

# WELCOME

It is my pleasure to welcome you and your family to Crossroads Park Elementary School. I am excited that you are here, and look forward to the opportunity of working with you. My goal is to provide each Crossroads Park student learning environments that are warm, caring and educationally stimulating. We strive to accomplish this goal, with our various school communities, by building bonds and nurturing instrumental relationships through collaboration and cooperation.

Our school's collaborative academic efforts will be to improve students' writing for a variety of purposes and audiences. Crossroads Park teachers working in Professional Learning Communities will analyze student achievement data, identify students' needs, and will develop short-term specific goals to address the needs. Teachers will continue to implement Being a Writer program and the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing framework. Formative assessments will be selected and/or created by teachers to monitor academic progress. We will also continue to stress the importance of developing good character. The character traits: responsibility, respect, fairness, caring, trustworthiness, and citizenship are integrated into the culture of Crossroads Park.

We have several extremely valuable groups and committees functioning to provide our students with meaningful educational opportunities. Our Crossroads Cougar Council (student council), our Parent-Teacher Association and our Farm Bureau Business Partner are three such groups. Crossroads Park School is proud to facilitate a caring learning environment which enables students to continually grow academically, psychologically, emotionally and socially.

I look forward to working with you and your family as partners to create a successful educational experience. Please use the handbook as a reference for information. If you can't find the answer, please feel free to call (515) 633-5600 or fax (515) 633-5699. We welcome your questions, concerns or suggestions. By communicating effectively, we will make this an exciting and rewarding school year.

Once again, we look forward to working with you and your children throughout the coming year!

Sincerely,

Britt Cameron  
Principal

# **GREETINGS FROM THE CCC**

On behalf of the student governing body, the Crossroads Cougar Council (CCC), we are glad you are members of our school.

CCC consists of elected classroom representatives from kindergarten-sixth grades and we are the voice of the entire student body. Meetings are held twice a month throughout the year. We plan events for the entire school that improve our school atmosphere. We also participate in community service projects, and culminate the year by contributing a gift to enhance our building.

Some of our annual school events are: planning Red Ribbon Week and two Spirit weeks. We also design and sell Happy Grams. Our community service involvement includes: the Winter Apparel Drive (contributions to the West Des Moines Human Services), and raising money for Dollars for Scholars.

CCC Welcomes you to Crossroads and looks forward to working with you throughout the coming year.

## **Cougar Council Objectives**

The goal of the Crossroads Cougar Council is to provide strategies and activities that involve students in school-wide functions and decision-making in order to maintain an effective school.

1. To reinforce the understanding that student, staff and PTA involvement is vital in establishing vision for an effective school.
2. To provide strategies to reinforce the understanding of democracy and responsibility in the students, staff and community.
3. To provide an understanding that the involvement of students in planning and decision-making builds a successful school climate.

Sophia Farrell and Claudia Stewart  
Crossroads Cougar Council President and Vice President

## **Crossroads Park Philosophy Statement**

The philosophy of Crossroads Park School is to provide a secure, supportive environment where students can actively participate in the on-going process of learning which will equip and prepare them for immediate and future success.

The purpose of education at Crossroads Park is to provide learning experiences designed to promote growth in academic, physical, psychological, emotional, and social skills at each developmental phase of a child's life. This process is enhanced through open communication, active staff participation, and shared decision making with parent and community involvement.

## **Educational Values**

- \* Success For All Students
- \* Open Communication
- \* Active Staff Participation
- \* Shared Decision Making

## **Qualifying Statements**

### 1. Success For All Students

We are committed to a learning environment that:

- Provides a physically and emotionally safe, secure, and supportive environment.
- Encourages students to share the responsibility in their learning and set high expectations for themselves to become independent learners.
- Expands learning opportunities into the community and business.
- Utilizes a guidance and counseling program to promote emotional and social growth.
- Provides opportunities for musical and artistic growth.
- Provides opportunities for physical growth and development.
- Utilizes alternative teaching strategies to help all students reach the outcomes.
- Provides skills for students to live as a contributing member within a democratic society.
- Provides special programs (special education, reading resource, speech/language, enrichment) to meet the needs of our students.
- Utilizes continuous multi-dimensional assessment methods for evaluation/revision of curriculum and to monitor student achievement to ascertain and meet the current and future needs of the students based on current research and developmental knowledge.
- Provides a curriculum that is multi-cultural and nonsexist, celebrates diversity in past, present, and future societies. One that is challenging and emphasizes higher order thinking skills and cooperative learning.

## 2. Open Communication

We are committed to:

- Encouraging communication between/among students, parents, community members, and professionals to build mutual respect, responsibility, cooperation, and ownership for life-long learning.

## 3. Active Staff Participation

We are committed to:

- Collaborating across disciplines by sharing experiences, ideas, materials, and methods with colleagues.
- Demonstrating professional growth by actively participating in professional activities (i.e., professional coursework, workshops, in-services).
- Assuming responsibility outside the classroom as they relate to school by accepting a share of building responsibilities (i.e., committee participation, bus duty, hall, lunch, and playground, etc.) and district responsibilities such as work on curriculum committees.
- Demonstrating a willingness to keep curriculum and teaching strategies current based on educational trends and research.

## 4. Shared Decision Making

We are committed to a process of working together that:

- Promotes the understanding of the parameters of shared decision making by teachers, parents, and community members.
- Provides for involvement for those impacted by a decision.
- Enhances communication and collaboration, creating a cooperating staff environment.
- Allows for creative problem solving.
- Plans effectively for the future.
- Results in realignment of resources, improved student learning and increased operational effectiveness and the achievement of our mission.

## **Learner Outcomes**

The desired learner outcomes for all students who exit Crossroads Park Elementary School at the end of the 6th grade are:

1. The student will demonstrate a solid academic base according to his/her ability in the areas of:
  - \* Mathematics
  - \* Science
  - \* Social Studies
  - \* SWRL (Speaking, Writing, Reading, Listening)
  - \* Foreign Language
2. The student will demonstrate functional skills (general knowledge) in:
  - \* Computer technology
  - \* Problem solving
  - \* Thinking/reflective thinking
  - \* Library science
3. For an enriched life, the student will demonstrate an understanding of the need for total wellness (physical, emotional, social).
4. The student will demonstrate skills and understand the need for learning experiences which enrich life in the areas of visual and performing arts and physical fitness.
5. In preparation for a constantly changing world, the student will demonstrate an understanding of the need for:
  - \* Positive self-esteem
  - \* Sense of independence (life long learner, self-motivated, goal setting)
  - \* Sense of cooperation
  - \* Sense of responsibility (self-discipline)
6. As a member of a caring community, the student will demonstrate a sense of respect for:
  - \* Community members
  - \* Environment
  - \* Differences in culture, race, and gender of others
  - \* Individual differences of peers
7. As a participating member of the community, the student will demonstrate appropriate social skills to include:
  - \* Problem solving
  - \* Conflict management
  - \* Beginning leadership skills
  - \* Independent decision making
8. In preparation for being a contributing community member, the student will be aware of:
  - \* The business community
  - \* Community service
  - \* Civic responsibilities

## PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The Crossroads PTA is an active organization of parents and community members who assist teachers and students in furthering the educational and developmental goals of the school. Other PTA objectives include:

- Encourage communication and involvement among parents, teachers, and students.
- Provide additional resources and support for student and teacher activities.
- Support projects that will benefit students in the home and community as well as in the school.
- Foster a spirit of interdependence and cooperation between parents and teachers to assist in the student's education.
- Facilitate and encourage good relations between teachers and the general public.
- Enhance the educational opportunities available to the students.

**Join the PTA!** We are always looking for new members. Join us and help make a difference in the lives of the children at Crossroads. More information and membership forms are located on the PTA table across from the school office.

Kim Johnson and Sandra Witty  
PTA Co-Presidents

Lisa Newman  
PTA Past President

## STUDENT BEHAVIORS

A safe and orderly climate is an essential element of any school. A vital part of the total educational program is to set and maintain certain standards of behavior of its students.

We have tried to keep our school rules to as few as possible. Too many rules would be limiting for children, but too few rules would tend to provide an unrestricted environment. We intend to promote enough structure to facilitate a pleasant learning atmosphere at Crossroads Park.

Students are expected to conduct themselves on the way to and from school, at school, on buses, and at all school sponsored activities in a considerate and responsible manner.

## GENERAL BEHAVIORS

These rules apply to all school activities and events no matter where they take place.

1. Follow adult directions.
2. Keep hands, feet, and objects to oneself.
3. Walk at all times in the building.
4. Use appropriate language.
5. Use quiet voices in the building.

## CLASSROOM BEHAVIORS

Classroom rules are established and enforced by the teacher in charge. Teachers are encouraged to post their rules so students will be aware of them. Rules may vary somewhat from room to room.

## LUNCHROOM BEHAVIORS

1. Students will stand in line in an orderly manner while waiting to be served.
2. Students may visit in the lunchroom, but will do so quietly.
3. Students will only handle and eat their own food. Food is not to be passed or thrown.
4. Treat others with respect.
5. Use appropriate table manners.
6. When dismissed from the lunchroom, students will proceed to their assigned areas in an orderly manner.

## PLAYGROUND AND BEHAVIORS (Established by the Crossroads Cougar Council)

1. Game rules should be followed.
2. Equipment is not made for tag.
3. Swings are for swinging back and forth without jumping off.
4. Treat everyone as you want to be treated.
5. Trees are not playground equipment.
6. Stay within your designated recess area!
7. The bell or the teacher's whistle means recess is over!
8. Only go down the slides feet first.
9. Sports equipment are the only objects to be thrown.
10. Be respectful to others, your hands are for you and no one else.
11. Treat everyone fairly and include everyone who wants to play.
12. HAVE FUN!

## DISMISSAL BEHAVIORS

1. Students who walk and who ride with parents or car pools are to leave the building immediately unless they have authorized after school activities.
2. Friends, brothers, and sisters should meet outside the building, not inside. Be prompt, don't make your drivers wait.

## BICYCLES/ SKATEBOARDS/ ROLLERBLADES/ SCOOTERS/ ROLLER SHOES

To enhance student safety to and from school, we recommend that only students in grades 4-6 ride their bicycles to school. Wearing bicycle helmets is encouraged. Bicycles are to be walked on school property and parked in the bike racks. The school district is not responsible for students riding bicycles to and from school, and assumes no responsibility for bicycles on the school grounds. Bicycle locks are encouraged. Damage or theft of bicycles should be reported to the local police department.

Bicycle riding should be considered a privilege. The bike riding privilege may be revoked if a student does not abide by the school guidelines and/or causes safety concerns.

Skateboards, scooters, roller shoes and roller blades are not allowed on school property.

## VIOLATIONS OF THE RULES

Students who break the rules will usually receive a warning for first time minor offenses. More serious offenses and repeat violations will result in more severe consequences. Parents will be notified ahead of time by phone or by written note any time a student will be kept after school for longer than ten minutes.

Students need to develop self-discipline and common sense in regard to their own behavior. Students have the right to an education. With that right comes the responsibility to respect the rights of those around them. The right and responsibility must go hand in hand.

## CROSSROADS PARK COMMUNIQUÉ

The Crossroads Park Communiqué is the school newsletter published periodically. It will be sent home with the youngest or only child in the family.

In the Communiqué you will find informational articles about educational issues, classroom activities, upcoming school events, and calendar reminders or changes. Please keep it handy for your reference as a way to keep informed of what's happening at Crossroads Park Elementary.

## RECESS

Outdoor recess is held except during inclement weather. During cold weather, the current outdoor temperature is monitored. Wind-chill factor information is used as a guide for recommended safe level of temperature. Fifteen degrees actual temperature and zero degrees wind-chill factors serve as guidelines. During inclement weather, an indoor, supervised recess is held.

