

Answers to My Questions

1. **Are you a private school?**

No, we are a public school part of Chandler Unified School District. Carlson Elementary is a “hybrid” school in that it offers both the “Classic” programming as most other Chandler schools as well as the Traditional (CTA) programming. Parents may select which program they want for their child. CTA enrollment, however, is based on class size and priority grouping (see question 3).

2. **Can I register at more than one school?**

CUSD requires that you register your child at your home school once registration begins. Should you be interested in attending an alternate CUSD school, you must submit an Open Enrollment application which can be turned in at your first school of choice and/or the district office.

3. **How do you select your students?**

Students living in the Carlson attendance boundaries are guaranteed enrollment in the “Classic” programming, but not necessarily the CTA programming. Students are accepted into the CTA programming according to the priorities listed below. For CTA enrollment, students are prioritized based on address. **Priority 1** students are siblings. These are students who are brothers and sisters of students already attending our school. **Priority 2** is for the students who live within the school boundary around the school (Gilbert Rd East to Greenfield Rd. / Chandler Heights South to Riggs Rd. AND Ocotillo South to Chandler Heights / Cooper to Gilbert). **Priority 3** is for students who live within the Chandler Unified School District boundaries. **Priority 4** is for students outside of the CUSD boundaries.

Once priorities are established, we start to fill classrooms from those numbers, starting with Priority 1. We then move onto Priority 2 continuing until that group is exhausted, then Priority 3 and Priority 4.

4. **Do you have an entrance exam?**

No, we do not have an entrance exam.

5. **What are your school boundaries?**

Carlson Elementary boundaries lie within 4 square miles (Gilbert Rd. East to Greenfield Rd. and Chandler Heights South to Riggs Rd. AND Ocotillo South to Chandler Heights / Cooper to Gilbert)

6. **Do you offer half day Kindergarten?**

At this time, the district is paying for an all day Kindergarten program here at Carlson Elementary. If there is enough interest in a half day program, the district will consider at each site.

7. **If I have a sibling, do I have to complete registration forms for them?**

Yes, every student enrolled here must have completed registration forms for their files.

8. **Can my child join band or orchestra?**

Band and orchestra will fall within the school day. These programs are open to 5th and 6th graders.

9. **Can my student bring a cell phone to school?**

The Chandler School District does not assume responsibility for the loss of, or damage to, personal property. Cell phones must be turned off and in backpacks at all times while on the school campus. **If a student has a cell phone out while on campus during the school day, or if the cell phone is a disruption or distraction in any way, it will be confiscated and the parent/guardian will need to come to the school office to pick it up.**

10. Can my son have long hair?

It is highly recommended that boys have their hair cut in a style that is not distracting and cut above the collar and over the ears. Unnatural hair color is prohibited.

11. My student forgot their project, can they call home?

Per the District *Student Handbook* “students will not be permitted to use the school telephone unless it is an emergency or for a matter the school officials deem necessary. We believe that remembering homework and musical instruments, etc. is the student’s responsibility. Therefore, phone calls for situations like these are not allowed. In addition, please make arrangements for after school activities with your child at home (e.g. Boy Scout meetings, friends’ birthday parties, etc.)”

12. Can my child wear Heelys? (shoes with wheels in the bottom)

Students cannot wear shoes with wheels at school. Carlson has a footwear policy that requires all open-toed shoes to be adhered to the heel. Flip flops are not allowed.

13. What time is considered ‘tardy’?

School starts at 8:30 am, if a student is not in their seat or with their teacher at that time, they are considered tardy, regardless of the excuse. Students must be signed in by a parent at this time. It is important to know that excessive tardiness may result in an unexcused absence, 5 tardies equal one absence.

14. Can my student ride their bike to school?

Students in grades 2-6 may ride bicycles to school with parent consent. We suggest that the bike have a sturdy lock and be registered with the city. Helmets are strongly recommended.

15. My student was out sick, when can I request make-up homework?

When requesting class work missed during an absence please contact the school office before 11:00 am to provide adequate time for the teacher to prepare materials to be sent home or picked up at the end of the school day.

16. Do you have a hot lunch program?

We do have a hot lunch program, the menu is posted on our website. Lunch is \$2.50 for students, \$3.00 for parents and visitors. Once you have your student school identification number, an account can be set up on MyLunchMoney.com otherwise send in money with your student.

17. Do you have an ELL (English Language Learner) program?

Students are serviced by the teacher in their classroom rather than a pull-out session with a specialist. Each student who qualifies for the program, will have an Individualized Language Learning Plan (ILLP) which will be monitored by the English Language Coordinator. All teachers are SEI (Structured English Immersion) certified.

18. What grades have recess?

All grades will participate in lunch recess. Additional recesses are scheduled by the grade levels with the following conditions:

K-1 – Up to 2 additional recesses (15 minutes each)

2-6 – 1 additional recess (15 minutes)

19. What is a STAR reading test?

This is a Standardized Test for the Assessment of Reading. This computer generated test has students answering questions that assess their vocabulary and comprehension in a timed manner. Students are STAR tested once a quarter to identify present reading levels. Each child will have an individual point goal which they will strive to reach.

20. What is the AR (Accelerated Reading) program?

Students are STAR tested once a quarter to identify present reading levels. Each child will have an individual point goal which they will strive to reach. AR goals will be determined by the percentage of points received. Once a child has finished reading a book, they will take a test specific to that book on the computer to see how well they comprehend the content of the book. Students get excited about accumulating points and seeing their results immediately. Teachers grade on the percentage correct as well as the percentage towards goal.

21. What is ‘Character Counts’?

Our school implements this character building program with the 6 pillars of character throughout the year: be a good citizen, be caring, be fair, be respectful, be responsible and be trustworthy.

22. What is your math program that is used?

For the “Classic” programming, we use the district adopted McGraw-Hill “My Math” program which closely follows our state standards. For the CTA programming, we use the Saxon math program for grades K-4 and McGraw-Hill/Glencoe Math for grades 5-6. It is an advanced program where students operate and are instructed on standards one year ahead of grade level. For additional information please visit our Curriculum link on the Carlson Elementary website.

23. What are phonograms?

These are the basic fundamentals of our reading program, the Spalding method. A phonogram is a single letter, or a fixed combination of two, three or four letters, that is the symbol for one sound in a given word. English has seventy common phonograms (26 letters and 44 fixed combinations of two, three and four letters) that represent the forty-five basic sounds used in speaking. Phonograms are identified by their sound or sounds, whenever practical and not by their letter names. (Example: “a” as in at, navy and father) Young children learn to recognize and say the sounds of the single-letter phonograms in any order. The teacher shows the printed cards, says the sounds precisely and then listens while students say all the sounds for each phonogram. Students are tested on the knowledge of their phonograms every week.

24. Do you have an Art program?

We have the *Art Masterpiece* program. This is a national art enrichment program that uses reproductions of fine works of art to promote art literacy in elementary school age children. This wonderful program is taught by our great team of parent volunteers.

25. As a parent, how can I get involved with the school?

We have a PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) that helps the school with fundraisers, Champion Spirit wear, hospitality, room parents and assemblies. If you are looking for something that directly impacts the way Carlson Elementary functions, we have a Site Based Council (SBA). They meet every other month. Council members are made up of teachers, support staff, administrators, parents and an outside community member. Site Based Councils were mandated by the Education Reform Act of 1993 as part of the Act’s decentralization of decision making. A primary interest of Site Based Councils is to empower those closest to the learner, school administrators, teachers, parents and community members.

26. Do you have a CATS program offered at Carlson Elementary?

We do not currently have any CATS (Chandler's gifted program) programs offered at Carlson and do not anticipate any programs opening up in the future. CATS programming is offered at select site throughout the district based on your home school. All students in grades 2-6 are provided opportunity to be tested for acceptance into the CATS program each school year. Testing for the upcoming school year will take place in January and February on site at Carlson Elementary. Further information regarding the Chandler CATS programming can be directed to the Assistant Director of Gifted Education, at the district Instructional Resource Center – 480-224-3700.

27. Will my child be eligible to ride the bus to and from school?

District bussing is not available to those families living in the direct square mile that Carlson Elementary resides (Gilbert-Lindsay / Chandler Heights-Riggs). These students may ride their bikes, walk, or be dropped off and picked up. However, if you live in the remaining three square miles (Lindsay-Greenfield / Chandler Heights-Riggs OR Cooper-Gilbert / Ocotillo-Chandler Heights) you will be eligible for district bus service. At your time of registration, we will ask you to complete a pink transportation form that alerts our transportation department of your eligibility to receive bussing. Transportation will be in contact with you over the summer to establish the route locations and times. **Please note that students attending Carlson Elementary on Open Enrollment (outside of the Carlson boundaries) are not eligible to receive district bus services. Transportation to and from Carlson will be the responsibility of the parents. Unlike the other CTA schools of choice, students living in the Carlson boundary and attending the CTA program, will still be eligible to receive bus service.**

28. Can I switch my child to the “classic side” if he or she experiences too much challenge with the curriculum? Conversely, can a child be moved to the CTA side after school begins if the parent chooses to make the change?

We ask that parents commit to one year for whichever program they select and are accepted into. Typically, students who may experience additional challenge with the advanced math program or homework load will be provided support within the classroom to assist with their challenge. Should the placement continue to be overwhelmingly burdensome for the student, we will convene a meeting with parents, student, and administration to discuss possible options. The CTA placement remains a lottery acceptance based on class size so students who have already been accepted into the “Classic” side of Carlson will remain with that program for the full year. Changing programs, if a parent wishes, is recommended to be done over the summer prior to the start of a new school year.

29. Can I request a particular teacher for my child? If I am unhappy with my child's placement, can I request a change?

Environmental requests will be made available to parents in April of each school year. These requests provide opportunity for parents to tell us some academic and social information about their child so that we can facilitate the best placement for them the following school year. **Our intent is to create balanced classrooms with respect to gender, ethnicity, and basic academic information gleaned from student files.** Specific teacher requests are not facilitated with this process. Placement changes are not made once class lists are developed. Parent concerns about student placement should be directed to the site administrator with note that placement changes, if required, are made only at the direction of the principal.

30. If my child is admitted into the CTA program at Carlson will they have to re-register each following year?

Once accepted into the CTA program, your child will automatically be enrolled the next year should you choose to remain in the CTA program. A form will be sent home each year asking you to indicate your program preference for the following year. **Please note that students attending on Open Enrollment must complete a new Open Enrollment form each year and acceptance is based on attendance, class size, and the Open Enrollment priority listing which can be found on the district website under “Open Enrollment.”** Additionally, while we make every attempt to accept siblings of existing CTA students into the CTA program as well, circumstances may dictate that acceptance is not able to be completed in which case you will be offered the sister-school option of enrolling into the “classic” programming.