



Catskill Elementary School

Student/Parent Handbook

2025-2026

Principal: Stacey Connor

Asst. Principal: Daniel DiSotto

CES Main Office: 518-943-0574, Ext. 3306/3309

www.catskillcsd.org/catskill-elementary-school



The Mission of the Catskill Central School District is to provide all children with the opportunity to fully develop their academic and creative potential and to assist them in becoming mature, humane, responsible and productive members of society.



Catskill Central School District

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Catskill Elementary School Student/Family Handbook

2025-26 School Year

About CES

Nestled in the Hudson River Valley, Catskill Elementary School is located on beautiful wooded grounds in the historic village of Catskill. Built in 2002, the school unified two local elementary schools and enabled all children in the district to attend the same school. The building boasts technology-integrated classrooms, a set of updated computer labs and a gorgeous second-floor library.

CES proudly serves approximately 550 children from pre-Kindergarten to Grade 5—nearly half the students in the Catskill Central School District. Additional Questar classes are housed at CES, allowing preschool-aged children a seamless transition to elementary education.

CATS CAN & CATS WILL!

In the past year more than ever, our dedicated faculty, support staff and administrators have gone above and beyond to demonstrate that our school is much more than a building. Catskill Central School District's motto, "CATS CAN & CATS WILL", embodies our positive focus, celebrating students' ability to learn and grow.

At CES, students come first. Children are supported by a dedicated team of educators, speech and language pathologists, and social workers. Teachers utilize a wide variety of well-researched strategies to ensure that they connect with every child. Individualized instruction and integration provide each and every student the opportunity to succeed.

CES offers extracurricular activities that represent a wide spectrum of student interests, engaging young scientists, gardeners, musicians, athletes, actors, engineers, and community builders.

Family and Community Engagement

Strong connection with families is a cornerstone of our school's success. Teachers consistently communicate with students' families. CES families receive weekly and monthly calendars via email and text. Principal Stacey Connor and Assistant Principal Daniel DiSotto are readily available to families for conferences by phone or in person.

Our PTA is a vibrant organization whose volunteers organize events and programs throughout the year. The Welcome Back Barbeque, a CES tradition, welcomes students and their families with free picnic food and entertainment each September. A fun and friendly Halloween event provides every child in the district a safe and welcoming space to trick-or-treat and Bingo for Books is a community favorite year after year! To volunteer with the PTA, please contact our Main Office at 518-943-0574.

CATS CAN & CATS WILL!

Welcome to the 2025-2026 School Year!
WE ARE EXCITED TO HAVE YOU WITH US!



Basic Information For Students & Families

The first day of instruction for Catskill CSD students is scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2025.

The District plans for all students to attend school five days a week. A full school day for Pre-K-5 students at Catskill Elementary School runs from 9:05 am to 3:35 pm. Most half-days will run from 9:05 am to 11:30 am. If CCSD is operating under a two-hour delay due to weather conditions, the CES school day will run from 11:05 am to 3:35 pm.

All Catskill CSD students may access **free breakfast and lunch** every day. There are no forms to fill out for this service, which is through a grant from the federal government.

For more information, please see the CES Student/Family Reference Guide, which begins on page 5.

Arrival Procedures

Bus Transportation

1. Upon arrival at school, students will disembark when directed by school personnel.
2. **Free breakfast will be served in the cafeteria.**

Student Drop-Off

1. Student drop-off will begin at 8:45 am on regular school days. All families dropping off students before 9:00 am must use the student drop-off/pick-up loop off Scenic Drive.
2. **Free breakfast will be served in the cafeteria.**

Late Arrivals

Students dropped off after 9:05 am should be brought to the CES main entrance. They must be signed in by a responsible adult and provide a note to excuse their tardiness.

Dismissal Procedures

1. **Students being picked up** will wait in the cafeteria while their families pull into the student drop-off/pick-up loop off Scenic Drive. **DO NOT EXIT YOUR VEHICLE.** We will begin student pick-up at **3:35 pm**, **please do not arrive before 3:15 pm.**

If you have not already downloaded the **PikMyKid App**, please do so at this time. It will help us keep your child safer during dismissal times. Place the **PikMyKid Car Tag** in your front window or memorize the tag number.

ALL students being picked up after 3:00 PM- MUST BE picked up via the new loop off Scenic Drive. No exceptions will be made to this rule. (See *New Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures*, page 10.)

2. If you need to make a change from bus transportation to parent pick up please utilize the PikMyKid app. Parents or guardians will need to download the free PikMyKid app. The system assigns each child a unique identification code. To learn more about PikMyKid, please visit our resource page.

Social and Emotional Support: A Note from the Counseling Center

Dear CES Families,

As we get ready to begin another school year, we understand that many of our students may be experiencing feelings of anxiety, fear, and isolation to name a few. Some may be able to express their feelings verbally while others may show signs of excessive stress in other ways, making it more difficult to recognize and address. Some of the signs of a heightened stress level may include:

- An increase in stomach aches, headaches, or other physical complaints
- Excessive worry or anxiety
- Changes in weight or appetite (eating more or less than usual)
- Feeling unhappy, sad, tearful often; talk of death or self-harm
- Increased anger, irritability, or inability to calm
- Changes in energy levels or sleep patterns (trouble sleeping or sleeping much more than usual)
- Withdrawing from others and/or shutting down
- Loss of interest in preferred hobbies/activities

Please know that our counselors are available to all students and parents during school hours. If you have a question/concern or would like to speak to someone regarding your child's social/emotional needs, please reach out to our counseling team for support. If your child needs extra academic support, please reach out to their teacher. We will all work together to support your child during this time of need.

If you would like to reach out to a mental health professional outside of school, here are a few local resources you may contact:

Greene County Office of Mental Health	518-622-9163
Mobile Crisis Assessment Team	518-943-5555
NYS Office of Mental Health: COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline	1-888-863-9314

We will get through this together while supporting our community and one another.

Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Your CES counseling staff (CEScounselors@catskillcsd.org)

Ela Kessel Alex Klepeis Robert Becker Amanda Forste-Hogan Kimberly Sternbach

Ela Kessel
Social Worker

Alex Klepeis
Social Worker

Robert Becker
School Counselor

Amanda Forste-Hogan
Clinical Coordinator SW

Kimberly Sternbach
School Psychologist

CES Student/Family Reference Guide

Attendance and Student Absences

The CES Main Office sends an automated message by phone, text, and email when a student is absent. If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent from school, you may notify the Main Office at 518-943-0574 ext. 3337. Students with chronic attendance issues will be monitored on a regular basis, and further action may be taken. (See *CCSD Attendance Policy*, page 11.)

ParentSquare

ParentSquare is a District-wide system that can be used to disseminate different types of announcements via phone, text message, and email. CES will be using ParentSquare for many types of contact, including:

- Student absences
- Emergency situations
- Important announcements
- Special events
- School closures, delays, or early dismissals

Please check to make sure that the information in our system is accurate, and notify us immediately if your contact information changes.

Counseling Suite

Mrs. Kessel and Mrs. Klepeis, the school social workers, and Mr. Becker, the school counselor, are available in the Counseling Suite, located at Room 188 in the downstairs Green Wing. Counseling services are available to all students to address academic, social, and emotional issues. Teachers should call the Counseling Suite or email a counselor first, to ensure that someone is available. For immediate safety concerns (abuse, self-harm statements, unsafe behavior, etc.) please contact the Main Office for a counseling team member.

Individual counseling services may be provided by a member of the counseling suite when this service is needed to support a student. Referrals to other services, such as Mobile Crisis, Greene County Mental Health, and Twin County, are also available to families. (See *Social and Emotional Support: A Note from the Counseling Center*, page 4.)

Dignity for All Students

CES is committed to building and maintaining a school climate of mutual respect and dignity for all students. All types of bullying behavior are violations of the [CCSD Code of Conduct](#). Students who experience or witness bullying behavior are urged to report the incident to their teacher, the Main Office, the Counseling Suite, or any school staff. All reports of such behavior will be investigated by the Principals, handled with sensitivity, and responded to appropriately.

The Dignity for All Students Act protects CES students from bullying and harassment arising from actual or perceived race, color, sex, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression. The DASA coordinators on the CES campus are Mrs. Connor and Mr. DiSotto

Dress Code

Catskill Elementary School follows the dress code set forth in the CCSD Code of Conduct. ([CCSD Code of Conduct](#)) CES students should not wear clothing that is inappropriately revealing, clothes that are not appropriate and safe for school activities, or items of clothing that present messaging contradicting the values in the CCSD Code of Conduct. CES students should not wear hats in school except for medical or religious head-coverings. In addition, CES students should not wear high heels or slip-on footwear such as open-toed sandals or flip-flops, as they pose a danger to the safety of the student.

Students who come to school in violation of the [CCSD Code of Conduct](#) will be asked to change, or to call home and ask for different clothing or shoes. Students may be asked to wait in the Main Office or Health Office until replacement apparel arrives. Repeated violations of these rules may result in disciplinary action.

Electronic Devices

Please refer to policy 5695 "STUDENTS AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES."

Food Services

The CES cafeteria provides a complete, nutritious breakfast and lunch each day. You may choose to maintain a LINQ Connect account for your child to cover snacks, extra fruit or milk, ice cream treats, and other items not included in a standard breakfast or lunch. Your child's lunch PIN will be a 3-digit number (Pre-K to Grade 3) or 4-digit number (Grades 4-5) provided to you during the first week of school. Your child's PIN remains the same from year to year with the exception of Grade 4, when it becomes a 4-digit number.

If your child has a food allergy or religious/cultural food restriction, please let us know immediately so that accommodations can be made for them.

Breakfast is offered starting at 8:45 AM and may be eaten in the cafeteria until school begins at 9:05 AM. Late-arriving students may always ask for breakfast if necessary; no student should go hungry. **When CCSD operates on a two-hour delay, breakfast will not be served.**

Lunch is served during the middle three periods of the day, from 11:21 am to 1:27 pm. Each grade level has a scheduled time to eat lunch. Late-arriving students may ask for lunch if necessary as long as the kitchen is still open. (See *Lunch and Recess Periods*, page 8.)

Monthly menus can be found on the District website at www.catskill.org/district/food-services. If you have questions regarding Food Services, including LINQ Connect please contact Kelly Schenkman, School Food Director, at 518-769-9053.

Free Breakfast and Lunch

Federal funding via the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) continues to enable CCSD to offer **all enrolled students** (Pre-K–Grade 12) a **FREE, healthy breakfast and lunch**.

- There is no need to pay a fee or submit any paperwork. Your child will simply enter their lunch code.
- Your child may still bring breakfast and/or lunch from home if you prefer.
- You may maintain a LINQ Connect account for items beyond a standard breakfast or lunch (extra milk, snacks, ice cream, etc.) or to augment a packed lunch from home.

Health Offices

CES has two health offices, each staffed by a registered nurse, working in tandem. The first floor health office, which serves Pre-K to Grade 1, is staffed by Mrs. Meghan Jenkins (ext. 3189) and located in the main lobby at the beginning of the Green Wing. The second floor Health Office, serving Grades 2-5, is staffed by Mrs. Mary Jo Murphy (ext. 3233) and located in Room 233, at the beginning of the Red Wing off the central hub upstairs.

The Elementary School Health Offices are staffed daily on school days by at least one registered nurse from 8:15 am to 3:45 PM. School nurses prevent barriers to academic success by protecting and promoting student health and by providing health education to CES families. They are the bridge between health care and education. The school nurse may administer first aid, assess students with symptoms of illness, infection or injury. They also collaborate with families and community health care agencies to support each student's health and success.

Routine Screenings

The following school-wide screenings are done by the school nurse:

- ★ New students to the district including all Pre-K or kindergarteners receive hearing screenings within six months of admission to school.
- ★ Students in grades 1,3 & 5, as well as at any other time deemed necessary, also receive hearing screenings.
- ★ New students to the district including all Pre-K or kindergarteners receive vision screenings, including at a minimum: color perception, distance acuity, near vision and hyperopia within six months of admission to the school.
- ★ All students in grades 1,3 & 5, as well as at any other time deemed necessary, receive far & near vision screenings.
- ★ Girls in grade 5 receive scoliosis screening.

Immunizations and Health Records

The school nurse maintains a health record of each student in order to assure that the student's medical needs are being met. Immunizations are part of that record and must indicate that the student has met all NYS guidelines for attending school. Nurses also keep a record of student physicals, allergies, and any significant illnesses.

Medications

Please be reminded that every effort should be made to administer medication at home. If your child's health care provider feels it necessary for your child to receive prescription or over-the-counter medication in school, it is required by New York State law that the following be provided to the school nurse:

1. A written authorization from the student's prescribing health care provider
 2. A written request from the student's parent or legal guardian giving permission for the child to take the medication in school
 3. The medication in question, in its original bottle with the pharmacy label attached, to be brought to school by an adult and stored in the health office at all times.
- **Illness or Injury at School**
All students who are ill or injured during school hours must notify school staff to visit the school nurse. In most cases, an adult staff member will call the appropriate Health Office first to ensure that a nurse is available. In the extremely unlikely event that both nurses' offices are unavailable to students at that moment, the child will be brought to the Main Office for further assistance.

Disease Notification

- We appreciate your assistance in controlling the spread of communicable disease in school. We recommend keeping your child home during the time they are experiencing acute symptoms of a cold or other illness (such as sneezing, coughing, fever). This protects other children and staff from exposure, aids in faster recovery, and protects against complications. Please remember the **ALL IMPORTANT** 24 hour rule! Keep your child home if they have vomited/had diarrhea within the last 24 hours, and they should be fever free (below 100 WITHOUT fever reducers) for 24 hours before returning to school. Your child needs to be on antibiotics for 24 hours prior to returning to school if they have been diagnosed with strep throat or conjunctivitis (pink eye). We ask that you notify the school if your child has been diagnosed with a strep infection, Chicken pox, conjunctivitis (pink eye), Fifth's disease, or head lice. Other diseases, which are uncommon, should also be reported to the school. These include measles, mumps, rubella, meningitis, hepatitis, pinworms, and scabies. When notified, the school nurse will send home a confidential notice informing parents of the health issue in your child's classroom.

Lockers

CES provides lockers for use in Grades 3–5. They are located in the same hallway as the grade level's homerooms (Grade 3: Upstairs Red Wing / Grade 4: Upstairs Green Wing / Grade 5: Upstairs Blue Wing). Locker combinations will be provided to students in Grades 4-5 at the beginning of the school year. If a student forgets their locker combination, they may ask for it at the Main Office.

Lost and Found

Students who find a lost item are asked to (A) bring it to the Main Office, where the owner of the item may claim it, or (B) report it to a lunch/recess monitor for placement in the Lost & Found area beside the far cafeteria doors. Students who lose an item should check the Lost & Found area in the cafeteria, look on the stage (where coats and lunches are often left) and ask in the Main Office. No student should go looking for a lost item without first getting permission from a school staff member.

****At various times throughout the year families will be notified to check the lost and found. Unclaimed items will be donated to local organizations.***

Lunch and Recess Periods

Lunch and recess together make up a 42-minute period. Students in one grade level eat lunch for half of the period and spend the other half at recess, while another grade level has recess first and then eats lunch. All students in the same grade level go to lunch and recess at the same time. (See *Food Services and Free Breakfast and Lunch*, page 6.)

Safety Drills

New York State schools must continue to conduct mandatory fire and lockdown drills according to the existing statutory schedule. State law requires that every school conduct twelve (12) safety drills during the school year, with four (4) being lockdown drills and the remaining eight (8) being fire drills. It is every student's responsibility to take these drills seriously and obey instructions quickly and completely. All students will receive instruction in emergency procedures and participate in drills while they are in attendance at Catskill Elementary School.

Students will be shown by their classroom or specials' teachers where they should exit and what procedures are to be followed. Absolute quiet must be maintained; no talking is allowed during these drills, so that all directions can be heard and understood.

If a student misbehaves during a safety drill, discipline ranging from a warning to suspension may be administered depending on the student's discipline history and the degree of the infraction.

Snow Days and Emergency Closings

If the District is closed due to weather or special circumstances, or if the District closes early for similar reasons, all scheduled student activities, including field trips, extracurricular clubs, and special events, are canceled for the day. CES families are strongly advised to have a pre-existing family plan on record at CES for where each student should go in the event of an unforeseen school closing or rapid dismissal.

Notification of an early dismissal will be made from the Superintendent's Office through call, email and text via ParentSquare (see *ParentSquare*, page 5) and will be posted on the District website. Emergency closings or delays will be broadcast on local radio and television stations as well as via the ParentSquare notification system.

Special Area Classes

Specials at CES include Library, Art, and Music. Each grade level goes to Special during the same period, and each homeroom attends a different Special every day. Your child's teacher will provide you with a schedule for their class's Specials at the beginning of the school year.

Physical Education

Physical Education classes will be 3 times per week for 42 minutes. Please make sure your child wears well-fitting sneakers on PE days.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

There are four days each year scheduled into the calendar for conferences between teachers and CES families. These days are half-days for students, with dismissal at 11:30 am. Conferences may be held in the afternoon or evening in person, by phone, or virtually on Zoom or Google Meet.

A CES family may also request a conference at any time to review a student's needs, academics, attendance or behaviors with the student's teachers. These conferences may also be attended by a Special Education teacher, School Social Worker, or the Principal/Asst. Principal. CES families and teachers may request the addition of the persons listed above.

Valuables

Students are strongly encouraged to leave valuables (such as money, electronic devices, jewelry, or glasses not needed for school) at home unless absolutely necessary. Students should not bring something valuable to school without permission from a responsible adult at home. CES is not responsible for valuables lost or stolen at school, on the bus, or during school events.

If students bring their valuables to school, they are responsible for their whereabouts and care. A student whose valuables are missing or in the possession of another student should report this information to their teacher immediately. They may be asked to report this information to the Main Office at that time. A student who finds a valuable object should bring it to the Main Office with permission from a school staff member. (See *Lost & Found*, page 6.)

Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures



****PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS OUR STUDENT PICK UP/DROP OFF LOOP, WHICH IS ACCESSED VIA SCENIC DR.****

****PLEASE BE SURE TO BRING VALID IDENTIFICATION WITH YOU WHEN YOU ARE PICKING UP A CHILD OR ENTERING THE BUILDING FOR ANY REASON****

AM Drop-Off	PM Pick-Up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ALL AM Drop-Offs (Prior to 9:00 am) MUST use the Scenic Drive car loop. ● Students may enter the building BEGINNING at 8:45 am. ● When dropped off, students will enter the Red Wing at the "X". ● Please promptly exit the loop onto Embought Rd. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ALL PM Pick-Ups (After 3:00 pm) MUST use the Scenic Drive car loop. ● Cars will form a line and wait in the car loop for school staff to approach the car with a sign-out sheet. ● Please remain in your vehicle. Students will begin to be DISMISSED at 3:35 pm and will come to your vehicle.

Drop-Offs AFTER 9:05 am MUST use the MAIN ENTRANCE at the front of the building.

- * Students must be signed in and accompanied by an adult
- * Students must provide a note to justify their tardy

Pick-Ups BEFORE 3:00 pm (Routine appointments/early dismissal), use the front of the building.

- * A VALID ID is REQUIRED to pick up any student.
- * To pick up a student early, you must send a note call the Main Office BEFORE 11:00 am

Catskill Central School District Attendance Policy

School attendance is both a right and a responsibility. The Catskill Central School District is an active partner with students and parents in the task of ensuring that all students meet or exceed the New York State Learning Standards. Because the district recognizes that consistent school attendance, academic success and school completion have a positive correlation, the district has developed a Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy to meet the following objectives:

- a) To increase school completion for all students;
- b) To raise student achievement and close gaps in student performance;
- c) To identify attendance patterns in order to design attendance improvement efforts;
- d) To know the whereabouts of every student, whether in person or remote for safety and other reasons;
- e) To verify that individual students are complying with education laws relating to compulsory attendance;
- f) To determine the District's average daily attendance for NYS aid purposes

The Catskill Central School District maintains an attendance and absence data system. Interventions have been instituted to support students and families. The attendance policy includes incremental notifications of unexcused absences. The District recognizes that there is a strong correlation between a student's class attendance, their academic success, and their opportunity for post high-school success.

The Catskill Central School District will use a checklist of school level interventions to address students with attendance concerns aligned to the guidelines below. Whenever a student exhibits a pattern of unexcused absences, tardiness, or early departure, notice will be given to the parents in writing and/or by telephone, email, and text communication in an effort to remediate the underlying problem.

- a) After five (5) absences, a letter will be sent home.
- b) After ten (10) absences, a letter will be sent home and a school representative will call the student's family. A parent conference may be requested.
- c) After twenty (20) absences, a referral may be made to outside agencies such as CPS, SPOA, Greene County Mental Health, Pre-PINS, and the District Attorney's office. A parent conference may be requested.

Behavior: School-Wide Expectations

Each CES teacher has a set of classroom rules designed to ensure the best possible learning environment for their students. These classroom rules and routines will be shared with parents and families at the beginning of the school year. CES families should be aware of these expectations and expect to become involved if a pattern of inappropriate behavior develops.

In addition to specific classroom procedures, the following school-wide behavior expectations will be taught and reinforced throughout the year. Please take time to review these three core expectations with your child:

- **PBIS School-Wide Expectations**
- **Procedures for Active Listening**
- **Cafeteria and Playground Expectations**

During the first weeks of school, a grade-level assembly will review school expectations, consequences, and rewards. Character education will occur throughout the school year, with a different focus each month. (See *Character Education*, page 15-17.) Positive behavior is highlighted in a variety of ways in the classroom, at Specials, and throughout the school day.

“The Three Paws”: PBIS School-Wide Expectations

Be Respectful.

- ★ Be kind and polite.
- ★ Respect people and property.

Be Responsible.

- ★ Walk quietly in the halls.
- ★ Respect and follow school rules.

Be Safe.

- ★ Keep hands, feet, objects to yourself.
- ★ Follow directions at all times.



School-Wide Procedures For Active Listening

Below are several procedures to capture attention and encourage active listening that will be familiar to students at Catskill Elementary School. They are taught and reinforced during the first few weeks of school.

CES families are welcome and encouraged to use these techniques at home as well, if they choose.

Whole Body Listening (Fabulous Five)

A staff member will call for “whole body listening” and put up 5 fingers one at a time. Each finger stands for a different component:

- Feet still
- Hands still
- Lips not moving
- Ears listening
- Eyes watching

“Hey Team!” / “Hey Coach!”

Originating in PE, this call and response has become standard throughout CES. A staff member calls, “Hey Team!” Students immediately stop what they are doing and respond, “Hey Coach!” This signals that they are ready to give their full attention to the staff member or the program in progress. Many teachers use their own version of this phrase within their classrooms.

Cafeteria & Playground Expectations

Cafeteria Expectations

- Students should show respect for one another and for school staff at all times.
- Students will be called to the lunch line by table. Unless they are in the lunch line, students should stay in their seats (no wandering).
- During lunch, students should use indoor voices and be considerate. There will be absolutely no playing with or throwing food. Students should clean up their own area when they are finished eating.
- Students should stay seated until they are dismissed to recess or back to class. When dismissed, they should line up quietly and in an orderly manner.
- A student who needs help should ask a lunch monitor or other adult.
- Under no circumstances should a student leave the cafeteria (to use the restroom, visit the nurse’s office, etc.) without permission from a school staff member.

General Playground Expectations

- Students should be respectful, responsible, and safe at all times.
 - Play safely and appropriately in designated areas.
 - Show respect to classmates and staff members. Share with others.
 - Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself at all times.
 - No tag or chase games are allowed on the playground.
 - Please do not yell or scream near classroom windows.
 - **Recess monitors should be obeyed at all times.**
 - **Prohibited at recess:** cell phones, iPads, other electronics, trading cards.

Specific Equipment Expectations

- **Climbing Equipment**
 - Do not run on the equipment.
 - Do not sit or stand on the monkey bars.
 - Do not push another student on the hang glider or attempt to ride it with them.
 - Never poke, shove or push another student on or off ANY equipment.

- **Swings**
 - Sit correctly on swings. Do not lie on your belly on the swing seat.
 - Never stand on the swings.
 - Keep both hands on the chains for safety.
 - Do not twist your swing or attempt to swing sideways.
 - Do not jump off the swings.

- **Slides**
 - The only way you should ever climb onto a slide is to use the ladder.
 - Go down the slide one at a time, in a sitting position with your feet forward.
 - Give the person in front of you time to arrive at the bottom and stand before you slide down yourself.
 - Do not jump off the slide.
 - Never push another student down or off the slide.

Character Education

Each month, students will focus on learning a new character trait designed to strengthen their social and emotional well-being. These lessons will help students develop skills like empathy, responsibility, and resilience, which support positive relationships and personal growth. Families are encouraged to reinforce these traits at home to create a consistent environment for learning and practicing them.

MONTH	CHARACTER TRAIT
September	Respect & Responsibility
October	Cooperation & Friendship
November	Gratitude
December	Compassion & Empathy
January	Trustworthiness & Honesty
February	Kindness & Love
March	Integrity & Service to Others
April	Perseverance & Growth Mindset
May	Leadership & Mediation Skills
June	Positive Attitude & Goal Setting

CES Character Traits

September: Respect and Responsibility

Being **respectful** means treating others the way you want to be treated—listening when someone is speaking, using kind words, and taking care of our school and the things in it. Being **responsible** means making good choices, following the rules, and doing your best work, even when no one is watching.

October: Cooperation and Friendship

Being **cooperative** means working well with others—listening to ideas, sharing, and helping the team reach a goal together. Being a **good friend** means being kind, honest, and supportive, and standing by others through good times and bad.

November: Gratitude

Being **grateful** means noticing and appreciating the good things in your life and the people who help you. It's about saying "thank you," showing kindness in return, and not taking things for granted.

December: Compassion and Empathy

Having **compassion** means caring about others and wanting to help when they are hurt, sad, or in need. Having **empathy** means putting yourself in someone else's shoes and understanding how they feel.

January: Trustworthiness and Honesty

Being **trustworthy** means people can count on you to do what you say you will do and to make good choices. Being **honest** means telling the truth and being fair, even when it's hard.

February: Kindness and Love

Being **kind** means using your words and actions to make others feel cared for, valued, and included. Showing **love** means treating people with warmth, patience, and understanding, and celebrating what makes them special.

March: Integrity and Service to Others

Having **integrity** means doing the right thing, even when no one is watching, and staying true to your values. Showing **service to others** means helping and supporting people without expecting anything in return.

April: Perseverance and Growth Mindset

Having **perseverance** means never giving up, even when something is hard, and working through challenges until you reach your goal. Having a **growth mindset** means believing you can get better at anything through effort, practice, and learning from mistakes.

May: Leadership and Mediation Skills

Being a **leader** means setting a good example, guiding others, and helping your team work toward a common goal. Having **mediation skills** means helping people solve problems and disagreements in a fair and peaceful way.

June: Positive Attitude and Goal Setting

Having a **positive attitude** means choosing to see the good in situations, encouraging others, and not giving up when things get tough. **Goal setting** means deciding what you want to achieve and making a plan to get there, step by step.

When students show all of these character traits, they create a caring, safe, and happy school. These traits help everyone work together, solve problems, and support each other. When we practice them every day, our school becomes a place where everyone can learn, grow, and feel valued.

Rewards & PBIS Incentives

When students demonstrate these character traits, they have the opportunity to be recognized as the Star Student of the Month in their homeroom. This honor celebrates students who consistently show positive behavior, kindness, and responsibility. Families are encouraged to celebrate and support their child's efforts in practicing these traits.

PBIS Incentives

PBIS incentives encourage students to aspire to good behavior and to work together.

Cats Cash: On their own, students can earn Cats Cash for kindness, respect, and going above and beyond. Any classroom teacher, special area teacher, or staff member, including substitutes, can award Cats Cash to any student "caught doing good." Students save up their Cats Cash to trade in for a wide array of prizes, from toys to CES gear.

Golden Spoon Cafeteria Award

The Golden Spoon Award (yes, it's a huge spoon!) is a homeroom-inclusive incentive to encourage good behavior in the cafeteria. It is awarded monthly to the primary (K-2) and intermediate (3-5) classes that demonstrate the best behavior during breakfast and lunch. The classrooms will also receive a special certificate and will be added to the Golden Spoon bulletin board in the cafetorium. Each homeroom recognized in this manner gets to keep the spoon trophy for the whole month, until the next Golden Spoon award.

Monthly Star Student Awards

Star Student Awards recognize one student in each homeroom each month. Homeroom teachers select one of their students each month to receive the award, based on practice of that month's character trait (*see: Character Education, p. 15*). Star Students are announced in their homerooms and celebrated each month during a Star Student celebration.

Special Area Awards

Each month, all the Special Area Teachers choose a class whose behavior during Specials has been exemplary to receive that month's Special Area Award.



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2025-2026

Every school receiving Title I funds must have a home/school compact. The compact is an agreement between the school and the home. The goal is to promote parents as partners with the school in their child's education.

Please read and sign this compact pledging your commitment to the education and success of your child.

PARENT SECTION

I realize that my participation as a partner in my child's education will help his/her achievement and attitude. Therefore, I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

- My child will attend school regularly, on time, with homework completed, and will be prepared to learn.
- I will encourage my child's efforts and support his/her learning.
- I will learn about and be supportive of classroom/school rules and consequences.
- I will teach my child to respect staff and peers.
- I will attend parent conferences, parent meetings, Title I workshops, school activities, and/or volunteering.
- I will engage in device free time with my child.

STUDENT SECTION

As a student of the Catskill Central School District, I know that it is important to have an excellent education to prepare for my future. I know that I am responsible for my success. Therefore, I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

- I will attend school on time.
- I will go to school or log in each day ready to learn with my homework completed, school supplies organized and my computer charged.
- I will produce quality work and do my best each day.
- I will turn in my assignments on time.
- I will make time to do my homework.
- I will take responsibility for my own actions.
- I will help to keep my school clean and safe.
- I will show respect for my teacher, other adults, students and school property.
- I will limit screen time and engage face to face with my family and friends.

TEACHER SECTION

I realize the importance of the school experience to every student and my role as an educator and role model. Therefore, I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

- I will encourage children to respect each other.
- I will foster a healthy, safe and nurturing environment.
- I will promote communication between parents, students and teachers.
- I will set academic and behavioral expectations and communicate responsibilities.
- I will teach the skills and concepts appropriate for my students to achieve at his/her highest level.
- I will continue my lifelong learning by taking advantage of professional development opportunities.

My signature indicates that I have read the Title I Home School Compact and that I will work to achieve the responsibilities listed in the parent section.

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Student's Name _____

Please sign and return the bottom portion to your child's school. Keep the top portion for your records.