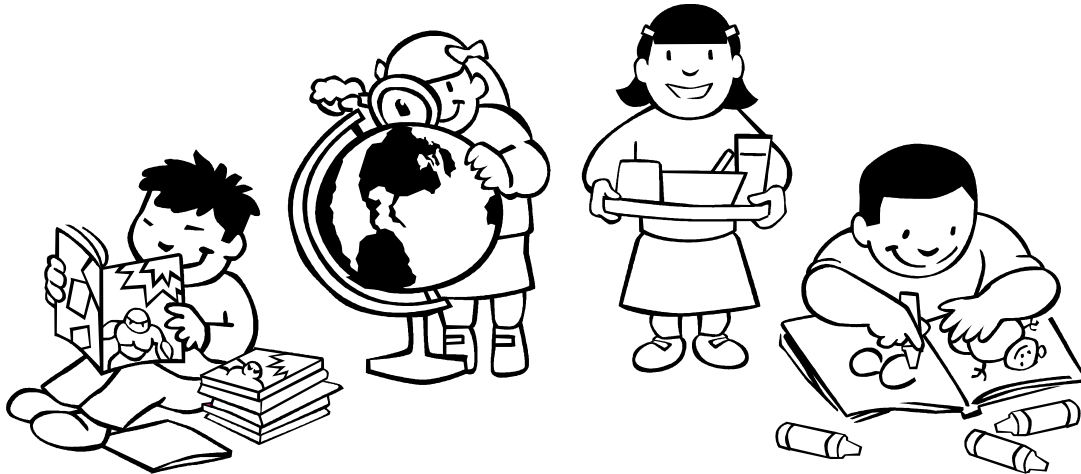


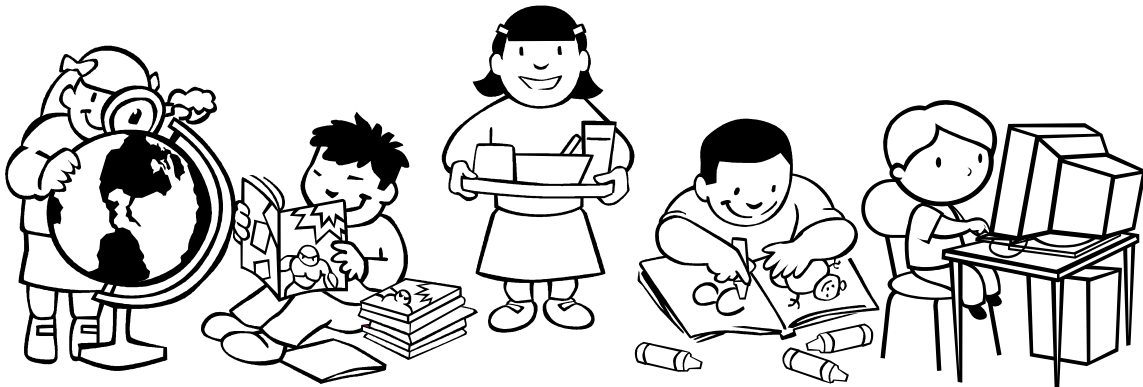
WESTCLIFFE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2011 - 2012



Parent / Student Handbook

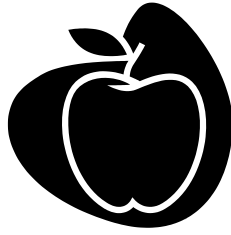
Welcome to
**Westcliffe
Elementary
School**



Carolyn H. Morgan, Principal
Jennifer Dodds, Assistant
Angie Tate, Secretary
Belinda Gambrell, Clerk

Dr. Phinnize Fisher, Superintendent

Policies and procedures printed in this publication are based on accurate information at the time of printing. District discipline policies are outlined in *Parent Express*, the Greenville County Schools' parent newsletter, which will be mailed in early August. District policy is also posted to the district's website: <http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/index.asp>.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to Westcliffe Elementary and the 2011 – 2012 school year! This handbook has been prepared for you so that you will have an accurate source of information regarding our school's policies, procedures, and services. Please take a few minutes to read it and keep it for future reference.

Our school's mission is to meet the total educational needs of each student. Westcliffe's faculty and staff is committed to this mission and to providing a strong instructional program which builds on each child's strengths. Our goal is for all children to be happy and successful learners. We celebrate and applaud the help and involvement of our parents, guardians, and community as we partner to fulfill this mission.

Thank you for joining us in our mission to help all Westcliffe Wildcats accomplish their academic and personal goals. We look forward to another successful year as we work together in providing the best educational program possible for our students.

If I can be of service to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to working with all of our students and parents throughout the year.

Sincerely,

*Carolyn Morgan
Principal*

School Policies & Procedures

Legal Custody

If you have legal custody of your child and you DO NOT want anyone else picking up your child, you must inform the office. A copy of the Court Order must be brought to the office and filed before we can deny a biological parent from taking his or her child from school. Please inform the office in writing that you are the only one to pick up this child.

Address Change

It is important that we have your current address and phone number on file at all times. This information is especially important in case of an emergency. Please notify the school office immediately upon changing your address or phone number (home or work).



Student Withdrawal From School

If a child's family changes residence outside the Westcliffe attendance area, it will be necessary to withdraw the child from school and enroll the child in the school which is in the appropriate attendance area. All textbooks and library books are to be returned to school. All borrowed lunch money and other fees must be paid before the transfer can be complete. Also, the parent should sign a "Release of Permanent Records" so that there will be no delay in sending the permanent records.



Party Invitations

If a child expects to give out party invitations in class, students **MUST BRING ONE FOR EACH CHILD.** If the whole class is not to be invited to the party, please make arrangements to deliver the invitations outside of the school setting.

Birthday Party Celebrations at School

Parents may bring cookies or cupcakes during your child's scheduled lunch time to be shared by their class. PLEASE Do NOT bring a birthday cake due to the limited time students have to eat lunch.





SCHOOL VISITATION

All visitors in the building, including parents and school volunteers, must stop by the office and sign in for a visitor's pass. This is for your child's protection and will help keep interruptions to a minimum. This way, we can get in touch with visitors if they are needed in the office.



DAILY SCHEDULE

- 7:20 a.m.** School opens to students
- 7:20 a.m.** Breakfast is served
- 7:45 a.m.** Teachers' work day begins.
Students go to classrooms.
- 8:00 a.m.** The school day begins.
Students are considered *tardy* if they are not *in class* by this time.
- 2:25 p.m.** Bus riders and walkers are dismissed
- 2:30 p.m.** Car riders are dismissed
- 2:45 p.m.** All car riders must be picked up by this time.
- 2:45 p.m.** End of teacher work day
- 4:00 p.m.** School closed

If students arrive before 7:45 a.m. and are not eating breakfast, they are to go to their morning area to be supervised by the teacher in charge. Teachers will be in class to receive students by 7:45 a.m. **Breakfast is served from 7:20 – 7:50. No breakfast will be served after 7:50.**



STUDENT DROP OFF & PICK-UP

Westcliffe faculty and staff seek to assist students with safe drop-off and pick-up while sustaining an orderly flow of traffic. Parents and guardians are asked to follow the directions of school personnel as they supervise students' arrival/release and daily school traffic. ***We ask all parents Not To Use Cell Phones While Picking Up Students. Drive slowly, and cautiously during school arrivals and departures.***

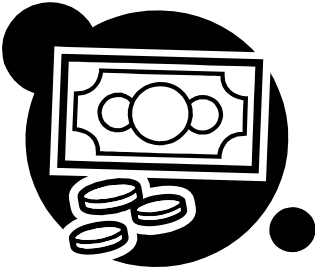
MORNING ARRIVALS: All car riders should be **dropped off** at the front entrance **no earlier than 7:20 a.m.** All buses and vans **unload** at the back of the school.

AFTERNOON DEPARTURES: *Kindergarteners* are dismissed with their older siblings from the covered breezeway at the **back of the school.** *Van and bus riders* are also dismissed at the **back school.** Students in **1st through 5th grades** depart from the portico at the **front of the building.**

NOTE: PARENTS ARE TO STAY IN YOUR CAR IN THE CAR LINE! Do Not Get Out To Walk Students To The Car. This is a SAFETY CONCERN!

TRANSPORTATION CHANGE

Please call the school office at 355-0300 *before* 1:30 p.m. should you need to make a change in student transportation. Be sure to call daycares to notify them of any changes. Remember to send your child's teacher a *written* note about such changes. All notes must state student's first and last name and teacher's name.



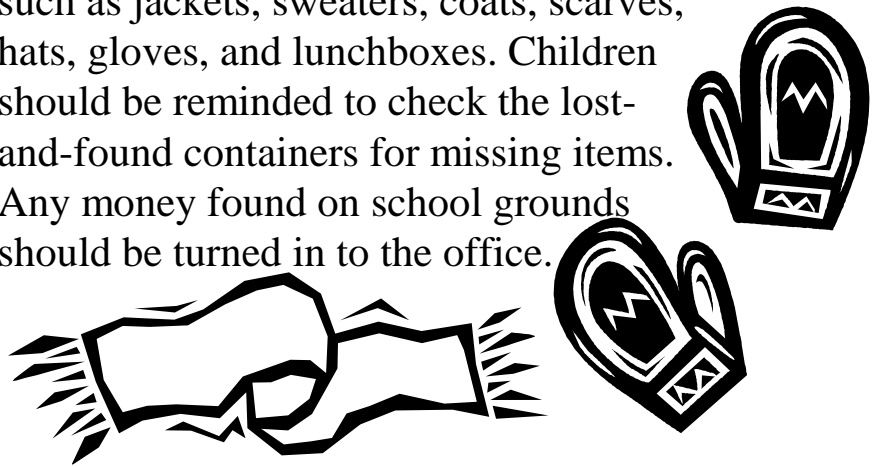
MONEY SENT TO SCHOOL

Children are discouraged from bringing money to school except for specific purposes. Neither the teacher nor the school can be held responsible when money or personal items are lost or exchanged. Please remind students they are not to exchange money or items with each other. Money should be sent in an envelope or zip-loc bag with the student's name and purpose for the money clearly written on the outside.



LOST AND FOUND

To help minimize lost articles, make sure students' names are on all clothing items such as jackets, sweaters, coats, scarves, hats, gloves, and lunchboxes. Children should be reminded to check the lost-and-found containers for missing items. Any money found on school grounds should be turned in to the office.



TEXTBOOKS

Students will have textbooks assigned to them by their teacher. Pupils are responsible for keeping their books in good condition. Pupils losing or damaging a book (textbook or library) shall be required to pay for such books. Should a lost text that has been paid for be found, the money will be refunded. Textbooks serve as the major resource for concepts and skills taught by the classroom teacher. Students are permitted to take their texts home, but must be responsible for their care and return to school.



Safety & Discipline

STUDENT BOOK BAGS

BOOK BAGS ON ROLLERS *are not* permitted. This type of book bag presents trip hazards for students and teachers in the hallways during arrivals and dismissals.

DRESS CODE

The primary objective of Greenville County Schools is to provide a World-Class instructional program and learning opportunity for every student. The personal appearance of every student is an important component of establishing a safe environment for optimal learning and respect for one another. Students are expected to dress in an appropriate manner while on school district property or representing the school. Personal appearance shall be such that it does not disrupt student work or school order, become distracting to other students, or violate health and safety guidelines. The following minimum standards apply throughout Greenville County Schools and will be vigorously enforced. Principals may make additions to these standards.

- Student dress and grooming must be neat and clean.
- Middle and High Schools-Shirts/Blouses should be tucked in unless designed to be worn outside the pants/skirt. At no time should the student's midriff be visible while standing, sitting, or participating in normal school activities, e.g., raising hand.
- Clothing that inappropriately exposes body parts is not permitted, including: low-cut shirts, tank tops, spaghetti strap tops, halter tops, and vests or see-through or mesh garments worn without shirts. Shoulder straps must be at least three inches wide. Bra straps and bra sides must not be visible.
- Students shall not dress in such a way that partially or totally exposes underclothing.
- Trousers/slacks/shorts must be worn at waist level. Excessively baggy trousers and clothing are not permitted. Clothing may not drag the floor.
- Skirts should fit and be in good taste and not be shorter than mid-thigh.
- Shorts may be worn, however, they must be properly fitted and in good taste and may not be shorter than mid-thigh. Biker shorts or athletic shorts of any kind are not permitted.
- Hats, sunglasses, hair curlers, skullies, or do-rags may not be worn.
- Shoes or sandals must be worn. Flip-flops (shower type shoes) and thong-type shoes are not permitted.
- Clothing or jewelry is not permitted that displays profanity, suggestive phrases, alcohol, tobacco, drug advertisements, or other inappropriate phrases or symbols.
- Hair of a non-human color is not permitted.
- Extraneous articles hanging from clothing such as chains are not permitted.
- Facial jewelry is permitted to be worn only on the ears.

As posted to Greenville School District's website: <http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/gcsd/depts/admin/policy/code3.asp>

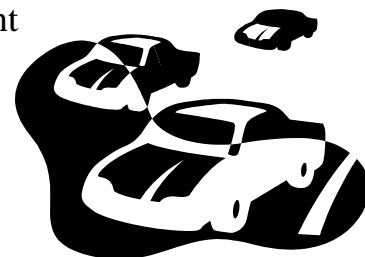
NOTE: Students need to adhere to the guidelines for dress code. Parents will be called to come bring clothes or belts to their children if these articles are needed. No student will remain at school if District Policy is not followed. After three warnings, a *referral* will be written for dress code violations. ***Girls need their skirts and shorts to come to the tips of their fingers when their hands are held by their sides while standing. Any shorter clothing will result in parents being called to bring some appropriate clothing or to take the student home. Boys are not to wear sagging and bagging pants at any time.***

WESTCLIFFE'S TRAFFIC PLAN

Our objective is to provide safe pick-up and drop-off procedures for the children, while maintaining an orderly traffic flow to minimize the length of time of heavy traffic in the morning and in the afternoon. No student will be allowed to cross over the road to go to parents parked in the parking area at any time. Parents must come to get them at the door.

Students Are Not Allowed In School Before 7:20 a.m.

Students arriving before 7:45 a.m. need to be dropped off at the front entrance and report to the appropriate grade level waiting area.



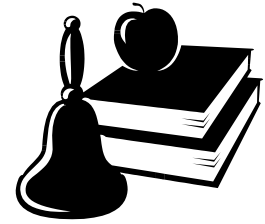
No Cars Are To be Left Unattended in the pick-up lane at the end of the school day. This creates a back up with traffic as well as a safety issue. Kindergarteners, bus riders, and daycare van riders are picked up at the back of the school. All other students dismiss at the front of the building.

DISCIPLINE

Westcliffe supports an environment for learning and student achievement. All learners are responsible and accountable for their behavior. Most discipline problems should be handled between the teacher, student, and parent. While discipline is an individual matter, the School District and the staff at Westcliffe are committed to the principle that disorderly and disruptive behavior shall not be permitted to interfere with the right of other students to pursue an education. All students will be expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that will be in the best interest of the school and the students.

Every reasonable effort will be made to keep students within the school's sphere of influence. Actions that could lead to suspension or expulsion include stealing, obscene or profane language or gestures, fighting, disobedience, striking staff members or other students, blackmail or threats, disrespect to staff members, possession of weapons, cutting classes, destruction of property, violation of bus rules and policies. **Students who fight will be suspended. If a student is being bothered by another student(s), he/she should report this to the teacher or to the principal before the problem erupts into a fight.** Students who bring weapons (guns, brass knuckles, blackjacks, stars, razors, box cutters, pocketknife, etc.) to school will be immediately suspended from school and referred to the District Office for disciplinary action. The sale, possession, consumption, or being under the influence of illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages, or toxic substances will result in recommendation for expulsion to the District Office.

A copy of the Disciplinary Code of the School District of Greenville County can be found by a link from the district's website. Discipline policies included in this publication are based on information at the time of printing. District discipline policies are outlined in *Parent Express*, the Greenville County Schools' parent newsletter, and published to the district's website.



GENERAL RULES

1. Respect is mutual. Treat others as you want to be treated.
2. All students have a right to learn without disruption or interference from other students.
3. Toy and other personal property such as electronic devices, skateboards, sports equipment, trading cards, etc., need to be left at home. The selling or trading of such items is prohibited at school.
4. **Bullying of any kind will *not* be tolerated anywhere at school, at any bus stop, or while walking to or from school. Incidents of bullying should be report to a teacher or administrator immediately.**
5. **Students who fight will be sent home regardless of who started the fight. Students are encouraged to tell someone if another student is trying to start a confrontation that could lead to physical contact.**
6. Fire and other safety drills are to be respected. They are to help students and faculty be prepared to take appropriate action should an emergency situation arise. All students should remain quiet and follow the instructions of the teacher during any drills.
7. Report all accidents to the office or your teacher immediately.
8. Chewing gum is *not* allowed at school.
9. Help keep our school campus clean.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE DISTRICT'S DISCIPLINE CODE CAN BE FOUND AT THE BACK OF THIS HANDBOOK.

Attendance

GENERAL ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

1. **The school is not responsible for students on the school grounds before 7:20 a.m.**
2. Students arriving between 7:30 and 7:45 a.m. must go to their morning assigned area for supervision.
3. Classroom instruction begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. Students arriving after 8:00 are considered tardy. Parents are asked to plan for traffic and other problems so that your student will be on time. **Students arriving after 8:00 a.m. must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to sign them in.**
4. Early dismissal from school is only to be requested when absolutely necessary and requires a note from the legal guardian. **NO EARLY DISMISSAL AFTER 2:00 p.m.**
5. School is dismissed at 2:30 p.m. Parents of cars riders are asked to make to pick-up their student on time. Please follow the directions for afternoon dismissal in this handbook.



TARDIES

School begins promptly at 8:00. Help your child to be on time. When a child is late, **parents must come into the office to sign the child in.** *Students who attend Westcliffe on Special Permission and who are continuously late will be denied permission to attend Westcliffe. Westcliffe's Social Worker will be in contact with parents whose child/children are constantly tardy.

EARLY DISMISSALS

In order to avoid interruptions in the educational program we ask for your cooperation in not picking up your child or children during school hours. Whenever possible, medical and dental appointments should be made after school hours. If a parent must **pick up a child from school early, the parent must send a note to the teacher in the morning stating the reason for the early dismissal, who will pick the child up, and the time the child will be picked up. NO EARLY DISMISSALS AFTER 2:00.**

Please report to the office when you come to school for an early dismissal. We will then request that your child be sent to the office to meet you. **This is for the safety of all children!**

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Students who do not miss *any* school days during the year will be honored for perfect attendance.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Excused absences include:

- Serious chronic or extended illness of the student certified by a physician.
- Serious illness or death in the immediate family requiring the presence of the student. (3 day limit)
- Recognized religious holidays for students of a particular religious faith when prearranged.
- Prearranged absences for other reasons and/or extreme hardships are at the discretion of the principal.

EXCUSED ABSCENCES CONTINUED

In order for an absence to be considered excused, a parent/guardian must provide the following:

- Personal illness shall be verified by a doctor's excuse from the parent or guardian **WITHIN ONE WEEK** of the return of the student to school. Extended illnesses (those exceeding one week or anticipated to exceed two weeks) must be verified by a physician **WITHIN ONE WEEK** of the student's return to school.
- Absences for serious illness or death in the student's immediate family shall be verified by an excuse from the parent/guardian **WITHIN ONE WEEK** of the student's return to school.
- Absences for religious holidays and/or other reasons must be requested in advance by the parent/guardian stating the purpose of the absence. This request must be relayed to the student's teacher for input so that the principal can make an informed decision whether to approve the request. If the request is not approved, this must be communicated to the parent/guardian making the request.
- Provision for making up school work missed during excused absences shall be worked out with the student's teacher(s) at the earliest time possible but should not exceed five school days after the student returns to school.
- The status of all students' absences shall be communicated to the student's teacher(s) within two days of the student's return to school.
- Make-up of school work missed during unexcused absences may be approved only with the permission of the principal after consultation with the student's teacher(s).
- Student absences from school activities may be excused by the principal.
- **ACCRUED STUDENT ABSENCES MAY NOT EXCEED TEN (10) DAYS (for any reasons) DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR. ANY ABSENCE IN EXCESS OF TEN (10) MAY CAUSE THE STUDENT TO LOSE CREDIT FOR THE YEAR.**

Student Services

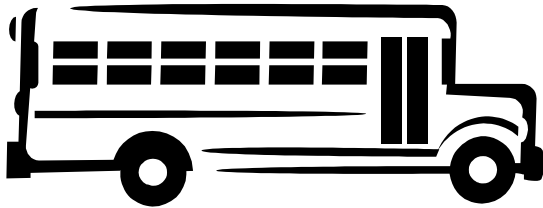
USE OF TELEPHONE

Calls may be made by students from the office only if an emergency arises. However, students and parents should plan ahead so that it won't be necessary to make calls. Transportation home should be planned in the morning so students will not have this concern during the school day. Parents should remind students in the morning of the necessary items they may need for the day: homework, glasses, lunch money, medicine, etc. Parents should limit calls to students to the most urgent type. The administration will decide whether or not giving a message will be necessary. **STUDENTS WILL NOT BE CALLED OUT OF CLASS FOR PHONE MESSAGES!**

School Bus Transportation

Transportation for students attending school in South Carolina is provided subject to the approval of this agency. School officials have no authority to alter bus routes or stops without the proper approval. All bus drivers are properly certified and licensed by the South Carolina Highway Department. Only those students who are eligible for school bus transportation may ride the bus. A bus rider may not walk home or ride with someone else unless he/she has written permission from his/her legal guardian.

Our goal is to assure that all school buses provide safe transportation for all children and that all children who ride the school bus exhibit good citizenship while on the bus. Students who cannot or will not control their behavior on the school bus will be denied the privilege of riding the bus. Riding the bus is a privilege, not a right.



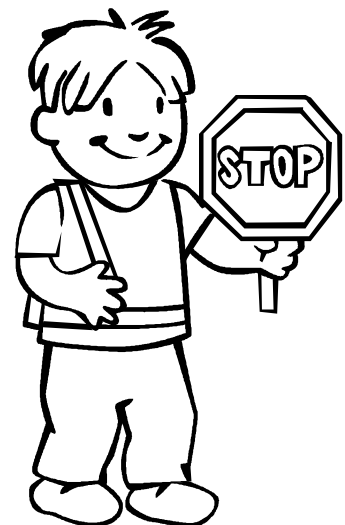
FIELD TRIPS

Throughout the year students will be taking field trips to various places with their class. Field trips are planned by the teacher for specific instructional purposes. They are considered an extension of the classroom. The School District requires written permission from the legal guardian before a child is permitted to go on a field trip. In order to avoid a disappointing situation of not being able to send a student on a trip, please sign the form and encourage your child to make certain that the form is returned to the teacher. Students **WILL NOT** be allowed to call parents for verbal permission. If parents do not wish for their child to participate in the field trip, the student will be assigned to another teacher until the class returns. Students who participate in the field trip will be required to ride the bus with their class. Students **WILL NOT** be allowed to ride in the vehicle with a parent.

Refunds for field trips will NOT be given after the deposit has been paid.

SAFETY PATROLS

It is the responsibility of the patrol to assist with students arriving at school and students being dismissed from school. They will assist with children throughout the school and on the school campus during arrival, dismissal, and boarding buses. Students are to obey the patrols as they have the authority to help with student behavior in the halls and on the school campus.



CAFETERIA - BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAM

A nourishing, well-balanced meal is served each day for students and staff. Foods for those with special dietary needs will be prepared if the request is made in writing at least one week in advance. The cafeteria uses a computerized payment system. Students may pay for lunches by the week or month or by the day at the cash register. A running total is maintained on the computer. Students access their account by entering their assigned number. Ice cream and other special sale items will be sold. Any student who owes lunch money will not be allowed the opportunity of purchasing extra sales items.

Meal accounts can be paid for in the cafeteria beginning at 7:45 a.m. each Monday or the first day school resumes after a holiday. Parents are asked to pay by the week or month. Parents are requested to put breakfast/lunch money in an envelope with the child's name, amount, and name of teacher on the front. This will aid the lunchroom staff in crediting the proper account.

Parents are invited to have lunch with their children at any time. Parents eating in our cafeteria are expected to purchase a school lunch - - regular meal or salad.

- If a parent plans to eat lunch with his/her child, it is necessary to send a note or call 355-7108 before 9:00 a.m. so he or she will be included in the lunch count.
- Parents are encouraged to be aware of the exact time their child eats lunch.
- Upon arriving, please *sign in* at the office and get a *VISITOR'S BADGE*.
- If parents arrive early, please wait in the lobby area rather than going to your child's room.
- Parents are asked to say good-bye to the child in the cafeteria and the child is to leave with their class at the end of his/her lunchtime.
- The microwaves in the cafeteria are for teacher use only. Students may use a thermos to keep foods warm.

The Free and Reduced Lunch Program is available under the National School Lunch Program. An application form will be given to enrolling students. Parents will be notified in writing of eligibility. Parents will need to pay for a child's meal until their application has been returned to the school and approved. Students at elementary and middle schools are allowed to charge meals on an emergency basis only. Students at high schools and adults at all locations are not allowed to charge meals. If parents or guardians find it impossible to pay for student meals, please apply for free and reduced meals by completing an application available from your local school Cafeteria Manager.

Food Services

Prices:	Student Full Price Lunch	\$10.00 weekly
	Student Full Price Breakfast	\$ 5.00 weekly
	Reduced Lunch	\$ 2.00 weekly
	Student Reduced Breakfast.....	\$ 1.50 weekly
	Lunch.....	\$ 2.00 daily
	Reduced Lunch.....	\$ 0.40 daily
	Breakfast.....	\$ 1.00 daily
	Reduced Breakfast.....	\$ 0.30 daily
	Adult Lunch.....	\$ 3.25/meal
	Adult Breakfast.....	\$ 2.00/meal
	Extra Milk.....	\$ 0.65/each
	Ice Cream.....	\$ 1.00/each



LIBRARY

The Westcliffe library is open before and after school as well as during the school day. Students may return books and check out books before school, after school, and during the school day.



HEALTH CARE

Accident Insurance

Accident insurance is available to cover the child while at school and while traveling to and from school. Information is given to the students at the beginning of the year. If you desire 24-hour coverage, it is also available. The school will not pay medical bills for injuries, so we strongly encourage you to purchase school insurance.

Health Room Services

Any student who is not feeling well or who has been hurt will be sent to the health room by their supervising teacher. The health room does not give aspirin or any other medication unless it is **BROUGHT** to the health room by the parent with written instructions as to how it is to be administered. Parents are notified if their child is running a fever, vomiting, or involved in an accident. This is why it is **absolutely necessary** that we have current home and work phone numbers at all times. Please be sure that you complete an *Emergency Information Form and a Health Room Card* on your child and that you keep us up-to-date on phone numbers where parents can be reached.

Administering Medication at School

If your child is on a long-term prescribed medication, it is necessary to obtain a form, Permission to Administer Medication, from the office and sign it so that we can keep it on file. Please include on the form any side effects the child may experience. Prescription medication should be in the original container and **must** have the following information: 1) child's name, 2) time to be administered, 3) dosage to be administered, and 4) the name of the drug.

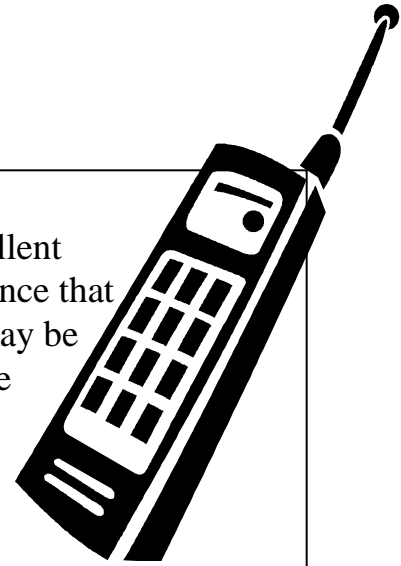
Parents must bring all medications to the health room or office. DO NOT SEND MEDICATIONS WITH YOUR CHILD. If you forget to give your child his/her medication in the morning before school, you will be notified to come to school to administer the medication. We cannot give medication that is to be given at home.

Excuses from Recess and/or Physical Education

Sometimes, after a serious illness, a parent may wish to have his/her child excused from recess or physical education. Please send a note with that information to the teacher. For an extended excuse, a doctor's note is required. All children go outside for recess, except in inclement

HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Regular communication between parents and teachers provides an excellent opportunity to discuss many details regarding the child's school experience that cannot be conveyed on the nine-week report card. These conferences may be requested by either the teacher or the parent in order to share knowledge about the child and gain a better understanding of the child's needs and interest. Regular contact between the home and the school will help the child see that both parents and teachers care about his/her progress.



We hope that each parent will be able to confer with the teachers on a regular basis during the school year. Please send a note to your child's teacher if you would like to schedule a conference. A parent/teacher conference should be scheduled to avoid conflict with the school day. **Parents, please do not go to your child's class in the morning to talk to the teacher. This is a very busy time of the day when the teacher has various responsibilities and must attend to his/her students so that instruction can begin on time.**



Conferences will be arranged by teachers during the fall of the school year for the purpose of providing comprehensive information to parents about the child's performance and instructional plans for the school year. Parents are encouraged to come to the school at the time they are scheduled to meet with your child's teacher. If you are unable to come at that time, please send a note with your child asking for a different time.

During the school year, we will communicate with parents through newsletters and regular flyers about various activities happening at school. In addition, parents will periodically receive forms that should be filled out and returned to school. These forms assist the school in acquiring important information and assist in providing additional services for our students.

Instructional Technology Use

Westliffe Elementary school's faculty uses many forms of instructional technology to appropriately challenge and support learners in the school environment. In addition, students in grades 3rd through 5th have access to district email for instructional purposes. Following are some basic guidelines and expectations established by the District regarding students' use of instructional technology.



Computer & Instructional Technology Use



The School District of Greenville County Student Acceptable Use Policy Agreement

The School District of Greenville County has developed a computer network that connects all schools to each other, the District Office, and the Internet. "Acceptable use" of this network is use that is consistent with the instructional goals of the District. The District takes precautions by using filtering software to keep inappropriate Internet sites out of the classroom. Electronic teaching and learning tools and online access are designed to support your education. If you break "acceptable use" rules, you may lose the privilege to use both classroom computers and/or the Internet. Further disciplinary and/or legal action may be taken at the discretion of school administration. Please note that parents may choose for their child not to have access to the internet at school; however, students who do not have access to the internet will not be able to access email or web based programs that teachers may be using in class. Your child has agreed to the terms and conditions of this document upon acceptance of the school district handbook. Violation of any of the terms or conditions will result in disciplinary action.

- Treat computer equipment with care and respect – Willful destruction of any computer equipment or software will be considered vandalism, and may warrant the involvement of local law officials.
- Any written text, graphics or executable files created, downloaded, displayed, or exchanged with another student or teacher must be education-related and not offensive in any way.
- Do not use school computers for illegal activities such as planting viruses or hacking.
- Do not use school computers for commercial purposes.
- Follow copyright laws at all times – See District copyright policies for more information. If you have
- questions about the legality of using software, text, graphics, or music you find online, ask your teacher or media specialist for guidance.
- Keep your password secret – You will be held responsible for all computer activities associated with your password. For example, if you share your password with your friend and he/she signs on as you and breaks one of the rules outlined above, you may be held responsible.
- All online communication must be polite and not threatening or offensive in any way – All students in grades 3-12 are issued filtered email accounts. The District has the right to review any email sent or received using District equipment and email accounts. Email accounts should be used for educational and district purposes only.
- Do not give out personal information on the Internet. Never give out your phone number, social security number, full name, age, home address, or any other personal information.
- Home directories are provided to students for educational related work. Students should not store personal or non-school related work in home directories. The District reserves the right to review the contents of student's home directories.

Reporting Your Student's Progress

Report cards are guides for learning rather than the goals of learning. Students and their parents should see grades as indicators of present achievement and not as indicators of a student's overall ability or intelligence.

Progress Reports

Progress reports will be sent home at the half way mark between each quarter. See the dates below. These reports must be taken home and signed by the parents. Interim reports are sent home for the student's and parent's benefit. They may help to make the student and parents aware of any problems which could be corrected before report cards are issued. These reports are not part of a student's permanent record.

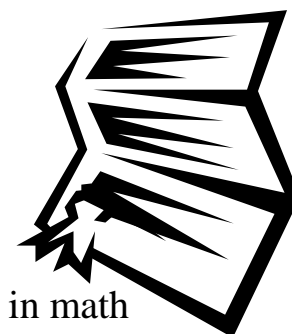
- September 19
- November 28
- February 15
- April 30

Report Cards

At the end of each nine week period, students will receive a report card with the grade he/she has earned in each class. The report should be taken home as a record so that parents can discuss the grades with students. Final report cards will be mailed home at the end of the school year. Students will be required to bring a self-

addressed stamped envelope for that purpose. If a student owes money for lost books or other school obligations, report cards can be held until those fees have been paid. If a student or parent has any question about the grades or progress, the student's teacher should be contacted. Parents are urged to request conferences with the teacher whenever necessary. Report cards will be sent home on the following dates.

- **October 31**
- **January 19**
- **March 27**
- **June 4** (Report Cards mailed)



GRADING POLICIES

An "A" will only be given to those students working *on or above grade level* and who are performing in a truly outstanding manner. Students *one instructional grade level below their grade placement* in math and/or reading and performing in a satisfactory manner will receive no higher than a "B".

The district's guidelines will be followed in every elementary school in Greenville County. The guidelines' philosophy is that grades should reflect the accomplishment of the student in the classroom to the fullest extent possible. In essence, grades should be earned. The report card indicates whether your child is working on or below grade level in math and reading.

Students will receive a grade of **Q, M, P, or L** in handwriting, music, art, and physical education to denote student performance. Students must have all A's and B's and S's in all graded subjects to make the Honor Roll.

REPORTING STUDENT GRADES

Kindergarten and First Grade do not receive numerical grades. They are assessed according to SC Academic Standards on their progress.



Report Card Grade for 2nd – 5th Grade:

A (93 – 100)

B (92 – 85)

C (77 – 84)

D (70 – 76)

F

F (61 – 69) new floor grading values for all elementary and middle schools

Honor Roll

Westcliffe will recognize each student who makes the Honor Roll all four reporting periods. Students must only have A's and B's to be on this Honor Roll. First Graders do not participate in Honor Roll.

Principal's Honor Roll

Students who make all "As" are placed on the Principal's Honor Roll. Any student who makes the Principal's Honor Roll all four report periods will receive a trophy.

Homework

Homework is an extension of classroom activity, and the assignments should be challenging and meaningful. Homework is given daily in math and reading. The assignments will be accepted the next day, and partial credit will be given. Zeros given for no homework will result in a lower grade.

Retention Policy

The decision to promote or retain a child is considered carefully in each case. In order to teach effectively, students must be performing at a certain level in reading and/or math before they progress to the next grade. It is recognized that some students benefit from the opportunity to continue in the same grade next year.

Certain criteria are followed during the retention process. During the first parent conference, parents are informed if the child is not doing grade level work. Parents will also know how their child is performing by reviewing progress reports and conferencing with the teacher. By the third grading period, a teacher should be able to identify a child who may need to be retained and will notify the parents that their child may profit by continuing in the same grade another year. Final responsibility for promotion and retention of students rests with the principal.

Please keep in mind that state attendance regulations require that students who have accumulated more than ten (10) unexcused absences and not making progress on grade level can be retained.

PTA

Westcliffe PTA is the difference between a good school and an excellent school.

The PTA's support makes a dramatic difference at Westcliffe. It furnishes more than just monetary support, although it does a good job of providing many of the extras that are needed. It lends helping hands, boosts morale, works with children, and lends guidance to the teachers and administration.

It is an organization of people that gives freely of their time and energy with one goal in mind. That Goal is the welfare and best interest of children. I encourage everyone to join and support the PTA and Westcliffe Elementary. Let's make our efforts show

“ Westcliffe Elementary is a A School That Cannot Hide That Westcliffe Pride.”

Carolyn Morgan, Principal

PTA MEMBERSHIP

All parents, friends, and members of the community are invited to join and participate in the activities of the Westcliffe PTA. Our purpose is to enhance the education program of our students. As parents, you'll be hearing more from PTA Board Members about ways that you can be involved. Membership is \$5.00 per person. Membership dues should be sent to the student's homeroom teacher.

PTA OBJECTIVES

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship.
- To raise the standards of home life.
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth, the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We need your help. Parents are the backbone of our school. Working as a school volunteer can be exciting and fun. Your volunteering can help meet the needs of children in many ways. The list below indicates some of the areas in which volunteers work at our school. If you have an interest which is not listed, please contact PTA and let us know what you would like to help with. Please give our students some of your time.

Remember, this is your school and we can only be as good as the efforts each of us puts forth. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer, contact the school office, and we will put you in touch with the Volunteer Coordinator. Volunteer opportunities include: **Class Parties, Fund Raisers, Carnival, Room Parent, Media Center, Field Trips, School Beautification, Health Room, and Tutoring.**

**Westcliffe Elementary School PTA
Officers for 2011-2012**

President **Kim Rochester**
Co President Cindy Carmen

Vice President: **Melissa Phillips**

Treasurer:

Secretary: Tiffany Norton

Reflections: **Jeannine Cartwright**

**Ways & Means/
Hospitality :**

Faculty Rep: Laree Moody

For District 1 Conferences and Northwest Area PTA Meeting:
All above officers shall serve as delegates on a rotation basis.