

# Parent/Student Handbook

2010 - 2011

## Power Ranch Elementary School



# Power Ranch Elementary

4351 S. Ranch House Parkway, Gilbert, Arizona 85297

**School Office: 279-7600**

**District Office: 279-7000**

**Health Office: 279-7615**

**Food Services: 279-7120**

**Attendance: 279-7600 (2)**

**Transportation: 279-7130**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The staff and I welcome you and your children to our school. We look forward to cooperatively working with you to provide a positive and successful learning experience for your children throughout this coming year. Power Ranch Elementary is an exciting place to learn and grow!

## Vision Statement

- **Promotes Academic Achievement.**
- **Uses innovative and differentiated instructional practices.**
  - **Motivates students to higher standards.**
  - **Instills passion for lifelong learning.**
- **Builds partnerships among students, staff and community.**
  - **Provides a safe and nurturing environment.**

## Motto

**We are not just a footnote in their story...we are a main chapter.**

## Mission Statement

**As Power Ranch Panthers, we provide a caring, child friendly environment, where all children have the opportunity to excel in academics and citizenship, through meaningful learning experiences.**

To help accomplish our goal, we encourage you to get acquainted with your child's teacher, as well as the staff in the office. A strong parent/teacher/staff relationship facilitates effective communication, which, in turn, positively impacts your child's academic performance. We also invite you to join us as a school volunteer. There are various needs in our school and your contribution of your time and talents is greatly appreciated.

This handbook contains pertinent information regarding school routines, general policies, office hours, and more. This handbook will also define our expectations for student behavior on the bus, as well as on school grounds. Your understanding and support of these policies and procedures will help us to establish a school environment that is respectful, conducive to learning, and that ensures the safety and welfare of students.

We want your child to have a successful and rewarding school year. By combining all our efforts, this can be an exciting time of growth for us all.

Sincerely,

*Dawne Turcotte*

Principal

*Shannon Hannon*

Assistant Principal

## School Day

**School hours: 8:10 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.**

**Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Students are not to arrive before 7:40 a.m.** Supervision is provided between **7:40 a.m. and 8:10 a.m.**

All kindergarten students report to the kindergarten playground.

Grades 1 line up at the west playground.

Grades 2-4 report to the west side of building 400

Grades 5-8 report to the east side of building 400

**After 8:10 a.m., students are to report to the office with their parent for an admission slip.**

There may be a few early dismissals throughout the school year. Parents will be notified several days in advance of these early dismissals, by written notices sent home with students.

## Power Ranch School Newsletter

A monthly newsletter for parents will be sent home with students. This newsletter is packed with important school information concerning upcoming events, student success, and general information of interest to both students and parents.

## Uninterrupted Instructional Time

Power Ranch has designated uninterrupted instruction time for each grade, levels 1 – 5. The school protects instructional time by ensuring classes are not interrupted with announcements or messages from home. When you have messages, materials, lunch money, etc., please take them to the school office.

**Parents must walk their child into the office when their child is late. Parents must sign their child in. Walking your child into the office and signing your child in does not excuse them from being tardy. Walking your child in and signing them in is required to ensure that your child makes it to the office safely.**

## Student Drop off and Pick up

Power Ranch Elementary School is designated as a “walking campus”. Therefore, the flow of traffic and the design for the large number of vehicles is a safety concern for the staff, parents, and community. **THE FRONT OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IS FOR BUSES ONLY, PLEASE DO NOT PARK AND LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE UNATTENDED FOR ANY REASON.**

**West Area** is located west of the 300 building, south of the bike racks. The loop will be used for pick-up and drop-off only. **DO NOT park and leave your vehicle unattended.** For the safety of your children, **DO NOT** use the outside lane to drop-off or pick-up your child. You will be asked to exit the loop and come back and wait your turn. Traffic exiting onto Ranch House Parkway may only make right-hand turns heading north. Students will be waiting for parents to pull forward and load. If you live in the following neighborhoods, you are asked to use this area: **Vineyards, Groves, and Arbors**

**East Area** is located on the southeast corner of the gymnasium. There will be four parking spaces blocked off for the loading zone. Traffic will enter from Haven Crest, east of the clubhouse and turn around in the school-parking loop. Traffic flow will be directed back out to Haven Crest. If you live in **Mountain View, Oaks, or Orchard**, you will use this area.

If you use the east drop-off in the morning, you must enter the school parking lot via Haven Crest. For the safety of our students, please **do not** enter the parking lot from Ranch House Drive. There are two crosswalks that students cross paths with vehicles, and we want them to be safe. As the school's front entrance will be closed from 7:40-8:05 a.m. and 2:55-3:15 p.m. If it is necessary for visitors to enter the office, please use Haven Crest to enter the parking lot.

**All Day Kindergarten drop-off & pick-up** will follow the same procedures as above.  
**All Day Kindergarten pick-up must be completed by 3 p.m. to allow for buses.**

### **SPECIAL ATTENTION!**

**The Town of Gilbert has prohibited parking on the Splendor Cul-de-sac near the West Drop-Off Loop. Parking will be prohibited starting August 9, 2010, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.**

### *STUDENTS WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL*

1. We encourage all students to walk in groups with other children that they know.
2. Walk the route with your child. Point out potential danger spots and teach them some precautions they can take.
3. Children living west of Ranch House Parkway and south of Haven Crest must use the crosswalk south of the school.
4. Children must follow all directions and instructions of the crossing guard.

### *STUDENTS RIDING BICYCLES TO/FROM SCHOOL*

*Students bring bicycles at their own risk.*

Please take the time to teach your youngster bicycle safety.

1. We encourage students in kindergarten not to ride a bicycle to school. The congested streets, lack of developed reflexes and the lack of understanding traffic make young children on a bicycle a special risk.
2. Bikes are to be parked in spaces provided, not leaned on the fence. Because the school does not insure them, and the bike area is not monitored, we recommend that bikes be individually locked at school. Power Ranch cannot assume responsibility for stolen or damaged bikes. It is also a good idea to register the bike with the Gilbert Fire Department, make note of the serial number, and keep a description of it in case of theft.
3. Scooters and skateboards need to be stored in the designated area. Park and lock bikes in bike rack.
4. Roller blades or roller skates, motorized scooters, and "Heelys" are not allowed on campus.

### *Parents picking up students before dismissal*

When a student is going to be dismissed early from school, the parent must come to the office and sign a check-out sheet stating the date, time, student's name, the name of person taking the student, and the reason for the dismissal. If the student returns the same day, they must sign in on the same sheet. When possible, parents should notify the school in advance when an early release is necessary.

### ***Field Trips/Dances***

Field trips are occasionally planned as educational experiences. Parents will be notified prior to any school field trips. A permission slip must be signed for each trip for which students are transported by bus. Student council may sponsor dances throughout the year. Students in all grade levels who have received an **In School or Out of school** suspension up to the date of the fieldtrip or dance may not attend the school sponsored event during the same quarter.

### ***Birthday Celebrations***

Birthday parties are an important part of each child's life; however, student birthday parties are not held at school. This practice helps to ensure that instructional time is protected and that all children are treated equally.

The school and teacher have a variety of ways for recognizing students' birthdays that do not interfere with instruction and do not create inequities for children. If you would like suggestions for appropriate ways to recognize your child's birthday, please contact your child's teacher, principal, or parent teacher organization officers.

Please contact your child's teacher to pre-arrange an appropriate time to distribute birthday treats in a way that will not interfere with instruction. When planning snacks for school celebrations, remember that the county health department requires that no home-cooked food be distributed to students at school. This practice is intended to protect students from the spread of communicable disease.

### ***Governing Board Meetings***

The Higley Unified School District #60 Governing Board has two scheduled meetings a month. Public notices are posted at each school site and the district office at least 24 hours before the meeting is scheduled to occur. The notice will state the date, time, and location of the meeting, as well as a meeting agenda.

### ***Lost and Found***

Many items get lost or misplaced at school. Please label your child's items. If there is a name on the item, it will be returned to the owner. Unmarked, unclaimed items will be placed in the Lost and Found box and if unclaimed given to charity.

## Parent-Teacher Organization

Power Ranch School has an organized group of parents and teachers known as the "PTO." Parents are encouraged to actively participate in the PTO and support projects, through out the school year. The Power Ranch PTO is an active organization that sponsors a host of activities to benefit our school.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
President	Maria Huth	<a href="mailto:president@powerranchpto.org">president@powerranchpto.org</a>
Vice President	Ann Bernzen	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@powerranchpto.org">vicepresident@powerranchpto.org</a>
VP Ways & Means	Geri Charvet /	<a href="mailto:vpwaymean@powerranchpto.org">vpwaymean@powerranchpto.org</a>
VP Programs & Activities	Stacy Pedersen	<a href="mailto:vpwaymean@powerranchpto.org">vpwaymean@powerranchpto.org</a>
VP Middle School	Gerri Mills /	<a href="mailto:vpmiddle@powerranchpto.org">vpmiddle@powerranchpto.org</a>
VP Elementary	Dee Prendergast	<a href="mailto:vpproact@powerranchpto.org">vpproact@powerranchpto.org</a>
Secretary	Kari Thomas	<a href="mailto:vpelementary@powerranchpto.org">vpelementary@powerranchpto.org</a>
Treasurer	Leona Stout	<a href="mailto:secretary@powerranchpto.org">secretary@powerranchpto.org</a>
Historian	Cherie Smith	<a href="mailto:treasurer@powerranchpto.org">treasurer@powerranchpto.org</a>
Parent Teacher Liaison K-2	Brandi Nelms	<a href="mailto:historian@powerranchpto.org">historian@powerranchpto.org</a>
Parent Teacher Liaison 3-5	Karen Iodice	<a href="mailto:p2liaison@powerranchpto.org">p2liaison@powerranchpto.org</a>
Parent Teacher Liaison 6-8	Monica Coates /	<a href="mailto:35liaison@powerranchpto.org">35liaison@powerranchpto.org</a>
	Lori Bosworth	<a href="mailto:68liaison@powerranchpto.org">68liaison@powerranchpto.org</a>
	Colleen Hernandez	<a href="mailto:summer.aupperle@husd.org">summer.aupperle@husd.org</a>
	Karen Rhoads	<a href="mailto:valerie.merril@husd.org">valerie.merril@husd.org</a>
	Summer Aupperle	
	Valerie Merrill	