

WALTER WHITE WELCOMES YOU

Dear Parents and Students,

The staff at Walter White Elementary School extends a warm welcome to all of our students and their families. The new school year will be full of new challenges, exciting educational opportunities, and plenty of Walter White Elementary spirit!

We are looking forward to another great year at WALTER WHITE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!

CERES DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Our students will achieve mastery of academic standards in a safe and supportive environment. We will provide a quality, balanced education that result in academic excellence, and career preparation with attitudes and skills necessary to produce self-directed, productive citizens.

WALTER WHITE'S MISSION STATEMENT

Our school atmosphere exemplifies a community of learners. Staff and parents continue to learn along with the students. We have a positive atmosphere with smiling faces throughout our school. There are friendly gestures such as handshakes, eye contact and helpful attitudes. Students and adults interact with each other with respect. Staff and parents work together, as a team, to help out students achieve the California State Standards.

ATTENDANCE

ABSENCES

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Make every effort to have your child in school every day on time.
2. Call the school before 9:30 a.m. at 556-1710 to report your child absent. If you do not have a telephone or are unable to reach the school, be sure to send a note explaining the absence with your child upon his/her return.
3. On days your child must be absent for 5 days or more for reasons other than illness (family emergencies, trips, etc.) arrangements can be made to continue his/her studies through independent studies. The school must depend upon the parent to notify the office and make arrangements for INDEPENDENT STUDY assignments. These arrangements must be made at least 5 days prior to the 1st day absent.

TARDINESS

Any student who reports to his/her classroom after 8:40 a.m. is considered tardy for class. **STUDENTS WHO ARE LATE TO SCHOOL MUST REPORT TO THE OFFICE BEFORE GOING TO CLASS.** Tardiness is very disruptive to the instructional program. Students who develop a pattern of tardiness or who are, in the principal's judgment, habitually tardy may be subject disciplinary action.

AWARDS

Walter White has a strong commitment to helping students reach their greatest potential. Learning self-control and self-discipline is essential for success. We are proud of our students and want to recognize their many contributions to a positive school climate. Therefore, we provide praise and rewards to recognize students who follow classroom and school rules, demonstrate good citizen and academic achievement.

These awards may vary. Some examples include Attendance awards, Academic awards and Student of the Month awards.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Breakfast for all.....8:00
Grades 1-68:40-2:55
AM Preschool.....8:15-11:30
AM Kindergarten.....8:40-12:00
PM Preschool.....12:00-3:15
PM Kindergarten.....12:05-3:25

MINIMUM DAY SCHEDULE

Breakfast for all8:00
Grades 1-6.....8:40-12:55
AM Kindergarten.....8:40-12:00
PM Kindergarten.....12:05-3:25

Full day kindergarten starts in November
8:40 a.m – 2:45 p.m. (8:40 – 12:45 Min. Days)
Students may NOT ARRIVE at school
prior to 8:00 a.m.

BUS RULES

- Walter White follows the bus rules stated on the School Bus Safety/Plan. Please refer to it for specific information.
- On fieldtrips parents must have 48 hour prior approval from the principal prior to picking up the student from the fieldtrip.
- There are two types of fieldtrips. Instructional fieldtrips all students participate. Fieldtrips designed as reward include students that meet criteria (i.e. behavior).
- Chaperone spaces are limited. Chaperones must be 18 years or older. Chaperones may not bring younger children. Please see volunteer requirements.

BICYCLES

Bicycles may be ridden to school. They must be parked and locked in the designated bike rack. The school is not responsible for theft or damage.

CAFETERIA

Students may purchase hot meals in the cafeteria. Students must pay for lunch in the cafeteria before school in the morning. Parents are encouraged to pay for lunches a week or month in advance.

Student Breakfast - Free. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. daily in the cafeteria.

Student Lunch-\$1.75 per day or \$8.75 per week. Milk can be purchased by students bringing their own lunch for \$.30 per day. All prices are subject to change. Free or reduced meal forms are available from the office.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Walter White has a school-wide discipline policy. We believe a safe and orderly environment is important for students to learn and study. We expect students to follow the school-wide rules. Students who decide to break the rules will receive citations and consequences. Citations will be given for misbehavior in the classroom, on the yard, cafeteria and on the bus. Students will display appropriate conduct as outlined in the Ceres Unified School District Code of Conduct and the California Education Code. Students who follow the rules will be rewarded.

SCHOOL-WIDE RULES

1. Keep your hands, feet and other objects to yourself.
2. Treat everyone with dignity and respect.
3. Come to school prepared and ready to learn.
4. Quiet voices in the quiet zones

GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS

- ★ Be dedicated to your school
- ★ Rise to meet challenges
- ★ Exhibit integrity
- ★ Achieve greatness
- ★ Be motivated to succeed

DRESS AND GROOMING

The school follows the district guidelines as stated in the *Conduct Code and Parent Information K-12* procedures regarding dress and grooming.

No supervision in the yard until 8:15 a.m.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

The Registration Card which is filled out at the beginning of the year or at the time of registration is the only link between the school and home. It is extremely important that our school has up-to-date emergency information regarding your child (ren). Please see to it that the following information is kept current:

1. Home phone and work phone numbers.
2. Home and/or work phone number of friends/relatives who can be contacted in case of an emergency.
3. Phone number of child care facility or baby-sitter if one is used on a regular basis.
4. Any unusual medical problem.

The only adults to whom students may be released are parents, legal guardians and those listed as emergency contacts on the registration card.

FOGGY DAY BUS PROCEDURE

PLEASE LISTEN TO YOUR RADIO STATION FOR REPORTS OR CALL 556-1595.

Cooperating Radio Stations:

KMJX (98 FM)	KLOC (920 AM)	KTRB (104 FM)
KO93 (93FM)	KFIC (1360 AM)	KBEE (103FM)

LIBRARY SERVICES

Each student will be checking out books from the school library. Students are responsible for the materials that they check out. Books are to be returned promptly and in good condition. If a book is lost or damaged, it needs to be paid for before a student may check out any other materials or given a report card at the end of the year. It is also possible that they may be denied specific school activities. Students may not check out books if anything is overdue. Classes will attend the library on a weekly basis.

LOST AND FOUND

Any items lost during the year will be placed in lost and found bin. You may come in to find your items during school hours. After many failed opportunities for lost to be found by their owner, items will be donated to a charity twice a year.

NONDISCRIMINATION IN DISTRICT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The Governing Board is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education. District programs and activities shall be free from discrimination based on gender, sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation or the perception of one or more of such characteristics. The Board shall promote programs which ensure that discriminatory practices are eliminated in all district activities. The officer responsible for equity and compliance with Title IX is the Coordinator of Child Welfare and Attendance, 2503 Lawrence Street, Ceres, Ca 95307, (209) 556-1500.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Bringing any personal property of value to school is discouraged as the school cannot assume responsibility for it if it should be lost or damaged. The Ceres Unified School District, its officers, agents or employees shall not be responsible, in any manner, for the loss, theft, damage, or destruction of any personal property brought onto District premises by students, for any

premises assume all risk of loss, theft, damage or destruction of the personal property which may occur.

STUDENT SECURITY PROCEDURES

The following information is very important for the safety and security of your child.

- 1) Parents **MUST** sign out students in the office. No student will be released directly from the classroom.
- 2) Parents/guardians must have a picture ID and his/her name must be on the student's enrollment card to be released by the office. If you sent someone to pick up your child and his/her name is not on the card, the office **WILL NOT** release your child to that person.
- 3) A bus pass, issued by the school office, is the only way a bus driver will allow students to depart from the bus at a stop other than their regular stop. To get a bus pass you must:
 - a) Send a note to the office indicating your desire to have your child released at a location other than his/her regular bus stop. (Bring the note to the office in the morning.)
 - b) Include in the note students name, parent's name, and location change and phone number where you can be reached for verification of the note.
 - c) Once the office has verified the note the bus pass will be issued.

reason whatsoever, including, but not limited to, a request by a staff member. Students who bring personal property or any electronic devices onto school

PHONE/E-MAIL

Phone calls made to teachers during the day will be forwarded to their voicemail. You may e-mail a staff member with their first initial last name @ceres.k12.ca.us (for example, dpangrazio@ceres.k12.ca.us). Please allow up to 24 hour turnaround time for teacher to respond in order not to disrupt any teaching time. This also includes any messages to your student.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR MATERIALS

At the beginning of the school year, students are issued textbooks and other materials and supplies. They must maintain these materials, including library books, in good condition and return them when asked or else pay for any loss or damage.

SUSPENSION

The following behaviors will result in automatic suspension from school: AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION LAW (State Law 48900)

1. Physical injury to another person - actual or threatened
2. Disruption of school activities or defiance of school authorities
3. Commission of obscene acts or engagement in habitual profanity or vulgarity
4. Damage to or theft of school or private property
5. Possession or sale of weapons
6. Possession or sale of drugs, alcoholic beverages, or intoxicants
7. Possession or use of tobacco
8. Sexual harassment
9. Hate violence
10. Intimidation

TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL/SMOKING

Ample evidence has demonstrated the health hazards associated with the use of tobacco products, including smoking and the breathing of second-hand smoke. Therefore, in accordance with state and federal law, as well as Ceres Unified School District Policy, Walter White Elementary prohibits the use of tobacco anywhere and anytime on district property.

If your child is a bus rider and you are not at the school to pick up your child BEFORE the buses leave, your child will be put on the bus to be taken home. If your child is late arriving home on the bus, you may call the school before 4:00 P.M. or the district transportation office at 556-1595.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS Academic Intervention Program (AIP)

The goal of the Academic Intervention Program (AIP) is to give students who are "at-risk" of not passing the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) the extra academic support needed for promotion for the next grade level. Classes are offered for 1 ½ hours per day after school, three days per week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

After School Education and Safety Program (ASES)

ASES is open to all students in grades 1st through 6th. The ASES program runs Monday through Friday beginning right after school and ends at 6:00 P.M. Students receive a snack and the program is supervised by Ceres Unified recreational leaders who provide homework support and recreational, enrichment activities in a safe and structured environment.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We are committed to building partnerships with our families. We welcome volunteers and encourage parent participation. Together our students succeed. The following are ways families may get involved:

VISITORS and VOLUNTEERS - School Volunteer Requirement

Due to State requirements and to enhance the safety and well-being of Ceres Unified School District (CUSD) students, CUSD is implementing a new volunteer process for current and future volunteers.

The Ceres Unified School District requires **all** school volunteers to complete and/or meet the following:

Step 1: Obtain the *School Volunteer Application Form* at any school site office or the CUSD Community Webpage at <http://www.ceres.k12.ca.us/portal/community.htm>.

Step 2: Submit a completed application to each school at which you plan to volunteer. A valid picture I.D. is required at the time of submission.

Step 3: The District will verify compliance with the following:

Cleared through the Megan's Law website

Have a valid TB clearance on file with the District (Education Code 49406). *Free TB clinics for volunteers are offered during May and June in the CUSD District Office - a list of specific dates is available at any school site.*

Step 4: Unsupervised volunteers (e.g. overnight chaperones, athletic/band assistants) will require a Department of Justice and FBI fingerprint clearance (fee covered by CUSD).

For further information, including the free TB clinic days, please call our school's main office.

After the volunteer forms have been received, we ask that you make arrangements with your teacher 24 hours prior to your visit. Please remember that everyone is required to sign in at the school office before going on campus. Sign out prior to leaving. Visitors signing in at the school office will be given a visitor's badge to wear while they are on campus. All staff members have been asked to question adults who are on campus without an identifying badge. Please continue cooperating with our efforts to ensure the safety and security of all students.

Volunteers are an important part of education. If you are interested in helping in other ways—SSC, ELAC, etc.—please contact the school. One of the best ways to be involved is to assist your child. Know what they are doing in school. The education of your child is greatly influenced by you. Determine areas in which they are having trouble, and contact their teacher to find out how you can assist at home. Know when an award comes home and praise positive behavior.

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

School Site Council, composed of parents, staff, and students, oversees the special programs at school that are funded through state and federal monies. The council provides ideas, and community involvement in the school improvement process. If you are interested in serving on the School Site Council, please call Walter White Elementary at 556-1710.

ENGLISH LEARNER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ELAC)

ELAC is a committee made of our parents forming a stronger bond through communication between school and community. The meetings are delivered in Spanish. The purpose of the meetings is for parents to give input on English Learner needs.

SCHOOL HEALTH INFORMATION

Healthy children learn best. This is why your school nurse is here to help each child reach and maintain optimal health. We would like to share some information with you to help ensure a safe, healthy year for your student.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION: Please keep the office informed of changes in home and work phone numbers. It is also important that you have local emergency numbers for when you cannot be reached. We will always attempt to notify parents/guardians first, but need the emergency number so an ill or injured child can receive prompt care.

CHRONIC HEALTH PROBLEMS: If your child has a chronic health problem such as diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, allergic reactions, etc., please notify your school nurse and child's teacher. This allows them to plan for any special needs your child might have.

MEDICATION: California Education Code 11753.1 allows the school to assist in the administration of medication if requested to do so by the physician and parent. An authorization form, available from the school office, must be completed by the physician and parent. Medications must be brought to school by an adult in the original pharmacy labeled bottle. Medication requests must be renewed each year and any changes in the medication should be reported to the school by the parent.

School personnel are legally not allowed to give children ANY medication including Aspirin, Tylenol and cough drops, without the written authorizations form completed by the physician and parent. Inhalers and auto-injectable epinephrine (EpiPen) may be carried by the student, as long as the student's parents and doctor give permission and the authorization forms are on file in the nurse's office. It is recommended that all students carrying an inhaler have a back-up inhaler in the nurse's office.

Be aware that the school may take disciplinary action if a student misuses an inhaler or EpiPen in any way.

LICE: Ceres Unified School District has a NO NIT policy, which means all eggs (dead or alive) must be removed before a child is allowed to return to school. Lice are an easily treatable condition that can be eliminated once

discovered. If your child is constantly itching, check the scalp for lice or eggs. The eggs will appear as white specks stuck to the hair shaft near the scalp. You must accompany your child to be checked by school personnel to determine if your child is cleared to return to school once they have been excluded due to lice. If you discover your child has lice, please notify the school so other students in the class can be screened for lice.

ILLNESS: Your child will be in close contact with other children in the school setting. Please be alert to signs of illness and keep your child home if you suspect he/she is not well. This will reduce the spread of illnesses in the school setting. If you think your child might have a communicable disease such as chicken pox, ringworm, impetigo, strep throat, etc., please notify the school office.

FIRST GRADE PHYSICALS: The California Health and Safety code requires that every child entering first grade in a California school have a health check-up. A certificate signed by a doctor, must be presented to the school by December 1st to verify this requirement. Physical examinations completed after Feb. 1st, 2011 meet this requirement.

KINDERGARTEN DENTAL REQUIREMENT: California law requires every Kindergarten student to have an oral health assessment prior to May 31st. The law specifies that the assessment must be performed by a licensed dentist or dental hygienist. Oral health assessments that have happened within the last 12 months before your child enters school meet the requirement.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT: The school nurse will be meeting with the 4th, 5th and 6th grade girls and the 5th and 6th grade boys during spring time. Topics related to body changes experienced during puberty, and HIV/AIDS information will be discussed. A parent preview will be held prior to the presentations. The parents will be notified by district mail regarding the date and times of the parent preview. If you do not wish your child to participate in these presentations please sign the exclusion request provided with the preview information and return to the school office. Please call the school nurse for any questions related to the growth and development presentations.

