



## Cambridge Crusaders

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Cambridge Elementary School  
Orange Unified School District



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Dear Cambridge Families,

It has been a great start of the year! We've had some amazing instruction going on already, with more and more technology being placed and implemented in our classrooms to further demonstrate 21st Century Learning! Our teachers are being trained and plan weekly to bring the most innovative instruction possible. Furthermore, I am very proud of our students in embracing the new Common Core State Standards and working very hard to achieve at or above grade level standards.

I also want to thank each and every one of you for your continued support of our PTA and our school with the many events we have had including our School Smarts Program, our upcoming Trunk or Treat and Science Night events, and all of our fundraising and volunteering opportunities.

Our continued goal is to strive for staff, students, and community to come together to make a wonderful home-school connection to work together to make this year a very successful academic year for all of our students.

It has been a pleasure to meet so many of you at our Back to School Night, our PTA meetings, and I look forward to seeing even more parents at our School Site Council and ELAC meetings. I am excited to continue to meet more parents as we have another year of success! My door is always open.

It Takes Us All!

### **SBAC This Year at Cambridge**

**The new Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments are very different from previous California tests in several ways:**

- They are aligned with California's new content standards for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics.
- They reflect the critical thinking and problem solving skills that students will need to be ready for college and the 21st century job market.
- The tests are taken on a computer and are adaptive, which means that during the test the questions will become more or less difficult based on how the student performs. If the student answers a question correctly, the next question may be more challenging; if the student answers it incorrectly, the next question may be less difficult.
- They provide many more supports for students who need them, including students learning English and students with disabilities.

**New Standards and Tests: Challenging for Schools to Teach and Students to Learn:**

California is raising the bar for good reason—students need strong math and reading skills to graduate ready for college and a 21st century career. These new tests are more rigorous than the old, multiple choice exams. Students must now:

- Explain how they solve problems
- Think critically
- Write analytically

**How Student Performance is Reported on the Smarter Balanced Assessments:**

Overall Score and Achievement Level: For each grade level and subject area, students receive a score from 2000 to 3000. The overall score falls into one of four achievement levels:

- **Standard Exceeded:** The student has exceeded the achievement standard and demonstrates advanced progress toward mastery of the knowledge and skills needed for success in future coursework.
- **Standard Met:** The student has met the achievement standard and demonstrates progress toward mastery of the knowledge and skills needed for success in future coursework.
- **Standard Nearly Met:** The student has nearly met the achievement standard and may require further development to demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed for success in future coursework.
- **Standard Not Met:** The student has not met the achievement standard and needs substantial improvement to demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed for success in future coursework.

## GATE Testing

The Office of Curriculum and Instruction is currently beginning the GATE screening and identification process for the 2015-2016 school year. This year OUSD will facilitate universal screening of all 3rd grade students for the GATE Program. Parents who do not want their child tested may fill out an option-out form, which can be obtained from the classroom teacher or the GATE office. Students in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 4th-6th grade may be referred for GATE testing by parents, teachers, or administrators. Screening will begin on January 25, 2016 through February 29, 2016. Identification results will be mailed home by mid-April, 2016.

Identification for GATE involves a review of multiple criteria including

- SAI score on the district selected cognitive abilities test
- Student achievement records
- Lexile/Quantile scores
- Student Profile of Gifted Characteristics filled out by classroom teacher

Parents have the option for students that qualify for GATE Identification to have them attend the assigned GATE magnet school or to remain at their home schools. Please note that students qualifying in grades 5 and 6 are often waitlisted due to lack of space at the elementary level.

If a parent wishes to refer a student for consideration, please submit a Referral form online, which can be found on the OUSD GATE website, [www.orangeusd.org/gate](http://www.orangeusd.org/gate) or contact the GATE office at 714-628-5451. **All parent referrals must be submitted to the GATE office no later than December 4, 2015.**

## Student Safety

Cambridge and Orange Unified have strong emergency plans in place, and we consistently practice and refine our protocols for events that we hope will never occur. We also have a supportive and respectful relationship with the Orange County Sheriff's Department and other law enforcement agencies. Representatives from both police and fire departments regularly collaborate with us on emergency procedures and provide us with expert knowledge and tremendous resources in anticipating and preparing for a variety of emergency scenarios. We take safety and security seriously at Cambridge Elementary School. Our goal is to continuously improve our procedures from one emergency drill to the next to ensure that our students and staff are safe. To do your part, please assist us in the following ways:

- Please be aware that all gates will lock promptly at 7:55 in order for teachers to get to their classes, except the Cambridge Gate which will close at 8:05.
- Tardy slips are given out promptly at the 8:00 bell at the Cambridge Gate, in order to take attendance and know who is on campus at the start of the day.
- At that time, please leave campus and if you plan to volunteer, sign in at the front office when coming on campus, including your destination while here. Again, we need to know who is on campus and where they are at all times in case of an emergency.
- Also, if you are not on the campus, please do not watch students from a distance (e.g. over the fence, etc.) so as to cause an alarm from our staff or community.
- Please inform the office of any irregular occurrences in or around our campus.

You've entrusted us with your children. Please know we will always do our very best with the resources we have to provide a safe and meaningful education for them. Thank you for your support and cooperation!

## Getting to School On-Time is Important!

Due to the amount of excessive tardies at Cambridge last year, we are working hard to alleviate this. On top of giving awards for perfect attendance this year which includes no tardies or absences each trimester at Spirit Assemblies, we will also be communicating more with parents and district for those who are consistently late. ***As a reminder, we close all gates except the office gate at 7:58 for teachers to be able to get to their classes.*** The office gate closes at 8:05. Please make sure to get to the school prior to 7:58 to avoid the gate being shut while approaching. Thank you for your cooperation with this!

## Reduced Interruptions

In an effort to reduce the interruptions during the day, we ask that all parents have students come prepared for school with their lunch (if they bring one) or musical instrument. We have been receiving an influx of lunches and instruments to the office before lunchtime and have had to interrupt many classrooms to ensure the kids come to the office to pick them up. This causes a disruption to instruction and makes it difficult for our students and teachers to stay focused before lunch. I thank you in advance for your support and cooperation!

Sincerely,

Jeremy Mortensen, Principal

# School News

## Parent Teacher Association

Have you joined our PTA? This is a great organization to support. We have doubled our membership this year thanks to the membership drive, but we are still accepting volunteers! The PTA provides many opportunities at Cambridge such as field trips, assemblies and technology. With your donation to the PTA we can provide many more opportunities for our students and families. Our membership drive ends soon. Join now for only \$10!



## Volunteer to Help!

Your child loves to see you at school. Parents are encouraged to help the staff and students of Cambridge by coming to school to cut, paste, dye cut, copy, etc. that may need to be done. We welcome parents to get together in an extra room to help our teachers. Please talk to your child's teacher to see how you can help. We have a sign-in sheet in the office so if you have the time to give we'd enjoy your help! No experience necessary, we will train you!



## Reminders

As a reminder, students are considered tardy if not in their lines when the 8:00 bell rings. Please make sure you get your children to school prior to 8:00 so that they are not considered late when they reach their lines.



Due to liability concerns, unenrolled toddlers and small children are not permitted in classrooms during instructional time. That also includes class parties or celebrations. However, unenrolled toddlers and small children are welcome to other events, including family nights, awards assemblies, etc. that do not take place in classrooms. If you have any further questions, please talk to your child's teacher or come into the office for further clarification.

## Cambridge Uniform Policy

Cambridge students are expected to follow the school uniform policy. Studies have shown that a school wide uniform policy helps support a more positive and productive learning environment for all students. Financial assistance for those who meet criteria is available in the Health Office.

There are free dress days on the last Friday of each month and on pictures days. Students may also dress in "theme" on our Spirit Assembly days. Also, every Friday is "Aloha" day! In addition, the "Monthly Free Dress" passes are in the first day Uniform Packet to be used during the school year on a day when your child does not have a uniform available.

## Cambridge Website

Check out our school website! We now have lots of information you may need, including our student handbook, teacher photos and email addresses and their email link. We hope you will take a moment to see the exciting information at [www.orangeusd.org/cambridge](http://www.orangeusd.org/cambridge)



## Tweet Tweet!



Cambridge Elementary is truly entering the 21st Century! We are now on Twitter. Follow us at @Cambridge\_Elem. We have new posts all the time regarding what is going on at Cambridge. Join us in this fun and interactive 21st Century tool! All posts are in English and Spanish. See you in cyberspace!

## Modified Day Schedule

Please make sure to pick up your child on Wednesdays at 12:10 (Kinder) 12:10 (Primary) and 12:15 (Upper). Lunch is served until 12:30! Students eating lunch at school must exit at the Walnut gate.



## "Too Good for Drugs"



The Orange Unified School District each year receives a grant from the United States Title IV-Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program. The purpose this program is to: Support programs that prevent violence in and around schools;

- Prevent the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs
- Involve parents
- Coordinate with related federal, state and community efforts and resources to promote safe and drug-free schools and communities
- Education programs in violence and drug prevention

## Cambridge is a Bully Free Zone!

We continue to promote being a good citizen and assist one another to prevent bullying. Cambridge will also be holding an assembly in conjunction with Red Ribbon Week to prevent bullying on campus. Please talk to your children on how to stop bullying before it begins!



## Cambridge Event Schedule:



**October 12 – 15** – Parent/Teacher Conferences (Minimum Days)  
**October 12 – 15** – CELDT Testing  
**October 13** – *School Smarts* Parent Program, 8:15am (Rm. 33)  
**October 20** – *School Smarts* Parent Program, 8:15am (Rm. 33)  
**October 23** – Camp-out and *Trunk or Treat* night Beginning @ 5:30pm through 10:00am, October 24<sup>th</sup>  
**October 26 – 30** – Red Ribbon Week!  
**October 27** – *School Smarts* Parent Program, 8:15am (Rm. 33)  
**November 2 – 6** – Book Fair  
**November 10** – Dave and Busters Night  
**November 11** – Veterans Day (No School)  
**November 12** – Make-up Pictures  
**November 20** – Jog-a-thon  
**November 20** – End of Trimester (Minimum Day)  
**November 23 – 27** Thanksgiving Holiday  
**December 14 – 18** – Santa's Secret Shop  
**December 21 – January 8** – Winter Holiday