

Dear Neil Cummins Families,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! I hope all of you have enjoyed a fun and safe summer break.

During the summer weeks, our staff and teachers are rejuvenating and re-energizing for an amazing 2019-2020 school year. We continue to refine our practices to provide meaningful learning opportunities for each student. Before your children return to school, teachers are engaging in professional development in [Cognitively Guided Math Instruction](#) and [Reading Workshop](#).

Please join me in welcoming John Christopherson as a new 4th grade teacher, and welcome to Emily Matto, now officially a 3rd grade teacher at Neil Cummins! You can read our [new teacher bios here](#). Our complete staff list and room numbers [is here](#) and you can see our updated [school map here](#). We have an amazing team of outstanding professionals at Neil Cummins!

If your family is new to Neil Cummins and you did not attend a tour or orientation last year, you are invited to attend a **New Family Orientation on Tuesday, August 13th, from 9:00 to 10:00am in the Neil Cummins library**. Children are welcome to attend. There will be a brief orientation to review the [Back to School Checklist](#) and time for questions. We will introduce Superintendent Dr. Brett Geithman and take a quick tour around the Neil Cummins School campus.

We hope you will find this [Back to School Checklist](#) a helpful tool as you transition your family into "school mode" over the next few weeks. It includes important information you will need to prepare your child for school, including information about school policies, school supplies, hot lunch, and ways to support your school community. It is a wealth of information and gives you dates to mark your calendar for upcoming school events, also. Please read this letter to the end and click on the [Back to School Checklist](#) for additional information.

We know you are eager to know when you will hear about class placement. We are currently working on final class placements from summer enrollment and other changes that have taken place since June. **On Monday, August 19th, by 4pm, you will receive an email with your child's class assignment and a welcome letter from your child's teacher.** We continue to spend many hours on the complex puzzle of class placement. Please know that we cannot guarantee to meet parent requests for a particular teacher/classroom, and/or requests in regard to grouping students or separating students. We take this process very seriously and we work intensely to "get it right" for each and every child/family. Thank you for trusting our decisions and respecting the time, energy and emotion we spend on making the class placement decisions.

PLEASE NOTE: You will NOT get a teacher/class assignment if you have not completed student information update.

Information Update: Please be sure that you responded to the email from BluPods by clicking the link in that message. This is critical information for the school to have before school starts. We rely on parents to provide annual updates of contact information for their students. In the event of an emergency, natural disaster or family crisis we will not release your child to anyone not on this

list. **Your child will not receive their fall class assignment unless this process is completed.** If you have more than one child enrolled, you are required to submit an update for each of them. Completing the survey should take 5-10 minutes per child. Should you have any questions or issues, please reach out to support@blupods.com to guide you through the process.

We will continue using [BluPods](#) for a parent communication tool throughout the year. We encourage you to download the BluPods Messaging app and sign up with your email address used in this email. **Important tip!** When using the BluPods app, you will continue getting reminder messages unless you click the “got it” button! You will also be able to respond to BluPods messages via email if you don’t have the app. Please contact support@blupods.com if you have any questions.

Important Back to School Dates

- August 13 - New Family Orientation, 9:00-10:00am, NC Library
- August 18 - Kindergarten Social 3:00-4:30pm (Neil Cummins Blacktop)
- August 19 - Class Placement/Teacher Assignments Emailed 4:00pm
- August 21 - First Day of School
- August 21 - Welcome Coffee, 8:10 to 10:00am, Neil Cummins Gym
- September 2 - Labor Day, No School
- August 25 - Back to School Blast Family Event (all grade levels)
 - 10:00 - 11:30am (NC Blacktop)
- September 5 - Back to School Night, 6:00 - 8:00pm (schedule [HERE](#))
- September 26 - Picture Day

School Calendar: [2019-2020 School Calendar](#) *Please review for early dismissal days and holidays!*

School Hours: 2019-2020 Bell Schedule

TK 8:10 - 11:30

Kindergarten 8:10 - 2:00pm; Wed 1:30

*Kindergarten early dismissal at 12:10 August 21 through August 31st

*Kindergarten full day with dismissal 2:00 begins Tuesday, Sept. 3rd

Grades 1-5 8:10-1:30 August 21

Grades 1-5 8:10 - 2:50 August 22 - August 23

Grades 1-5 8:10 - 1:30 August 26 - August 30

Grade 1-5 8:10 - 2:50: Wed. 1:30 - regular weekly schedule begins Sept. 3rd

Please Note! *The school parking lot is CLOSED for student drop-off and pickup (staff parking only).*

Code of Conduct: Our Student and Adult Codes of Conduct are available [here](#). This includes our school's discipline plan. In order to create an optimal environment for student learning, The Neil Cummins School requests all members of our community adhere to these guidelines.

Banned Items: Consistent with our district strategic priority to cultivate safe, healthy, caring and inclusive school environments as well as the CA Education Code, we want to remind our parents (and will be visiting classrooms to remind students) that there are certain items that should never be brought to school. These include any knife, or toy weapons, real weapons, drugs, alcohol, etc. Please reinforce these rules with your child.

Nut Restricted Classrooms: Please be aware that **all Kindergarten classrooms are NUT RESTRICTED.** Please read the Food Allergy letter to parents [here](#). Some of the 1st -5th grade classrooms will also be nut restricted in order to protect children with life threatening nut

allergies. You will be notified if your child is in a nut restricted classroom when you receive classroom assignments. **Please do not prepare foods with nuts or nut oils for classroom or school events.** Peanuts or food items with peanuts are not allowed. Also, tree nuts include, but are not limited to, walnut, almond, hazelnut, cashew, pistachio, and Brazil nuts. Please find several nutritious school safe nut-free foods [here](#).

Please be sure to carefully review our Neil Cummins 2019-2020 BACK TO SCHOOL CHECKLIST [HERE](#) with important information and dates.

We are looking forward to working with you to support your children in their academic, social and emotional growth. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Patty Flynn Elliot
pelliot@lcmschools.org
Principal