

Butler Elementary School



2021-2022 Parent/Student Handbook

Butler Elementary School-Student Handbook

A

ATTENDANCE[3](#)

B

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHTS[3](#)

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL
PROGRAMS[4](#)

BIRTHDAYS[4](#)

BUSING[4](#)

BUSING SAFETY[5](#)

BUTLER BEAR NEWS[5](#)

C

CELL PHONES - STUDENT USE[5](#)

CENTRAL BUCKS
CALENDAR/HANDBOOK.....[6](#)

CENSUS VERIFICATION &
EMERGENCY CONTACT REPORTS ..[6](#)

CODE OF CONDUCT.....[6](#)

COMPUTER USE.....[8](#)

D

DIRECTORY[9](#)

DRESS CODE.....[9](#)

E

EMERGENCY CLOSING&EARLY
DISMISSAL OF STUDENTS.....[10](#)

EVACUATIONS/SHELTER-IN-PLACE [11](#)

EXCLUSION FROM PHYSICAL
EDUCATION/RECESS[11](#)

F

FACILITIES USE[11](#)

FIELD TRIPS.....[11](#)

H

HOLIDAYS.....[12](#)

HOMEWORK[12](#)

HOMEWORK FOR ABSENT STUDENTS
.....[12](#)

HOMEWORK THAT IS
FORGOTTEN[13](#)

I

ILLNESS[13](#)

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT (IST).....[13](#)

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC[14](#)

L

LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER.....[14](#)

LOST AND FOUND.....[14](#)

LUNCH PROGRAM.....[14](#)

LUNCH SCHEDULE.....[15](#)

M

MEDICATIONS.....[15](#)

N

NOTES FROM PARENTS[16](#)

NURSE'S OFFICE[16](#)

P

PARENT CONFERENCES[17](#)

PARENT PORTAL[18](#)

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION .[18](#)

PARTIES[19](#)

PROGRESS REPORTING SYSTEM.....[19](#)

R

RECESS.....[20](#)

REGISTRATION[20](#)

S

SCHOOL HOURS.....[20](#)

SCHOOL PICTURES[20](#)

SCHOOL SAFETY[21](#)

SPECIALS.....[21](#)

SPECIAL EDUCATION.....[21](#)

STANDARDIZED TESTING.....[21](#)

STUDENT RECOGNITION.....[22](#)

STUDENTS' RECORDS[22](#)

T

TARDINESS[22](#)

TELEPHONES[23](#)

TEXTBOOKS[23](#)

TIPS FOR PARENTS[24](#)

TRANSFER POLICY[25](#)

V

VALUABLES[25](#)

VISITING THE SCHOOL[25](#)

VISITORS[25](#)

VOLUNTEERS[26](#)

W

WEAPONS POLICY[26](#)

WEDNESDAY FOLDER[26](#)

*The purpose of the Student Handbook is to give Butler students and their parents/guardians an understanding of the general rules and guidelines for attending and receiving an education in our school. Together with the **INFORMATION** section in the front of the **District Calendar and on-line resources at www.cbsd.org/butler**, we feel confident that you will have ready resources for questions about School District and School policies. In case of conflict between a board policy and the provisions of this handbook, the board policy most recently adopted by the board will prevail.*

[Click here for all up-to-date School Board policies.](#)

Please review this information early in the school year. Should you have any questions about information found here or on any other school-related topic, we encourage you to call us at 267-893-4250.

Best wishes for a successful school year!

ATTENDANCE

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires under the Compulsory Attendance Law that an absence excuse note, **signed by the parent or guardian**, be on file for every day of a student's absence. An absence not explained by an excuse note, submitted within three days of the child's return to school, is recorded as an illegal absence. If an excuse is not submitted for any absence, the student will be considered illegally absent that day(s). An absence note may also be sent electronically to butlerattendance@cbsd.org.

According to the State Law, the following excuses qualify as excused absences:

1. Religious Holiday.
2. Illness.
3. Family Vacations or Educational trips will be excused only with prior written approval by the principal. As per School Board Policy these days are limited to five days per school year. A form for approved travel can be obtained from the office, or on-line at [District Attendance Information](#).
4. Death in the family.

Parents are legally responsible for seeing that their children attend school, and they may be fined in district court if their children are illegally absent more than three days.

Students who are chronically signed out early or late may be charged with part or full day absences on the report card to reflect cumulative instructional minutes missed.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHTS

In the beginning of the school term the faculty hosts a back-to-school night for the purpose of having parents meet with their child's teacher. During this visitation, teachers describe the instructional programs and explain the procedures and expectations. A brief questions and answer period will follow the formal presentation.

Each year parents are invited to school in order to meet the teachers and to see an overview of the grade-level curriculum. These evening meetings are designed to give adults the opportunity to discuss topics and to ask questions. **Children should not attend these adult meetings.** It is also not safe for unsupervised children to wander in the hallways or go to the playground. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

BEFORE- AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Central Bucks Community School offers before-school and after-school care to all schools where there is a need. The program provides supervised play, activities, and help with homework. Parents pay a monthly fee for the program. For more information call the Community School Office at 267-893-5705 or check on-line [CLICK HERE](#). Children may attend on a part-time or full-time basis. In case of inclement weather, the school closing number for the Central Bucks Community School is 779.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthday party invitations to a select small group of children should not be distributed at school. Sensitivity to other children's feelings contributes to a healthy social development for your child. Children often appreciate very simple ideas, which celebrate their birthdays in school. (Birthday Recognitions are voluntary for families)

We have a "no sweets" policy at Butler and encourage instead that parents donate a book to the library in honor of a child's birthday or provide a no-food item for class. If parents have additional ideas, which involve the school, they need to secure the permission of the teacher.

BUSING

The Central Bucks School District transports approximately 20,000 students daily to 15 schools, each having special starting and dismissal times. The District establishes school bus schedules with a fifteen (15) minute start and dismissal time variance. Each bus is scheduled to arrive within (15) minutes of their start time and pick up students using the same time frame. For example, if dismissal time is 3:45 PM buses may be scheduled to arrive at school for pick-up at 4:00 PM.

Students that utilize bus transportation provided by the district may NOT ride home on another bus. Also, children may **not** have fellow students ride home on their bus. If parents would like to make arrangements for children to spend time after school with one another, a parent note must be sent in by both parents to the office and arrangements for travel must be made by the parents.

Riding the bus is a privilege which may be withdrawn either for inappropriate behavior on the bus or at the bus stop. Disruptive, defiant behavior will not be tolerated. Unacceptable behavior may result in the temporary suspension of bus privileges. The bus driver will report any infraction of rules to the principals. Parents will be notified in writing of such reports.

Your questions or concerns should be referred to the Director of Transportation at 267-893-4000, where Bus Behavior Reports are generated.

BUS SAFETY

1. No eating or drinking is permitted on the school bus.
2. The only items that children are permitted to carry on the bus are those that will safely fit on their laps. There is no storage space on the buses. If your children want to take something to school and it will not fit on their laps, parents must arrange other transportation.
3. No unauthorized person is permitted on school buses. By law, bus drivers have the ability to ask people to get off the bus if they are not authorized to be there. If they do not comply, drivers will radio dispatch for the police. This is considered a misdemeanor offense and is necessary for the security of our children and our bus drivers. If you need to get on the bus for any reason, ask permission first.
4. Neither the school nor the bus drivers have any jurisdiction over behavior at bus stops. Parents are encouraged to make their presence known in order to discourage disruptive behavior, particularly in the morning when the children are waiting.
5. School Board policy requires that kindergarten and 1st grade students must be met at the stop by an adult or older sibling or the driver cannot release the student from the bus.

BUTLER BEAR NEWS

Parent involvement in the activities of the school is essential to the success of the instructional program. The [*Paw Power Press*](#), sent home periodically through the year, will offer suggestions and provide additional information about programs, policies, and school practices. The [Butler PTO](#) sends a weekly e-mail, [*Constant Contact*](#). Information about school events and PTO activities are featured in this communication through the [PTO Newsletter](#). The Butler PTO website is another source to view PTO events. These publications and others are available on-line at our website.

CELL PHONES – STUDENT USE

Cell phones may be carried to and from school but must remain off and stored in the student's backpack during the day. Students are not permitted to make phone calls or to send text messages at any point during the day. Students who violate this policy will not be permitted to have cell phones on campus. School phones are available for student use in an emergency.

CENTRAL BUCKS CALENDAR/HANDBOOK

The following topics are covered in the [Central Bucks School District Calendar/Handbook](#) distributed to all families:

Attendance Areas/Attendance Requirements	Insurance Requirements
Back To School Nights	Medication Policy
Building Directory	Opportunity School
Central Bucks Philosophy of Education	Parent Conferences
Code of Rights, Responsibilities, and Discipline	Parent Groups/Parental Involvement
Community School	Psychological/Social Work Services
District Administration	Progress Reports
Dress Regulations	School Board Members/Meetings
Drug and Alcohol Policy	School Closing Information
Enrollment Regulations	School District Policies
Guidance and Counseling Services	Smoking Policies
Health Services	Special Education
Homebound Instruction	Sports Schedules
	Student Records
	Standardized Tests

CENSUS VERIFICATION & EMERGENCY CONTACT REPORTS

In the event of illness or injury an updated Census Verification & Emergency Contact Report must be on file for every child to ensure that contact can be made with a responsible adult in the immediate area. This process is managed through the [CB Parent Portal](#). **Please update all details and changes each year: change in address, home or work telephone numbers, emergency contact individuals and phone numbers, etc., - so that our information will always be accurate and up to date. This is a very important item. Please complete no later than the first month of school.**

The appropriate school personnel should know custody arrangements. Should court dictated custody arrangements apply to your child, a copy of the current court order must be filed with your child's records. The school will endeavor to abide by court directives in its files. Verbal statements of custody will not be enforced.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Our students are generally well behaved and respectful of their classmates and adults. All Butler students and staff sign our Code of Conduct and are encouraged to take responsibility for their words and actions and feel empowered to maintain our healthy environment. When children do need reminders about their behavior, consequences-- such as: loss of recess, assigned seating (bus/cafeteria), loss of event privileges, etc. -- may be issued. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers with any questions or concerns about a child's behavior. Generally, when dealing with a child's behavior, there is a great deal of support and

cooperation between the school and home. This is very beneficial to children and helps to create an environment conducive to learning.

As a member of the Butler community, we are expected to follow the five tenets of **Positive Paw Power** listed below. Inappropriate behavior will result in consequences determined by Butler's Behavior Policy in accordance with the Central Bucks Disciplinary Procedures and Responsibilities.

BUTLER'S Positive Paw Power:

Understanding...

Students will strive to be accepting of one another's feelings, beliefs, and differences.
Students will strive to help others in need.

Teamwork...

Students will work cooperatively and compromise with one another to reach a common goal.
Students will encourage and commend one another, making sure that all are included.

Leadership...

Students will set a good example for others and help them make good decisions.
Students will be honest at all times and take responsibility for their actions.
Students will respect authority, follow rules, and be active participants in making the Butler community a better place.

Education...

Students will be prepared to learn, will be good listeners, and will follow directions.
Students will always do their best and their work will always be their own.
Students will allow others to learn by not being disruptive.
Students will be responsible for following rules in the classroom, cafeteria, recess yard, and on the school bus.

Respect....

Students will keep their hands, feet, and objects to themselves.
Students will be kind and use respectful and appropriate language when speaking to one another and to adults.
Students will respect the property of others.
Students will use good manners.

BEHAVIOR POLICY

Level of Misbehavior	Possible Consequences may include:
Level One: Misbehaviors that interfere with the orderly learning environment of the school. A violation of the Code of Conduct.	Conversation with teacher/warning, Conduct Report, restriction or loss of classroom privilege, parent notification, verbal or written apology to people affected.

<p>Level Two: Frequent or serious misbehavior that disrupts the learning environment of the school.</p>	<p>All consequences from Level One, parent and student conference with teacher, referral to the office, lunch or recess office detention.</p>
<p>Level Three: Misbehaviors that have the potential to endanger the well-being of other students or staff, or recurring violations of the Code of Conduct.</p>	<p>All consequences from Level Two, in-school or out-of-school suspension, replacement or repair of damaged property</p>

Parents should expect to be informed of any discipline problem that is serious or persistent. Communication between all persons dealing with the discipline problem is vital, if the problem is to be dealt with effectively.

COMPUTER USE

Proper Use of Computer/iPads and Networks

The use of computers and technology in the Central Bucks School District is designed to have a positive impact on curriculum and instruction for all students. The 1:1 Handbook can be found [HERE](#). All students and parents will need to complete the Technology User Agreement through My Payments Plus. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Technology will be used:

- within the curriculum to enhance student learning and achievement
- to assist students in becoming competent in the use of technology, with an increasing degree of sophistication as they move from level to level
- as a tool to enhance creativity and encourage the completion of quality products
- to access technology-based information relevant to curriculum topics

To allow maximum use of the technology in Central Bucks, students agree to the terms outlined in this agreement.

1. Students will abide by such rules and guidelines as adopted by the Central Bucks School District, including the School Board policy on technology use.
2. Students may not introduce information, including software applications or documents, on any district computer system without first obtaining staff approval and copyright compliance.
3. Students will not connect any device to, or disconnect any device from, a computer or peripheral device, or the district's local or wide area network.
4. Students will not change or in any way alter a network device, device, or peripheral name, file or folder name or network zone.
5. Students are prohibited from copying software applications, folders, or files from within or between network zones or to external drives without first obtaining staff approval and copyright compliance. Copying of any of the above will only be for the purpose of curriculum related projects.
6. Passwords may be assigned for each student and are for the individual use by that student. Distribution or alteration of a password is prohibited.

Use of the Internet

The Internet is a valuable educational tool used in our classroom and computer lab. Throughout the year, the students will be asked to access the Internet for various projects. Some of these projects will include:

- 📁 Researching additional information for projects
- 📁 Creating PowerPoint presentations
- 📁 Learning the most efficient ways to use search engines
- 📁 Importing royalty free clip art and images
- 📁 Taking practice quizzes covering curriculum concepts

For your child's online safety, we have outlined a Classroom Policy when using the Internet at school. Students are responsible for appropriate behavior on the school's computer network, just as they are in a classroom or on a school playground. This document is reviewed and discussed with the students and sent home for parent signatures.

DIRECTORY

A school directory is developed by the PTO and distributed to all families as part of their PTO membership. This directory includes all students' names and grades. Student addresses, phone numbers, and parent/guardian names are listed if parent permission has been granted to publish this information. The directory also includes a complete listing of the staff, class lists, PTO committees/chairpersons, and homeroom parents.

Under no circumstances is any part of the directory to be reproduced, photocopied, entered into a database, or copied by hand or other form. The directory may not be used as the basis for telemarketing.

DRESS CODE

We believe...

that there is a connection between a positive school climate and reasonable attire, and when elements of "popular" fashion are deemed inappropriate for the elementary school, it is the school's and parents' responsibility to establish limits.

If your child chooses his/her own clothes to wear, please remind him/her that some outfits are not appropriate for school. [Student dress should be comfortable, but not too casual.] All students are expected to demonstrate acceptable taste in their dress habits. Students are expected to avoid extreme short pants, tops with exposed midriffs, and any tee shirts with offensive or tobacco/alcohol-related images. Some hot weather outfits are appropriate for a 5-year old child but not appropriate for a more mature 12- or 13-year old student.

The following are guidelines for warm weather apparel for all students. If you have any questions, please contact the school:

- All clothes should be clean, neat, and in good taste.

Butler Elementary School-Student Handbook

- Flip-flops, beach, or loose footwear are not appropriate for school and may be dangerous on our stairways and playground.
- The length of shorts is to be appropriate for school and there is to be no wording on the back. In-seams on shorts should be at least five inches long.
- Halter and crop tops for students are not permitted. Spaghetti straps are not permitted for upper elementary grade students.
- Indecent and unsavory slogans, expressions, etc., are not to be worn on clothing.
- Muscle (sleeveless or revealing) shirts are not permitted.
- Undergarments are not to be visible.
- “Sagging” pants that reveal midriffs or present a tripping hazard are not permitted.
- Any attire the administration considers as interfering with the quality of education shall not be permitted.

Adherence to proper dress standards will help to ensure an appropriate school image for our students and a learning environment free of unnecessary distraction. A discussion will be held with pupils who don't maintain these standards. If needed, a phone call to parents will be made to discuss any concerns.

EMERGENCY CLOSING / EARLY DISMISSAL OF STUDENTS

If it becomes necessary for you to take your child out of school for any reason during the school day, a note to the teacher in the morning is most helpful. When coming to school to pick up your child, please report to the office with picture ID. The office staff will call your child from the classroom and you will be asked to sign your child out. If your child will be returning to school on the same day, please bring your child back to the office, so that he/she can be signed back in.

Early dismissal or transportation messages must not be left as voice mail messages in the teacher's voice mailbox. Teachers do not retrieve voice mail messages until after the conclusion of the student day.

267-893-4250

If your child wishes to go home with a friend, a note is needed from both parents.

Transportation regulations prohibit the use of the bus for such visits.

Emergency school closings announced after school is in session will be posted first on the Central Bucks website www.cbsd.org and then by broadcast on radio and television stations using the **number - 755**. When the school district announces weather-related school closings, late starts, or early dismissals reliable sources of information include: the District's CBTV: Comcast Channel 28 and Verizon Channel 40, Newsline, at 267-893-2000 ext. 6, Channels 3, 6, and 10 and Radio Station KYW, 1060 am or WBUX 1570 am. School closing information is posted on the website as soon as the superintendent has made the decision.

Parents should review emergency dismissal plans with their children when inclement weather is forecasted. PTO homeroom parents have copies of students' emergency dismissal plans and will activate a courtesy phone chain to notify parents in the event of an early closing.

Every effort will be made to contact parents by phone. Hopefully, our school will never need an emergency dismissal plan for any type of disaster. However, if this were necessary, we would use the already established procedures for our emergency closing. In any type of emergency or disaster, it is important that the school phone lines remain open so that police, firemen, or other emergency units are able to contact the school. Do not call your child's cell phone. Because of this critical need, parents should avoid calling on the school lines if possible and rely on the Central Bucks news line, www.cbsd.org, or your local news for information.

An Emergency Dismissal form is sent home each September in order to solicit your directions. This multi-part form is retained by the office and the teacher and serves as our guide for emergency dismissals. Please review with your child the procedure you want him/her to follow after being sent home.

EVACUATIONS/SHELTER-IN-PLACE

Every third school-calendar year the state requires schools to conduct full-school lockdown. Additionally, drills are practiced for inclement weather, evacuation, and chemical spill (Shelter-in-Place). Because we now have well-established routines at Butler you will probably not be notified before these drills occur.

EXCLUSION FROM PHYSICAL EDUCATION/RECESS

Students who are to be excluded from physical education classes for medical reasons must bring a note from the parent stating the reason for the exclusion. This note must be taken to the classroom teacher, the nurse, and the physical education instructor.

If the student is to be excluded for more than one physical education period, a doctor's statement with the reason and the length of the time of the exclusion must be provided. Under most circumstances, the student will be required to attend the class even though he/she will not be expected to participate. For supervision purposes, we cannot honor requests for children to stay inside for recess unless a doctor's note is provided.

FACILITIES USE

In order to secure the building after hours the use of the building will be limited to groups, which benefit a large number of students. A [Central Bucks School District Facility Use Form](#) must be completed and submitted to the principal and Facilities Office for approval. This form may be obtained from the school office.

FIELD TRIPS

Children attend field trips to provide educational experiences available only outside the school. Field Trips are optional and scheduled by the grade level. All field trips are under the supervision of the classroom teacher with assistance from teacher selected parent chaperones. Classroom teachers often use a lottery system to select among many willing field trip

chaperones. Depending upon the nature of the trip, pupils may be responsible for paying for the cost of these trips.

*All chaperones MUST have their clearances. Please [click here](#) to access our District's website.

If your child requires medication during a field trip (i.e.; food allergies, asthma, diabetes) parents should send medication, including Epi-Pens and inhalers, to school in a clearly labeled Ziploc bag with child's name, name of medication and instructions for use. Teachers will hold all medications on trip.

HOLIDAYS

School law provides that pupils may be legally absent for certain religious observances. The district maintains a list of holidays of various faiths and will recognize the child's absence for observance of them. Parents should notify the school prior to an absence of this type and will receive permission for the child to be excused.

HOMEWORK

The purpose of homework is to promote the growth of student knowledge and to reinforce that which is learned in the classroom. Homework should be used as an addition to, and extension of, daily instruction. It should provide the student with relevant practice and the opportunity to utilize learned concepts.

Homework may also afford students the opportunity to develop and practice good study skills and habits. An additional purpose of homework is to communicate the teacher's classroom requirements and the student's academic progress to parents. Homework may or may not be assigned every day, with Fridays as a permitted exception.

The parents' role in the educational process at home is vital to a child's success in school. Research has consistently indicated that positive parental involvement increases educational student achievement.

Parents should contact the teacher with any questions or concerns about homework.

HOMEWORK FOR ABSENT STUDENTS

If your child is absent for more than one day and you wish to request homework, please call the main office at 267-893-4250 before the student lunch hour, allowing adequate time for the teacher to prepare a listing of the assignments.

When requesting homework for absent children **beyond one day** please call the attendance line at 267-893-4250 prompt 2 by **9:00 a.m.** (messages left after 9:00 a.m. cannot be processed for that day). Please leave a message indicating:

1. Student's name
2. Student's teacher and grade
3. How the homework is to go home—i.e., parent will pick up at 3:45 p.m. or homework should be sent home with another student.
4. If homework is to go home with another student, please leave that student's name, and teacher and grade.
5. If homework is to be picked up in the office, this work will not be ready until dismissal time (**3:45 p.m.**).

HOMework THAT IS FORGOTTEN

Parents are encouraged NOT to bring in forgotten homework. Generally, children will learn responsibility and maturity more quickly if they develop an understanding of consequences and following procedures.

***For security reasons our school is locked daily at 4:05 p.m. Parents and students are not permitted to regain access to classrooms after hours without Principal Permission.**

ILLNESS

The school nurse provides care to students who become ill or are injured at school. If a child has symptoms of illness present, he/she should remain home in order that other children do not become infected. Sick children should never be sent to school with the expectation that the school nurse can be called upon to diagnose a medical problem.

If a child becomes ill at school the nurse will call the child's parents or guardian. If they cannot be reached, emergency contacts will be called. Arrangements must be made to pick up the sick student as quickly as possible. If students are well enough to come to school, it is expected that they are well enough to be sent out at recess time. Arrangements cannot be made for sick students to stay in school during outside recess times, unless a doctor's note is provided.

Students must be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school. CBSD will follow the CBSD Health & Safety plan for illnesses designated as COVID-related.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM (IST)

A Student Support Counselor is assigned to each elementary school in the Central Bucks School District. Among their responsibilities are facilitating programs which deal with specific affective issues and individual consultation for both developmental and crisis needs.

Meeting the needs of students with academic or behavioral difficulties is an important responsibility for the school. Teachers and parents may refer students having difficulty to the Instructional Support Team. The Butler team, consisting of the student support counselor(s), referring teacher, reading specialist, classroom teacher, school psychologist, and the building principal, meets regularly to develop instructional modifications to meet the special needs of

these students. More information is available about the IST team by contacting Mrs. Kathy Milotich or Mrs. Linda O'Connell, Student Support Counselors, at 267-893-4250.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

All fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students are invited to participate in the instrumental music program. Instructional classes meet once a week for thirty minutes, scheduled during the school day. Participation in the instrumental music program is voluntary.

String instruction is available for fourth graders and is offered outside of the students' normal instructional day (before school or at recess).

Vocal: Students in first grade through sixth grade will have vocal music instruction for one period a week.

LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER

A library is an integral part of the educational program of each elementary student. Our library is staffed with a professional school librarian who provides instruction in library skills and serves as a resource person in the educational program.

In the library, circulation procedures follow standard library practices. Books are normally checked out for one week for kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade, and two weeks for 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade, and 6th grade. If a child has a book that is overdue, they may not take others from the library until the overdue books are returned. Should some damage occur to the book while it is in the student's possession, he/she must report this to the librarian so that repairs can be made. If the book is lost and /or damaged beyond repair, replacement cost will be determined. Lost and/or damaged books should be paid for before the final report card is sent home in June.

LOST AND FOUND

Throughout the year a large number of hats, coats, gloves, lunchboxes, etc. are accumulated. If your child has lost an article of clothing, please ask him/her to check the lost and found or to speak with his/her teacher/call the office. Periodically during the year, the unclaimed contents of our lost and found will be donated to a local charity.

LUNCH PROGRAM

Information about school lunches can be found [HERE](#). All student meals will be free this coming school year. Students will still be required to have 3 components to their lunch, including at least one fruit option. Vegetables will also be offered. There will be no a la carte options. At this time, no snacks will be offered for purchase. Breakfast will be served from 8:45AM to 9:05AM.

LUNCH SCHEDULE

	<i>Recess (30 minutes)</i>	<i>Lunch (30 minutes)</i>	<i>Grade-Level</i>
First Lunch	10:30 - 11:00	11:00 - 11:30	5 th
Second Lunch	11:05 - 11:35	11:35 - 12:05	6 th
Third Lunch	11:40 - 12:10	12:10 - 12:40	3 rd
Fourth Lunch	12:15 - 11:45	12:45 - 1:15	2 nd
Fifth Lunch	12:50 - 1:20	1:20 - 1:50	1 st
Sixth Lunch	1:25 - 1:55	1:55 - 2:25	4 th

MEDICATIONS

Information from the Nurse’s Office can be found [HERE](#) regarding medications. In order to protect the health and safety of our students we require students to bring **all** medications, which must be taken during the school day, to the Health Suite upon the student's arrival. Medication is to be brought in a bottle with the prescription on it indicating the name of the student, medication, amount to be taken, time to be given, and the physician's name. Non-prescription medication must also be left in the Health Suite. ***At no time should a student have any medication in his/her possession during the school day.***

All controlled medications must be hand-delivered to the school nurse or the principal’s designee by a parent or guardian at which time it will be counted and signed for. Some examples of controlled medications include, but are not limited to: Ritalin, Dexedrine, Phenergan with Codeine, Ativan, Adderall, Tylenol #3, and Florinal with Codeine.

No medication will be administered to any student without the proper completion of the Medical Dispensing Form available in the Nurse’s Office.

The form should also be used for non-prescription drugs when prescribed by a physician or dentist. This includes nonprescription medications like acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen, cough medicine, nasal spray, eye drops, etc.

More children with serious health problems attend public schools now than ever before. Consequently, the number of medications given to students during school hours has increased ten-fold in the last five years. Add to this the number of students seen for first aid, minor illnesses, and emergencies, and you can imagine how busy our health rooms have become. In order to service the students, the following are [health room guidelines](#) for parents:

Butler Elementary School-Student Handbook

- Students who are injured or become sick at school are a priority. However, schools are **not** clinics and cannot treat injuries and illnesses that don't occur at school. If your child becomes sick at home or is injured at home or at a sporting event outside of school hours, please do not ask the child to come to the school nurse for treatment.
- Please keep all emergency information up to date. When a sick child must be sent home, the telephone number of a responsible adult to contact is essential.
- Please let the school nurse know if there are any significant changes in your child's health.

NOTES FROM PARENTS

Notes are required from parents for all dismissal changes, pick-up for early dismissal, absence, and being excused from physical education class. A student will not be released to another adult without written permission from the parent, proper identification, and authorization.

Please do not try to inform teachers of dismissal changes via e-mail or voicemail, as access to these systems during the day can be limited. Inform the office via note or direct phone call.

NURSE'S OFFICE

Pupil services personnel who provide health services for students include certified school nurses, health room associates, consulting physicians, physician's assistants, nurse practitioners, and dentists. When the certified school nurse must be out of the building, the health room is staffed by a health room associate who is a RN or LPN and is familiar with first aid and emergency procedures.

Medical Examination: Medical examinations are required upon original entry of a child into school and again in grade six, in accordance with the School Health Act. We recommend that this examination be done by your family physician since he/she can best assist you in obtaining any necessary treatments and corrections. The required forms will be furnished by the school. Physical examinations completed by a private physician must be performed after September 1st of the previous school year. All exams should be submitted by October 15th. Students moving into the district from out of state must either show proof of a physical examination within the past six months, or they will be required to have a physical examination upon entrance. Click [HERE](#) to access the forms. **District policy states that physical exams are required to be on file in order for student to participate in Field Trips.**

Dental Examinations: The Pennsylvania School Health Law requires that all students have a dental examination upon original entry into the school district and again in grade three. We recommend that this examination be done by your family dentist since he/she can best assist you in obtaining any necessary treatments and corrections. Dental examinations must be completed after May 1 of the current **school** year. Students moving into the district from out of state must either show proof of a dental examination within the past six months, or they will be required to have a dental examination upon entrance. Click [HERE](#) to access the

forms. **District policy state that dental exams are required to be on file in order for a student to participate in Field Trips.**

Screenings:

Vision: Each pupil is given a vision test annually by a school nurse.

Hearing: Each year all pupils in kindergarten, first grade, second grade, third grade, resource room, and all children with known hearing problems are tested for hearing loss.

Height, Weight: Each pupil is weighed and measured each year.

Required Immunizations: The following immunizations must be completed **before your child can be admitted to school**. Medical or religious exceptions to this requirement can be explained by the school nurse.

1. **Diphtheria and Tetanus (DT):** Four or more doses of vaccine, one of which must be given at age four or older.
2. **Polio:** Three properly spaced doses of vaccine.
3. **Rubella (German measles), Measles,* and Mumps:** Two doses of vaccine, the first at twelve months of age or older.
*A second measles vaccine dose will be required for ALL students, not just those entering school for the first time.
4. **Hepatitis B:** Three properly spaced doses of vaccine.
5. **Varicella** Vaccine or proof of Chicken Pox is mandatory before entry.

A child must be admitted to school if there is documentation that one dose of each of the above immunizations has been given. State law requires that the immunization series must be completed within eight months of school entry or the student cannot be permitted to continue in school.

Illness and Injury at School: School personnel will make every effort to administer first aid in an emergency situation. If a child becomes ill in school or has a serious accident, the school will take appropriate action, including the procedures permitted by the parents as listed on the emergency card. Every effort will be made to notify parents in these situations.

Nurse: A certified school nurse or a staff nurse is in each elementary school five days a week from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Human Growth & Development classes are held in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade. AIDS curriculum is taught in 5th and 6th grade.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Established report card conference dates coincide with the conclusion of the first and second trimester. Parents are encouraged to request a conference with the school faculty members whenever they have a concern about a student's progress. Parents can arrange a conference with a particular teacher by telephoning the office.

PARENT PORTAL

The Central Bucks School District uses *Infinite Campus* as its student information system. The **Parent Portal** allows parents/guardians to view schedules, attendance, census, immunizations, and assessment information. Parents can also update demographic information for their family.

Elementary school parents with students in Grades 1-6 will also be able to view, print and/or save their child's progress report directly from the Parent Portal. Information about Parent Portal accounts and setup can be found [HERE](#).

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Please click [HERE](#) to access the Butler PTO website. The Butler PTO is very active in the life of the school. You are encouraged to become a partner with us in the education of your child. The Butler Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) sponsors many programs and activities such as: student assemblies, bingo nights, book fairs, Butler Bash/Harvest Festival, Butler Bear Clubs (after school elective program), Secret Shop, Spring Fair, and much, much more. Additional information about these and other activities will be provided in the **Constant Contact**. Flyers announcing scheduled events and meetings are posted each week on the school website.

All parents are encouraged to become active members of the parent-teacher organization. Through the efforts of Butler's Parent Teacher Organization, funding is provided for school assemblies and additional resources for learning. Parents may join our PTO at any time or may register at our Back-To-School nights.

2021-2022 Officers

Ali Abelson, Rachel Stasik	Co-Presidents
Amanda Bonsall, Jeannie Redner	Co-Vice Presidents
Jen Emma	Treasurer
TBD	Asst. Treasurer
Donna Katzman and Jennifer Mininger	Co-Recording Secretaries
Shirley Schombs	Fund Raising
Tracey Johnston	Fundraising/ Spring Fair Chair

PARTIES (CLASSROOMS)

There are three parties during the school year. They are Halloween, December holidays, and End-of-the-Year. The PTO Head Homeroom Parent coordinates these parties with the classroom teacher, who has final authority to make all decisions on party related matters. In accordance with our Wellness Policy, all snacks provided during parties should be healthy (one “sweet” is usually permitted for each party).

There is a great age difference in the children at Butler. Some younger children find scary masks and costumes frightening. Parents of older children should help to guide their children to wear costumes that will provide fun for all age groups. It is not mandatory for a child to participate in Halloween activities at school. If parents are uncomfortable with any activity for personal or religious reasons, they may pick-up the child before the activities begin and take him/her home.

Three to four adult helpers will be able to attend parties for students in grades K-6.

*All chaperones MUST have their clearances on file with the district.

PROGRESS REPORTING SYSTEM

Central Bucks elementary schools follow a Standards-Based Reporting system. The purpose of the Standards-Based Reporting system is to provide detailed feedback to parents, students, and teachers regarding the progress their child is making toward specific learning standards at their grade level. A standards-based report allows parents and students to understand more clearly what is expected in school and how to help them be successful in a rigorous academic program.

The standards-based system measures how well individual students are doing solely in relation to grade-level learning goals or standards. This gives parents, teachers, and students an understanding of what students have mastered and what they need to continue to work toward learning. Standards identify specific strengths and weaknesses. These give quality information from which to generate goals for continued growth. Letter grades will be received in all content areas (Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies, and Writing) in grades 4 – 6.

To view the entire parent Handbook on our Standards Based Reporting System, please visit the following [LINK](#).

RECESS

Extra time is scheduled during lunch so that all children can have an active recess period. Students will have recess first, and then come into the building to eat their lunch. The school believes that this time out-of-doors and away from the classroom atmosphere promotes learning. The school district’s policy requires each child, when weather permits, to attend recess, unless excused by a doctor. Your child should be dressed appropriately.

Butler Elementary School-Student Handbook

When indoor recess is necessary, the classroom teacher establishes appropriate plans. The use of personal technology is not allowed during recess. Skateboards, in-line skates, lacrosse, baseball bats, and motor-operated vehicles are also prohibited. The Butler staff provides playground equipment and appropriate supervision during the recess period.

REGISTRATION

Upon registration, a document giving proof of age must be presented along with a complete immunization record. Proof of residency must also be provided. Most registration forms are now available at [Central Registration / New Student Registration \(cbsd.org\)](http://cbsd.org).

Children registering for Kindergarten must be five years old on or before August 31 of that school year. Children registering for first grade must be six on or before August 31 of that school year.

SCHOOL HOURS / STUDENT ARRIVAL TIME

Students' Day.....9:05 to 3:45
Kindergarten AM Session.....9:05 to 11:40
Kindergarten PM Session.....1:10 to 3:45

On early dismissal days, school is dismissed at 12:25 PM.
A.M. KINDERGARTEN IS DISMISSED AT NORMAL TIME (11:40 AM)

Pupils will be admitted into the school building at 8:45 AM. Since adequate supervision is **NOT PROVIDED** prior to 8:45 AM, we urge you to plan for your child's home departure so that he/she will **NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 8:45 AM**. In the interest of your child's safety, it is urgent that you control his/her arrival time.

SCHOOL PICTURES

School pictures are taken once a year for the student's cumulative record. Parents are not required to purchase picture packages made available by the school photographer but may do so if they wish. Advance notice is sent home. Picture retakes are available for those absent the day of picture taking. Retakes for other reasons may be arranged with the school photographer.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Butler is actively engaged in a variety of steps to keep our students safe. After children arrive for school all doors are locked except the main entrance. This main entrance is monitored during the school day. Staff members and visitors wear identification badges so that it can be quickly determined if there is an unauthorized visitor in the building. Emergency procedures--such as, fire drills, lockdowns, and tornado alerts—are practiced. The school has a safety plan in use in emergency situations. School personnel have been

Butler Elementary School-Student Handbook

trained in conflict resolution and peer mediation. Any threat to harm a student is taken very seriously.

The district promotes the School Watch Hotline, sponsored by the Bucks County Commissioners, the Bucks County Intermediate Unit, and the Bucks County Law Enforcement Agencies. The hotline is for confidential reports of a potential act of violence, theft, vandalism, drug or alcohol use, or weapons possession in or near a school. State law also requires each school to immediately report suspected cases of child abuse.

Butler has a school environment that is caring, nurturing, and supportive of children and families. The teachers and parents at Butler maintain strong communication with each other. The Butler PTO organizes many events which promote quality family time.

SPECIALS

Special	Kdg	Ext. Day Kdg	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
Art		40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min
Music		40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min
Physical Ed.	20 min	40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min
Library	30 min	40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min
QUEST		40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min	40 min

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The needs of exceptional students are provided for through a number of in-building and regional special education programs. Included are Central Bucks programs for students who are intellectually gifted, students with learning disabilities, students with autism, etc. Services are also available for students with visual, auditory, physical, and speech impairments.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

In accordance with the recommendations of the professional staff and state requirements, a district-wide testing program is conducted. It provides information about our students' learning strengths and weaknesses and the school curriculum. Standardized tests of academic achievement and aptitude will be given according to the following schedule:

Third Grade	Performance Assessment - Winter/Spring Pennsylvania System of School Assessment-PSSA Universal Screeners Fall/Winter/Spring
Fourth Grade	Universal Screeners Fall/Winter/Spring Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (This year science is tested)- PSSA

Butler Elementary School-Student Handbook

Fifth Grade Pennsylvania System of School Assessment-PSSA
Universal Screeners Fall/Winter/Spring

Sixth Grade Performance Assessment- Wniter
Pennsylvania System of School Assessment-PSSA
Universal Screeners Fall/Winter/Spring

1. Informal screenings and inventories to determine reading placement, or other preliminary and tentative assessments for instructional purposes, do not require parental permission and results are not normally reported to parents unless additional formal evaluations seem to be necessary.
2. Individual formal assessments for pupils not enrolled in special education programs require parental permission, and the principal generally requests this. Information that is collected in this process is confidential and is always reported to parents.
3. Your child's test results will be checked carefully and maintained in the school record as long as your child attends school in Central Bucks. No individual or agency outside of the school system will be permitted to inspect your child's school record without your written permission.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Boomerang Awards, Paw Print – Positive Paw Power Awards are presented to the students throughout the year recognizing academic achievement, citizenship, and improvement. Additional awards are presented at an Awards Assembly to our sixth grade students following our promotion exercises. The President's Challenge and Academic Awards are presented in accordance with the guidelines established by the agencies sponsoring these awards.

STUDENTS' RECORDS - ACCESS

As a parent you have the right to inspect, review, copy, and request correction of your child's school records. All requests for access to your child's education records are to be in writing and must include the following: requester's name, correct address, and the reason for requesting access to the information.

Please note: Each parent will have access to the child's records unless the school district has received a copy of a court order, or similar legal document, which limits the access. This policy will prevail even if only one parent has custody of the child.

TARDINESS

Promptness to school is very important to us for two reasons:

Butler Elementary School-Student Handbook

1. A desirable punctuality pattern is formed.
2. Class work/assignments are often missed by students arriving late to class.

If a student is tardy, he/she should be escorted into the office by an adult and signed in at our reception desk. The student will then be issued a "pass" to enter the classroom. If the child is not signed-in he/she could be marked absent for the entire day. Students are marked "late" if they report to school after 9:05 a.m. **Lateness can accumulate to constitute an illegal absence.** (330 minutes of cumulative lateness will constitute an illegal absence).

TELEPHONES

Office and classroom phones are not available for student use except in an emergency. Messages and deliveries from home should be left in the office. Students will be called out of class only in an emergency.

Each teacher has a direct dialed telephone number with voice mail. Teachers are prohibited from answering classroom telephones during the instructional day. Incoming calls to classrooms are automatically routed to voice mail between the hours of 9:05 and 3:45 PM.

TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS

The school furnishes books and other materials to all students. This is done with the hope that this major investment will be properly safeguarded. Reasonable depreciation is expected as a result of daily use. **UNREASONABLE DAMAGE TO TEXTBOOKS WILL RESULT IN A FINE.** Lost textbooks must be paid for and replaced immediately. The fines for these must be paid to the office at the time of damage or loss.

The desire to teach our children to be responsible for possessions and the high cost of textbooks necessitates that you encourage your child to take appropriate care of their school texts.

Students are responsible for all textbooks and library books issued to them during the school year. All lost or damaged supplies must be paid for before final report cards are issued in June. Please contact the school whenever a textbook is lost so that a replacement can be given to the student. The office can also provide prices for replacements. If a lost book is found, monies paid will be refunded.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Parents can help create safe schools.
- Discuss the school's discipline policy with your child. Show your support for the rules, and help your child understand the reasons for them. Involve your child in setting rules for appropriate behavior at home.

Butler Elementary School-Student Handbook

- Talk with your child about the violence he or she sees on television, in video games, and possibly in the neighborhood. Help your child understand the consequences of violence.
- Teach your child how to solve problems. Praise your child when he or she follows through.
- Help your child find ways to show anger that do not involve verbally or physically hurting others. When you get angry, use it as an opportunity to model these appropriate responses for your child—talk about it.
- Help your child understand the value of accepting individual differences.
- Note any disturbing behaviors in your child. For example, frequent anger outbursts, excessive fighting and bullying of other children, cruelty to animals, fire setting, frequent behavior problems at school and in the neighborhood, lack of friends, and alcohol or drug use can be signs of serious problems. Get help for your child. Talk with a trusted professional in your child’s school or in the community.
- Keep lines of communication open with your child and your child’s teachers—even when it is tough. Encourage your child always to let you know where and with whom he or she will be.
- Get to know your child’s friends. Listen to your child if he or she shares concerns about friends who may be exhibiting troubling behaviors. Share this information with a trusted professional--such as, the school psychologist, principal, or teacher.
- Be involved in your child’s school life by supporting and reviewing homework, talking with his or her teacher(s), and attending school functions--such as, parent conferences, class programs, open houses, and parent meetings.
- Work with your child’s school to make it more responsive to all students and to all families. Share your ideas about how the school can encourage family involvement, welcome all families, and include them in meaningful ways in their children’s education.

TRANSFER POLICY

In order to aid a child’s transfer from one school or school district to another, the parent should notify the school of the intended withdrawal date several days in advance. A records release form should be completed at the new school and forwarded to Butler. Upon receipt of the records release, Butler Elementary will transfer those records to the new school.

Parents must also notify Central Registration 267-893-2111 to withdraw from the household.

VALUABLES

Expensive toys are not permitted in school. The only exception is for special "Show N' Tell" activities. If a student brings any of these items to school, they are subject to confiscation. Butler will not be responsible for any lost or stolen toys, electronic games, cell phones, etc.

VISITING THE SCHOOL

In the beginning of the school term, the faculty hosts a back-to-school night for the purpose of having parents meet with their child's teacher.

In the fall all schools in the Central Bucks School District will observe Celebrate Education Week by designating specific dates and times for parents to visit the classrooms during the course of a school day.

VISITORS

No parent is permitted to enter the school and walk in the halls or go to a classroom without permission and a visitor's pass from the office. If you are delivering a lunch, books, jacket, instrument, etc. to your child, we request you leave the item in the vestibule (per District Policy) and to notify the office through the intercom. The Office will call the student to retrieve any item.

All Visitors will require photo ID to receive a visitor badge using the *School Gate Guardian System*. Visitors will be "buzzed-in" to the office after they have identified themselves via the intercom system located on the door frame. Please follow the directions adjacent to the intercom. Visitors will receive a badge (time-sensitive) - including their name, date and destination written on the badge.

Only adults with pre-scheduled appointments will be permitted to access the building. Visitors are discouraged from interrupting the instructional day without a prearranged appointment; therefore, each week, teachers and staff will submit a list of expected visitors including visitors for conferences or meetings, volunteers, PTO committee members, mystery readers, lunchroom helpers, etc. Only those on our weekly list will be permitted to leave the office and enter the main building to go to their appointed destination.

VOLUNTEERS

Our school encourages and welcomes parent involvement. Among the opportunities available to volunteers are working in the library and helping in the classroom. Pennsylvania law requires all persons having direct contact with school children obtain background checks and clearances. Required clearances, along with links to the state's websites, can be found on the district's website (<https://www.cbsd.org/volunteers>). Please contact your child's teacher for information.

WEAPONS POLICY

The District will not tolerate any weapon in school, even when there is no actual or implied threat. This is the only way we can insure a safe and orderly climate for all students and staff members. Possession, use, or transfer of a firearm will result in expulsion from school.

The weapons policy is covered in the Central Bucks School Board Manual, Sections #218 and #233. Please review these regulations with your son or daughter:

1. If a student possesses, uses, or transfers a firearm, the mandatory penalty is expulsion from school for a period of not less than one year. There is absolutely no discretion allowed under the law in assessing the penalty, no matter what the circumstances or the age of the child.
2. Any knife is considered a weapon, not just hunting knives or switchblades. This includes pocketknives – such as, penknives, Swiss Army knives, or Scout knives. Sometimes it is common for adults and students to carry pocketknives without thinking of them as weapons. Do **not** allow your student to bring one to school.
3. Any object used to inflict or threaten bodily harm is considered a weapon, no matter what the object’s primary purpose. The fact that the object is not what would be traditionally called a weapon is not a mitigating factor in such a situation.

In all cases, possessing a weapon in school will result in an immediate suspension for up to ten days; the police will be notified, and the student may be subject to arrest. Further disciplinary action may also include expulsion from school.

Weapon “look-alikes” are also threatening, as they are indistinguishable from the actual weapon. It follows that the same discipline procedure would be applicable.

WEDNESDAY FOLDER

Almost all notices are sent home in a Wednesday folder provided by the school. Please be sure to look for this folder weekly. Also, be sure to send it back on Thursday. You can also check the Butler PTO website for information. Only one Wednesday folder will be sent home with each child. Depending on the terms of their custody agreement, parents who are separated or divorced are responsible for sharing this information with one another.