GREEN VALLEY ELEMENTARY
FAMILY HANDBOOK
2013-2014

A National PTA School of Excellence
and a Maryland PBIS Exemplar School

11501 Fingerboard Road
Monrovia, MD 21770
240-236-3400

Leigh Warren - Principal
GREEN VALLEY ELEMENTARY

VISION

Our learning community will provide a safe, inviting, positive environment with clear expectations and consistent consequences.

- We will promote respect, responsibility, readiness, and Character Counts!

- We will work to develop successful life-long learners, each reaching their individual potential.

- We will have high academic standards adjusting instruction and current practices to meet the individual needs of our students.

- We will promote frequent, open communication between stakeholders

- We will collaborate as professionals using effective, respectful, and open communication in order to continue our own learning.
Play an Active Role in Education

Family and community involvement go hand-in-hand with student success. That's why FCPS offers so many ways for you to get involved.

Stay in touch with your child's school

- Reach teachers via phone and email
- Leave personalized voice mail messages
- Attend parent teacher conferences
- Read school newsletters and fliers
- Get grades and homework reports online
- Volunteer at or partner with a school

Sign up or update your choices for FCPS email!

Subscribe to FindOutFirst at www.fcps.org/fof

- School emergencies
  NEW: Phone text messaging for emergency notices
- Breaking news
- Calendar updates
- Menus
- Board of Education action
- FCPS TV program guide
- Job openings
- Much more

Watch FCPS TV, Cable 18

- Timely snow closing and emergency bulletins
- See inside the classroom
- Meet the people at FCPS
- Visit schools with the Superintendent
- Explore news for children and teens
- Watch FCPS TV programs on demand

Visit www.fcps.org

- Get student forms
- Explore your school's profile and Web site
- See test data
- Review policies and procedures
- Learn about the curriculum
- Find news, reports, budgets and more
SCHOOL AND PARENT PARTNERSHIP

When parents and schools work closely together, students excel. As a result of this partnership, your child can have a more successful and educationally productive school year.

Partnership

I dreamed that I stood in a studio and watched two sculptors there. The clay they used was a young child's mind and they fashioned it with care. One was a teacher; the tools she/he used were books, music and art. One was a parent with guiding hand, and a gentle, loving heart. Day after day the teacher toiled, with touch that was skilled and sure. While the parent labored beside and polished and smoothed it o'er. And when at last their task was done, they were proud of what they had wrought. For the things that had molded into the child could neither be sold nor bought. And each agreed she/he would have failed if she/he had worked alone. For behind the parent stood the school, and behind the teacher, the home.

-Anonymous

School Responsibilities

We are committed to an effective parent-school partnership on behalf of your child. Further, we make a commitment to the following goals:

• encourage open dialogue and welcome your visits to school
• teach every child according to his or her needs
• keep you informed of special school events affecting your child
• inform you of your child’s progress in learning
• notify you of failures to complete homework or work at school, and/or disobeying school rules
• provide textbooks and an environment which supports learning
• respond in a timely manner to your requests for information about your child’s progress and/or problems at school
• recognize special needs of students
• ask for your perceptions of your child’s strengths and needs.
Parent Responsibilities

I will help my child to have a positive attitude about school and to do his or her best. Further, I make a commitment to:

• ensure that my child will attend school regularly, be on time, and be absent only when absolutely necessary
• ensure that my child has proper food and sleep
• set aside a time and place for study at home and make sure homework is done
• contact my child’s teachers when I have questions or concerns, and respond to messages and reports from school
• attend parent/teacher conferences
• attempt to visit my child’s class at least once this year
• discuss test results, interim reports, report cards, and other school communications with my child
• talk to my child every day about school
• find out from the teacher how I can help my child improve in areas needing attention
• recognize and encourage my child’s efforts

Student Responsibilities

I will:

• get enough sleep and eat breakfast and lunch so I have energy to learn
• attend school and be on time; bring materials needed for class
• listen to directions
• try my best at school
• bring home all materials needed to do my homework
• share my school day with my parents
• tell my parents and my teacher if I am having any trouble at school
GOALS FOR EDUCATION

The Green Valley Elementary School Improvement Plan for 2013-2014 has been developed. The focus of our plan is to increase student achievement. All aspects of the plan are designed to directly promote strong reading ability, increased understanding, the application of skills and the ability to solve problems. An emphasis on respect for one another is the keystone of the Character Counts! program and correlates well with student success in school. Our plan is built on the following system goals:

1. All students will demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to meet graduation standards and achieve their potential.

2. All schools will be safe and inviting; with a climate that fosters learning and character development.

3. All employees will be highly qualified, motivated and effective.

4. All sectors of the community will be engaged in the education of our children.

Site Council Members: 2013-2014

Leigh Warren, Principal
Linda Friscia
Lisa Kendall
Stacie Meador
Ingrid (Chris) Hause
Tracy Seibert
Kim Imboden
Ashley Simon
**Miscellaneous**

**Student Spotlight** – Student achievements and activities are recognized monthly on a front hall bulletin board. Character Counts! Students of the Month, Artists of the Month, and other special achievements are recognized in the school newsletter and on the website.

**Birthday Party Invitations** – To avoid hurt feelings, birthday party invitations may not be handed out at school, unless each child in the class receives one.

**Birthday Treats**
We recognize each student by announcing his/her name on the announcements and then each student receives a birthday pencil. In order to ensure the safety of all of our students, we will no longer allow birthday treats at school. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in helping to maintain an environment that is safe for all.

**Newsletter**
The PTA and the school jointly publish a newsletter for parents. Look for it in your child’s Thursday take home folder.

**School Pictures**
Individual school pictures will be taken in the fall and again in the spring along with a class group picture. Purchase of the pictures is always optional. Profits from the sale of the pictures are placed in the school’s Student Activity Fund and spent for programs and materials that directly benefit students.

**Yearbooks**
The school sells a yearbook near the end of the school year which includes the individual pictures taken at the beginning of the school year grouped by class as well as candid pictures.

**School Insurance**
The school tries to provide an environment in which the children will be safe from accidents. For a small premium, a parent may enroll each child in an accident insurance plan. This plan covers the student to and from school, while school is in session and during any school activity. An application form with complete information will be sent home with each child early in the school year.
**Library and text books**
Students are expected to show responsibility in the care and use of books. Parents will be billed for lost or damaged books. Report cards may be withheld until settlement has been reached. Parents should encourage students to keep books out of reach of younger brothers and sisters.

**Lost and Found**
To help alleviate the problem of lost articles, please put your child's name on lunch boxes, book bags, and all outerwear. If your child loses something, have him/her check the Lost and Found in the lobby.

**Parent Resource Center**
There are various books, videos, pamphlets, and periodicals that are available to parents to sign out in the Parent Resource Center. Contact the school counselor at 240-236-3410 to get these resources.