



Cumberland Connection

824 Cumberland Drive. Main Line: 408-522-8255

February 2025

PRINCIPAL CORNER

Dear Cumberland Families,

As we continue to grow together this school year, we want to highlight the Sunnyside School District's Strategic Plan. Developed during a months-long process throughout the 2023-2024 school year, the Strategic Plan aims to align all educational partners with a shared vision, common goals, and unified direction for our District's educational efforts over a six-year period.

The plan is organized into six key focus areas, and the one we'd like to highlight this month is the "Portrait of a Learner." This vision shapes the educational experiences we provide at Cumberland, focusing on nurturing students who are curious, resilient, empathetic, and prepared to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Our goal is to cultivate:

- **Critical Thinkers & Effective Communicators** who express their thoughts clearly, embrace curiosity, explore diverse perspectives, and use digital and non-digital resources to solve problems.
- **Resilient Lifelong Learners** who take responsibility for their learning, approach challenges with a growth mindset, and persevere in mastering academic and life skills.
- **Healthy Minds & Bodies** by promoting emotional well-being, healthy lifestyle choices, and balanced relationships with technology.
- **Effective Collaborators in a Global Society** who act with empathy, appreciate diversity, and advocate for inclusive, environmentally-conscious communities.

To review the entire 4-Page Strategic Plan document, please visit our district website: [Strategic Plan](#).

This commitment aligns with the recent message from our Superintendent **reaffirming our unwavering dedication to creating safe, welcoming environments for every student**. Despite concerning federal messaging related to immigration policies and LGBTQIA+ rights, our District's policies remain unchanged. We are steadfast in our resolve to protect and support all students, regardless of immigration status, background, or personal identity.

Our schools are safe spaces where every student is valued. **We do not collect or share immigration status information, and we will not allow immigration enforcement officers on campus without proper legal documentation. Similarly, we stand firm against any form of discrimination, ensuring that all students—including our LGBTQIA+ community—feel seen, respected, and supported.** A reiteration of our

2024-2030 STRATEGIC PLAN



OUR PROMISE

Every student is known by **name, strength and need**, ready to excel in high school and beyond, and to lead a **life of joy and purpose**.



PORTRAIT OF A SUNNYSIDE LEARNER

Critical Thinker & Effective Communicator

- Expresses thoughts clearly in writing and speech, or other modalities
- Embraces curiosity and connects learning in creative ways
- Explores multiple perspectives to analyze information
- Evaluates and uses digital and non-digital resources to solve challenging problems

Resilient Lifelong Learner

- Takes responsibility for learning with integrity, confidence, and pride
- Approaches challenges with a growth mindset, and learns from mistakes
- Utilizes acquired strategies and skills to ensure success in their learning
- Perseveres towards mastery of academic standards and functional daily living skills

Healthy Mind & Body

- Uses healthy coping strategies to manage emotions and challenges
- Expresses feelings effectively through multiple modalities and advocates for personal needs
- Makes healthy choices for a joyful life, including nutrition and exercise
- Cultivates a mindful relationship with technology and digital content

Effective Collaborator in a Global Society

- Acts with empathy and kindness to create welcoming settings for all
- Appreciates the uniqueness of others, and embraces diverse perspectives to achieve common goals
- Responds appropriately to personal and social cues
- Advocates for more inclusive communities and a green, vibrant environment

policies and practices is included below for your reference.

Providing an inclusive environment is not just a policy; it's a reflection of who we are. It embodies the heart of our "Portrait of a Learner," where belonging and equity are the foundation for academic and personal success. You can read more about our school's commitment to inclusion in our Inclusivity Statement featured in our monthly newsletters and read aloud at our monthly Friday Flag Ceremonies.

If you have questions or need support, please reach out. Together, we create a community where every child can thrive.

Warmly,
Ms. Carlson & Dr. Mack

CALENDAR

- Feb 10-14** Spirit Week
- Feb 11** - TLD
- Feb 12** - STEAM Fair Workshop
- Feb 17-21** - Winter Recess - No School
- Feb 26** - STEAM Fair Workshop
- Feb 27** - 1st Grade Performance 6PM
- Mar 3-7** - 5th Grade Science Camp

SSD IMMIGRATION POLICIES and PROCEDURES

LGBTQIA+ RIGHTS

We are dedicated to protecting the well-being of all members of our community, including the following policies and practices:

- We do not collect or maintain information about students' or families' immigration status.
- We will not allow immigration-enforcement officers on our campuses without proper identification and authorization.
- We protect student confidentiality and personal information. We will not share personal information about students or families with immigration enforcement.
- We do not allow immigration officers to contact students unless they present a signed judicial warrant or demonstrate extremely rare, urgent circumstances.

Our practices are based on our core values and are reinforced by long-standing laws:

- Federal law states that all children in the United States, regardless of immigration or citizenship status, have the right to a free and appropriate public education.
- California law affirms that every student in the state has the right to attend public school free from discrimination, harassment, violence, intimidation, and bullying.

Providing an inclusive and nurturing environment in which students feel safe and know they belong is one of our key goals for student success. **Please reach out to our front office or Ms. Carlson if you need support.** You can also stop by the school office to pick up a card that summarizes your rights.

More information and resources:

Immigration Resources

- Updated list of legal service providers: [Copy of Free to Low-Cost Immigration Legal Help in Santa Clara County](#)
- [Red Cards / Tarjetas Rojas | Immigrant Legal Resource Center | ILRC](#)
- [Rapid Response Network | Amigos de Guadalupe](#)
- ACLU-We have rights - <https://www.aclu.org/we-have-rights>
- <https://www.ilrc.org/community-resources>

LGBTQIA+ Resources

- [Teaching and Learning / LGBTQIA+ Resources](#)

ELECTRONIC DEVICES/CELL PHONES



Per the Sunnyvale School District Family Handbook (<https://www.sesd.org/Page/4575>), students are permitted to possess cell phones on campus, however, devices(s) must be turned off during the school day and not be visible. The District does not assume responsibility for lost or stolen items.

At Cumberland, in order to ensure a safe learning environment, students must adhere to the following rules regarding cell phone use:

- Cell phones must be turned off and cannot be visible on campus during the school day
- The school day includes, but is not limited to, class time, recess/lunch periods, during emergency drills, and field trips.
- Placing a cell phone on vibrate or texting is not considered off and is prohibited.
- Using a cell phone to audio or video record is prohibited.
- This applies to cell phones and all other personal electronic devices (smart watches, personal computers, tablets, iPods, portable speakers, audio or video players, etc.)

If caregivers need to contact a student during the school day, they are to contact the school office for assistance. If students need to use a phone during the school day, they must use a school phone, which is available to students with appropriate permission.

We utilize restorative practices and progressive discipline to support student behavior. Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, confiscation, parent contact and suspension. [EC 48901.5, 48901.7; ne]

NOTE: Students **can** wear their smart watches, but must have them in “School Mode,” for example.

There are many variations of smartwatches that we do not “police” every watch. The spirit of the policy is to limit/remove disruption to the learning environment and maintain safe environments with regards to privacy, so if/when a smartwatch is being used inappropriately at school, the school would respond with restorative practices and move to progressive discipline as warranted.

COOL COUGARS

WHAT IS A COOL COUGAR: A Cool Cougar is a student who has been chosen either by their teacher or by their peers. They exemplify the Cougar Code by being respectful, being responsible, and making good choices. Their positive behavior sets a great example for our school community!

THIS MONTH’S COOL COUGARS: At the end of the month, Cumberland recognized the following students at our Cool Cougar Assembly.

COOL COUGAR NAMES:

TK: Henry Z, Yasmeen A, Mia D, Lena Z, Maxwell H, Emelin SB

Kinder: Cieon J, Kenia ES, Oliver G, Lily L, Khiem P, Ethan K, Arshan G, Greyson B, Luna G, Emma M, Omi J, Hasset M

1st: Tom H, Liel R, Kaia B, Asher G, Hani R, Samuel D, Aarav G, Sam S, Antonella PW, Reef AS, Andrew F, Giada S

2nd: Francisco M, Ari C, Ellen C, Yigit O, Nika M, Jason S, Daniel V, Shahar H, Tessa P, Beckett T, Raagav S, Shira B, Iniyana D, Skye Q, Zoey B, Ben H

3rd: Katelyn H, Nicholas S, Ellie P, Riya A, Adrian S, Sophia D, Harper M, Kevin L, Pietro

C, Lucius W, Paalvi J

4th: Julian C, Ivy H, Lavi P, Grace P, Andy L, Evan W, Arnav A, Prisha S, Kelsey C, Ada G, Yotam H, Stella S, Skylar T

5th: Nayan F, Alan T, Kaya G, Daphne V, MJ S, Lida L, Fernando T, Declan T, Claire R, Maddie H, Titus W, Allie Q, Anoushka S

RECESS ROCKSTARS

Recess Rock Stars are students who show respect, responsibility and a positive attitude at recess-time. They are team players who work well with others, follow the rules, and put their best foot forward no matter the game. Recess Rock Stars are given a certificate at our Cool Cougar assemblies. They are selected by Coach Hootie and the Junior Coaches. For the month of January we are happy to announce that our Recess Rockstars are:

K/1:

Aaron AS - Bennett
Clara C - Bennett
Hani R - Gorham
Ipek O - Gorham

2/3:

Liam O - Lermant
Destiny LG - Rietdorf/Smith
Siddhant A - L Rodriguez
Noa L - Abramovich
Simon K - Abramovich

4/5:

Dafna M - Wai
Peleg O - Kerr
Alex L - S Rodriguez
Kira L - S Rodriguez
Brandon V - Conklin



JUNIOR COACHES



Junior Coaches are students who applied for the position and were selected for their enthusiasm, strong work ethic, and for demonstrating responsibility in their academics. They serve by leading games at recess, acting as conflict mediators, and being all-around good role models. In order to grow the necessary leadership, oratorical, and conflict management skills, the Jr. Coaches participate in monthly one-hour trainings with a site coordinator from Playworks. Throughout the rest of the month, Jr. Coaches report on their workdays to Coach Hootie, our Cumberland Recess Coach, who helps to ensure they are comfortable with their duties, on task, working hard and having fun!

Our Junior coaches in the month of November are being recognized for their enthusiasm for recess games and commitment to making Cumberland a great place to play!

They are:

Claire R - Ruan
Julian C - Curtis
Rohan S - Kerr

ELAC

At our January 29th meeting, we were thrilled to recognize and celebrate 🎉 our students who have been reclassified as Fluent English Proficient! On top of fluency in their primary language, these students have demonstrated strong growth in their English language skills by excelling in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. When you see these multilingual

learners, please celebrate their accomplishments.

Ella V. Jobie C. Dafna M. Sophia W. AAdya S. Lily G. Ege A.
Mila B. David D. Reef A.S. Pietro C. Roni C. Caitlyn H.

👏 Congratulations to our reclassified students! We are so proud of you! 🎉

Please join us at our next ELAC meeting on Wednesday, March 26th, from 8:15am - 9:15 am.

REGISTRATION FOR 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

New Student Registration for 2025-2026 begins on February 3rd and continues through the end of the school year. Families can find all of the necessary instructions for registering new students, including a list of all of the required documents on the SSD website [Registration webpage](#).

Transitional Kindergarten - TK is the bridge between preschool and Kindergarten. TK offers a developmentally appropriate curriculum that is just right for the younger learner. For the 2025-26 school year and beyond, all children who turn four by September 1st are eligible for TK.

ATTENDANCE

It is essential that Parents notify the school office every day that students are either out of school or are going to be late. Absences can be reported via email at cumberland.attendance@sesd.org or by calling the attendance line (408) 522-8255 press 1 to leave a message.

If your child is out for multiple days, please be sure to report his/her absence every day that the student is out.

FUTURE CHEF CHALLENGE



[15th Anniversary Future Chefs National Challenge by Sodexo](#)

Calling all "FUTURE CHEFS" for our CULINARY COMPETITION

We're looking for you to submit your recipe to complete the plate with your favorite Main Dish!!

Submit your recipe by February 7th, 2025

One lucky winner from each school will be chosen as a finalist to compete in our Future Chef Competition cookoff this coming March. As a bonus, the winner of this event will be entered in a Future Chefs National Challenge for some great prizes!

Please use the QR code to access the student recipe submission portal.



Student Recipe Submission Portal

BOARD VACANCY

Board Vacancy Trustee Area 5

The Sunnysvale School District is seeking qualified individuals to fill a vacancy on the Board of Education for Trustee Area 5.

What does it mean to be a School Board Member?

School Boards play a vital role in ensuring success for ALL students. They:

- Make critical decisions that fulfill legal mandates and ensure the long-term fiscal stability of the District.
- Act collectively and openly, prioritizing the best interests of students while considering the needs of the entire community.
- Are guided by legal requirements, available resources, and expert advice from the Superintendent and professional staff.

Interested in serving your community? Apply to serve on the Board and use your talents to make a positive impact on the lives of our students! Learn more here:

<https://www.sesd.org/Page/5851>

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM AT LAKEWOOD ELEMENTARY

We are excited to offer a Parent Pay Preschool Program at Lakewood Elementary! Our program provides 5-day-a-week classes, with an option of either morning or afternoon sessions. Each three-hour session gives your child an excellent opportunity to learn and grow in a structured, supportive environment. Our licensed teachers provide a nurturing environment and follow the California State Preschool Transitional Kindergarten Learning Foundations.

For more information or to enroll, please contact the preschool office at **408-522-8213, Ext. 2039**.

We look forward to welcoming your child to our preschool community!

[Click here for more information](#)

STUDENT COUNCIL



SPIRIT WEEK!!

The Student Council is excited to promote school spirit by having our annual Spirit Week **Feb. 10th-14th!!**



Show your Cougar Spirit by dressing up each day.

Monday: Blackout Day (dress in all black)

Tuesday: Career Day (Dress in what you would like to be when you grow up)

Wednesday: Crazy Hair and Hat Day

Thursday: Pajama Day

Friday: Valentine's Day (Dress in red, pink, white or wear a valentine shirt!)

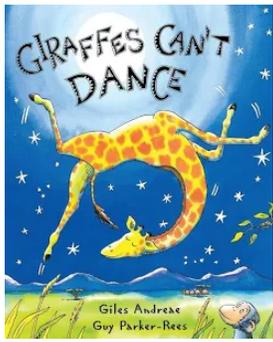
PROJECT CORNERSTONE



This month Grades 1-5 will be reading *One* by Kathryn Otoshi and focusing on **ACCEPTANCE** while TK and Kinder will read *Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae and focusing on **POSITIVE THINKING**.

Our goal from the *One* reading, discussion and activities is that students will understand that feelings are important and we need to have empathy for others. Students will also learn *the power of one* in making positive differences at school, in our communities and in the world. We all can be the one!

Our goal from the *Giraffes Can't Dance* reading, discussion and activities is that students will approach each day with a "I can do it!" attitude and tap into their personal power with positive self-talk.



At home connections: **Grades 1-5** As your child shares about their day at school, ask them “How did that make you feel?” Share different emotions you felt throughout your day. Find what was the turning point from feeling something negative to something positive. What (or who) made the difference?

Grades TK/K Practice daily affirmations with your child. Positive talk leads to positive action!

Cumberland PTA TW@S Highlight

The annual Cumberland Talent Show is on April 2, 2025! This is an exciting event to showcase your awesome talent and skills to your fellow Cumberland Cougars. Perform a solo act or gather some friends to do a group act! Fifth graders can be stagehands or audition to be an MC for the show. [Register now!](#)



[Talent Show Information and Registration Link](#)

Questions? Email: talentshow@cumberlandpta.org

CUMBERLAND'S INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT



Our school's inclusivity statement exists to remind everyone that all are welcome and appreciated on our campus and in the Cumberland community:

At Cumberland, Cougar Pride means being respectful, responsible and making good choices.

Being respectful means:

we value diversity in our school and community.

This is a welcoming, safe and inclusive place for everyone to have a voice, be heard, participate and learn.

Being responsible means:

standing up and speaking out if you see someone being bullied or not being treated respectfully.

If you see something, say something.

	<p style="text-align: center;">Making good choices means: treating everyone fairly and how you would like to be treated, regardless of race, gender or religion.</p>
<p>COMMUNICATION</p>	<p>WAYS TO RECEIVE SCHOOL AND PTA COMMUNICATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SCHOOL DISTRICT SITE: www.sesd.org• SCHOOL WEBSITE: www.sesd.org/cumberland• PTA WEBSITE: www.cumberlandpta.org• PTA E-FLYER:Join Konstella now: https://www.konstella.com/cd/0LKLZQ• TK/KINDER WhatsApp GROUP: to join the TK/Kinder WhatsApp Group, please send an email to newfamily@cumberlandpta.org