



# West Side School

## Recess Volunteers

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Thank you for volunteering to serve as a recess volunteer. Your role is an important one that will help our students get the most out of their recess experience.

Our school playground aides are Ms. Doris Sposato, Ms. Kimberly Dussol, Ms. Donna Howell, and Ms. Nancy Fastuca. They have the responsibility of supervising all students and are trained to watch for activities and actions that could result in injury. The aides will intervene when students have difficulties. It can be challenging for them to organize and facilitate games and sports while observing and monitoring the behaviors of up to sixty students on the playground, the field, or during indoor recess.

Recess volunteers have the freedom to focus on one group of students at a time. You will be able to help students organize and play games that all participants can enjoy. Your role will be to support the children as they organize games and activities, choose teams, and negotiate rules. Please help the students include others as they select their activities.

### Here are some guidelines to help you:

- ✓ Recess volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum of two 20-minute recess periods a day. Please let us know if this is a problem and we will do our best to accommodate you.
- ✓ If you are unable to meet your commitment, please call the office before 11 AM, especially for indoor recess days.
- ✓ Please sign in and out at our Security Desk. You will need to wear a visitor's badge.
- ✓ No siblings, please.
- ✓ Recess volunteers are expected to support all students. While it may be tempting to spend time with your own child, it is important that all students receive the necessary attention.
- ✓ Discipline is the responsibility of the school staff. If you see or hear something inappropriate, please alert one of the school aides who report directly to me. I will handle any discipline issues that come up with students and their classroom teachers.
- ✓ Children are not permitted to leave the playground without the permission of a staff member.
- ✓ Confidentiality is essential. Please refrain from discussing anything you observe on the playground with people other than the school staff. No cameras, please.
- ✓ Recess only, please.
- ✓ The zip line is open to those students who can safely reach it on their own. Please do not assist student by picking them up.

### Suggestions:

- ✓ Feel free to teach students new games (or variations of "old" ones!)
- ✓ When helping students make teams, use a 1-2, 1-2 method. (All 1's on one team; all 2's on the other.) Selecting captains to choose teams can lead to hurt feelings.
- ✓ Teach students to use methods for deciding who goes first.
- ✓ If you see a child sitting or standing alone, encourage the other students to ask him or her to play.
- ✓ Emphasize fun over winning.
- ✓ Arrive a few minutes early on indoor days.