers, cough drops, etc.).** Bring the medication to the office so that it may be kept in a locked cabinet until your child receives it. Some older children may carry their own inhalers, but this must be written into their Individualized Health Plan first.

PARTIES

Each class is allowed up to three parties per school year. Classroom teachers will notify parents of parties to be held throughout the year. **Due to health and safety reasons, party treats must be store bought rather than home baked, and honor allergies present in the classroom.**

PROGRESS REPORTING

Reporting of pupil progress is done three times a year on a formal basis. Parent/student/teacher conferences will be held in the fall and in the spring. Parents will schedule their conferences through Skyward to accommodate your schedule. The specific day and time will be confirmed via email. Report cards are issued in December, March and at the end of the school year.

STUDENT PLANNERS

Students in grades 4-5 are expected to purchase a Sunnyslope Elementary school planner, available through the PTA. The planners are excellent tools that help teach organization skills while facilitating school-home communication.

TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLIES

Textbooks and most instructional materials are supplied by the school to each student. Supplies such as pencils, paper, rulers, scissors, etc. are provided by the school. Students are responsible for all texts and instructional materials checked out to them and will be charged for the replacement of lost and/or damaged books and materials. Students are expected to demonstrate reasonable care to the facility and the equipment/materials of the school. Willful damage or destruction by a student will result in appropriate disciplinary measures. Parents will be held liable for the actions of their children.

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM SCHOOL- Please see Rights & Responsibilities Section 5

STUDENTS ARE NOT TO ARRIVE AT SCHOOL PRIOR TO 8:50 A.M. UNLESS THEY ARE EATING BREAKFAST OR PARTICIPATING IN A SPECIFIC ACTIVITY. ON WEDNESDAYS, STUDENTS SHOULD NOT ARRIVE PRIOR TO 9:35. Student dismissal time is at 3:40 p.m.

AUTOMOBILE:

When students are delivered to school or picked up after school by vehicle, drivers may use the parking lot in front or back of the school, including the dirt lot on the east side of the main lot. The bus zone is only for buses. Persons picking up children of other families must have written notice of consent from the children(s) parent. Please follow the pick-up and drop-off procedures that are distributed to parents at the beginning of the school year.

SCHOOL BUSES:

School bus transportation is available to many of our students. Bus transportation is a privilege and students riding buses are required to obey all established rules and regulations. Disorderly conduct while riding a school bus may result in denial of this privilege. All children will be expected to ride their assigned bus regularly. **If it is necessary for your child to ride a bus other than the one assigned, a note to this effect must be sent to the school office.** If your child normally rides a bus, he or she may walk home only if notification from the parent is received by the school office and/or teacher. Bus drivers and school administrators have the authority to assign seating.

WALKING:

Written authorization notifying the school that your child is a walker must be received. Parents are encouraged to instruct their children in proper walking procedures, especially since there are no defined sidewalks or pathways in our school area.

Any change to your child's method for going home requires notification from the parent to the main school office. (360) 443-3470

VISITORS

All visitors must enter the school via the office upon their arrival. A parent/guardian wishing to visit a child's classroom is asked to make arrangements with the teacher and school principal at least 24 hours in advance.

VOLUNTEERS

School volunteers are always needed and welcomed at Sunnyslope. To volunteer, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at 360-443-3513. Please be aware that in order to volunteer in SKSD, you will need to fill out a background clearance. This form is available in our front office and we will need to make a copy of your driver's license and/or picture ID. The background clearance is good for two years.

SKSD NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The South Kitsap School District provides equal educational and employment opportunity without regard to race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation - including gender expression or identity, marital status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. Equal access to activities, facilities and program is provided to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. District procedure complies with all applicable state and federal laws.

The Title IX Officer and Section 504 Coordinator with the responsibility for monitoring, auditing, and ensuring compliance with this policy:
Compliance/ADA/Title IX Coordinator:

Will Sarett, Executive Director of Human Resources
2689 Hoover Avenue SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366
360-874-7071,
sarett@skschools.org

Section 504 Coordinator:

Dr. Andrew Cain, Principal
2689 Hoover Avenue SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366
360-874-6022,
cain@skschools.org

SUNNYSLOPE ELEMENTARY GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS

★ *Superstar* ★ VOICE LEVELS



HALLWAY

**Superstars are respectful,
responsible and safe!**

- ★ Arms crossed or hands in pockets
- ★ Face forward
- ★ Walking feet



BATHROOM

**Superstars are respectful,
responsible and safe!**

- ★ Wait your turn
- ★ Go, flush, ABC wash
- ★ 1 pump soap, 2 paper towels
- ★ Respect privacy
- ★ Keep water in sink
- ★ In & out quickly



THE BUS

**Superstars are respectful,
responsible and safe!**

- ★ Be kind
- ★ Stay seated, facing forward
- ★ Keep hands & feet to self
- ★ No food or drinks
- ★ Follow directions
- ★ "STEP" Up to problems





**Voice Levels
at table** 

2

KIDS CAFE

**Superstars are respectful,
responsible and safe!**



**Voice Levels
In line**

1

Thank you!



- ★ Use good manners ★
- ★ Do not share food ★
- ★ Clean up your space ★
- ★ Use walking feet ★
- ★ Raise your hand for help or to get up ★



★ RECESS ★

**Superstars are respectful,
responsible and safe**



- ★ Be kind, fair, and take turns ★
- ★ Learn and follow rules ★
- ★ Walk to and from building ★
- ★ Use Kelso Skills ★
- ★ "STEP" Up to problems ★



- ★ Play in designated spaces ★
- ★ Keep hands and feet to self ★
Two-finger touch for tag
- ★ Use equipment correctly ★
- ★ Return equipment ★

SUNNYSLOPE PLAYGROUND PROCEDURES & RULES

Our goal is to foster an environment where *all* students feel safe and valued on the playground. Students learn to navigate relationships and enjoy physical activity. When students make mistakes, recess teachers use a variety of strategies to help them learn. Coaching kids through conflict using “I statements”, teaching Kelso strategies, assigning students to alternative play areas, and timeouts are used frequently on the playground. The school counselor often assists with students who have ongoing concerns or need support learning how to navigate peer relationships. Communication with the principal and classroom teachers occurs after multiple incidents on the playground. The principal will meet with students to reteach expectations and contact parents to invite them into the problem-solving process.

Responsible

Students are required to bring/wear coats for inclement weather. They are not allowed to return to the classroom once they have come out to recess. If they do not have a coat, they must play undercover.

Students should play only in designated playground areas (not in the woods). They should ask permission to retrieve any equipment that leaves the playground.

Students should be responsible to play appropriately.

- Fighting and play fighting will not be tolerated. (This includes tripping, pushing, shoving, punching, grabbing, wrestling, carrying, picking up or jumping on another student, the use of pretend guns and knives etc.)
- Balls, jump ropes, and other equipment should not be used on the bark areas.
- Touch and flag football only - not tackle. Do not grab when blocking or touching.
- Bars and climbing apparatus should be used in a safe manner, always using two hands.
- Balls and other playground equipment should be used safely and for what they were designed. Balls should not be batted, kicked, or thrown against the building or portable walls.
 - Rubber Ball - bouncing, throwing, and kicking (off the blacktop)
 - Soccer and Football – kicking and throwing (off the blacktop)
 - Basketball – hoops only
- The school will provide a sufficient supply of play equipment. Students may not bring play equipment or toys from home, including umbrellas.
- To make team sports fair, all teams (soccer, dodge ball, kickball, etc.) will be made by playground supervisors. Students should not leave a team sport after teams have been made in order to keep the teams fair and even.
- Students should follow established game rules.
- Students should settle differences peacefully and get help from the playground supervisor if needed.
- Students are trusted to immediately stop what they are doing when the bell rings and walk to line up quietly and quickly.
- Students are trusted to not leave the playground during recess for any reason without permission from the playground supervisor.

Respectful

- Students are to respect the adults in charge and go to designated time-out areas as instructed.
- Students should use appropriate language and gestures. No profanity
- Students should show pride in their school by keeping the building and grounds free of litter.
- Recess activities will be open to all students.

Safe

- Rocks, dirt, sticks and snowballs are to stay on the ground.
- Students should not chew gum, eat food, or have any foreign objects in the mouth except on popcorn days.
- Students are trusted to walk to and from recess.
- Students are expected to dress appropriately for recess and dress for the weather.

FOUR SQUARE RULES

Playing Area: A four square diagram on a hard surface.

Players: 4 players play the game, but others are in line for a turn.

Supplies: Playground ball

The squares are colored starting at #1) orange, #2) blue, #3) purple, #4) green.

- The serve always starts from the #1) orange square.
- The ball is served by dropping it and serving it underhanded from the bounce with an open hand.
- If the serve hits a line or goes out the server is out. The server can hit the ball to any of the other three squares.
- The player receiving the ball must keep it in play by striking the ball with an underhand hit after it has bounced once in his/her square.
- Play continues until one player fails to return the ball or commits a fault.
- When a player misses or commits a fault, he/she goes to the end of the waiting line, and all players move up.
- The player at the front of the waiting line, moves into the green square.

The following are faults:

1. Hitting the ball sidearm, overhead, or with your fist.
2. Ball landing on a line between the squares.
 - Ball landing on an outer boundary is considered good.
3. Not allowing the ball to bounce in your square prior to your play.
4. Allowing the ball to bounce more than once in your square.
5. Stepping in another square to play the ball.
6. Catching or carrying a return volley.
7. Allowing ball to touch any part of the body except the hands.

KICKBALL RULES

General Rules:

Fair and even teams will be made by the recess teachers.

- No more than 9 players per team.

Three outs or 5 runs, signals change of the batting and fielding teams.

Players waiting for their turn to kick, line up in order behind the backstop.

Supplies: Rubber playground ball.

Kicking

1. The kicking order stays the same. Start each inning where it left off the prior inning.

Base running

1. Runners may not steal bases.
2. Runners may not slide.
3. Runners must stay on base until the ball is hit, no leading off.
4. Running out of the base line is an automatic out
5. One base allowed on an overthrow.

If an umpire is appointed, all decisions by the umpire are final.

WALL BALL RULES

Number of players: Two at a time

The Court:

A wall with lines about 6-8 feet apart.

No out-of-bounds on the ground, but the ball must hit the wall between the markers.

Supplies: Rubber playground ball.

Objective

To hit a ball against the wall forcing the opponent into a mistake.

Striking the Ball

1. 4th & 5th grade must use an open hand to hit the ball.
 - 1st – 3rd may use a fist.
2. Ball must be hit using only one hand.
3. Throwing or two hand carries are outs.

Playing the game

1. The first players determine the server, using rock paper scissors etc. After the first round, the player entering the game serves the ball.
 - Only one attempt to serve the ball. (No re-dos)
2. The serve must be hit, not thrown.
3. The serve must hit the ground before hitting the wall.
4. The next player must let the ball bounce once on the ground after it hits the wall.
5. The ball must hit the wall between the markers.

You are out of the game if

1. You let the ball bounce more than once.
2. You are hit by the ball. (You may not hit another player on purpose.)
3. You do not hit the ball against the wall between the markers.
 - If the ball hits the line you are out.
4. You catch, throw, or push the ball.
5. You block another player on purpose.
6. Pocket/Corner hits are out.
7. Waterfalls are out.

Always remember

- Go to the end of the line if you are out.

DODGE BALL RULES

Dodge Ball is a team sport. Two teams (no more than 11 per side).

1. Teams will be assigned by the playground supervisors, with no more than 10 or 11 players per side.
2. Players throw the ball at opposite team members trying to 'hit' them with ball at or below the arm pits.
3. Once hit a player stands behind the white sideline (outline) until a player on their own team catches a thrown ball before it hits the ground or the wall or if a player on your own team throws the ball and it hits a player on the opposite team.
4. The playing area for each side is between the red center line and white back and side lines.

A player is out and must go to the side-line if:

- Player gets hit with the ball at or below the arm pits.
- Player steps outside the area of play
- Player goes out after the ball after someone else has already stepped out to retrieve the ball.
- Player throws the ball above the arm pit of the players on the opposite team.
- Player grabs or holds another player.

If a player steps out of line they must go to the end of the line.

Easy throws result in both players being out.

No sitting down, laying down or doing other activities (tag, cartwheels etc.) during the game.

If only one player is left on a side that person may forfeit the game. If this happens all players return to play from outline.

GAGA BALL RULES

GaGa Ball is a form of dodge ball that's normally played in a "Pit"

The game's roots originated in Israel. The word 'G' means Hit or Touch, so 'Ga-Ga' means Hit-Hit. There are several variations on exactly how the game is played, but we find these rules to be the most common and fair, while keeping the game competitive and fun:

- To start, everyone in the pit must be touching the wall. Someone tosses the ball in the center of the pit, and it must bounce twice on the ground. As it bounces, everyone can say "Ga" for each bounce. After the second bounce ("Ga-Ga"), the ball is live.
- Slap-hit the ball with your hand, aiming it at another player's leg at the knee or below. If the ball hits or touches anyone at the knee or below, that player is out and must exit the pit. At any time, if a player makes any type of contact with the ball at the knee or below, that player is out.
- Anytime the ball goes out of the pit, the last person the ball touched is out.
- You can only hit the ball one time until it either touches another player or the wall, then you are able to hit it again. You can bounce the ball against the wall to position it if necessary; and you can move around anywhere inside the pit during the game.
- The game ends when the last person is eliminated or to speed up the end of the game, the last few players can be given a count-down for a tie game. Once the game is over, everyone else re-enters the pit to start a new game.
- You can add variations to the game such as playing with more than one ball, play in team, expand the 'hit' area to above the knee, catching the ball to eliminate the person that hit it, and any other variation you can come up with! A suggestion for school recess time is to play rotation instead of elimination. This is done by allowing a certain number of players in the pit and forming a line for the rest that want to play. Then, as one person gets out, the next person in line goes into the game. This way, everyone that wants to play should get a chance during a short period of time.