



**COWLISHAW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
***Indian Prairie Community Unit School District 204***  
**1212 Sanctuary Lane**  
**Naperville, IL 60540**

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**Ken Bonomo**  
**Principal**

**Sarah Maldonado**  
**Student Services**

**Cowlishaw Elementary School Title I School Policy**

Parents are their children's first and most important teachers. Research tells us that parent Involvement makes a big difference. When schools welcome families, establish personal relationships among families and staff, help parents understand how the system works, and encourage family-staff collaboration to improve student achievement, students do better in school, and the schools get better.

Cowlishaw Elementary School is committed to being family friendly and to working as partners with our families to help our entire student population learn to high levels.

In order for our families to feel respected, validated, and viewed as partners in their child's education, **Cowlishaw Elementary School** will provide:

**1. A welcoming environment**

- Friendly signs welcome visitors
- Standards of welcoming behavior apply to all staff, teachers, assistants, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians, office staff and administrators
- Visitors and callers are greeted politely, promptly and can get information easily
- Parents have easy access to family resources from our library media center to use at home
- Communication is frequent and includes many formats including: Meet and Greet, parent-teacher conferences, open house, phone calls, and written correspondence including newsletters, emails, listservs, Connect Ed messages, and school website

**2. Programs and activities to engage families in improving student achievement**

- Current student work is displayed throughout the building
- Programs and activities help families understand what their children are learning and promote high standards
- Report to parents about student progress and how teachers, parents and community members can work together to make improvements
- Provide parents with information about their individual student assessment
- Provide parents with school assessment data, goals and areas targeted for improvement

**3. Strong relationships between teachers and families**

- Welcome new families.
- Teachers connect to families and bridge barriers of language and culture

(630) 428-6100  
Office

(630) 428-6101  
Fax

(630) 428-6114  
Attendance

- Meetings are held at times convenient for parents and are flexibly scheduled so that as many parents as possible are able to attend
- The school is open and accessible, it is easy for parents to meet with the principal, talk to teachers and bring up issues and concerns
- Teachers focus on student strengths and making positive interactions with families

**4. Opportunities for families to develop their skills, self-confidence and contacts**

- Provide volunteer opportunities for parents in a variety of ways to capitalize on parent strengths and be flexible with schedules
- District and School committees and the PTA membership reflect the diversity of the school community and actively recruit and welcome families from all backgrounds

**5. Professional Development for families and staff on how to work together productively**

- Families learn how the school system works and how to be effective advocates for their children
- Teachers learn about successful approaches to working with families of diverse cultural backgrounds
- Cowlishaw Elementary School reaches out to identify and draw in local community resources that can assist staff and families

6. Cowlishaw Elementary School will survey parents annually and based on the survey data, involve parents in the joint development of its school parental involvement plan. Parents, teachers and staff will annually review and revise this school parent involvement policy as needed.