



Hello,

My name is Chance Whiteman, and I am the principal of the Sunnyslope School Eagles. I am excited to welcome back students and eager to meet all the new members in our school community! At Sunnyslope, we are a Kids at Hope school. Our philosophy on education states that all children are capable of success, *No Exceptions!* It is our school goal that as a community we focus on our vision of creating lifelong learners and building a successful future for all. With your help, we will assure that the children of Sunnyslope continue in **Soaring Higher Than the Rest!**

Chance Whiteman
Principal
#hopeintheslope

General School Information

School Address: 245 E. Mountain View Road
School Web Site: sunnyslope.wesdschools.org
Important Telephone Numbers:
Office – 602-347-4300
Health Office – 602-347-4310
Attendance – 602-347-4311
School Hours:
8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.
Dismissal 1:45 p.m. on Early Release Wednesdays
Students may not come on campus until 8:00 a.m. when there is adult supervision.

Office Hours:
7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Wednesdays 7:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Sunnyslope School Vision Statement

Sunnyslope children, families and staff are dedicated to creating lifelong learners and building a successful future for all. We believe all children are capable of success, **No EXCEPTIONS!**

Philosophy

- Sunnyslope School is dedicated to providing children a learning environment that meets their intellectual, physical, social, emotional, linguistic and artistic needs.

- We believe that children thrive in a pleasant, orderly and safe environment where they are guided to become self-disciplined in work and play.
- We believe that children must be taught to communicate their ideas and feelings effectively in many different situations.
- We believe that the expression of ideas through music, art and drama cultivates an appreciation for beauty. Each child's special talents are developed through participation in creative self-expression.
- We believe that children must be taught to respect the dignity and worth of each individual by developing a cooperative attitude toward learning, living, and working with each other.

Overview of Classroom Environment

Kindergarten through eighth grade students are placed in a variety of classroom setting designed specifically for their developmental, academic and linguistic needs. The curriculum includes mathematics, reading, writing, science, social studies as well as art, music and physical education.

Our school uses a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) to make sure all students have what they need to learn and grow. MTSS helps us support students in their academics as well as their social-emotional well-being. All students receive strong, school-wide support, but some may benefit from more targeted help. This might include additional instruction, small group time to practice skills, or more individualized plans. Teachers and staff regularly check how students are doing and adjust supports as needed. Our goal is to work as a team with families to help all students do their best by using data to provide the right kind of support for both academic success and social-emotional growth.

Visitors

Parents, families and community members are encouraged to visit the school and take an active role in the education of all children. To protect the safety of everyone, all visitors must report to the office to pick up a visitor's badge before entering the campus or classroom. In addition, a visitor must sign in before school, as well, to accompany a child to the playground or classroom. Visitors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult during the entire visit. In order to limit class disruption/distraction, arrangements to observe a classroom must be made by contacting the teacher to set up a convenient time.

School Attendance/Reporting Absences

Consistent attendance is important in helping a child have a good attitude about school and for a child to be successful in school. Being on time for school is also important for students to start the day as part of their classroom community. School starts at 8:15 a.m. If a child misses more than 10% of the school year, they are chronically absent. This is 19 days a year. Please make sure your child is at school every day, unless they are very sick (fever, vomiting, contagious, etc.).

Unnecessary absences and tardiness are upsetting for students and teachers. Both conditions disrupt classroom schedules and require readjustment to the class routine.

Children should be in class each day unless they are sick. It is very important that a parent notifies the attendance clerk that a child will be absent **(602-347-4311)**. If the office does not receive a call, the absence is unexcused and therefore considered truant. Calls from students are not acceptable. Please refer to the District portion of this handbook for more specific information on reporting your child's absence.

Current telephone numbers are also needed in order to contact parents regarding student absences, illnesses or emergencies. The school attendance clerk will follow up with any parent who cannot be contacted. It is for the safety of the child that current, working telephone numbers are available.

Attendance/Truancy

In order to assure students are successful and meet current state legislation, which requires all students to attend 90% of the school year, WESD has an Attendance Unit (AU). The AU will work in conjunction with the City Justice Courts to identify students who are chronically absent or are truant.

When a student reaches five total absences (excused, unexcused and/or unverified), families will receive an attendance notification letter. When a student reaches 10 **unverified, unexcused, or excused absences**, families will receive an attendance warning letter and a referral to the AU for appropriate actions (see District guidelines). In order to avoid this, there are several precautions to take: (1) reinforce being on time and good attendance, (2) call the school each time a student will be late or absent, (3) present any medical documentation to the health technician and/or attendance clerk if illness will be a consistent, foreseeable issue.

An attendance letter will be sent by the school to the families of students who are approaching or pass the midway point for unexcused absences, excused absences and tardies. Parent cooperation is of the utmost importance in assuring student success.

Contact the school if the child will be out of school for a long period of time. If the office does not receive information from a parent regarding a child's absence **within 10 days**, the child will be withdrawn from Sunnyslope School.

Tardiness

Students arriving at school after the second bell must report to the school office to pick up a late pass.

Tardiness causes missed instruction and classroom disruption. Excessive tardiness will lead to a school consequence. The only exception to this consequence is a note from a doctor or dentist. Parents of habitually tardy students will be contacted by the teacher, principal or District official.

Parents of students who are continually tardy will receive a letter citing the frequency of tardies. If the problem persists, parents will be called to meet with the principal to arrange time for the student to make up the missed classroom time. For safety reasons, students cannot be checked out of school during the last 15 minutes of the instructional day. This would be 3:00 p.m. on regular dismissal days and 1:30 p.m. on early-release days.

Breakfast and Lunch Information

Breakfast is served each morning for all students. Children may choose to eat breakfast or not. However, children need to be on time to eat breakfast with their classroom friends.

Sunnyslope School strictly enforces the closed campus concept. All students are expected to eat lunch at school, either the school lunch or a lunch brought from home. At the beginning of the school year all students receive a yearly menu calendar. This calendar describes the meals available each day.

Parents are welcome to join their child at lunch during the school year. Parents must sign in at the office and obtain a visitor's badge to visit or have lunch with their child. Parents need to pay for their lunch. Parents may not take food from the cafeteria.

Students are encouraged to enjoy lunchtime in a reasonable, quiet, pleasant atmosphere and be responsible for leaving the cafeteria clean and orderly for the next class of students by neatly disposing of their trash.

Students are supervised in the cafeteria and during lunch recess and are expected to follow school rules.

All lunches are planned by the District nutritionist in the kitchen under the supervision of the cafeteria manager and are prepared with utmost concern for sanitation, nutrition and flavor.

No food is to leave the campus. Water is the best drink to bring to school. Beverages other than water are not permitted at school. No chips (other than in a student lunch), candy or gum is allowed in school.

School Library Information

Students are encouraged to read for entertainment and for information. The Sunnyslope Library is a great resource where students/families have access to a large selection of books as well as online sources of information through Destiny software program.

Students in grades two through eight can check out two books at a time. Head Start, kindergarten and first grade students may check out one book. The books are checked out for 12 school days. They may be renewed once. If a book is overdue, lost or damaged, the student will not be allowed to check out any more books until the overdue book is returned or renewed. It is the student's responsibility to return books in good condition.

Student Expectations

School ID Policy

For safety purposes **all** Sunnyslope students are required to wear IDs while on the Sunnyslope campus and on buses. These IDs must be on a breakaway lanyard around their necks or on a clip and visible. Students will be provided a picture ID at the beginning of the school year at no cost. Students will be checked for compliance at the beginning of the day and throughout the school day. If a student does not comply by wearing his or her ID, the student will receive a consequence according to school procedures. Students will not be allowed on the bus if an ID is not used. If students deface, destroy or lose their ID, they will be required to purchase a replacement ID. Constantly missing an ID, not returning a temporary ID, or other ID violations could result in school discipline. The front office can provide students with a temporary ID to ride the bus. **However,**

after a third temporary ID, the student will not be allowed to ride the bus and must be picked up from school.

Student Dress

Please see the District portion of the handbook for Dress Code information.

Student Discipline/Behavior/Citizenship

In order to provide the most effective and safe learning environment and safe conditions for every student, it is essential that a school maintain positive standards of behavior.

Sunnyslope School is a PBIS school. PBIS stands for **Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports**. Our one school rule at Sunnyslope is Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful. The school staff and administration determine and consistently expect appropriate behavior that will encourage the educational and social development of each child.

Common area expectations are posted all over campus. Information concerning appropriate student behavior for the playground, classroom, cafeteria, field trips, bus and auditorium activities will be explained. If a child chooses to conduct himself or herself inappropriately in any of these situations, consequences for the unacceptable behavior will be outlined. These guidelines are necessary to maintain an orderly and productive learning environment. Parent cooperation in discussing and supporting these guidelines with each child is important and greatly appreciated.

The school, classroom, cafeteria, playground and bus expectations are enforced by the Sunnyslope staff including administration, teachers and support staff. It is the intention of all that enforcement of school expectations are consistent so that students have the consistent message that **school is a safe place for all students**.

Positive reinforcements for students are provided in multiple ways, both intrinsically and extrinsically.

Students who choose not to follow school expectations receive the appropriate consequences. Discipline referrals to the office will be documented on a Discipline Referral Form **and parents will receive notification**. Disciplinary action may include:

- Loss of privileges;
- Temporary removal from group or class and placement in another classroom or Student Center.
- Telephone call to parents;
- School/community service;
- Referral to school leaders
- Parent conference;
- In-school suspension;
- At-home suspension in extremely serious situations and/or other disciplinary actions determined by administration and teachers.

Students shall be provided due process of law in all disciplinary procedures.

Expectations of Students

1. Students are expected to choose positive alternatives (discussion, teacher assistance, and avoidance) when dealing with:

- conflict with peers;
- conflict with adults;
- out-of-control personal emotions; or
- urge to escape problem by leaving campus.

2. Students are expected to contribute to a safe and attractive school environment by respecting school property and using it responsibly. They will refrain from deliberate intent to destroy property.
3. Students are expected to demonstrate respect for privacy and the private property of other students and staff.
4. Students are expected to treat others with respect. Bullying (such as verbal, physical, written, social networking, etc.) will not be tolerated.
5. Students are expected to allow self and others to learn and complete assignments without unnecessary disruptions or distractions.
6. Students are expected to contribute to a safe school environment by not bringing objects or possessing objects of danger to self and others (such as knives, firecrackers, sharp objects, lighters, matches, poppers etc.) and by not having or using tobacco, vape pens, alcohol or illegal drugs.
7. Students are expected to use available peer and adult school resources to solve problems instead of fighting, threatening, insulting or verbally abusing other students and/or staff.

NOTE: Classroom teachers and students will develop details of expectations relative to their particular grade level abilities and needs.

Articles Prohibited at School

Toys, collectible cards, hand-held video games, cameras, tablets, computer games, and other electronic devices are **NOT** to be brought to school by students. If, for some reason, a teacher gives permission for these items to be brought, the items must be kept in the student's classroom. If a child shows or uses these items outside of teacher supervision, the item will be confiscated and kept in the office until a parent picks up the item. The school is not responsible for any lost/stolen items that are brought from home.

Cell phones at school are not allowed when they become a disruption to the learning environment. Cell phones should not be used at school, at any time, other than for instructional purposes with teacher permission. If a student violates this expectation by using his or her cell phone, he or she will receive a school consequence and a parent will have to come retrieve the phone. Other items not permitted at school are weapons, knives, simulated weapons, stink bombs or any other unsafe or disturbing items.

Balloons and flowers for celebrations are kept in the office until the end of the day and only store-bought food items are allowed for celebrations. Please communicate with your child's teacher if you would like to send any food items to school.

Arrival and Dismissal

Children Who Arrive by Car

Parents who are dropping off students are encouraged to watch their children until they are out of traffic areas. If parents need to

leave their cars, for any reason, the car must be parked in a parking space, car motors must be turned off and children must be out of the car. Accidents can happen if motors are left running with young children sitting in the unattended cars.

Parents who are picking up or dropping off their children at school are to pull into the loading area to the west of the school, **entering on Vogel and exiting on Mountain View**. Dropping students off in the bus bay is prohibited. Parking in other areas, such as neighborhood streets, is not safe for students. It is the parent's responsibility to follow the directions of any supervisor on duty at dismissal. The main gate will be closed 30 minutes prior to dismissal and no parents/guardians picking up students will be allowed to enter the parking lot.

Children Who Walk

It is important that students go directly home before they go to a friend's house or return to school for a school event. Students who walk to and from school must stay on designated paths and crosswalks. Parents are to discuss with and plan the safest route their children should walk to and from school. Parents and children are to cross streets with the crossing guards in the crosswalks using the North gate only.

Assistance by Crossing Guards

Students are to be SAFE, RESPONSINBLE, and RESPECTFUL at all times. A child who acts in a careless or potentially dangerous manner is reported to the principal who will notify the parents and take appropriate action.

Children Who Ride the Bus

Riding the bus is a privilege, not a right. Students assigned to a bus must ride that bus unless a parent makes a request to the school and it is approved by the school and Transportation. Students are to follow all rules and policies relating to appropriate behavior on the bus. It is important that students ride the correct bus and get on/off at the correct bus stop. In addition, students should go directly home before they go to a friend's house or return to school for a school event. Only students who live in designated busing areas are to ride the bus. Students who are on open enrollment (live outside of the Sunnyslope attendance area) may not walk to a bus stop nor ride a bus. Discipline actions will be taken for students who choose not to follow bus rules. All students have the right to be safe while waiting for the bus, riding the bus, and leaving the bus.

Children Who Ride Bicycles

Riding bicycles to school is a privilege. Bicycles are brought to school at the owner's risk. All bicycles must be securely locked in the bike rack. Students riding bicycles must follow bicycle safety rules. Students must walk their bikes while on school grounds.

Scooters, Skates, Skateboards

In order for students to be safe, scooters, skates, skate shoes (Heelys), and skateboards are not to be used as transportation to and from school. These items are not to be brought to school.

8th Grade Promotion Guidelines

Students must achieve a 1.0 or D average in each academic class to qualify for the 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony. If a student earns an "F" in the last quarter, this will influence the privilege(s) of attending the promotion activities. If a student is suspended at the time of the 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony, he or she will not earn the right to participate. Students who have received multiple disciplinary actions for significant behavior resulting in suspension(s) will be in jeopardy of not participating in the promotion activities.

