



**Churchville-Chili  
Central School District**

*Where learning leads to a lifetime of opportunities*

# **CRS FAMILY HANDBOOK 2025-2026**



**Mrs. Mariana Barry, Principal**  
**Ms. Jessica Flanders, Assistant Principal**

3560 Chili Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14624  
(585) 889-2188  
(585) 293-4512 (Fax)

Churchville Chili Central School District Website: <https://www.cccsd.org/>

Chestnut Ridge Elementary School Website: <https://crs.cccsd.org/>

Chestnut Ridge Elementary Instagram: cccsd\_crs

Chestnut Ridge PTO Website: Parents of Chestnut Ridge Elementary School Students (Facebook)



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### Administrators, Clerical, Attendance & Nurse

<b>Principal</b>	Mrs. Barry	889-2188 X6150
<b>Asst. Principal</b>	Ms. Flanders	889-2188 X6150
<b>Admin. Asst.</b>	Mrs. Quinn	889-2188 X6150

<b>Admin. Asst.</b>	Mrs. West	889-2188 X6180
<b>Attendance Clerk</b>	Mrs. Cerretto	Ext. 6130
<b>Nurse</b>	Mrs. Wandersleben	Ext. 6010

### Mental Health

		<b>Rm.</b>	<b>Ext.</b>
<b>Counselor</b>	Mrs. Campisi	103	6120
<b>Counselor</b>	Ms. Shamp	304	6613
<b>Social Worker</b>	Ms. Iabone	103	3526

		<b>Rm.</b>	<b>Ext.</b>
<b>Psychologist</b>	Mrs. Slawetsky	403	6140

### Classroom Teachers

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Rm.</b>	<b>Extension</b>
<b>UPK</b>	Mrs. Berardicurti	111	6425
	Mrs. Taylor	109	7581
<b>Kindergarten</b>	Mrs. Canton	117	6012
	Mrs. Cohen	119	5725
	Mrs. Cole	113	6520
	Mrs. Jaus-Zissis	114	6411
<b>1st Grade</b>	Mrs. Lockamyeir	115	6390
	Ms. Bishop	506	7591
	Mrs. Bristol	112	6525
	Ms. Guarino	504	6207
	Mrs. Selvaggio	110	6310
	Mrs. Shea	503	6940

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Rm.</b>	<b>Extension</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	Mrs. Kander	510	6590
	Ms. Malley	507	6212
	Mrs. Nowack	509	5772
	Ms. Piontkowski	508	6441
	Ms. Wright	505	4316
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>	Ms. Balmer	415	6208
	Ms. Halsey	416	6211
	Mrs. Luta	414	6145
	Mr. Meyers	412	7590
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Ms. Nowicki	410	6206
	Mr. Hector	409	6203
	Mrs. Melnyk	413	6730
	Mrs. Riexinger	411	6906
	Mr. Runyan	405	5884
	Mrs. Troiano	407	5700

### Special Area Teachers



Special Area	Teacher	Rm.	Extension
Art	Mrs. D'Angelo	305	6620
Library	Mrs. Reid	Library	6240
PE	Mr. Parkes	Gymnasium	6035
PE	Mr. McVige	Gymnasium	6135

Special Area	Teacher	Rm.	Extension
Gen. Music	Mrs. Kelley	308	6125
Band	Mrs. Valente	307	5892
Strings	Ms. Kerr	307	5735

### Specialists

Area	Teacher	Rm.	Ext.
Special Educator	Mrs. Oyer	510	6019
	Mrs. Pacino	413	6020
	Mrs. Pothaczky	115	6441
	Ms. Rogers	416	6021
Math Specialist	Mrs. Vilku	302	6410
	Mr. Walker	302	6510
ESOL	Mrs. Shirk	302A	5719
	New Hire TBD	502	
OT/PT	Mrs. Gifaldi	313	6300
	Ms. Wernle	313	6350

Area	Teacher	Rm.	Ext.
Reading Specialist	Mrs. Barrett-Haughton	502	6904
	Mrs. Bohner	502	5875
	Ms. Cantleberry	406	6503
	Mrs. Pryor	408	6580
	Mrs. Rossetti	408	7483
	Mrs. Speer	408	5890
	Mrs. Vowles	406	5790
	Mrs. Yokopovich	502	6204
Speech	Mrs. Allen	313	7660
	Ms. Brown	313	2312
Enrichment	Ms. Ricci	302	3710

### Teaching Assistants/Aides

Mrs. Becker-UPK	Mrs. Maslyn	TBD	Mrs. Ciejek	Mrs. Clark	Ms. Gilson
Ms. McDonald	Mrs. Sheehan	Ms. Upcraft	Mrs. Vaccaro	Ms. Vitello	

### Custodial Staff

Mr. Madison-Head Custodian	Ms. D'Agostino	Mr. Courtney	Ms. Spencer
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### Cafeteria Monitors/Escort Monitors

Mrs. Gilson	Ms. Valez	Mrs. Zhang
Mrs. Colegrove	Mrs. Lintz	TBD

### Kitchen Staff

Mrs. Cortese	Ms. Button	Ms. Short	Ms. Wallace	Ms. Ziegler
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## **DISTRICT MISSION, VISION and CORE BELIEFS**

### **Our Mission Statement**

The Churchville-Chili Central School District challenges all students to strive for excellence while developing their unique talents and becoming respectful, resourceful citizens and contributing members of an interconnected global society.

#### **What drives district decisions?**

We use a well-defined set of Goals, Core Beliefs and Learner-Centered Principles to guide all district decisions.

### **District Core Beliefs**

*The Churchville-Chili Central School District, within its community to include our Board of Education, Superintendent, staff, families and students believe:*

- In treating each other with mutual respect, dignity and honesty, that demonstrates appreciation
- In respecting and preserving all of our school resources
- That respecting diversity affirms individual worth and benefits the community
- That everyone deserves a welcoming and nurturing environment that fosters positive relationships.
- Everyone learns best when they are engaged in meaningful, active work and encouraged to advance innovative idea
- Everyone is empowered to advance the learning of themselves and others
- In promoting and modeling local, national and global citizenship for the greater good

### **District Learner-Centered Principles**



- Learners working collaboratively in a respectful and meaningful manner
- Learners using effective communication to create, share and build upon ideas
- Learners taking responsibility for their own learning by setting goals and monitoring progress
- Learners making relevant connections between what they are learning and their own lives
- Learners using critical thinking skills to develop and refine their understandings
- Learners having some autonomy and choice
- Learners reflecting on their work and the work of others
- Learners using technology as a tool for learning and communicating
- Learners developing their own questions to guide their learning
- Learners producing meaningful work that demonstrates learning
- Learners persevering and using a variety of strategies to effectively solve problems
- Learners energized by engaging learning experiences

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **School Hours**

School hours are 9:05AM-3:25PM. The school opens to students at 9:05AM. Faculty and staff members are engaged in classroom preparations and meetings prior to the start of the instructional day, and therefore, unable to supervise students that are dropped off early. The instructional day begins promptly at 9:05AM and is signaled by a morning bell. All children arriving to school after 9:15AM must be signed in at the main office by a parent/guardian.

### **On-Site Child Care**

Westside YMCA offers on-site childcare both before and after school. The program is located in the CRS cafeteria. If you need additional information about the YMCA's before and after school program, please call the Westside YMCA at 585-341-4010.

### **Parent/Guardian Contact Information/Census Form**

The school maintains up to date parent/guardian information if school must contact parents/guardians due to an emergency, and information about who can pick up your student. You will receive a census form with your back-to-school packet in August. Please complete all information on this form and return to school with your student. Please notify the main office staff in writing of any address or phone number changes throughout the year.

### **Parental Custody**

Parents/guardians who have joint custody of their children, and/or who have special arrangements for custody, must provide legal documentation of the arrangement to the school.

### **Signing Students In and Out of School**

Students are expected to attend for the complete school day. If a student must leave school early, the parent/guardian is required to come to the main office to sign the child out. At no time should a parent/guardian go directly to the classroom to sign out a child. If the student returns to school during the school day, a parent/guardian is required to accompany the student to the main office and sign the student back in to school. Students will walk to his/her classrooms on his/her own or with a school assigned adult.



### **Absences/Tardies**

Parents/guardians are expected to contact the CRS' attendance line at 889-2188 PRESS 2 if their child will not be attending school for any reason. Upon return to school, parents/guardians must send a note in with their child stating the reason for the absence-unless you have already connected with the attendance office.

Tardiness, appointments, illness, and family events all require explanations for attendance. Whenever possible, please make your children's appointments during after-school hours. If your child arrives after 9:15 AM, it is considered an illegal tardy unless the absence is due to a doctor's or dentist's appointment.

### **Student Absences Due to Vacation**

The days students are absent from school due to family vacation are recorded as unexcused absences. It is strongly suggested that family vacations coincide with scheduled school vacations. Teachers are not required to prepare and/or provide work for students who are out due to family vacations when school is in session.

### **Student Drop Off/Arrival**

Parents/guardians who are dropping off students in the morning should pull into the parent drop off area at the side of the building so that students can be safely unloaded onto the sidewalk. We have several adults stationed outside to help with getting students out of cars and directing the flow of traffic-please be mindful of adult direction as safety is our top priority. When dropping off your child(ren) please pull your car forward to the furthest point of the loop as directed so that we can move cars through the line as quickly as possible. If possible, students should be seated on the passenger side to make unloading faster and safer. Please review the schedule:

- 8:20 Grade 4: Chorus (Monday), Band (Tuesday), Orchestra (Wednesday)
- 8:30 UPK Parent Drop Off-Cars will line up in the lanes on the side of the school. Staff members will let parents know when their child may get out of the car and staff will escort child to the building.
- 8:50 Kindergartners and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders **who are eating breakfast** will get off of the buses to get breakfast-staff will escort them from bus to breakfast
- 9:05 All student bus drop off from the buses in the front bus loop. Staff members will escort students from buses into building.

### **Dismissal Procedures**

#### **Pre-K Dismissal**

Dismissal begins promptly at **2pm** in the side dismissal area. Please make sure that you have the picture card with your student information displayed on your dashboard. Students will not be able to be released without this information-you will be provided a total of 2-3 copies of this card at the beginning of the year. Additional cards are available upon request.

#### **Picking Up Students Early**

- If you would like to pick up your student early, please send in a note specifying the student's first and last name, teacher name, date, the time your student will get picked up and who is picking up your student. This note should go in the orange take-home folder and handed to the





classroom teacher at the beginning of the school day.

- If the adult picking up the student is not a parent/guardian, please indicate on the note the individual's first name, last name, and relationship to the student.
- It is imperative that parents/guardians send a note with their child on the days when they will be picking the child up. The teacher has no other way of knowing that the child is getting picked up and may send the child on the bus. If a parent/guardian is picking up a child daily, the parent/guardian only needs complete the student's calendar in the PIKMYKID APP (see below)

### **PikMyKid K-4/Bus Dismissal**

- To ensure the safe dismissal of all students, parents/guardians are encouraged to communicate transportation changes using the PikMyKid App. There is an information letter that will come home in your beginning of the year packet with instructions for the PikMyKid App.
- Please change your child's pick-up status in the PikMyKid App before 1:30PM each day. If the APP will not allow you to change your child's pick-up status, please call the main office before 2:45PM that day. Dismissal gets very busy and telephone calls may not be answered-thank you so much for your help!
- Parents/Guardians who pick up every day can change the default to carline 1, which will specify that your dismissal plan is ALWAYS to be picked up (never bus). Even if your default is carline 1, you can still go in and change this to BUS. You may also designate someone other than a parent/guardian to pick up your student.
- Having the PikMyKid App ensures that your child is in the pick-up line for dismissal and will be ready to go when you arrive, allowing for a quick and smooth dismissal!
- Please review the process:
  - 3:00-3:17 Parents arrive at school and line up in the lanes on the side of the school. Parent announces they are here on the PikMyKid App. A staff member will check them in and cars will be placed in a pick-up line.
  - 3:17-3:25 Students will be called to the pick-up area and then escorted out to cars by a staff member.
  - 3:25-3:35 Students will be dismissed to the buses. Buses will be loaded and dismissed.

### **Parent/Guardian Pickup**

Staff members will be stationed in the gym hallway and in the parking lot to help direct traffic and to call students from the hallway. Staff members will take attendance so that we have knowledge of who is present and ready for pick up. As parents/guardians pull into the side parking lot, children will be called to the hall door from the gym hallway when their parents/guardians arrive. Please make sure that you have your child's 3 digit PikMyKid code. If your child has not reported to the gym at the time of your arrival, you may be asked to pull around so that the flow of traffic can continue.

Adults will be present in the pick-up lanes to help with the flow of traffic and direct students to their cars. It is important that parents/guardians watch the adults in the bus loop for when it is safe to proceed since children may be proceeding to cars. Please do not block the bus loop entrance or exits.

Due to the substantial number of students that must be accounted for at the end of the day, picking up students from the main office area is strongly discouraged. If you are picking your student up between 3-3:25 you must park in the parking lot so you are not interfering with bus dismissal.





### **Bus Transportation**

Bus drivers are responsible for safely transporting students to and from school/school sponsored events and for enforcing school bus expectations. The CCCSD transportation department has bus safety rules to ensure your child's safety when riding the school bus. If a student has difficulty meeting the bus expectations, consequences will be assigned at the building level by the principal.

The following are the Consequence Guidelines for Bus Misconduct:

- 1st Referral: Bus driver provides report to school principal. School administrator will contact home and address student-student conference to discuss issue, may need to address issue on bus if there is a safety issue such as moving seats, restorative conversation if needed.
- 2nd Referral: Same as first in addition to conference/phone call to parent/guardian with a strong warning of more severe consequences if misbehavior continues. In school consequences may be issued. Bus consequence may also be issued such as assigned seating.
- 3rd Referral: Same as second referral with possible denial of bus privileges, as deemed appropriate by building principal.
- Note-Behavior/conduct that is violent in nature/and/or creates unsafe transportation environment for students/driver may be elevated to more serious consequences even if it is a first-time referral.

Repeated, significant misconduct may result in denial of bus privileges.

### **Bully Free Bus**

CRS promotes a Bully Free Bus. The following rights and responsibilities are posted on every bus:

1. I have a right to keep my body and property safe. I have a responsibility to respect the personal space and property of others. I will keep my body to myself. I will not touch other people's property without permission. I will not kick, push, trip, spit, poke, physically threaten or make anyone feel uncomfortable.
2. I have a right to learn and see clear rules. I have a responsibility to know and follow all the rules of the bus. I will listen to the bus driver.
3. I have a right to ride the bus without hearing loud, hurtful, or inappropriate words. I have a responsibility to ride the bus without using loud, hurtful, or inappropriate language. I will use kind words and an inside voice. I will not scream, boss, tease, threaten, name call or hurt anyone's feelings.
4. I have a right to get help from an adult. I have a responsibility to report inappropriate behavior.

### **Parent/Guardian Visits & Volunteers**

All classroom visitations must be coordinated and approved in advance by the classroom teacher and/or the building administrator. Please keep in mind there are occasions when it is not convenient for the teacher to host a volunteer including planning time, field trips, assembly programs, etc. When a parent/guardian has made arrangements to visit/volunteer in a classroom, they are expected to follow the sign-in-procedures that are in place for all school visitors. Specifically, visits/volunteers in a classroom



must sign in and receive a special “Visitor” pass that identifies them as an approved visitor to CRS. All visitors must provide photo identification in the main office. Acceptable forms of ID include a driver's license, state issued photo identification card or passport. Upon leaving, visitors/volunteers must also sign out in the main office. All visitors and volunteers are reminded of the confidentiality statement below:

*As we enter Chestnut Ridge Elementary as volunteers and employees, we will remember to respect the privacy of our children, their families, and each other. All that we hear, see, or read will remain confidential.*

### **Prospective Parent/Guardian Visits**

Prospective CRS families may request a tour of the building to see the facility and meet with an administrator or a school designee. Observations of specific classes are not permitted.

### **Conferences/Report Cards**

Formal Parent-Teacher conferences are held in November. Report cards available on Parent Portal three times a year. If you would like a printed copy of the report card, you may request a copy by contacting the main office. In addition to the formal conference, parents/guardians may contact their child's classroom teacher for an additional conference or meeting. Additionally, the school counselor, or principal may also attend a conference if they have any concerns about their child. The school personnel will do the same if there is a concern about your child. Conferences can best be arranged by calling the school office to schedule an appointment that is most convenient for all.

### **Medication at School**

Students may have medicine administered in school. The following describes the school's procedures and expectations for the transportation of medicines to school and the administration of the medicines:

- An adult must bring the medication in its original labeled container to school. Students may not transport the medications to school.
- The medication must be accompanied with a note from the child's doctor and parent/guardian authorization. Additional information that should be included with the medication includes: the name of the medication, the dose, time of day and number of days it is to be given.
- School and district policy prohibits school personnel from allowing children to carry home any medication that was brought to school. Parents/guardians must pick up all unused medication.
- Parents/guardians may contact the CRS' School Nurse, Mrs. Wandersleben, with questions at 293-1800 X6010.

### **Health Appraisals**

Health appraisals (physical examinations) are **required** in Grades Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>. Health appraisals should be completed by a New York State physician within one year of entering that grade.

### **Student Placement**

The process used to place students within a classroom community and teacher is complex and includes multiple steps. The school considers the following factors as it develops balanced classrooms: the



number of boys and girls in a classroom setting, academic achievement, supplementary reading/math students, enrichment students, speech and language students, students with disabilities and other students with special needs. Teachers assist the principal in the placement process to create balanced heterogeneous classrooms at each grade level. The principal also takes into consideration information about students that is relevant to the placement process. CRS does not accept requests for specific teachers.

### **Cell Phones, Smartwatches, Toys, Electronics, Sports Equipment**

Cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, game consoles, electronic devices are not allowed to be used during the school day; this includes recess time. We are encouraging students not to bring their cell phones to school, and if they are seen, they will be asked to put them away. The next instance will require a parent/guardian to pick up the device from the main office. Further violations will result in additional consequences.

Toys of any type are not to be brought to school as they often become misplaced and are therefore a source of terrible disappointment for youngsters. The school also highly recommends that trading cards (i.e., Pokémon, Magic) and other trading toys remain at home. Sports equipment should not be brought from home. Use of this type of equipment during playtime could cause injuries to students.

### **Birthdays and Celebration**

We love being able to celebrate your students and that is why we make sure to celebrate student birthdays via the announcements and an office treat such as a sticker and pencil. Classroom teachers also have individual ways to celebrate. However, in alignment with all of our elementary buildings, we do not have students pass out birthday party or celebration invitations unless they are for the entire class. If you would like to be able to connect with your classmates outside of school, please connect with your classroom teacher as many utilize a classroom phone list if you choose to participate. Additionally to respect allergy needs and cultural differences, we ask that you do not send in treats for the class including food treats or party gifts.

### **Lost and Found**

Please label all your child's clothing (i.e., jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, sneakers, boots, mittens, hats, lunchboxes, etc.) with your child's first and last name. All lost and found articles are kept in the hallway near the main office (except for eyeglasses, jewelry, and items of that nature, which are kept in the main office for safekeeping).

### **Field Trips**

Field trips are an integral part of the educational process as such trips enrich the learning process for students. For your child to participate, a field trip permission slip must be completed for each field trip your child attends. Students will bring these pre-printed slips home in backpacks. You will be asked to complete, sign, and return the permission slip to your child's teacher prior to your child's participation in the field trip. Written permission is required for field trip attendance, so please make sure to sign and return the form.



## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

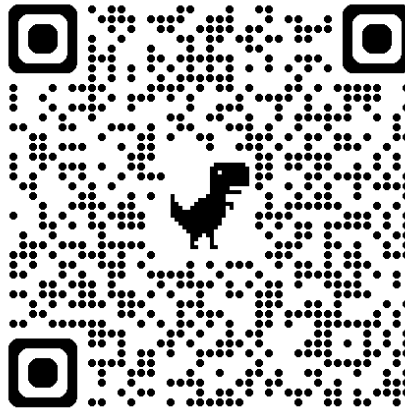
The Board of Education (“Board”) is committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment where students may receive and Churchville-Chili District (“District”) personnel may deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, other District personnel, parents and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal.

The district has a long-standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations are based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty and integrity.

The Board recognizes the need to clearly define these expectations for acceptable conduct on school property, to identify the possible consequences of unacceptable conduct and to ensure that discipline, when necessary, is administered promptly and fairly. To this end, the Board adopts this Code of Conduct (“Code”).

Unless otherwise indicated, this applies to all students, school personnel, parents and other visitors when on school property or attending a school function.

The Code of Conduct and Support is posted on the district’s website and can also be accessed through this link: [CCCSD Code of Conduct](#)



## **SAFETY**

### **School Safety**

At Chestnut Ridge Elementary School, the safety of our students, staff, and school community is our highest priority. The most effective approach to safety involves the active participation of everyone. We encourage all members of the CRS community to remain vigilant and proactive in helping to maintain a safe and secure environment for every child.

Each year, CRS updates and submits a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan to the New York State



Education Department. This plan outlines the school's procedures for identifying, addressing, and responding to potential emergencies and safety concerns.

. The following bullets review some key areas of school safety:

- **There is no parking in the front of the building between the hours of 8:45- 9:20AM and 3:00-3:45PM.**
- When dropping off or picking up your student(s) or items for your student(s), please use the parking lot to the side of CRS.
- When you visit CRS, you **MUST** stop at the main office to sign in and be entered into the Raptor System to receive a "Visitor" sticker. The school must know who is in the building at all times. Visitors must also sign out and exit the building through the main office door.

### **Safety Drills**

Safety drills are conducted throughout the year. The drills are designed to help students understand what is expected of them to complete a specific safety procedure. The purpose of each drill is explained to students in a developmentally appropriate manner. Below is a brief description of each drill that the school completes.

- Evacuate/Fire Drill: A procedure that is used to evacuate students and staff from the building.
- Shelter in Place: A procedure used for sheltering students and staff inside the building either in classrooms or other locations that has been determined to be safe. This drill can also be used to limit student movement and staff while dealing with short term emergencies.
- Lockout: A procedure that is used to secure the school building and grounds during incidents that pose an imminent concern outside of the school.
- Lockdown: A procedure that is used to secure the building during incidents that pose an imminent threat in or around the school.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The Student Service Office is responsible for evaluating and providing services for students with disabilities, as defined by federal and state regulations.

Each building in the Churchville-Chili district has an instructional team that works together with parents to provide specifically identified interventions and strategies to support each child's success in school. Our building teams collect and review all relevant data and ensures that all general education supports (instruction modification and Response to Intervention Services/Multi Tier System of Supports) are utilized prior to a referral to the Committee on Special Education.

For students who present with educational disabilities, the Churchville-Chili Central School District offers a continuum of services to meet the needs of students at all ability levels. it is the district's policy and practice to meet the educational needs of students within the most inclusive setting and in the least restrictive environment.

Parents are critical school partners in the education and well-being of their children. We welcome your



input and support.

For additional information on the programs and services available, please visit the district's page on Special Education.

(<https://www.cccsd.org/student-services/special-education-services>)

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)**

The English Language Learners (ELL) Program at CRS provides support to students whose first language is not English. Students meet with the ELL teacher one-on-one or in a small group setting to foster growth of their English language skill. Should you have any questions regarding CRS' ELL Program, please contact Mrs. Shirk.

## **SPECIAL AREAS**

### **Elementary Music**

Students in kindergarten through fourth grade participate in general music. In general music, students are encouraged to sing, dance, play musical instruments and music games, compose music, listen to music from other cultures and learn to appreciate the importance of music in our lives. We work on basic musical concepts such as keeping a steady beat, playing with a group, music note reading, singing in tune, matching pitches and playing instruments with good technique.

All third grade students participate in chorus weekly and perform in a winter and spring concert. Our fourth grade students have the opportunity to sing and perform in the chorus, as well as play an instrument in the fourth grade band or orchestra.

All music activities are adapted to suit the needs of different grade levels and students' abilities, and all students are respected and encouraged to do their best. The music room is a safe place where students gain important social skills such as taking turns, sharing, working with partners, listening and being a good role model.

Our goal is to encourage all students to develop a lifelong appreciation for the arts and to embrace music as an expressive and creative outlet. If you have any questions about music please contact Mrs. Valente (band), Mrs. Kelley (music), Ms. Kerr (orchestra).

### **Physical Education**

It is our goal to create a fun, safe and physically active environment to assist our students in making wise and healthy decisions about their body and enable them to gain a greater appreciation for living a healthy life style. Following the three guidelines below will help us achieve this goal!

For children to participate safely, the following requirements are in effect:

- Students need to wear sneakers in order to participate in class. It is helpful to have students wear



- Velcro fastening sneakers if they are unable to tie their own shoes.
- Students should wear clothes which allow them to participate in physical activities: dresses, skirts and jewelry should be avoided.
- Students will be expected to actively participate in class unless they have a note from home, family doctor or the school nurse.
- Appropriate outdoor layers are recommended on colder days for when we may go outside for PE.

If you have any questions about our physical education program, please contact Mr. Parkes or Mr. McVige.

### **Intramurals**

Chestnut Ridge Elementary School provides its students (grades 3 and 4) with the opportunity to participate in after school intramurals throughout the year. Various athletic activities are held monthly, Monday - Wednesday, in the CRS gymnasium.

An Intramural Permission Slip with the listed activities to be held will be handed out at school. This slip must be completed, signed and returned by the set due date or students will not be able to participate.

Late buses are available. If you plan on picking your child up from intramurals we ask that you arrive by 4:20 p.m. near the main entrance. *If you do not arrive at school before the late buses leave, your child will ride the late bus home.*

### **Elementary Art**

Art provides students with the opportunity to learn, explore and create. It allows for creative expression and requires problem-solving and critical thinking. It builds self-confidences, helps students appreciate differences in others and gives them an understanding of the world around them through an artistic lens.

#### **Elementary Art Skills**

- Understanding color families and relationships
- Developing fine motor coordination
- Drawing and understanding proportion
- Creating in a variety of mediums and with a variety of materials
- Exploring and connecting to the community and world through art making and exploration

Should you have any questions regarding CRS' art program, please contact Mrs. D'Angelo.

### **Library**

The CRS library is a fun place to be and is open all through the day for use by students, faculty, and staff. Each class meets with the librarian for regular classes. During this time, students are: a) instructed in the use of libraries and their materials, b) provided the opportunity to develop an appreciation of literature and books by exposure to the various forms of literature, and c) encouraged to borrow and return library materials. Students in UPK check out one book at a time, and students in grade 2-4 may check out up to two books at a time. Should you have any questions about the borrowing policy, please contact Mrs. Reid.





## **CHARACTER EDUCATION-PBIS**

CRS strives to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all students. Through the PBIS (Positive Intervention and Supports) framework, we support all students and learners to prevent behavior issues as well as reinforce positive behavior through whole school systems and supports. As a community of learners, we try to impart understanding of others, understanding of differences, and acceptance. We believe in the importance of students feeling they are cared about and connected to others. We focus on three main values in all of our learning spaces:

- **RESPECTFUL**: I have the responsibility to respect others. I have the right to be respected. I can treat others the way I want to be treated.
- **RESPONSIBLE**: I have a responsibility to the CCCSD community. I have a right to count on the CCCSD Community. I can be trustworthy and reliable.
- **READY**: I am ready to learn. I have the right to learn in a safe and caring learning environment.

**“At CRS we are, Respectful, Responsible and Ready!”**

[CRS Matrix](#) (please review to see these expectations)



## **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES/COUNSELING**

The services of a School Counselor, Mrs. Campisi and Ms. Shamp, School Psychologist, Mrs. Slawetsky and School Social Worker, Ms. Iabone, are available to provide counseling support to children and families, as well as to consult with staff on various mental health related issues and needs that are listed below.

Chestnut Ridge Elementary provides a comprehensive school counseling program tailored to meet the changing needs of the school's population.

At CRS, the school counselor ...

- Is a friendly helper for all of the students
- Sees students for individual counseling on an as needed basis (when situational concerns arise)
- Runs small group counseling sessions for students with similar concerns (such as anxiety, family changes, self-esteem, or social skills).
- Visits classrooms to deliver classroom guidance lessons on various topics (such as dealing with



- bullying, and making healthy lifestyle decisions)
- Provides mediation for friendship concerns between students
- Helps identify student needs and assists in assessment of students with special needs
- Serves as a member of the Response to Intervention (RtI) Team, a multidisciplinary group of school professionals that reviews, develops and implements appropriate interventions for at-risk students
- Organizes school-wide, positive behavior interventions and supports (such as our ticket reward program) and safety programs (such as Red Ribbon Week)
- Acts as a consultant to parents, teachers, administrators and community agencies
- Works with parents to help foster communication between home and school
- Works with outside agencies (such as doctors, hospitals, social workers, etc.) to help obtain services and enable communication about students who need outside assistance
- Deals with any other daily issues that arise at school

## **FOOD, CAFETERIA and SCHOOL MEALS**

### **Food Distribution**

The following food service guidelines are in place for student and staff events:

- Students may bring lunches prepared at home if they choose not to buy their lunch, but they are strongly encouraged not to share their food with other students, whether bought or brought.
- Any food brought into school for general distribution to students must be sealed and purchased at a store or prepared by the CCCSD's Food Service staff and must meet the Federal guidelines for minimal nutritional value. The State's guidelines are 7 grams or less of fat; 360 mg or less of sodium; 2 grams or less of saturated fat and 15 grams or less of sugar per serving. Foods prepared at home are not to be brought into school for distribution to students.
- Food treats are not permitted for birthday celebrations. Please do not put your child in an uncomfortable situation by sending in treats or treats to celebrate your child's birthday. They will not be served to your child's class.

### **Food Allergies**

CRS has several students with life-threatening or severe food allergies. Classrooms with severe allergies are marked with Allergy Alert signs on the classroom door. Visitors are expected to ask the classroom teacher of potential allergies before bringing any food items into the classroom.

### **Cafeteria**

Grade levels have staggered lunch times and sit in designated areas. On Monday/Wednesdays/Fridays, we host family lunches. On Thursdays, we host special lunches for students as part of their PBIS rewards. Cafeteria rules must be followed at all times:

- no food sharing
- classes sit together-there may be class or student assigned seats based on teacher/cafeteria staff/administration discretion
- raise hands for adult support



## School Meals/Menus

All meals are free through CEP for the 2025-2026 school year. Students can purchase snacks and should be prepared with their money in either a secure container such as a labeled Ziplock bag or by using My School Bucks. The school is not responsible for lost money.

Menus can be accessed on the district's website or through this link:

<https://schools.mealviewer.com/district/Churchville-ChiliCentralSchoolDistrict>

## Breakfast

Kindergartners and students with very first specials will get right off the buses when they arrive to go to breakfast first and will eat in the cafeteria. All other students will dismiss from the buses at 9:05 and may grab their breakfast and go right to class

## Lunch

Should your child bring his/her lunch, please send lunches in containers and packages that are easily opened by your own child. Students may not trade or share lunch items that are brought from home or purchased at school.

## Lunch Schedule

Grade K	11:00 – 11:50	Grade 3	12:20 – 1:10
Grade 1	11:25 – 12:20	Grade 4	12:45 – 1:40
Grade 2	11:55 – 12:45	UPK	11:50-12:20

## Families Eating Lunch in the CRS Cafeteria (M/W/F) Grades K-4

Lunch is a time for children to interact with peers and develop social skills. We also know that this can be a special visit for your student and love hosting family lunches on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays October-May. If you choose to join your child for lunch, please follow the cafeteria rules listed above, as well as these additional guidelines:

- You MUST sign in, in the main office– remain in cafeteria & do not go to classrooms.
- Please call ahead so that we can ensure there is enough room at the family tables as we have limited space! We do not want to have to turn people away and will of course do our best to accommodate all families! Calling ahead also saves time so that we can have your visitor tags printed ahead of time.
- Videos and or photos (including those taken of your own children) are not permitted.
- You must sit with your own child at the designated family table. Please note that other classmates/friends are not allowed to sit at this table unless their family is also visiting for lunch.
- Food cannot be given to any children other than your own.

## Meal Payment Program

The MySchoolBucks system allows parents to pre-pay for meals and snacks. Info page for My School Bucks can be accessed [here](https://www.cccsd.org/departments/nutritional-services/my-school-bucks) (<https://www.cccsd.org/departments/nutritional-services/my-school-bucks>).



Click on [My School Bucks](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) to create an account (www.myschoolbucks.com).

## **RECESS**

### **Recess**

All students have a 20-minute recess every day. Weather permitting, recess is held outdoors.

Parents/guardians are asked to send their children to school dressed appropriately for outside play. When on playground equipment, sandals without ankle straps i.e., flip flips/slides are not permitted. Students who bring a doctor's note stating they cannot participate in PE will also be unable to play outdoors during recess.

To keep our students safe during outdoor recess in the winter, please send appropriate winter gear, including a winter coat, hat, mittens or gloves, boots, and snow pants. Sneakers are important during the other seasons.

## **CRS PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)**

Membership in the PTO is open to anyone who is concerned with the education, health and welfare of children and youth: parents/guardians, grandparents, caregivers, faculty, staff, and community members. Membership in the CRS PTO is all-inclusive. Meetings occur once a month and are always open to our community. We hope to continue the strong bond of cooperation between families and teachers in providing rich learning and growing experiences for our children. To do this we need your help in the projects that are planned for the year. You may indicate your willingness to help by contacting any of the Board members. We welcome your ideas and your help! Join us and make this a great year.

### **PTA 2025-2026 Officers**

President: Christine Skivington  
Vice President: Allison Luta  
Secretary: TBD  
Treasurer: Kristen Balonek  
Volunteer Coordinator: Candice Pretko

### **PTO Facebook Page**

Stay up to date and in the know, visit the PTO Facebook Page: Parents of Chestnut Ridge Elementary Students

