

# **Cottonwood School**



# Student Handbook

# 2009-2010

**Cottonwood School**  
**44260 Sage Road Aguanga, CA 92536**  
**(951) 767-3870**  
**Fax: (951) 767-3877**

**OFFICE HOURS: 7:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## Cottonwood Staff

### SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION:

DAVE FARKAS.....PRINCIPAL

### OFFICE STAFF:

YOLANDA CARRILLO.....OFFICE MANAGER

LINDA CHRISTIE.....SECRETARY

BONNIE PETERS.....HEALTH TECHNICIAN

### TEACHING STAFF:

KIM JOHNSTON.....RSP/SDC

DAWN COLLINS.....KINDERGARTEN

ALISON JORDAN.....FIRST GRADE

LINDA CRITTENDEN.....SECOND GRADE

SONIA RANGEL.....THIRD GRADE

HILLARY WILLHITE.....THIRD GRADE

REBECCA PACKARD.....FOURTH GRADE

STEVE WOOD.....FIFTH GRADE

CAROL PARK.....MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH

ROBERT DOMINGUEZ.....MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES

CHARLES CHEEK.....MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE

ALEX AVILEZ.....MIDDLE SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS

MIKE TRUPIANO.....ELEMENTARY PHYSICAL EDUCATION

SCOTT WHITMORE.....MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

ROSANNE ROTSOLK.....BAND/MUSIC

### SUPPORT STAFF:

REGINA SHOPPE.....COUNSELOR

VICKI YSACOFF.....SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

MARY JANE O'NEIL.....SPEECH THERAPIST

OFFICER CADENHEAD.....SCHOOL POLICE

LYNN EVANS.....TECHNOLOGY

BERTHA ESTRELLA.....LIBRARIAN

ROBIN HAMMOND.....CAMPUS SUPERVISOR

REGINA FISHER.....CAMPUS SUPERVISOR

NORMA LOPEZ.....CAMPUS SUPERVISOR

RAY CARREA.....HEAD CUSTODIAN

ELVERIA TOPETE.....CUSTODIAN

CLAUDIA TAYLOR.....CAFETERIA MANAGER

LAURA PEERLUS.....SAFE FACILITATOR

## Cottonwood School

Welcome to Cottonwood School! Cottonwood's staff is committed to making this school year truly exciting and successful for each of our students. We are very fortunate to have many experienced and highly trained teachers passionate about making a difference for our students. We look forward to serving each student's individual needs as well as reaching our overall school goals. Through our programs and relationships, our students will have opportunities to develop as well rounded citizens.

At Cottonwood School, we will provide the essential components of a quality school program. A rigorous academic curriculum is in place to meet the needs of all levels of students. Cottonwood also offers supplemental assistance programs to provide help to students who are achieving below grade level. In addition, we offer a variety of extracurricular activities to meet the vast interests of our student body and highly encourage all students to become involved.

Parents, we would like to personally encourage you to become actively involved in your child's education. We truly believe that your involvement will have a lasting impact. We welcome you and encourage you to participate in as many activities as possible. We believe that staff, students, and parents are a team and together we can reach our goal of attaining a quality education for every student, in every classroom, every day!

Students, we would like to personally welcome you to the 2009-2010 school year. We encourage each and every one of you to participate in our school community. We are behind you 100 percent! We encourage you to organize your weekly assignments, get involved, and enjoy activities, clubs and friends. We are always looking out for your best interests as well as your progress as young people. Through hard work and respect for everyone at our fine school, you will be successful this year and in the future.

On behalf of the entire staff, thank you for being a part of Cottonwood pride. We look forward to working together to achieve a year full of success and growth. Have a great school year!

Sincerely,

Dave Farkas  
Principal

# Cottonwood School Bell Schedules 2009 – 2010

## Elementary School Schedule

8:00 AM School begins  
10:03 AM Intermediate Recess  
10:38 AM Primary Recess  
11:20 AM Kindergarten Lunch  
11:29 AM Intermediate Lunch  
12:05 PM Primary Lunch  
12:50 PM Intermediate Recess  
2:10 PM Dismissal (Friday dismissal is 1:10)

Minimum Days- Conference Weeks/Last Day of School (10 per year)  
Elementary School is dismissed at 12:50 on minimum days.

## Middle School Schedule

### Monday – Thursday

7:50 AM – 8:45 AM Period 1  
8:49 AM – 9:44 AM Period 2  
9:48 AM – 10:43 AM Period 3  
10:47 AM – 11:42 AM Period 4  
11:42 AM – 12:12 PM Lunch  
12:16 PM – 1:11 PM Period 5  
Lunch  
1:15 PM – 2:19 PM Period 6

### Friday

7:50 AM – 8:34 AM  
8:38 AM – 9:23 AM  
9:27 AM – 10:12 AM  
10:16 AM – 11:00 AM  
11:04 AM – 11:50 AM  
11:50 AM – 12:20 PM  
12:24 PM - 1:09 PM

Minimum Days- Conference Weeks/Last Day of School (10 per year)  
Middle School is dismissed at 1:05 PM on minimum days.

## Cottonwood School Calendar 2009 – 2010

August 24.....	First Day of School
August 31- September 4.....	Book Fair Week
September 1.....	HUSD School Board Meeting at Cottonwood
September 3.....	Back To School Night/5 <sup>th</sup> grade dinner
September 7.....	Labor Day Holiday
September 9.....	Picture Day
September 11.....	National Patriot Day, Flag Salute/Spirit Day Red, White, and Blue/Coffee with the Principal
October 7.....	Picture Make-Ups
October 12-16.....	Parent Conference Week/Minimum days
October 16.....	Conferences - No School
October 19-23.....	Red Ribbon Week
October 23.....	K-5 Awards Assembly
October 30.....	K-5 Halloween Costume Parade/Middle School Costume Spirit Day
November 11.....	Veterans Day - No School
November 19.....	Family Turkey Feast
November 23-27.....	Thanksgiving Holiday - No School
December 1-3.....	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Pathfinder Trip
December 4.....	K-5 First Trimester Awards Assembly
December 17.....	Winter Program/ASB Fundraiser Dinner
December 21 – January 1.....	Winter Break
January 4.....	Begin School After Winter Break
January 8.....	Cottonwood Spelling Bee
January 18.....	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr ' s Birthday Observed - No School
February 5.....	K-5 Awards Assembly/6-8 First Semester Awards Assembly
February 5.....	Middle School Winter Formal
February 10.....	Family Math Night
February 12.....	Flag Salute/Lincoln's Birthday/Coffee with the Principal
February 15-19.....	President ' s Holidays - No School
February 25.....	Family Science Night
March TBA.....	Spring Pictures
March 2-3.....	4 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> grade STAR Writing Test
March 4.....	Family Reading Night
March 5.....	Read Across America
March 22-26.....	Parent Conference Week/Minimum Days
March 23.....	Spring Pictures
March 26.....	K-5 Second Trimester Awards Assembly
April 5-9.....	Spring Break – No School
April 15.....	Open House
April 16.....	Camfel Productions Assembly
April 20-May 6.....	STAR State Testing
May 14.....	K-5 Awards Assembly
May 20.....	Spring Concert
May 28.....	Memorial Flag Salute/Spirit Day/Coffee with the Principal/Volunteer Luncheon
May 31.....	Memorial Day - No School
June TBA.....	Elementary/Middle School Swim Day
June 9.....	Middle School Year End Awards/Sports Year End Awards Ceremony
June 10.....	Kindergarten Promotion Ceremony
June 10.....	1 <sup>ST</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> Year End Awards Ceremony
June 10.....	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion
June 11.....	Last Day of School

### **DATES OF FIELD TRIPS TO BE DETERMINED**

## GRADING INFORMATION

### Reporting Dates

Progress Report, Triad 1 .....	October 2, 2009
Progress Report, Triad 2 First Elementary Report Card.....	November 13, 2009
<b>Elem. Progress Report, First Middle School Report Card, Triad 3.....</b>	<b>January 22, 2010</b>
Progress Report, Triad 4, Second Elementary Report Card.....	March 12, 2010
Progress Report, Triad 5.....	April 30, 2010
<b>Final Report Card, Triad 6.....</b>	<b>June 11, 2010</b>

\*Progress reports and report cards are turned in to the office on these dates. Reports are delivered within two weeks after the end of each triad/semester.

<b>SECONDARY GRADING SCALE (HUSD BOARD POLICY #5124R)</b>		
90 - 100%	A	Produces markedly superior work
80 - 89%	B	Produces superior work
70 - 79%	C	Demonstrates satisfactory work
60 - 69%	D	Needs to improve progress in work
Below 60%	F	Demonstrates little or no progress in work
	P/F	Pass/Fail
Incomplete	I	Required work has not been completed (issued only because of extenuating circumstances)

<b>ELEMENTARY GRADING SCALE</b>	
4	Produces work at or above 85% grade level proficiency
3	Produces work at or above 70% grade level proficiency
2	Produces work at or above 50% grade level proficiency (often below grade level)
1	Produces work below grade level proficiency most of the time (often far below grade level)

**Homework Policy:** Students at the middle school level can expect a minimum of five hours of homework weekly. Parents can assist by providing a quiet place of study with needed materials, encouraging a routine of completing work daily, and reviewing assignments with students. However, it is the student's responsibility to complete and turn in all homework.

**Homework Requests:** If your student is legally absent for two or more days, he or she may request the homework directly from teachers, or the parent may make a homework request by contacting the attendance office. The due date for make-up work will be set at the teacher's discretion. If your student is absent for one day, he/she will need to get work from the teachers. **24 hour notice is needed for homework requests.**

**Make-up Work:** See Homework Requests

### **Recommended Daily Homework Time Allotments:**

<u>Elementary</u>		<u>Middle School</u>	
Kindergarten	15 minutes	Grade 6	60 minutes
Grade 1	20 minutes	Grade 7	60 minutes
Grade 2	25 minutes	Grade 8	60 minutes
Grade 3	30 minutes	(More than one subject may be assigned each evening)	
Grade 4	35 minutes		
Grade 5	45 minutes		

**Progress/Grade Reports to Parents:** Progress Reports are issued to explain the status of students' work/behavior/attendance. They may indicate satisfactory or unsatisfactory performance. Parents may call teachers at to check on the progress of their student.

## **SCHEDULING**

**Class Adds/Drops:** Changes in student schedules are very disruptive and are allowed only for very specific reasons. A teacher may request a class change for a student who is not performing at a level sufficient for a class or if the student is involved in a conflict with another student that cannot be resolved. A parent may request a class change based on medical or special academic needs. Parents must meet with teacher and a counselor or administrator before a change is made.

**Library/Media Center:** The new library is one of the most important and technologically advanced facilities at school. Rules and regulations must be followed in order to offer materials and a place of study for all students.

**Textbooks:** Textbooks are provided for students. Books become the student's responsibility and fees are charged for lost/damaged textbooks, library books, and other school-issued supplies. Transcripts, grades, and other activities are withheld until all school textbooks and materials are returned or reimbursed. Textbook costs now average \$60 per book. A list of exact costs is available from the library.

**Elective Classes:** Middle School students who are proficient (based on the previous year's CST scores in Language Arts and Math) will have the opportunity to select an elective class. Students who are not proficient will be placed in a mandatory intervention class to support their academic needs.

The following classes are offered as electives:

- **Associated Student Body:** ASB is a leadership class in which Middle School students are involved in the planning and facilitation of many school functions. Students enrolled in ASB must demonstrate high academic achievement as well as a high standard for character.
- **Band:** Band is offered to students grades 4 – 8. Band practice times vary between grade levels. Students participating in band will perform at school events.
- **Team Sports:** Athletes will prepare for athletic sports and events.
- **Science Exploratory:** This class will provide Science opportunities extending outside the textbooks.

## COTTONWOOD REWARDS:

*Rewards reinforce the benefits of consistently giving it your best academically and as a Cottonwood citizen!*

*Students are recognized at awards assemblies throughout the school year in the following areas:*

*Character/Citizen Awards  
Academic Achievement  
Honor Roll GPA 3.0 – 3.49  
High Honor Roll GPA 3.5 – 3.99  
Principal’s Honor Roll GPA 4.0  
Attendance Awards  
Athletic Awards*

*Cottonwood uses the PEACEBUILDER PROGRAM to encourage all students to learn how to be productive citizens.*

**Eighth Grade Promotion:** A student must achieve no less than a 2.0 grade point average and maintain a satisfactory attendance record to participate in the end of school year 8th grade Promotion Ceremony.

**Field Trips:** Students are held accountable for behavior and academic standards leading up to all field trips. As field trips approach, students will earn the right to represent Cottonwood by accomplishing the behavior, attendance and academic expectations communicated to them months before the trips. Failure to reach these clear, written expectations will result in the student not participating in the trip.

**Assemblies:** Assemblies are a regularly scheduled part of the curriculum and as such, are designed to be educational. They provide one of the few opportunities in school to learn formal audience behavior. Regardless of the type of program, courtesy demands that students be respectful and appreciative.

**Assembly Guidelines are:**

1. Talking, whispering, yelling, whistling, stamping of feet and booing are discourteous.
2. When the person in charge of the assembly asks for your attention, give it immediately.
3. Be courteous to the performers and to your neighbors.
4. Applause should be generous, and in keeping with the occasion.

## **COTTONWOOD STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**After School & Athletic Programs:** A variety of activities are provided for students during lunch and after school. The Activities Director and Student Council plan dress-up days, lunch activities, class competitions, intramurals, after-school dances and special trips. A special, 8th grade-only, evening celebration is planned at the end of the year.

**Criteria for Participating in School Athletics:** Participation on sports teams at Cottonwood requires at least a 2.0 GPA, a valid parent consent form, physical form, proper insurance, and that the student *not* be on the Exclusion List. Students are notified on the daily announcements when tryouts are being held. **Being on the Exclusion List may result in elimination from the sports program or other special school activities.**

**Cottonwood students must attend school for a minimum of (4) periods a day to participate in any extra-curricular activity, band/choir, dances, etc.**

## **PARENT/COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUPS**

**ELAC:** The role of ELAC is to advise the principal and staff on bilingual programs and services to English learners. ELAC membership must include parents of English learners, and it may also include principal, teachers, instructional aides, community members and other parents.

**PTSA:** (Parents/Teachers/Student Association)—Memberships monies go directly to supporting PTSA, the school, and its students. Everyone is encouraged to join!

**SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL:** Elected members represent students, staff, parents, and the community. The School Site Council monitors the site plan and expenditures of the SIP (School Improvement Plan) budget. Elections will be held at the conclusion of each school year to replace parents and teachers who have concluded their two-year terms.

**PARTNERS IN EDUCATION:** A partner in Education is a partnership between a business or community group, and our school. We are privileged to have Sunny Hills Towing, Evelyng Lieser (Rhuka Inc.) and the Cottonwood Country Council as our partners. They are involved in monthly awards programs, yearly award assemblies and participate in special activities.

The purpose of Partners in Education is to:

1. Foster a better understanding of the public school system within the Cottonwood community.
2. Strengthen and improve school programs.
3. Involve the community in preparing for its own economic future.

## **COTTONWOOD STUDENT SERVICES**

**Transportation:** No student should arrive at school before 7:00 a.m.

**Bus Transportation:** Contact the Transportation Department at 765-5100 x3526 for more information.

**Cafeteria:** Students may purchase lunch for \$2.50 (Middle School) and \$1.75 (Elementary School), which includes an entrée, 1 to 3 side dishes, and milk. Many a la carte items are also available for purchase. Breakfast is also served at Cottonwood for \$1.50 (Middle School) and \$1.25 (Elementary School) and is available to everyone beginning one half hour before the start of school. Free or reduced lunches are available for students whose household qualifies based on income and number in household. Applications for the meal program are available in the main office, the cafeteria, and at the Nutrition Center located at 2075 West Acacia. **Note: You may prepay for your student's meals in the cafeteria, at the Nutrition Center, or online 24/7 at [myschoolbucks.com](http://myschoolbucks.com). If you prepay \$47.00 you will receive a discount of \$.15 on each lunch. The Nutrition Center uses an automated call system to alert you when your student's account is getting low or there has been a charge made when a student wants to eat and has no money.**

**Health Services:** The health office is located in the main office. The health office is open during school hours but students need a pass to enter. Parents will be notified by phone if a student becomes ill or injured. **Students are not to leave campus without office knowledge or permission. All medical phone calls must be made from the nurse's office. All medications for students must remain in the health office. Also, all P.E. medical excuses must be registered in the health office.**

**Counseling Services:** Students may confer with a counselor by signing up in the attendance office. Counselors call students to their offices periodically for various reasons.

**Technology/Computers:** Students are expected to use the computers, Internet, and other technologies for educational purposes only. Students are also expected to report those who may be using computers and other technologies in ways not related to their education. Students who do not use the computer or other technologies for educational purposes will be denied access to them.

## GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

*This section contains information about a variety of campus policies. Most policies are determined at the district level and shared by all middle schools in Hemet USD.*

**Accidents/Injuries:** If students are injured while at school or engaged in school activities, it must be reported immediately to the teacher in charge, no matter how minor the injury. The nurse or administration may complete written reports.

**Insurance:** Accident insurance to cover students while at school, traveling to and from school, or to and from any school activity, is made available to parents for purchase on a voluntary basis. Students involved in athletics must provide proof of insurance.

**Lost and Found:** **DO NOT BRING** valuable items to school. Students are encouraged to keep their belongings with them at all times. The office staff will keep and return lost items whenever possible; however, **Cottonwood staff members assume no liability for lost, damaged, or stolen items and will not spend instructional time searching for lost item.** Personal items may not be used during class time or they will be confiscated. Parents may pick up confiscated items in the office.

**Personal Belongings:** Students are not allowed to bring valuable items or large sums of money to school. Students should keep their belongings with them at all times. The school personnel assumes no liability for lost, damaged, or stolen items. Students may only bring necessary school supplies to school. Any other items deemed unnecessary, disruptive, or illegal by school officials will be confiscated.

Below is a **PARTIAL** list of items not allowed at school:

Pagers	Walkmans	Permanent Markers	Whiteout
<b>Gum</b>	Chains	Pocket knives	Sunflower seeds
Matches	Lighters	Cap/Squirt guns	Cigarettes
Tools	Balloons	Shaving cream	Rubber bands
<b>IPods</b>	Dice	Stink bombs	Compact discs, tapes
Spiked	Jewelry	Fireworks	Laser Pointers
Bandanas	Cameras	Safety Pins/Straight Pins	<b><u>Energy Drinks</u></b>

**Telephones/Cell Phones:** *Please plan your day before your child leaves for school.* Cell phones may be kept in backpacks but must be **turned off while on campus**. If a cell phone is turned on during the school hours, they will be confiscated and must be picked up by the parent. The student may lose the privilege of bringing the cell phone to school. Cell phones may be used when school is dismissed to arrange for transportation. The office phone is available for emergency situations.

**Change of Address:** It is extremely important to keep phone and address records current, so that the school can contact the parent in the event of an emergency. It is a good idea to list several adults on the Emergency Card who can be contacted if the parent cannot be reached. **Non-resident students with false information on their cards will be dropped from the school.**

**Transfers:** Students transferring out of school should have the parent contact the school office or bring a note from parents to the attendance secretary stating where the student is moving to and the last date the student will be attending Cottonwood. Parents or students must obtain a check-out form from the school office. The form must be signed by teachers and the librarian and returned to the office the same day. All school-issued items must be returned prior to the final checkout. **Student transfers accepted to Cottonwood will be placed on a behavior contract upon their first disciplinary consequence. Failure to follow behavior contracts will result in the student being removed from Cottonwood.**

**Closed Campus:** Cottonwood has a closed campus. This means that students cannot leave the grounds at any time during the school day except in the company of a parent or guardian. Parents must sign the student out at the office when leaving and sign in upon returning to school. All visitors must check in at the office with proper ID and wear a Visitor's Pass.

**Visitors:** School policy is to allow on campus only those visitors who are authorized by school officials and have legitimate business at school. **Parents and all other visitors must first register in the office and receive and wear a visitor pass.** Identification is required. Students of other schools are not permitted to visit the campus. Any persons on campus without permission are subject to arrest per Penal Code 653G.

**Volunteers:** All volunteers in the Hemet Unified School District must have a current TB test on file and MUST BE fingerprinted BEFORE volunteering in any classroom. Paperwork for fingerprinting is available in the school office. Volunteers are always welcome at Cottonwood school. Please contact your child's teacher or the school office to see what opportunities are available. We try to match your interests to the volunteer opportunities we have available. Parent and community volunteers are encouraged and are an important part of the Cottonwood School program.

**Emergencies/Deliveries:** In case of an **emergency**, the office will deliver messages to the classroom. Items delivered to school must be clearly labeled with student's name. **Students are to pick up items during their free time.** Students may look at delivered flower and balloon arrangements, but they are not allowed to pick them up until the end of the school day.

**Complaint Procedures:** It is the philosophy of the Hemet Unified School District to secure at the lowest possible administrative level, equitable responses to complaints directed against employees by parents/guardians. Prior to filing a written complaint, the complainant should attempt to speak with the specific employee involved concerning the complaint. Complaint procedures are available at all school sites and the district office.

**Disaster Drills:** Teachers are responsible for their students in the event of a fire, disaster, or drill. They must listen carefully and respond quickly to all directions given by any staff member. All drills are serious events.

- A. **Fire Alarm**--Students evacuate to a pre-determined location and wait for further instructions.
- B. **Earthquake**--Students duck under desks/tables, cover heads with one arm and hold onto the desk/table with the other. When the all clear is sounded, students evacuate to a pre-determined location and wait for further instructions.
- C. **Emergency Drill**--Students follow teacher's directions until the emergency situations ends and regular procedures resume.

## DISCIPLINE

*This section contains information related to the behavior expectations held for all Cottonwood students. Most discipline consequences are set by the District and are shared by all schools in Hemet USD. It is the goal of all Cottonwood staff to provide a safe, clean and orderly school environment in which all students can learn and reach their potential.*

### PLAYGROUND RULES AND SUPERVISORS

Cottonwood School grounds are supervised by adults 60 minutes before school and during school sponsored activities. The school WILL NOT be responsible for students outside supervised times. **Please do not have your child on campus before 7:00 a.m.**

General safety rules apply on the playgrounds. Specific game rules are posted in the classroom, and the teachers will review the rules with students throughout the year. Remember, SAFETY FIRST.

1. No running on the blacktop.
2. All equipment is to be returned at the end of each recess.
3. All activity stops at the bell.
4. Game rules will be posted in each classroom.
5. Playground equipment rules:
  - The slide/ swing area is reserved for primary students. Middle school students are not to be in this area.
  - No balls are allowed in these areas and no running or playing tag in these areas.

#### Special rules apply to the apparatus in this area.

- A. Slide - one person allowed on the slide. Those waiting may climb to the RED STEP until the slide is cleared.
  - B. Swings - swing straight only, not sideways or twisting. After 30 swings, it is the next persons turn. Do not jump off the swings.
  - C. Bars - one at a time. No sitting on the top.
  - D. Wavey Bars - Only two people at a time
  - E. Climbing Ropes - Hands and legs must be on the ropes
  - F. Spinners - One student at a time. Students must spin on their own with no help. After a count of 30 the student will get off.
6. Ball bats and baseballs may not be brought to school.
  7. Balls need to be kept away from the buildings. No handball on outside walls of buildings.
  8. Recess will be on the lower field only and on the blacktop.
  9. Students are not allowed between the buildings during recesses and lunch periods.

**Clean Campus:** Students are expected to appreciate and help maintain a clean campus. ***Gum is not allowed on campus.*** It is the responsibility of all students and staff to keep the campus clean. Any students found littering on the campus will be disciplined. Vandalism and graffiti are grounds for suspension or expulsion. Monetary reimbursement for damages may be required from the student and their family. Clean Campus - Earns the right to music, competitions, and other lunch activities. Good Citizenship - Results in the right to participate in special school activities such as dances, assemblies and field trips.

**Lunch:** Students are expected to pick up after themselves during lunchtime. They are also expected not to throw any food, cartons, trash, etc. Consequences for littering and or throwing food will be applied consistently.

**Gang Activities:** Gang activities at school are a threat to campus safety and a disruption of the learning environment. They will not be tolerated. Gang activities could include intimidation, the wearing of certain clothing, a particular style of dress, flashing of hand signals or writing on personal items such as clothing, backpacks, or papers contained therein. Marking on body parts such as hands or arms are also included. Students who engage in activities that are determined by the administration to be gang related will be dealt with through conferences, suspensions, and expulsions if necessary.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Cottonwood students involved in co-curricular and extra-curricular programs are considered leaders and representatives of our student body. As leaders and representatives of Cottonwood, they are required to meet and follow defined expectations of academic achievement and behavior. Two expectations are as follows:

**1. ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT:** If a student's most recent report card reflects a GPA of less than 2.0, he/she is ineligible to represent Cottonwood in any academic or athletic contest or performance until the next formal grading period.

**2. BEHAVIOR:** A student on the Exclusion List may not participate in extra curricular activities. Any violation of Education Code 48900 (see page 22) may cause a student to be ineligible for a specified length of time, grading period or semester. All violations of Education Code 48900 involving students in ASB, academic or athletic teams, or performing groups will be reviewed by the parent, principal, or counselor and teacher/coach.

### **STUDENT PROBLEM RESOLUTION PROCESS**

If a student has a problem with another student or staff member, he or she should take the initiative to solve the problem. We suggest the student follow the problem solving steps listed below:

STEP 1: Talk with the student or staff member involved.  
Share your concern with your parents.  
See your teacher.  
Share your concern with your parents.

STEP 2: See your teacher.  
Share your concern with your parents.

STEP 3: See the Principal.  
Share your concern with your parents.

**If the problem is not resolved at one step, then go on to the next step. Continue to keep your parents informed of the situation. Do not allow problems to go unsolved because little problems can sometimes turn into big ones! School officials can help you, but they must be made aware of problems that students are not able to resolve on their own.**

## **NOTIFICATION OF TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY**

The Hemet Unified School District is a tobacco free district. The use of any tobacco products is prohibited at all times on district property and in district vehicles. Information on smoking cessation classes is available from the Office of Child Welfare and Attendance at (951) 765-5100 ext 3701.

## **DRESS CODE**

The manner in which students dress for school influences their behavior and learning. Cottonwood students will be required to dress and appear in a manner that does not distract from the school's learning environment. **Any student who is dressed in a way that is considered by the administration to be disruptive, offensive, immodest, or unsafe will be asked to call home for an alternate set of clothing** or will be required to change into Cottonwood attire for the remainder of the day. **This includes short skirts or shorts that do not meet the fingertip test and any cleavage that shows.** Students who refuse to comply will be suspended from school for violation of Education Code 48900 (k) "Disruption of school activities, or willfully defied the valid authority of school personnel."

Unacceptable clothing includes but is not limited to:

- Hats-***Bucket hats*** or **baseball caps with logos or writing and the bill not facing straight forward.** Hats without logos may be worn for sun protective reasons only. Hats must be taken off in class or inside any school building. Hats must also be worn properly at all times. Hats that are confiscated will need to be picked up by the student's parent/guardian.
- Bandanas, beanies or other headwear.
- Hoods may not be worn unless it is raining.
- Spikes, chains, or other dangerous decorations.
- Revealing clothing (visible undergarments, bare midriffs, etc.)
- No pajamas may be worn to school.
- Clothing with references to sex, tobacco, drugs, or alcohol.
- Clothing or belongings which contain profane or vulgar words or inappropriate images.
- Clothes or belongings considered representing gang affiliation.
- Pants or shirts that is excessively loose or baggy. Pants should be worn at the waist at all times
- Muscle shirts or tank tops.
- Iron Cross, Independent, professional sports jerseys.
- Flip flops, slippers and high heels are unsafe and not acceptable.
- Shorts may NOT meet socks or be so short they don't meet the fingertip test.
- Spiked jewelry of any kind, spacers, or plugs is not acceptable.
- Earrings that dangle more than 2" are unsafe.
- Piercing body parts other than the ears is discouraged and must be studs only. A signed parent permission slip is required.
- Belt buckles that have logos, symbols, initials, Old English letters, or anything that is distracting to the learning environment.
- Gloves can not be worn with short sleeves.

**HAIR:** In addition to clothing, student hairstyle is also considered an important element of the Cottonwood's dress code. **Hairstyles that are disruptive will not be allowed, including Mohawks, spikes 3" or longer, or other extreme styles. No shaved head patterns, designs and sprayed coloring is also not allowed.** Any student who arrives at school with an unacceptable hairstyle will be removed from class.

**SHIRTS:** Do not have to be tucked in and may be one size larger to allow for growth.

- May not allow stomach to show, even when hands are raised.
- May not show underwear (including boxers or bra straps).
- May not show cleavage.
- No undershirts alone or tank/spaghetti straps.

**PANTS:** Pants are NOT to be worn sagging.

- May not touch or drag on the ground.
- May not be frayed, torn, or have any holes.

**SHORTS, SKIRTS, SKORTS, & JUMPERS:** are NOT allowed to be worn sagging nor are they allowed to be worn short.

- May not be frayed, torn, or have any holes.

**SHOES:** Shoes are to be correct size and safe.

- Athletic type shoes or those with closed heel-strap are acceptable.
- Shoes with laces must be tied securely onto the feet. **NO FLIP-FLOPS OR SLIPPERS.**

**JACKETS/SWEATSHIRTS:** Outerwear is to be the correct size.

**HATS:**

- Only bucket hats with brims or plain baseball caps with the brim facing forward may be worn. Hats cannot be altered.
- Hats are to be taken off indoors.
- Hair nets, "beanies", bandanas, or other headgear are not to be brought to school.

**MAKE-UP:** Make-up is discouraged.

- Middle school girls may, however, wear mascara and lip gloss.
- Dark or extreme colors are not acceptable.
- Glitter is not allowed.

#### **BOARD POLICY 5132(A) ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS Amended 4/12/05**

For the safety of all students, gang related apparel is not acceptable. The district will collaborate with law Enforcement Agencies to update changes in gang-related apparel as necessary. Any clothing apparel, or "colors" that a student or group of students wear to identify themselves for the purpose of harassing, threatening or intimidating others will not be allowed. Additionally, clothing shall be free of writing, pictures or any other insignia which identifies a professional sports team or any group advocating or participating in disruptive behaviors.

\* The term "colors" is defined as a display by the wearing or placement of apparel by a group of students, or an individual student, which would signify the membership or intent of membership in a student group known to advocate or participate in disruptive or illegal behavior.

Because gang related symbols are constantly changing, definitions of gang-related apparel shall be reviewed at least once each semester and updated whenever related information is received.

Examples of current symbols identified as gang related are professional sports teams' logos.

Examples of symbols advocating prejudice are the Iron Cross and Independent.

These symbols are not allowed on the school campus.

## Dress Code Violations

**First Offense:** Student warned; change of item in question or serves a 2 day suspension if not cooperative with school staff.

**Second Offense:** Parents notified; 2 day suspension; Behavior Contract.

**Third Offense:** Parents notified; 5 day suspension; Guidance Council for possible expulsion or change of placement

## DISCIPLINE POLICIES

Good Grades and Effort - Result in special recognition activities.

The following is a brief review of the minimum and maximum penalties assigned for offenses occurring before, during, or after school, going to or from school, or while involved in school activities. Minor offenses are handled by teachers, campus supervisors and/or counselors according to classroom and school rules. The discipline system includes:

- Classroom consequences: Developed by teachers.
- Detention: Lunch time/After school on assigned Fridays supervised in a classroom.
- Suspension: Suspension from school and all HUSD facilities (A maximum of 20 days are allowed per year before a school must recommend expulsion).
- Transfer to another school: A possible condition for continued enrollment.
- Expulsion: Removal of a student from attendance at any HUSD school for one semester or school year. (State law requires parents to enroll expelled students in another school district or private school.)

**ASSAULT/BATTERY:** (One-sided physical attack on someone else):

**FIGHTING: THERE IS A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR FIGHTING ON CAMPUS. STUDENTS WHO FIGHT MAY BE TICKETED BY THE HEMET POLICE DEPARTMENT AND WILL ALSO BE SUSPENDED FROM SCHOOL.**

Min: Suspension (1 day)

Max: Expulsion/Police Report

### **BUS TICKET:**

Min: Suspended from the bus for a period of 5 days plus school consequence.

Max: Suspended from the bus for the remainder of the school year plus school consequence.

**CHEATING:** (Tests, Quizzes, Homework, and Other Assignments)

Min: Teacher Consequence, loss of credit

Max: Suspension

**CLASS DISRUPTION:** (Talking, visiting or leaving assigned seat without permission, bothering other students in class, etc.)

Min: Detention

Max: Suspension (5 days)

**DANGEROUS BEHAVIOR:** (running, chasing, pushing, wrestling, play fighting, etc.)

Min: Detention

Max: Suspension (5 days)

**DEFIANCE OF AUTHORITY:** (Refusal to comply with the request of school personnel)

Min: Detention

Max: Suspension (5 days)

**DESTRUCTION/DEFAACEMENT OF PROPERTY:** (Attempting to cause, or causing damage to school or private property)

Min: Detention

Max: Expulsion and restitution/Police Report

**DISRUPTION OF DETENTION:**

Min: Reassignment

Max: Suspension

**DRESS CODE VIOLATION:**

Min: Warning

Max: Suspension

**DRUGS:** (Possession, use, or under the influence of alcohol/marijuana/other drugs/look-alike drugs or paraphernalia)

Min: Suspension (5 days) /police report

Max: Expulsion/Police Report

**DRUGS:** (Sale or furnishing)

Min: Expulsion/Police Report

**EXPLOSIVE DEVICES:** (Poppers/firecrackers/stink bombs, etc.)

Min: 1-5 day suspension/possible police report

Max: Expulsion/Police Report

**FIGHTING/INCITING:**

**THERE IS A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR FIGHTING ON CAMPUS. STUDENTS WHO FIGHT MAY BE TICKETED BY THE HEMET POLICE DEPARTMENT AND ALSO WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM SCHOOL**

Min: Suspension (1 day)/possible police report

Max: Expulsion/Police Report

**GRAFFITI:** (Writing on school or private property; or acting as a look-out for someone else)

Min: Remove graffiti, plus Detention

Max: Expulsion/Restitution/Police Report

**GUM:** Gum is not allowed on campus for purposes of campus cleanliness. Any student possessing gum on campus will be disciplined.

Min: Detention

Max: Suspension

**INAPPROPRIATE SHOW OF AFFECTION:** (Hand-holding, kissing, prolonged hugging, unnecessary touching, etc.)

Min: Warning

Max: Suspension (5 days)

**INSTIGATION:** (Contributing to and/or escalating a conflict through the use of words, profanity, gestures, harassment. Instigation can also be caused by a person's actions when he/she pushes a student into another and/or encourages a student to fight.)

Min: Detention

Max: Suspension (5 days)

**LOITERING:** Only current students, their parents or guardians, and employees are allowed on campus. Any non-students or other unauthorized persons on campus without permission are subject to arrest per Penal Code 653G. **All Cottonwood students must leave campus at the end of the school day unless involved in a school-sanctioned activity after hours. Loitering after hours on school grounds is not permitted, and students will be disciplined if this rule is not followed.** Campus supervision is provided for one-half hour before and after school. **Students must leave within 20 minutes of dismissal.**

Min: Detention

Max: Suspension

**NO-SHOWS:** (Not serving Detentions)

Min: Reassignment

Max: Suspension

**OBSCENE ACT:** (Offensive to morality or decency, indecent act \*panting, mooning, etc. An obscene act can be considered sexual harassment)

Min: Suspension

Max: Suspension/expulsion/Police Report

**STOLEN PROPERTY:** (Possession or furnishing)

Min: Suspension (1 day)

Max: Expulsion/Police Report

**TARDIES:**

Min: Detention

Max: Possible fines (Meeting with the School Attendance Review Board)

**THREAT:** (Statements or actions which threaten to cause injury to people or property)

Min: Suspension (1 day)/Possible Police report

Max: Expulsion/Police Report

**TRUANCY:** (Cutting classes, skipping school, unauthorized absences)

Min: Detention

Max: Possible Fines /Meeting with the School Attendance Review Board

**VIOLATION OF LUNCH BOUNDARIES:**

Min: Warning

Max: Suspension

**WEAPONS/DANGEROUS OBJECTS:** No weapons or dangerous objects of any kind are allowed on any HUSD facility. (See Search and Seizure-Possession of guns, knives, or other dangerous objects)

Min: Suspension/Possible Police Report

Max: Expulsion/Police report (Students possessing or brandishing certain types of weapons will receive a mandatory expulsion under Education Code 48915 (c)).

## SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

Expellable Offenses are:

Gun, Explosive, Knife, Dangerous Object, Drugs, Threat, Assault

EDUCATION CODE 48900

REASONS FOR SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL

- a) Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
- b) Possessed, sold, or furnished any firearm, knife, explosive or other dangerous object.
- c) Possessed, used, sold or furnished, or been under the influence of any controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
- d) Offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished another substance and represented it as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
- e) Committed or attempted robbery or extortion.
- f) Caused or attempted to cause damage to school or private property.
- g) Stole or attempted to steal school or private property.
- h) Possessed or used tobacco.
- i) Committed an obscene act, or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- j) Possessed, offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia.
- k) Disrupted school activities, or willfully defied the authority of school personnel.
- l) Knowingly received stolen school or private property.
- m) Possessed an imitation firearm.
- n) Committed or attempted to commit sexual assault, or committed sexual battery.
- o) Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a pupil who is a witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of either preventing the pupil from being a witness or retaliating against that pupil for being a witness, or both.
- q) Aiding or abetting the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury on another person.

EC (48900.2) Committed sexual harassment

EC (48900.3) Caused, attempted to cause, or participated in an act of hate violence (grades 4-12 only)

EC (48900.4) Created an intimidating or hostile educational environment by intentionally engaging in harassment, threats, or intimidation against a pupil or group of pupils (grades 4-12 only)

EC (48900.7) Terroristic threats against school officials or school property, or both

**\*Please note: Possession of a firearm, brandishing a knife, sales of drugs, or sexual assault and/or battery will result in automatic expulsion recommendations which may extend for one calendar year.**

**SEARCH & SEIZURE:** The administration retains control over buildings, parking lots, and grounds and **has the right to search them without warrant.** Weapons, dangerous devices, tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs are not allowed on/in any Hemet Unified School District facilities. All persons entering this building or facility may be required to submit to a metal detector scan and a personal search, if necessary, to ensure that weapons, dangerous devices, and other illegal items are not brought in. Bags, purses, parcels, etc., may also be searched by metal detection, by hand, or by other appropriate means. Violators may be subject to suspension, expulsion, or arrest.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT:** The Hemet Unified School District is committed to a work and educational environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Each student has the right to learn in a professional atmosphere that promotes equal educational opportunity and is free from discriminatory practices. Sexual harassment is a violation of Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and California Educational Code Sections 210 through 214, inclusive (H.U.S.D. Board Policy #5145.7). Therefore, the District strongly condemns, opposes and prohibits sexual harassment of individuals, whether verbal, physical or environmental, by anyone. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion.

Min: Counselor/Principal Referral

Max: Expulsion/Police Report

## **ATTENDANCE**

***IT IS THE BELIEF OF THE HUSD GOVERNING BOARD AS WELL AS COTTONWOOD SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION AND TEACHING STAFF THAT REGULAR AND PUNCTUAL ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IS AN ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT FOR A SUCCESSFUL EDUCATION.***

### **A. Compulsory Education**

State attendance laws require compulsory education for pupils between the ages of 6-18. Regular attendance is a key factor in the success a student experiences at school. Absences will be excused for the following reasons: illness or quarantine, medical, dental, or optometric services, and attending funeral services of a family member. Other justifiable personal reasons include: court appearances, observances of religious holidays or ceremonies, and parent employment conferences.

Students who are excessively absent or truant will be scheduled to meet with the School Attendance Review Board.

**Getting to school on time, with all books and materials, is the student's responsibility and should be reinforced by parents.**

### **B. Absence/Tardy Definitions**

1. Excused Absence/Tardy - Absence or tardiness due to illness or quarantine, medical, optical, or dental appointments, attending funeral services of a family member (no consequence) Absences must accompany a doctor's or dentist's note.

2. Warranted Absence/Tardy - Absence or tardiness due to religious holidays or ceremonies, serious illness in the family, or court appearance.

3. Unexcused Absence/Tardy - Absence or tardy not authorized by the school. Parents cannot excuse a student for any reason not approved by California Attendance Laws. Students absent without parental knowledge will be marked **TRUANT** (see consequences section).

### **C. Consequences for Tardies**

***A student who is tardy to school must report directly to the attendance office.***

**\*Arriving late to school, even with a parent note, is an unexcused tardy.** If a student arrives late to school for any reason, the parent must contact the attendance office in one of three ways. They may call the attendance office (767-3870), write a note with a signature and date, or stop by the attendance office in person. Students who are late without a valid excuse will serve a lunch detention that same day.

**\*NOTE:** Any student arriving **thirty minutes (30)** after school begins will be considered **TRUANT** unless late for a reason listed in Education Code 48200.

### **D. Consequences for Truancies**

Absences which are unexcused and unwarranted are considered truancies. California Education Code 48200 requires children of school age to attend school each day. A student who is truant from school is violating state law and is subject to arrest by school or law enforcement officials, per Education Code 48264. Students with habitual truancy problems may be referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB), which may refer the case to the Deputy District Attorney for mediation. The District Attorney may then take the case to court and parents may be fined up to \$500.00. Further truancies may result in more severe penalties and court action.

### **E. Clearing an Absence**

Student absences must be cleared by parent note, medical note, or parent phone call to the Attendance Office line (767-4597 choose option #3). A student must take the note to the attendance desk. Since attendance is taken every period in all classes, absences will appear on the progress and grade reports.

### **F. Consequences of Excessive Absences**

The Attendance Office will notify parents of students with excessive absences. Parents are legally responsible for their student's school attendance. Excessive absences will be referred to Guidance Council and that could result in a SARB (School Attendance Review Board) process and referral to the district attorney's office.

### **G. Temporary Excuse from Physical Education**

The physical education department will honor notes from parents, requesting exemption from P.E. for health reasons. However, students who need to be excused for more than three consecutive days must have a note from a medical doctor.

### **H. Off Campus Permits**

Cottonwood School is a closed campus. In order for students to leave campus during school hours for doctor/dental appointments or family emergency, parents must pick them up or follow these procedures:

1. Parents write a note stating where the student is going, times leaving and returning, and how she/he will get there (be picked up, by whom, etc.).
2. The student brings the note to the office before school begins and receives an off-campus pass to show the teacher when it is time to leave.
3. Upon returning to campus, the student must check in at the Attendance Office to be readmitted to class.

## **Communication**

*This section outlines communication avenues between school and home. We hope to keep you informed of your student's progress from a variety of sources.*

**Newsletters:** Find out the latest Cottonwood news in the quarterly parent newsletters. A minimum of five newsletters will be published this year to help keep you informed of important dates and information at Cottonwood. A copy of the newsletters will be sent home with your student. All newsletters will be posted on our website and hard copies will be available in the office.

**Parent Link:** Parent link is a telephone message system that updates parents and families about important information and upcoming events. Information is recorded in both English and Spanish.

**Cottonwood Website:** Visit our website for details about Cottonwood school at:  
<http://www.hemetusd.k12.ca.us/>

**EnGrade grading/class assignment system:** Middle school teachers may use on-line grading and communication to assist parents and students.

### **WAYS FOR PARENTS TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN THEIR CHILD'S SCHOOL**

- \* Read with your child every night.
- \* Help your child and the teacher to solve any problems that may arise.
- \* Attend and participate (if possible) in school functions.
- \* Take an interest in papers that your child brings home from school - display them
- \* Don't compare your child with another child.
- \* Be a volunteer or member of an active group of parents.
- \* Get acquainted with the teachers.
- \* Praise your child for a job well done.
- \* Learn what is expected from your child in class.
- \* Attend special activities and parent-teacher conferences whenever possible.

# Student Planner

Cottonwood Class Schedule

**2009 - 2010**

If Found, Please Return to:

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Room #</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
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Notes:

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# ASSIGNMENT CALENDAR

Week of: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Class</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
<b>Social Studies</b>					
<b>Science</b>					
<b>Language Arts</b>					
<b>Math</b>					
<b>Explore</b>					
<b>Memos &amp; Other Info PE</b>					

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_