

CHERRYWOOD SCHOOL

**2550 Greengate Drive
San Jose, CA 95132**

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Welcome to Cherrywood's Kindergarten Program!

It is a great day when your child enters kindergarten. With this step, he or she enters a bigger and broader world. The school now becomes a partner with you in the education of your youngster. Kindergarten is an important period in the life of any child. It should be a happy adventure in living, working, and learning with a group. Through our combined efforts, our goal is to make it a period of great educational, personal and social growth for each student. Here at Cherrywood we have English only classrooms and Mandarin dual immersion classrooms.

The Cherrywood kindergarten program is designed to meet the developmental needs of each child. Early school experiences should provide a child with opportunities to mature intellectually, linguistically, physically, socially, and emotionally at a rate of growth that is compatible with his or her unique abilities. Each year a child's individual differences are identified and a program is designed which develops the whole child, with emphasis on his or her unique strengths and needs. Each child's progress is assessed regularly and communicated to parents.

Some children arrive in kindergarten able to read while others come to school with varying degrees of reading readiness. It is our philosophy to take each child where they are developmentally in the process of learning to read and to provide an enriched, guided reading program which challenges each child to progress at her or his own rate and ability level. Social skills, as well as academics, are an important part of kindergarten. Your child will learn how to get along with others, how to share and work with others, and accept responsibility in a group.

Cherrywood School strongly believes that the education of children is a partnership between home and school. Parent involvement is crucial to the academic and social development of students. Parents are encouraged to serve as classroom or school wide volunteers, attend evening meetings and programs, and join one of the parent committees such as our Cherrywood Home & School Club, (HSC), School Site Council (SSC), English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC) and Mandarin Immersion Parent Advisory Committee, (MIPAC). There are many different opportunities for involvement. Cherrywood School wants every child to have a successful educational experience. This goal becomes a reality for a child when parents and the school staff work together.

KINDERGARTEN ASSESSMENT DAY

Please bring your child to the kindergarten playground (at the front of school) for a skills assessment on Tuesday, August 7th, 8:00-4:45 P.M. If you have not already scheduled your child's appointment time, please contact the school Office **immediately**. When the teacher is ready, she will come to the playground and call your student in for the assessment. This assessment session will be 15-20 minutes and will provide valuable instructional information to your child's teacher. Our goal is that all of our kindergartners will be assessed before school starts.

ORIENTATION

On **Wednesday, August 15th**, there will be a Kindergarten Orientation Night for all kindergarten parents and students from **6:00-7:00 P.M.** Our kindergarten teachers will go over vital information regarding important procedures and responsibilities for the year.

Please bring your new kindergartener with you and make babysitting arrangements for other children. Both parents should plan to attend. Class assignments for kindergarten will be posted outside the Office doors at 5:45 p.m. on **August 15th**.

SCHEDULE

This year, our kindergarten program is adopting a full day schedule. The school day is 300 minutes long which includes a morning snack recess and lunch time. Students are encouraged to bring small, nutritious, nonperishable snacks (crackers, string cheese, fruit, vegetable, etc.) daily. Send items that your student can easily open by themselves. Please do not send items that would require refrigeration or heating. Students will need to bring a “home” lunch from home or buy a “school” lunch from the cafeteria. Kindergarten students start at 8:15 A.M. and end at 1:00 P.M Monday – Friday for the first 4 weeks of school. The kindergarten schedule will then shift to 8:30 A.M. – 2:15 P.M. for the rest of the year except on Thursdays which will continue to be 8:15 A.M to 1:00 P.M.

To help prepare your child for the start of school, we ask that you prepare your child to be separated from you on the first day, **August 20th**. Talk to your child about the school schedule so that she or he knows you will be leaving when you drop your child off at the Kindergarten playground. It can be helpful to bring your child to the school during evenings or weekends before school starts to become familiar with the school grounds and the kindergarten playground.

DAY CARE PROGRAM

Cherrywood is fortunate to have two day care programs, the San Juan Bautista Day Care (SJBDC) and the Berryessa Parks & Recreation ROCK after school program on our campus. The SJBDC Day Care is available for students before and after school; the program opens at 6 a.m. and closes at 6 p.m. Contact the Day Care program at (408) 414-2700 or (408) 259-9739. The ROCK program provides after school care until 6:00 P.M. Please contact them at (408) 251-6392. Both programs can give you more information about fees, registration and programming when you call them.

If you have any other questions, please call the Office at (408) 923-1915 between 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. We look forward to beginning your child’s educational journey with you and wish you and your child a very successful Kindergarten year.

Sincerely,

Tina Tong Choy, Principal