

CRAFTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Home of the Cougars • Cultivating Joyful Learning Since 1888

Transitional Kindergarten & Kindergarten Family Handbook | 2026–2027

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Mr. Doolittle	TK	jeffrey_doolittle@redlands.k12.ca.us
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Mrs. Shroads	Kindergarten	julie_shroads@redlands.k12.ca.us
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Our Philosophy

We believe that a child must become involved in order to learn. He or she has to see, feel, taste, and smell. Sometimes this means getting messy, wet, or rumpled! Clothing may come home with traces of paint and dirt and fun. Becoming involved means noise and much activity, and a clean, quiet child may not be a learning child. Many of our classroom activities involve “hands-on” experiences, and your child will not bring home worksheets every day. Ask your child about the activities of the day!

First Week of School

This may be an emotional time for you and your child, and it's not uncommon if there are tears. Your child is in good hands, and we will let you know if we are concerned. Let your child know that you will pick them up when they are finished with school; this gives your child reassurance that you will return. Your child is ready and will have a GREAT day. Please be prompt for arrival and dismissal each day, and make sure to inform your child's teacher before taking them.

Please Send a Note, Email, or ParentSquare Message If:

- Your child has been absent from school, explaining the reason for the absence.
- Your child will leave by other means than the bus, if he or she is a regular bus rider.
- Your child is going home with anyone other than you, if he or she goes home with you regularly.
- You are going to pick your child up early; you must sign him or her out in the office before picking them up.

Volunteers / Visiting Campus

We love volunteers! This is such an exciting year to help in the classroom, and we encourage moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, aunts, and uncles to join us. We have many different tasks that make our classrooms work, and your help is valuable and gives your child special joy and assurance.

Redlands Unified School District and the State of California require anyone who volunteers in a classroom to complete a volunteer application, be routinely tested for tuberculosis, undergo fingerprinting, and complete a Mandated Reporter Training through the district. Once these steps are complete, your name will be submitted for school board approval. These requirements must be completed in order to volunteer, attend class activities, or chaperone a field trip.

Visit redlandsusd.net/departments/human-resources/school-site-volunteer-information to get started.

Raptor Technologies

Over 20,000 schools nationwide protect their students and campuses with the Raptor System, which Redlands Unified has purchased for all school sites. Raptor provides immediate, real-time screening of everyone seeking to enter our school. All visitors and family members, meaning anyone not wearing a District ID Badge, must bring a driver's license to be scanned before entering campus.

Breakfast & Lunch

- Breakfast is offered before school between 7:30 and 7:55 a.m.
- Your child may bring lunch from home or get a school lunch from our cafeteria.
- ALL Crafton students receive FREE meals provided by the state.
- Students may receive 1 breakfast and 1 lunch each day.

Snacks

In Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten, it's important to have a small snack to break up the day. We'd appreciate nutritious snacks in your child's lunch pail, such as cut fruit, cheese, grapes, carrot sticks, or raisins.

Homework

Homework is a wonderful time for you to observe what your child is learning and reinforce those skills at home. You'll need crayons, pencils, glue, and scissors at home for your child's work; please contact your child's teacher if obtaining these items presents a hardship. Keep these items in a small box so materials don't get lost. It is so important that you also read with your child every night.

Class-Made Books

Your child will bring home many small, school-created books. Please collect these books in a space at home and read these books together repeatedly. They're at the perfect level for beginning readers and are building blocks for future reading success.

Conference Time

Parent-teacher conferences will be held the week of November 17–21. We'll meet with you individually to discuss your child's progress. Please don't hesitate to send a ParentSquare message, call, or email us whenever you have a question or concern. We're eager to help your child have a successful year!

Illness

Please contact the school office to notify the attendance clerk when your child is absent. The school number is 909-794-8600.

Regular attendance is a priority. Habits developed now set the foundation for future years. Please help your child arrive on time and attend school every day. See the Too Sick for School guide at the end of this handbook to help determine when you should and shouldn't send your child to school.

Clothing & Materials

Please label the items your child brings to school: coats, jackets, sweaters, lunch pails, and backpacks. We often have duplicates of certain items.

It's also important for your child to have a backpack large enough to fit a folder, lunch pail, and jacket. We recommend sending a change of clothes in your child's backpack for an unexpected restroom accident.

Please make sure your child's shoes have a strap on the back and are appropriate for running and climbing. Close-toed shoes are best, since our playground is largely covered in wood chips; double-knotted laces or Velcro closures work well.

Items From Home

We provide everything your child needs at school, including pencil boxes and crayons, so nothing needs to be sent in your child's backpack. Toys and other personal items from home are not allowed; if your child brings these items to school, they will be removed by the teacher and must be picked up by a parent.

Regular Daily Schedule

Full-Day Kindergarten Session

School Begins	8:00 am
AM Recess	9:45–10:00 am
Lunch	10:40–11:20 am
PM Recess	12:50–1:05 pm
Dismissal	2:00 pm

AM Kindergarten Session

School Begins	8:00 am
PE / Recess	9:45–10:00 am
Lunch	10:40–11:20 am
Dismissal	12:15 pm

AM TK Session

School Begins	8:00 am
PE / Recess	9:30–9:45 am
Lunch	10:50–11:25 am
Dismissal	11:40 am

PM TK Session

School Begins	10:20 am
Lunch	11:00–11:35 am
PM Recess	12:35–12:50 pm
Dismissal	2:00 pm

Minimum Day Schedule

- AM TK students will be here from 8:00–11:40 am.
- PM TK students will be here from 8:40 am–12:20 pm.
- AM Kinder students will be here from 8:00 am–12:15 pm.
- Kindergarten (full-day) will be dismissed at 12:25 pm.

Drop-Off / Pick-Up Information

Students may be dropped off or walked up to enter through the office or main gate 2. Students who start at 8:00 may arrive at school anytime between 7:40 and 8:00 am; campus monitors supervise students during this recess period. At 7:58, students line up outside their classroom, and school begins promptly at 8:00. Students will be walked up to the gate for dismissal, and a staff member will release your child to you.

If you drive through the pick-up line, you will need to park and come to the gate to receive your student. Your child will not be brought to your car. Bus riders will be walked to the bus.

Please Do Not Park in the Drive-Thru / Pick-Up Lane

Because dismissal times are close together, the drive-thru lane must stay clear for continuous pick-up traffic. If you need to park, please use the middle lane and a regular parking spot — cars may not be left unattended in the pick-up lane, even for a moment. See the map below for the current traffic flow.



Drop-Off & Pick-Up

Crafton Elementary School | 311 N. Wabash Ave, Redlands, CA



Step-by-Step

- 1 Enter the lot from Wabash Ave into the pick-up lane.
- 2 Pull ALL THE WAY forward along the curb before stopping.
- 3 Parking? Continue past the curb into a parking spot.
- 4 No stopping in the marked middle lane at any time.
- 5 Once parked, cross only at the marked crosswalk.
- 6 Exit is Right Turn ONLY back onto Wabash Ave.

Please follow posted signs and staff/crossing-guard direction at all times.

Important

The drive thru lane is for PARKING ONLY. Students are not allowed to cross without an adult. Cars will be directed to pull through the middle lane to park.

**Get Directions**

Scan for Google Maps directions to Crafton Elementary School.

Child Safety Seats

According to the California Highway Patrol, most collisions occur within a mile of home, so buckle your child into a safety seat for every trip, no matter how short.

Current California Law

- Children under age 8 must be secured in a car seat or booster seat in the back seat.
- Children who are 8 years old OR have reached 4'9" in height may be secured by a booster seat, but at minimum must be secured by a safety belt (California Vehicle Code Section 27363).
- Passengers 16 years of age and over are subject to California's Mandatory Seat Belt law.

When Can a Child Graduate to a Booster Seat?

A child is ready for a booster seat once they've outgrown the weight or height limit of their forward-facing harness, typically between 40 and 65 pounds. Check your car seat's owner's manual for exact limits, and keep your child in a harnessed seat as long as possible. Children at this stage aren't yet ready for adult safety belts and should use belt-positioning booster seats until they're at least 4'9" and between 8 and 12 years old.

Here We Go!

This will be an amazing year for you and your child! We look forward to seeing our students learn, laugh, grow, and become life-long scholars. Working with you as a team, we'll make this a great beginning to your child's educational career.

Stay Connected!

- School website: redlandsusd.net/crafton
- Follow Crafton Elementary PTA on Facebook
- Follow Crafton Elementary PTA on Instagram
- Follow Crafton RUSD on Instagram

Appendix: Too Sick for School

No parent wants a child to miss school without good reason, but sending a sick child to class can make a condition worse and put other children at risk. These guidelines from Redlands Unified's Health Services Department can help you make that tough morning call.

Don't Keep a Child Home For:

Sniffles, a runny nose, and a mild cough without a fever. Could be a common cold or an allergic response to dust, pollen, or seasonal changes.
Vague complaints of aches, pains, or fatigue.
A single episode of diarrhea or vomiting without any other symptoms (but let school officials know the child was ill and where you can be reached).

Keep a Child Home When They Have:

A fever of 100 degrees or more. Coupled with a rash, earache, sore throat, lethargy, or nausea, this may signal a contagious infection. Keep your child home at least 24 hours after temperature returns to normal without medication.
A persistent, productive cough and wheezing with thick or constant nasal discharge. Call your pediatrician if your child is having trouble breathing, is dehydrated, or is atypically weak or sleepy.
Persistent vomiting or diarrhea during the previous night.
An undiagnosed rash, especially with a fever or behavioral change. Check with the doctor as soon as possible.
Purulent conjunctivitis (pinkeye) with white or yellow discharge, matted eyelids after sleep, eye pain, or redness. School can wait until eyes are clear or treated with antibiotics for 24 hours.
Strep throat / scarlet fever. Stay home until clinical recovery or after 24–48 hours of effective antibiotic therapy.
Head lice (pediculosis). Stay home until treated and all nits are removed.
Scabies (body lice). Stay home 24 hours after start of treatment.
Impetigo. Stay home until skin is clear or 24 hours after start of treatment.
Chickenpox. Stay home five days after the onset of blisters, or until all pox are scabbed over and dry.