



Gwen Keith Elementary

20550 Fairfield Green, Cypress, TX 77433
281.213.1744



Student Handbook

School Phone number: 281-213-1744

Colors: Navy & Gold

Facebook: Keith Cougars

Twitter/X:
@CFISDKeith
#ThisIsKeith

Mascot: Cougar

School Hours: 8:45-4:10

Student Arrival: 8:25 - 8:45

Club Rewind:
6:30 a.m. - 8:25 a.m. &
4:10 p.m. - 6:30 p.m

Who Can Help?

If you have questions about your child's school day, we are always happy to help you!

Name	Title	Concern	contact
Amelia Cardenas	Receptionist	School information, phone messages to staff, transportation changes	(281) 213-1744 amelia.cardenas@cfisd.net
Brenda Recinos	Attendance Secretary/ Registrar	Student registration, transfers, attendance records, bus information	281) 213-1744 ext. *143104 brenda.recinos@cfisd.net
Tina Emerson	Principal's Secretary	School information, phone messages to principal	(281) 213-1744 ext. *143102 tina.emerson@cfisd.net
Julie Clements	Principal	General concerns, suggestions or staff recognition	(281) 213-1744 ext. *143101 julie.clements@cfisd.net
Tara Wehmeyer	Assistant Principal - K, 2, 4 & Life Skills	Student concerns, student schedules, discipline	(281) 213-1744 ext. *143104 tara.wehmeyer@cfisd.net
Marla Tolls	Assistant Principal - 1, 3, 5, PK & Life Skills	Student concerns, student schedules, discipline	(281) 213-1744 ext. *143108 marla.tolls@cfisd.net
Tiffany Kristynik	Instructional Specialist - Math/Science	Curriculum, tutorials	(281) 213-1744 tiffany.kristynik@cfisd.net
Tara Brown	Instructional Specialist - Reading/Language Arts	Curriculum, tutorials	(281) 213-1744 tara.brown@cfisd.net
Jodi Evridge	Counselor - K, 2, 4 & Life Skills	School adjustment concerns, STAAR, GT testing, parent groups, coping with family problems	(281) 213-1744 *143110 jodie.evridge@cfisd.net
Lisa Sudtelgte	Counselor - 1, 3, 5, PK & Life Skills	School adjustment concerns, STAAR, GT testing, parent groups, coping with family problems	(281) 213-1744 *143109 lisa.sudtelgte@cfisd.net
Dawn Doyle	Special Education Secretary	Special Education questions and concerns for diagnostician or speech pathologists	(281) 213-1744 *143114 melissa.youngblood@cfisd.net
Tiffany Sanders	School Nurse	Student illness, student medications, immunization records and requirements	(281) 213-1744 ext. *143103 tiffany.sanders2@cfisd.net
Liz Budnek	Media Specialist	Lost library books, book fairs, and library concerns	(281) 213-1744 ext. *143105 elizabeth.budnek@cfisd.net
Sabiha Musaji	Cafeteria Manager	Lunch ticket information, food services concerns	(281) 213-1744 sabiha.musaji@cfisd.net

CAMPUS POLICIES & PROCEDURES

GENERAL INFORMATION:

ADDRESS/PHONE CHANGES

In case of emergencies, it is very important to keep student records up-to-date. Please remember to update your information in Home Access Center or send a signed note to the front office when address or phone numbers need updating. One note can be sent to change our nurse's emergency procedure card and all school records. You may also add persons to your child's emergency call list by sending a note to the school.

ATTENDANCE

Daily attendance is marked by the homeroom teacher **at 10:00 a.m.** Students in attendance at that time are counted present for the day. If students are not physically present at the time, they must be counted absent for the entire day. State funding is allocated in accordance with student attendance, so accuracy in accounting is mandatory.

A written excuse from parent/guardian is required for all student absences. The note should be brought to the front office on the day the student returns following an absence. Notes from physicians are not usually required but can be required by the school if excessive absences are a concern of the school.

In order to receive credit or a final grade for a class, a student is required to attend class 90 percent of the days class is offered regardless of whether the student's absences are excused. A student in elementary school and the student's parent shall be notified following the student's tenth absence. A student and the student's parent or guardian shall be given written notice prior to and at such time when a student's attendance in any class drops below 90 percent of the days the class is offered.

When a student's attendance drops below 90 percent but remains at least at 75 percent of the days the class is offered, the student may earn credit for the class or a final grade by completing a plan approved by the principal. This plan must provide for the student to meet the instructional requirements of the class as determined by the principal.

If the student fails to successfully complete the plan, or when a student's attendance drops below 75 percent of the days the class is offered, the student, parent, or representative may request award of credit or a final grade by submitting a written petition to the appropriate attendance committee.

A district shall notify a student's parent if the student has been absent from school, without excuse under Education Code 25.087, on three days or parts of days within a four-week period. The notice must:

1. Inform the parent that:
 - a. It is the parent's duty to monitor the student's school attendance and require the student to attend school;
 - b. The student is subject to truancy prevention measures under Education Code 25.0915; and
2. Request a conference between school officials and the parent to discuss the absences.

The fact that a parent did not receive the notices described above is not a defense for the parent's failure to require a child to attend school nor for the student's failure to attend school.

BIRTHDAY/PERSONAL RECOGNITION

Birthdays are special days in a child's life. Parents may bring a special birthday treat, such as a cupcake, cookie, etc. for their child only during lunch time. However, in order to comply with federal and state laws regarding Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value (FMNV) and district policy, birthday treats may not be provided for other students or the class. *Balloons, gifts or flowers should not be sent to school for any occasion.*

Birthday invitations may be passed out at school if *every child* in the homeroom receives an invitation. Individual invitations may not be delivered to classmates or students in other homerooms. Parents may purchase a directory from PTO to assist in mailing individual party invitations outside of the school. Please visit the PTO's website, <https://keithpto.membershiptoolkit.com/>, for more information.

CAFETERIA:

- **BREAKFAST**

Breakfast will be available for those students who wish to purchase beginning at 8:25. Students in grades K-5 will use the Grab-n-Go program and eat breakfast in their classroom.

- **LUNCH**

While parent visitors are always welcome at Keith, *the first THREE weeks and last TWO weeks of school* for all grades will be visitor-free lunch days. Additionally, visitor-free lunch days will be implemented during benchmark and state testing. Thank you for understanding the importance of establishing consistent routines and procedures during lunch and helping us promote a calm and secure school environment. .

After the *third* week of school, parents are welcome to visit their child during lunch unless otherwise communicated. When visiting, we ask that you follow these guidelines:

- Check in at the front reception to receive a visitor's sticker.
- Enjoy lunch with your child ONLY at the designated "Visitor's Table." Food may only be brought for your own child.
- ***Send a note in advance if you intend for anyone other than a parent/guardian to have lunch with your child.***

Students who have forgotten their lunch at home will be permitted to come to the front office before announcements to call home.

Lunch times are as follows:

Pre-K: 11:10- 11:40		
Kindergarten: 11:00-11:30	First Grade: 12:00-12:30	Second Grade: 11:30-12:00
Third Grade: 12:30-1:00	Fourth Grade: 1:00-1:30	Fifth Grade: 1:30-2:00

Student ID badges are used to purchase breakfast. Cafeteria personnel have quick and accurate access to your child's account balance and will notify your child when the funds in his/her account have been depleted. If you would like to view your child's account, add money to the account, or manage your child's purchases, please go to the **SchoolCafe'** system at <https://www.schoolcafe.com/> for information. Copies of the food service monthly breakfast or lunch menus can be obtained by checking with the Food Service website at <http://www.cfid.net/en/parents-students/food-service/menus/>. Forms for free and reduced meals are available through the cafeteria or front office.

CHECK-OUT/WITHDRAWING

If you find it necessary to withdraw your child from enrollment at Keith before the end of the school year, you will need to notify the registrar. Two days are needed to complete the checkout procedure. All

school resources, library books and the student's laptop must be returned or paid for prior to withdrawing from school.

FOOD IN THE CLASSROOM

Changes in the legislature were made this year to allow for certain foods to be used as a reward in classrooms along with continuing to allow elementary classrooms to provide one nutritious snack per day under the teacher's supervision. Reward foods must meet smart snack criteria and can be earned through a token, ticket, or voucher system. All other foods exchanged for money, tokens, or tickets are prohibited during the school day. A snack may be in the morning or afternoon but may not be at the same time as the meal period for that class. The snack may be provided by the teacher, parents or other groups and should be at no cost to the students.

I.D. BADGES

All students will be issued *two i.d. badges*. One badge will be attached to the backpack, and one will remain in the classroom. These badges will be used to access the school bus, purchase breakfast and lunch on campus, and check out library books.

If the badge stops working and is undamaged, the campus will replace the badge. ***In the event that the badge is lost or damaged by the student, the cost for replacement is \$5.***

LIBRARY BOOKS

Students will be able to check out books from the school library for classroom or home use. Students will be required to pay for lost, damaged, or defaced library books that are checked out to them.

PARTIES

School parties will be held twice yearly. The first party will be prior to winter break and the second will be on the last day of school. Although adult visitors are invited to participate, per district policy, school-aged children who may have been checked out from Keith or other campuses (i.e. middle school or high school), visiting from out of state, or who are home-schooled are not permitted to attend.

District safety and security guidelines require all campus visitors to wear identification stickers when visiting the building. Prior to each party, the school will send an RSVP in order to pre-print visitor stickers

Homeroom parents will organize the food, drinks, etc. for each party. Please feel free to contact your child's homeroom parent if you would like to help contribute to either party.

Valentines may be exchanged on Valentine's Day. Individually-wrapped, store-bought candy may be attached to Valentine's cards, however, due to FMNV regulations provided by the Texas Department of Agriculture and CFISD, candy may not be opened or consumed during school hours. Students may eat their Valentine treats once they get home.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

- Backpacks may be used to carry materials to and from school. **Please label lunch kits, sweaters, and other personal items** your child brings to school. This will assist us in identifying lost or misplaced items.
- Any money sent to school with a student for payment of pictures, book fair items, etc. should be enclosed in an envelope clearly labeled with your child's name, homeroom teacher's name, and the purpose for which the money is intended. This will help ensure the money gets to the place it was intended to go.
- Students should not bring school supplies other than those on the school supply list. Cameras, radios, toys, tape recorders, and other personal items should not be brought to school. We cannot be

responsible for valuables being lost or stolen. Such items will be taken up and held in the office for pick up by parents.

FORGOTTEN WORK, COATS, BOOKS, LUNCH KITS, ETC.

Students who have forgotten their class work, homework, or projects will not be permitted to come to the front office during the day to call home. Students are encouraged to get their things prepared the night before so items are not left at home the next day. If you notice that your child's class work, homework, projects, or supplies are left at home, you may bring it to the front desk and it will be delivered to your child's classroom as soon as staff is available. Points may be deducted if the work is considered late. Students and parents are not allowed in the classroom areas before or after school without a staff member.

The school doors are locked and staff is dismissed shortly after school. Please encourage your child to remember to pack up important things before they leave the campus. Lost and found items are placed in cabinets in the cafeteria. Each nine weeks, unclaimed items are donated to charity.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE APPLICATION

The school district is authorized by the State of Texas to excuse a student to observe holy days when it is a tenet of their faith. Parents or guardians *must provide written request* that would identify the dates of the holy days to be observed. In addition, the student(s) may be allowed to be excused for one day for traveling to the site and one day for returning to their residence. Reasonable time (usually a number of days equal to the days absent) will be allowed for students to make up work missed. Failure to make up work will cause the student to be charged with the absence. An application form, available through the registrar's office, must be received by the teacher in advance of such absence.

SCHOOL EVENTS

School-age children will not be allowed to check out and attend sibling events held on campus, such as, Field Day, music performances, grade level activities, parties, etc. In addition, school-age children who may have been checked out from other campuses (i.e. middle school or high school), visiting from out of state, or who may be home-schooled may not attend these events.

TARDINESS

School hours are 8:45-4:10 Students may enter the building no earlier than 8:25 am. All students are expected to be in class no later than 8:45. Students who arrive after 8:45 will need to be *checked in at the front desk by a parent/guardian*. The receptionist will issue your child a tardy slip that will allow them to be admitted to class.

After 5 tardies, a letter will be sent home notifying parents of those tardies. After 10 tardies, the student will be referred to the truancy officer. We appreciate your help in getting your child to class by 8:45a.m.

VISITORS

Parents are welcome to visit. Many parents choose to occasionally eat lunch with their child, or attend special events at Keith during the year. All visitors and volunteers must first report to the front office to obtain a visitor's sticker. Visitors will need to provide a valid driver's license/military identification.

Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time shall be permitted only with principal or assistant principal approval. Such visits shall not be permitted if their duration or frequency interferes with the delivery of instruction or disrupts the normal school environment. Parents may suggest a date and time for the visit. The teacher has the prerogative to accept the suggested date and time or request another date/time due to possible interference with classroom activities. Visitors are not allowed during recess time.

School-aged children are not permitted during the instructional day. This includes children who may have been checked out from other campuses (i.e. middle school or high school), visiting from out of state, or who may be home-schooled may not attend these events.

School personnel may request identification from any person on school property and may ask any person not having legitimate school business to leave.

HEALTH & SAFETY:

FOOD ALLERGIES

According to the Texas Education Code Chapter 25, Section 25.0022 a district upon enrollment of a child in a public school, shall request, by providing a form or otherwise, that a parent or other person with legal control of the child under court order:

1. Disclose whether the child has a food allergy, severe food allergy that, in the judgment of the parent, should be disclosed to the district to enable the district to take necessary precautions regarding the child's safety
2. Specify the food to which the child is allergic and the nature of the allergic reaction.

The form will be kept confidential and placed in the student's cumulative folder.

Students who leave from or return to school because of a doctor's appointment may be counted present if they meet the following criteria:

1. They furnish a note from the doctor confirming their appointment.
2. They satisfactorily complete any schoolwork missed.

A student may not receive credit for a course unless he/she has been in attendance for at least 90% of the days the class is offered during the semester or is successful in appealing the loss of credit as provided in the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Student Handbook and Code of Conduct. Parents will receive a court warning letter if a student has 3 or more unexcused absences in a 6 week time period. Parents will also receive written notice from the registrar following their child's tenth absence.

FOOD ALLERGY POLICIES

Protecting students from exposure to allergens to which they are sensitive is the most important way to prevent life-threatening anaphylaxis. We must promote safety in the following areas: the cafeteria, all classrooms, hallways, common areas, buses and on field trips. Should an exposure occur, we have procedures in place to respond appropriately.

Parents should fill out the appropriate forms at the beginning of each school year regarding food allergies. These forms include Request for Food Allergy Information, Keith Health Awareness Information, Student Diet Modification Form, Emergency Action Plan, Consent for Administration of Rescue Medications, and Request for an Allergen Free Table. Teachers will be notified of students with life-threatening food allergies. Teachers will inform parents and the school nurse of any event where food will be served. For class parties alternate foods will be offered for these students. Parents will be allowed to provide an alternate food if preferred.

Students should keep their snacks and lunch boxes separate to avoid cross-contamination. Students will not be allowed to share or trade food. Students should not eat anything with unknown ingredients or known to contain any allergen to which they are allergic. Students should notify an adult immediately if they eat something they believe may contain a food to which they are allergic. All students are encouraged to wash hands before and after snacks and lunch. A "allergen free" table will be provided for students who wish to use it.

Parents should return the appropriate forms with the medications recommended for treatment of exposure as soon as possible to the opening day of school.

MEDICATION POLICY

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD policy allows school nurses and other school employees to administer medication to students during school hours should medication be necessary to keep a student in optimum health and to maintain maximum school performance under the following conditions:

- The school district has received a written request to administer medication from the parent, legal guardian, or other person having legal control of the student. Please contact the school nurse for the district approved permission form.
- **Prescription Medication** must be prescribed by a healthcare professional and must be delivered *in the original container* properly labeled with the child's name, name of the medication, administration time, and dose. Parents may request a "school bottle" from the pharmacy where the medication is filled.
- **Non-prescription Medication** (over the counter and cough drops): Non-prescription medication must be *in the original container* clearly labeled as to content. Student's name and directions for time/dosage shall be provided by the parent /guardian at the time the request to administer the medication is made.
- **Transportation and Storage of Medication:** All medication must be brought to the clinic by the parent, guardian or other responsible adult and shall be secured there at all times. **Students will not be allowed to carry medication during the day.** A doctor's note is required to be on file in the clinic for any emergency medication a student may need to carry, such as insulin, inhalers and epinephrine pens.
- In the event that the school nurse, in the exercise of professional judgment, questions the administering of any particular medication as excessive or otherwise potentially harmful to the student, the nurse shall notify the principal. Upon receiving such notification from the school nurse, the principal shall notify the parent in writing that no further administering of the medication shall be done by school employees without a written authorization from a person licensed to practice medicine.

EXTRA CLOTHING

If your student is in pre-k, kindergarten, or first grade, always keep a change of clothing that is appropriate for the weather in your child's backpack. There are many reasons for the need to change. These include falls in mud, nosebleeds, spills in the cafeteria, restroom accidents, and rips in clothing during PE and recess. If your child has a health condition which could cause a need for a clothes change, you may leave a change in the clinic. If your child has clothing at school, a change can get them back to class quickly and will prevent you from having to leave work. Athletic shoes are the best type of shoe for your child to wear to school. They have recess every day and must have athletic shoes for PE.

ILLNESS

Parents are urged to keep ill children at home. It is imperative for parents to monitor students daily for signs and symptoms of illness before putting the student on the bus or dropping the student off to school. For the health and safety of all students and in accordance with the Texas Administrative Code Chapter 97 rule 97.7, students who have a **temperature at or above 100.0 F** must be excluded from school until **fever free for 24 hours** without the use of a fever suppressing medication. Students who vomit due to illness must be kept home for **24 hours after vomiting**. Additionally, students with **diarrhea** must be excluded from school until diarrhea free for 24 hours without the use of a diarrhea suppressing medication. The best way of preventing transmission of illness is through good hand washing, coughing into the elbow and limiting exposure to those who are ill. If your student has a fever, has diarrhea or is vomiting, please keep them at home. The only exception is a signed statement from your doctor that the student is **not contagious**. The most common illnesses and recommendations are listed as follows:

- **COVID:** For positive cases, students must isolate for 5 days and will be allowed to return on day 6 if symptoms have improved and child has been fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication. Early return is possible with a negative COVID test. For a student who has symptoms of

COVID, but has not yet been tested, please keep the student home until the student is tested and a negative result is obtained. Please contact the school nurse for clarification of these policies.

- **Chicken pox:** Return when lesions crusted over and fever free for 24 hours without the use of a fever suppressing medication.
- **Conjunctivitis (bacterial and/or viral): Also known as Pink Eye.** Excluded from school until a signed physician's statement that it is no longer infectious, after prescription medication has been initiated for 24 hours or no symptoms of infection.
- **Diarrhea:** Must be excluded from school until diarrhea free for 24 hours without the use of a diarrhea suppressing medication.
- **Fever of 100.0 or greater:** Excluded from school until fever free for 24 hours without the use of a fever suppressing medication.
- **Head lice:** Head lice occur throughout the year. They are spread by head-to-head contact, sharing items used or placed on the head or from shared surfaces like pillows, upholstered furniture, or car seats. Signs include persistent itching of the head and back of neck and nits (eggs) in the hair. District policy excludes students with live lice. Students found to have lice must be picked up from school immediately. Once treated, the student should come to the clinic to be checked. After confirming that the student is free of live lice, they may return to class. The best prevention is to check your child's head at least once a week.
- **Impetigo:** Return when treatment has begun.
- **Flu:** Return when symptoms subside and must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of a fever suppressing medication.
- **Ringworm:** All lesions must be covered and under treatment.
- **Staph infections:** Keep lesion covered with clean dry bandage and seek treatment. Must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of a fever suppressing medication.
- **Strep throat:** The student may return after 24 hours from the time treatment began and must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of a fever suppressing medication.
- **Rashes:** Common infectious diseases with rashes are most contagious in the early stages. A child with a suspicious rash must stay at home and may return to school after a health care provider has made a diagnosis and authorizes the child's return to school in writing or symptoms have resolved completely.

PE/RECESS PARTICIPATION

Participation in PE is mandated by the state. If your child cannot participate in PE due to illness or injury, please send a note to your child's teacher. If the illness or injury will extend beyond 3 days, a doctor's note will be required. The student should bring the note to the clinic first thing in the morning and the student will receive an orange sticker for NO PE/RECESS. Please note that if your child cannot participate in PE, he/she cannot participate in recess.

CLINIC VISITS

All children that are injured or ill will be sent or brought to the clinic for evaluation and first aid. Parents are not routinely notified of clinic visits. If there is an injury to the head/face or in the nurse's opinion the student should be seen by a physician, the parent/guardian will be notified. If you are called to pick up your ill or injured child, please pick up in a timely manner. Please keep your contact information up to date so that notification will not be delayed.

COMMUNICATION:

CELL PHONES

Parents and visitors are requested to silence their cell phones when visiting a class or attending a school presentation.

The Student Code of Conduct regarding student possession and use of cell phones or other telecommunication devices applies to both the school campus and school bus.

During the **instructional school day**, students are prohibited from using all telecommunication devices such as cell phones or smart watches. Such devices must not be visible and must remain turned off during the instructional school day. Placing the cell phone or smart watch into silent/vibrate mode and text messaging is not considered "turned off" and is prohibited. Using any device that permits recording the voice or image of another in any way that either disrupts the educational environment, invades the privacy of others, or is made without the prior consent of the individuals being recorded is also prohibited.

Exception: Teachers have the authority to allow students to use electronic devices, such as, but not limited to, cell phones, Kindles, iPods, and iPads for instructional purposes within the confines of the classroom.

In accordance with Texas Education Code Section 37.082, the device may be confiscated and returned to the owner after a \$15.00 administrative fee is collected. Failure to relinquish the communication device to school personnel when asked to do so or repeated violations may result in additional disciplinary action, including confiscation of the device for a period of time up to the remainder of the school year.

Note: Parents are requested not to contact their child during the instructional school day via cell phone. If an emergency occurs and parents need to speak to their child, please contact the school for assistance.

Students may not possess items at school that school personnel deem to be a distraction to the general learning environment or the student's own learning environment. Belongings that might be lost or stolen, such as, but not limited to, cell phones, cameras, games, earbuds and iPads, are the responsibility of the student. **District personnel will not assume responsibility for damaged, lost or stolen items.** Because cell phones/paging devices are brought to school at a student's own risk, the Cy-Fair ISD Police Department will not investigate or file theft reports for students or parents for the loss of a cell phone/paging device at school.

GENERAL COMMUNICATION

Establishing clear, open, and efficient communication between school and home is our goal at Keith Elementary. Keep up to date with the latest news and information on the Keith Cougars Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/keith.cougars> and follow us on Twitter @CFISDKeith #ThisIsKeith

Information may be sent to specific grade levels on any given day. For that reason, you are requested to check each of your children's backpacks daily. Additionally, homeroom teachers will send out weekly Friday updates via email with important information regarding upcoming school events, classroom updates, etc.

Parents may communicate with teachers through email. District guidelines will be followed regarding the type of information that can be shared through email. Specifically, teachers may use e-mail to communicate:

- Upcoming events specific to a teacher's classroom
- Class assignments (book reports, projects, tests, etc.);
- Deadlines for various school activities
- Scheduling of parent conference requests;
- Specific requests for grades by a parent
- Positive social interactions with classmates as long as other students' names are not mentioned.

District Guidelines prohibit school personnel from communicating the following information with parents via e-mail:

- Discipline situations;

- Student behavior;
- Any information related to another student because of FERPA (Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act) guidelines.

Additionally, e-mail cannot be accepted in the following situations which would normally require a parent signature, such as:

- ✓ absence from school excuses;
- ✓ medication administration permission;
- ✓ permission to stay for after school tutorials;
- ✓ early release from school; or,
- ✓ field trip permission slips.

Teachers may only check their email during non-instructional times and often have meetings or conferences scheduled during these times. Thank you for understanding that teachers will return e-mails as quickly as possible, typically within 24 hours.

In addition to the scheduled fall conference, parents should contact the teacher any time concerns arise. It is always best to e-mail the teacher or call the school office and leave a message for the teacher to call you when you wish to schedule a conference or to talk to the teacher by telephone. The teacher will return the call as soon as possible, typically by the following day.

HOME ACCESS CENTER (HAC)

Home Access Center is located at the top of the district's website. Real time information regarding your student's grades and attendance can be viewed, and personal information can be added or changed. It is important to frequently check your student's progress in HAC. If you need assistance accessing HAC, please contact the campus.

PARENT – TEACHER CONFERENCES

At any time throughout the year, you may request a conference with your child's teacher. In addition, school will be dismissed for the entire day in early November to enable teachers to have time to meet with all parents on a designated conference day.

SCHOOL MESSENGER

SchoolMessenger, the district's mass notification system, will keep you informed about district and school activities, attendance, transportation and food service; and, most importantly, accurate, real-time information during an emergency situation. This system is designed to send phone calls, emails and text messages, allowing you to select how you prefer to be contacted. You may update your contact information to ensure that we have the most current information on file. The system also works like a mailbox, giving you a place to review messages you may have missed.

The easy, one-time process requires only three things for parents:

- The ID number for each student in the family;
- The primary phone number on file with the school(s); and
- A valid email address.

Registration information can be found here:

<http://www.cfid.net/en/parents-students/contacts-communications/schoolmessenger/>

TAKE-HOME FOLDERS

Students will bring their work home each Friday in a folder. Parents should remove your child's completed work, review it, and supervise your child in making any requested corrections. Folders should be returned to school on Monday.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS:

GRADING GUIDELINES

Primary Grades

Kindergarten and First grade students do not receive numerical grades. Content grades in Kindergarten are reported as Masters (M) or In Progress (IP). First grade students are graded with an E (Excellent), S (Satisfactory), or N (Needs Improvement). In all grades, grades for art, music, PE, conduct and work habits will be indicated with an S or N.

Grades 2-5

Student achievement in the mastery of grade level TEKS will be reported to parents on a nine-week schedule. Report card information will include grades, work/study habits, special program services, conduct, and end-of-year placement decisions. Conduct, work habit, PE, Art and Music grades are recorded with an S or N.

The following code is used to reflect academic performance through the use of numerical grades:

A = 90% - 100%

B = 80% - 89%

C = 75% - 79%

D = 70% - 74%

F = 0% - 69%

- *ALL grades* will be weighted equally in the gradebook for Reading/Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. Word study grades will be taken during the 9 week grading period, averaged together and added as one grade in the gradebook.
- Assessments may include DPMs, Quizzes, Projects completed at school, or Unit Tests.
- *Any part of an assignment taken for a grade must be completed at school.* Therefore, homework will not be recorded for a grade and will count towards work habits.

Homework Policy

- A student will receive an 'N' on his/her report card for "Completes Homework" when he/she has not turned in 3 homework assignments in the 9 weeks. (Please note, this is *any* three assignments in a single content area, not 3 consecutive weeks.)
- Parents will be notified prior to the child receiving an 'N.' When a student has missed their 2nd homework assignment, the teacher will notify the parents to inform them that the next missed assignment will result in an 'N' on the report card.

Makeup Work /Work Completion

Policy for student make-up work due to an absence is as follows:

- Students shall be expected to make up assignments and tests after absences.
- Students may receive a zero for any assignment or test not made up within the allotted time.
- Students shall have the number of days equal to the number of days missed to complete the make-up work. Teachers will inform students of the make-up deadline and when they will be responsible for completing the work.
- The following makeup work/work completion choices will be available to students:
 - Working lunch
 - Study Hall - First 10 minutes of the 30 minute recess block.
- Students shall not be given make-up work in advance of anticipated absences; however, if a student is absent for longer than three days, parents may arrange with the teacher to pick up missed work at appropriate intervals.
- Students shall be permitted to take tests administered in any class missed because of absence.
- For any class missed, the teacher may assign the student make-up work based on the instructional objectives for the subject or course and the needs of the individual student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or in meeting subject or course requirements. A student shall be responsible for obtaining and completing the make-up work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher.

Redo/Retake

District policy permits a student a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a failing grade. The following criteria should guide retest/redo practices:

A student may have three opportunities each nine weeks to redo assignments/major grades for which the student earned a grade of 69 or below.

- The highest grade a student can earn on a “retake or redo” will be a 70. A student may not earn a grade lower than the original grade.
- Assignment retakes must be completed 1 week prior to the end of the current 9 week grading period. Retake requests will not be accepted during the last week of the 9 weeks.
- Prior to retesting/redoing, an intervening action plan should be created (teacher directed). Examples include: re-teaching; tutorials before, during, or after school; study guide taken home; etc.
- *DPMs or Benchmarks are not included in the retest/redo opportunities.*

Grades will be recorded in the gradebook if the student chooses not to complete the work (the last choice). If any of these are not an option for your family, please discuss the allowable options with your son/daughter so they can make an appropriate choice.

Progress Reports

Midway through the nine week grading period, a notice of progress will be posted in the Home Access Center for grades 2nd-5th. Parents/guardians will be notified via email when progress reports are posted. PK - 1st grade students will receive a copy of the progress report in their Friday folder. The return portion at the bottom acknowledges that you have received the progress report. Upon receipt of the progress report, please sign and return the acknowledgement to your child's homeroom teacher the following school day. The progress report reflects the grade at the time of printing. Grades viewed on the HAC reflect the most current progress. Parents will be contacted by the classroom teacher if a failing average occurs after progress reports have been issued.

HONOR ROLL

Students in grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 will be eligible for the honor roll. Regular Honor Roll requires a student to have at least 2 A's & 2 B's for the nine weeks. To qualify for the Distinguished Honor Roll, a student must have all A's for the nine weeks. Both Honor Rolls require all S's in Conduct and Work Habits.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Improving student academic and behavior outcomes is about ensuring all students have access to the most effective and accurately implemented instructional and behavioral practices and interventions possible. Keith Elementary utilizes the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) to provide an operational framework for achieving these goals.

Keith staff created a matrix of what the behavioral expectations will look like and sound like in all areas of the school. The Keith ROAR matrix focuses on showing Respect, being On-Task, having a positive Attitude and being Responsible (ROAR).

At Keith, the attainment of responsible citizenship, like academic achievement, is viewed as a developmental process which requires time and practice to master. This task is approached in a systematic way, placing emphasis on reinforcement of positive behavior and consequences for negative behavior.

Specific information on student conduct is detailed in the Cypress-Fairbanks I.S.D. Student Handbook and Code of Conduct at the following: <https://www.cfid.net/domain/10>

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Students and parents are expected to utilize good judgment when selecting clothing for school wear. We enlist your help in discouraging disruptive or inappropriate clothing as school attire. With consideration of our goal in providing the ultimate learning environment for all Keith students, there are several items of clothing that will **not** be permitted in school.

Items NOT permitted are:

Pants/shorts: biker shorts, tights or leggings (unless covered by another piece of clothing to the mid-thigh), mini-skirts. Shorts and skirts that are of appropriate length (mid-thigh) may be worn.

Shirts/tops: spaghetti straps, strapless, tank tops with less than a 2" wide strap at the shoulder, sleeveless apparel that is revealing, low-cut or backless apparel/halter tops, or tops with inappropriate language, jargon, or images

Shoes: Flip-flops

Hats: Baseball, caps, beanies, etc. unless otherwise noted for special dress days

Other: Hair colors and styles that are *distracting to the learning environment*, clothing may not be too tight, loose, revealing, or sagging.

If there is a question concerning the appropriateness of a student's attire, the teacher will ask the student to see an Assistant Principal. The Assistant Principal will then refer to the Cy-Fair District Code of Conduct, the Cy-Fair Student Handbook, and the Keith Student Handbook to determine whether the attire is or is not appropriate. At that time, the action taken will be in accordance with the guidelines contained in the booklet.

TRANSPORTATION:

Please refer to specific transportation procedures sent to all parents prior to the beginning of the school year. Information regarding transportation can be obtained all year by accessing the campus website and looking under Parents and Students / Transportation.

CAR RIDERS

Students who will be picked up at afternoon dismissal as a car rider more than 3-5 times per year will need to register for a car rider number. The form can be obtained by contacting the school's receptionist.

Car riders will load and unload from the right front driveway. Parents who bring their children to school in the morning may begin dropping them off at 8:25 a.m., entering the driveway to the front right of the building, and following school procedures. Parents who enter the building in the mornings with their children must park in the right front parking lot and enter the school through the front door, check-in at the front desk, provide a driver's license for identification, sign in and obtain a visitors' sticker.

The car rider line will end at 8:45. The doors to the cafeteria will be closed and staff will not be available to unload cars. *Students who arrive after 8:45, or when the cafeteria doors are closed, are considered tardy and must be escorted to the front office by their parent/guardian.* Parents must sign their child into- school. Students will be given an "admit to class" pass to give to their teacher, indicating they have checked in at the front office.

Daily car riders will be dismissed in the afternoon from the car rider area, located on the right side of the school. Procedures are in place to ensure the safety of students, staff and parents. Parents will wait in their car and follow the car rider route as indicated by Keith staff. Please wait inside your car for your child to be released. Place the car tag number issued by the campus on your rear view mirror and keep the number there until your student is loaded and you exit the campus parking lot. Staff members will call for students to go to an assigned cone to wait for you. Children **WILL NOT** be released to parents in the cafeteria, the hallway or on the front porch to walk across the parking lot.

CLUB REWIND

Club Rewind is the fee-based before/after school care program designed by Cy-Fair ISD. It is on site at each elementary campus. Club Rewind morning care begins at 6:30 a.m. The after-school program begins immediately after school and operates until 6:30 p.m. The children are divided by age/grade and participate in a variety of games and activities. Children will have a great time in either program or both! In addition, all day programs are offered on specific days the campus is closed to students (Day-Camps). Please check out the website below for more information.

<http://www.cfisd.net/en/parents-students/community-programs/club-rewind/>

DAYCARE

Students who attend before or after-school daycare programs will be dropped off and picked up in the back circle drive, unless the daycare is assigned a district bus. Parents should inform the front office if a student's daycare provider changes, and they should inform the daycare if their child will be absent from school.

HIKER/BIKERS

Hiker/Bikers are dismissed from two locations – Fairfield Green and Back Door/Hard-Top.

Students are hiker/bikers if they walk or ride their bikes to school. Students who are picked up in cars from neighboring streets are car riders. Students entering or exiting cars near Keith must be in the car rider line. Only students who walk or ride their bikes are allowed to be hiker/bikers. Children who are released as hiker/bikers but are picked up in a vehicle should be utilizing the car rider line. Once students have been released by school personnel, parents are responsible for ensuring the safety of their children. For the safety of your children, we encourage you to meet them near their exit.

Once bike riders, including children and adults, reach the designated crosswalk or school property, must dismount their bikes and walk them the remainder of the way. Bikes must be properly placed in the bike racks and not left on the sidewalks to create a safety hazard.

Fairfield Green

Fairfield Green walkers will exit the building from the front door. Parents are welcome to meet their children at the bike racks or at the edge of the property. Students will be released at the edge of school property. Two crossing guards will be at the crosswalk located near the intersection of Fairfield Green and Crooked Lake. The guards will be on duty beginning at 8:25 for morning arrival and at 4:10 for dismissal time. All students crossing Fairfield Green **must** use this crosswalk.

Hardtop

Hardtop walkers will be released by the main back door. Parents are welcome to meet their children by the back door on the hardtop.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Since safety is our top priority, it is important to have a detailed plan ready for all hiker/bikers on inclement weather days. Inclement weather will only be determined under severe weather conditions. Severe weather will be called if lightning is indicated within 5-8 miles as indicated by a lightning detector. Weather conditions, weather reports, district recommendations, and common sense will also be factors in our decision. If there is only rain, students will be dismissed according to their regular mode of transportation.

The decision to call inclement weather will be made at 3:40 PM in order to prepare for the appropriate dismissal with the most current information. Please do not call the front desk at any time prior to 3:40 PM to inquire if there will be inclement weather. We will push out a notification through School Messenger so ensuring your information is updated will be critical.

Hiker/Bikers Inclement Weather Procedures

- 3:40 – Determine if Inclement Weather dismissal is necessary due to SEVERE weather
- Announce to staff & students that inclement weather has been called
- Notification pushed out through School Messenger

SCHOOL BUS

Each student will be placed on their scheduled bus unless written permission is received to allow students to be a car rider or hiker/biker. Since it takes approximately three weeks for bus drivers and students to become familiar with routes and establish routines, the bus may be later than normal these first weeks. We appreciate your patience as we go through this process.

Students on a district approved transfer are ineligible to receive CFISD bus service. Transfer students are also ineligible for district bus service provided to and from childcare establishments within the school's attendance zone (including in home care providers).

Board policy (Transportation Management, Student Transportation, CNA Legal, Designation of Child-Care Facility or Grandparent's Residence) and the Texas Education Agency (T.E.A.) guidelines for transportation funding eligibility both make an allowance for parents to establish their student's transportation address as one of the following;

1. Residence
2. State recognized (Department of Family and Protective Services licensed, certified or registered) and parent designated child care provider
3. Grandparent's home (when the grandparent is responsible for providing before and after school care).

Note, the campus may request parent or guardian to provide birth records as a source of confirming the relation of the grandparent to the student.

Students are only allowed to ride their assigned bus to and from their assigned bus stop (*one of the above three parent-designated locations*). Any change in that assignment can be made only on an emergency basis if a request is submitted by the parent in writing and it is approved by school personnel or designee. Requests related to after-school activities, such as sports and scouts cannot be approved (Student Handbook HB-36).

Thank you for your assistance in helping us to remain in compliance with district policy and T.E.A. transportation funding guidelines.

Students will not be permitted to board a bus that they are not zoned for without written permission signed by the principal or designee. This includes students who desire to ride a bus that they are not assigned to for play dates, to attend clubs or organizations, etc. **Temporary transfers from one bus to another will not be allowed.**

We enlist your support in working with your child concerning appropriate bus conduct. Students must realize that bus misbehavior can lead to unsafe conditions and will not be allowed. Students should exhibit respect to the bus driver and courtesy to fellow passengers during their bus ride, and when entering and exiting the bus.

Should failure to observe safe bus rules occur, parents of students involved will be notified by a bus report. The consequences for inappropriate bus behavior occur in graduated levels according to the severity of the infraction; therefore, a first offense could result in either a written warning or denial of bus transportation privileges. For further information about the district bus rules, see the Department of Transportation website at:

<http://www.cfishd.net/en/parents-students/transportation/transportation-information/>

The school bus loading zone is located at the left front staff parking lot. To ensure the safety of our students, all car riders are required to use the right front parking lot. Signs are posted at the entrance of the lot designating it as a "bus loading zone". Cars that park in this area during arrival or dismissal will be asked to move and failure to do so could result in adverse actions.

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

Parents will complete a regular transportation plan which designates that students will be one of the following: car riders, bus rider, day car, or hiker/biker. Parents are asked to choose the method that their children will use the majority of the time. Changes in the normal routine for dismissal of a child must be made in writing, indicating how the child will dismiss from school and signed by the parent/guardian.

In an emergency situation, parents may notify the school in writing about a transportation change by faxing (281-213-1749) by 3:00 p.m. In cases where a fax machine is unavailable, only the principal or assistant principals may authorize a change without written consent of the parent/guardian. Transportation changes will not be accepted via email.