Bear Creek Parent Handbook

The Parent Handbook is a reference guide for Bear Creek. Updates will be made as appropriate, and communicated with the school community. If you find incorrect information in this handbook or would like us to consider adding something in the future, please contact the Office.

Allergies
We have several students at Bear Creek with life-threatening allergies, the most common of which is an allergy to nuts. Parents of students with life-threatening allergies should communicate this to the Office and are encouraged to communicate with other parents (the school can facilitate this) whose children are in the same grade level. The more awareness the whole community has of the allergy, the more we can work together to keep those students safe.

Because of life-threatening allergies, we ask that students never share food or snacks they bring to school, and that parents talk to their children about the importance of hand washing, especially when students bring nut products to school.

Attendance/Absences/Tardiness/Illness
Attendance is important. Habits and patterns for good attendance are developed at an early age as children take their cues from parents about the importance of coming to school. The State Statute and BVSD Policy state that absences are considered excused only if they are due to a temporary illness or injury, an emergency, serious illness or death in the family, medical and dental appointments which cannot be scheduled outside the regular school day, participation in religious observations, or extremely inclement weather. Vacations will be excused as long as they are pre-arranged, and communicated to the teacher and Office. Extended vacations (two weeks or more) may result in a family needing to do a temporary withdrawal of their child in order to avoid attendance issues. A disruption such as this makes consistent learning very difficult for an elementary age child.

Unless your child is sick, please do not allow him or her to stay home during the school day. If you have concerns regarding emotional issues, school phobias, or stress and tension felt by your child, please contact his or her teacher to discuss these issues. Consistent routines which encourage children to get up and prepare for school with a positive attitude are extremely helpful. Children who do not have the benefit of this parental structure and guidance consistently struggle in school. Support your children by ensuring school attendance.

Absences: Parents are asked to please call the Attendance Line (720) 561-3502 by 7:30 A.M. if a child will be absent. You may call in the evening and leave a message if you know your child will miss the following day at school.
**Tardiness:** All students should be in attendance areas at 7:48 a.m., when the first bell rings. A student arriving after 7:50 A.M. needs to report to the Office before proceeding to class. You will sign your child in on the YELLOW sign-in sheet.

If a child attends another academic class, such as middle school Math, he or she will not be considered tardy.

We realize some tardiness is involuntary, such as that due to accidents and weather. It is our goal to reduce voluntary tardiness. Students are held accountable for completion of missed work due to either voluntary or involuntary tardiness.

The staff will identify students with chronic tardiness and provide appropriate intervention to improve the situation.

**Early Dismissals:** Parents who need to have a child dismissed early or excused from school for a brief period of time should see their child’s teacher to determine the necessary arrangements. Also, please stop by the Office to sign-out your child. Students who return for the remainder of the day need to check back into the Office.

**Illnesses: (criteria for keeping your child at home)**
- Fever of 100 degrees F or more
- Fever of more than 98.6 degrees F plus other symptoms
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Frequent and uncontrolled coughing and/or sneezing

**Illness at School: (criteria for sending a child home from school)**
- Symptoms (vomiting, etc.) with or without a fever
- Fever of 100 degrees F
- Fever of 98.6 degrees F with accompanying symptoms
- Some injuries (at the discretion of the Health Room staff)
- Diarrhea
- Unexplained rash

If your child has been ill, please give him/her adequate time to recuperate before returning to school. Rushing a child back only makes it difficult on the child and increases the chances of infecting other children. If your child is on antibiotics, please do not send your child to school until he/she has been on medication for a full 24 hours. Also, please don’t send your child to school until his/her fever has been broken for at least 24 hours (without medicine).

**PLEASE make sure that your contact numbers are up to date—it is very hard to explain to a sick child that the phone number is wrong.**
Back to School Night
Back to School Night is an evening (usually a Wednesday) in the first few weeks of school that is a parents-only event. This event allows parents to meet teachers and hear about curricula for the upcoming academic year. Details are announced in the August. The evening schedule is organized by grade level. You will come for a designated time slot depending on your child’s grade level. We encourage parents that are able to walk, as parking can be tight.

Bear Creek R.O.C.K.S.
The Bear Creek R.O.C.K.S. program is adapted from a nationally recognized system called Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBiS), which all Boulder Valley Schools implement. The main belief of the program is that by looking at student behavior through a positive lens and being clear about the behaviors we expect and admire in students, we can help all students behave appropriately and be safe at school.

The values Bear Creek focuses on are Respect, Own It, Cooperation, Kindness, and Safety. The staff aims to be clear with students (and parents) about what the rules, and to reinforce those rules using positive consequences or re-teaching. When a student does not know how to read, we re-teach. When a student does not understand math, we approach it from a different “angle” and re-teach. When a student misbehaves, adults typically punish. Instead, the staff believes a focus on re-teaching student behaviors will result in much more positive changes.

Bear Tracks
Bear Tracks is an Adobe PDF formatted newsletter that includes announcements and articles about school business and events, and a calendar of events. A link is emailed monthly and archived on the school website. Please click this LINK to access past Bear Tracks.

Bear Tracks is published by the School Office. If you would like something included in the newsletter, please submit it to the Office. Material may be edited for clarity and space. Please submit material no later than noon on Wednesday the same week as the publication. Late submissions will be considered for the following issue only.

Before and After School Activities
Bear Creek offers several activities in which students can participate. “Clubs” are supervised by Bear Creek staff and will be communicated via school and classroom newsletters. In the past these have included Intramural Sports, Spotlights Choir, Yearbook Club, Drumming Club, Jump Rope Club, etc...

There are also activities run through BVSD Community Schools program that are open to children throughout Boulder, but happen at Bear Creek. Some examples of classes that have happened in the past have been yoga for children, exploring with Legos, language classes and sports activities.

Groups that are not sponsored by Bear Creek or BVSD can rent our space after 4pm and are
responsible for rules and supervision. See the August Bear Tracks for this year’s club opportunities, and the Community Board for opportunities offered by outside agencies.

**Before and After School Procedures**

For your child’s safety, students should be dropped off at Bear Creek no earlier than 7:40 A.M. when supervision begins in the morning. If for some reason you need to have your students at Bear Creek early, we invite you to supervise them until 7:40 A.M. when teacher supervision begins. Students may not drop their belongings in their classroom until the bell rings at 7:50 A.M.

On days with inclement weather, there will be either a red flag or a green flag flying under the American flag. A red flag means that students should come inside the front door and sit in their designated grade level area until they are dismissed to their classrooms. A green means that we have deemed the weather safe enough to be outside before school.

After school supervision ends 15 minutes after dismissal, so be sure your child has been picked up by 3:05 P.M. After school arrangements need to be made prior to the beginning of school. Students are not allowed to use the school phones to make play dates. Please keep in mind that during the school day the teacher’s primary responsibility is his/her classroom, and keeping interruptions to a minimum is appreciated. If you would like to leave a message for your child’s teacher, they will get back to you when their schedules allow. We encourage parents to make arrangements for transportation and after school activities with their children before school starts. It is not always possible to get a message to a classroom during the last minutes of the day. We understand that emergencies come up and we will try to help when that happens.

Most parents are on time to pick up their children almost 100% of the time. But sometimes unforeseen situations or changes in weather may result in a day that you are late to pick up your child. Please go over with your child what they should do if they ever come outside and you are not here to pick them up. Students should come to the Office and we can watch them here until you arrive. If you know you are going to be late, please feel free to call the Office so we can let your child know that we have heard from you.

Sometimes parents decide to stay and let their children play after school for some period of time. This is absolutely OK, but students must have a parent with them who is responsible for them. Students cannot stay after school unaccompanied. This is both for safety issues related to strangers, and also because there have historically been problems when students are here after school without supervision. Statistics have shown that after school hours (3-6 P.M.) are frequently times when children get into trouble when they are not adequately supervised.

**Bicycle and Skateboard Policy**

Students are permitted to ride bicycles, skateboards, scooters, etc… to school. All students are to wear helmets. Rollerblades and Heelies are not allowed. Nothing motorized is allowed.

Please dismount on the edge of Bear Creek property and walk your bike to the bike rack. Bike
rules apply to adults as well - adults must dismount at the edge of the Bear Creek property too. No bicycles, skateboards, scooters, etc… are to be used in front of the school, near the flagpole.

We strongly suggest that parents regularly review general safety procedures and safe riding routes with a child who is riding to school.

**Birthdays**

In accordance with BVSD’s [Healthy Foods Guidelines](https://www.bvsd.org/Page/4330), Bear Creek does not celebrate birthdays with treats. Each classroom teacher will have their own custom for celebrating birthdays, so check with your child’s teacher for details.

Another way to honor your child is to join the Bear Creek Library Birthday Club! Celebrate your child’s birthday by donating a book in your child's honor to the school library. A book plate with your child’s name and special occasion will be placed inside the book. Please see the teacher librarian with questions and suggestions of titles.

We also ask that there is no distribution of party invitations at school.

**Bulletin Boards**

In the Atrium/Lobby, you will find bulletin boards to include P.T.O. news, before and after school information, and community news. To post on the Community Board, please see the Office.

**Bullying Policy**

Bear Creek has a comprehensive, proactive, bully-proofing program that is purposefully taught at all grade levels and is reviewed every year. Stopping bullying is a mission that requires cooperation between parents, the school and the community. The Bear Creek community has demonstrated exceptional results in combating bullying but continues to refine its strategies and efforts with the goal of ensuring that every student, every year, can learn in a safe and fear free environment.

Each year the Bear Creek staff reviews the essential bullying concepts on which we will focus in an age-appropriate manner with all students. Currently the essential concepts include:

- Students will understand the concept and definition of bullying
- Children will understand who bullies, why children bully and who are typically victims
- Children will understand the difference between:
  - tattling and telling
  - normal peer conflict and bullying
- Students will learn effective strategies to prevent bullying (Ha-Ha-So)
- Students will understand the dangers of bystander behavior and the power of a caring majority
- Victims of bullying will know strategies for how to avoid bullies/being bullied

Bear Creek surveys students throughout the year to identify problem areas, uses “Classroom
Community Meetings” to check-in with students, and works to create a school climate where bullying is not tolerated. Research shows that bullying often occurs on playgrounds and in lunchrooms, and therefore the school has increased adult supervision and increased training for staff who supervise recess and lunch.

In addition to appropriate consequences that will change the behavior of the bully, we feel it is critical to restore a feeling of safety and efficacy for the victim. If you suspect your child may be the victim of bullying, begin by asking him or her to tell you what is happening. It is important to respond in a calm, positive and supportive manner. Let your child know it's not his or her fault, and that he or she did the right thing by telling you. You know your child best and know whether they can handle the current situation with strategies they have learned, or whether it is time to get more adults involved. Students often feel empowered by their ability to solve the problem with some guidance, but if they are “in over their head,” do not hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher and/or the principal immediately.

Teachers, the school counselor, and the principal have experience that allows us, with your help, to construct a plan to improve your child’s sense of safety in school. We will explore ideas such as reducing the contact between the child and the bully, increasing the contact between the victim and children he/she likes and feels safe with, establishing a safe-zone at recess, increasing adult supervision, and working with your child to develop a plan of communication with a trusted adult at school on a daily basis. The method we choose is usually guided by the child - they will often tell us exactly what they need in order to feel safe. When children give input their true needs are met and they feel empowered about their ability to enact strategies to make themselves safe.

Parents’ ability to remain calm and confident has a great impact on their child’s ability to rebuild their emotional resources. Parents can also arrange extra play dates for their child, spend more family time together, reconnect with relatives and friends who their child trusts, or do something fun that their child really enjoys. The goal is to make their good feelings about the people in their lives “stand out” more than their anxieties or fears.

**BVSD Non-Discrimination/Equal Opportunity Statement**

Boulder Valley School District does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, national origin, religion, ancestry, need for special education services, age, marital status, genetic information, or physical characteristics in admissions, access to, treatment, or employment in educational programs or activities.

The Compliance Officer for students, parents and members of the public is Dr. Rob Anderson, Superintendent, BVSD, 6500 Arapahoe Road, Boulder, CO 80301, 720-561-5114.

The Compliance Officers for BVSD employees are Mike Gradoz, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, or RibordyMelissa, Director of Human Resources, BVSD, 6500 Arapahoe Road, Boulder, CO 80301, 303-447-1010.
Complaint procedures have been established for students, parents, employees and members of the public.

**Cell Phones/“Wearables”**
If your child has a cell phone/“wearable” that they bring to school, it must be turned off during the school day and remain in your child’s backpack. [BVSD Cell Phone Policy](#)

**Carnival**
The Bear Creek Carnival is an after school (~4:30-6:30pm) event held in the Fall. This is a fun, family event, and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Child Abuse Reporting**
All staff at Bear Creek are mandatory reporters, and do so in order to protect the safety of your children. Each year there is a review of child abuse reporting procedure in which every staff member participates.

**Classroom Community Meetings**
The Bear Creek community believes strongly in building students’ social-emotional abilities through direct instruction. Every classroom has weekly “Classroom Community Meetings” where the class gathers to talk about how they treat each other, how to be emotionally safe, and how to resolve conflicts. In addition to checking in about how things are going day-to-day, teachers cover and review school-wide programs, including the Positive Behavior Intervention Support program, bullying, cultural proficiency, and name-calling.

**Class Placements**
In mid-April, the Office will send out details about the class placement process. Generally, teachers, specialists, and the principal work through a thoughtful and deliberate process to derive a class list:

1. All the teachers from your child’s current grade level get together to build balanced class lists. They consider student abilities and achievement levels, learning styles, behavior, special needs, gender, peer relationships, and leadership qualities of all the students.
2. Teachers from previous grades are asked to review the lists.
3. Specialists (art, music, physical education, library, and special education) review the lists.
4. The lists are given to the principal, who considers any special circumstances that might necessitate changes to the lists. The principal then assigns the next year’s teacher names to the lists, using all the input from the previous steps.
5. As a double check, the lists are given one final review by the current year teachers, and then are considered ‘final’.
Most families communicate throughout the year with their child's teachers so that we understand each student's needs and optimum learning environments.

Previous enrollment in a teacher’s class does not influence a sibling’s class placement the following school year. Though we understand the relationship you may have developed with a particular teacher, we must consider the overall classroom dynamic for every child’s success. Every new student and every new teacher is an opportunity for a fruitful and lasting relationship.

**Concussions**

BVSD has guidelines and protocols in place for the care of students who sustain a head injury/concussion either at school or at home. If your child sustains a head injury during school hours, you will be notified and supplied with a letter explaining the symptoms to watch for as well as a form for your doctor to fill out regarding post-concussion guidelines. If your child sustains a head injury outside of school hours, please notify us and supply us with any documentation you may have received from the doctor. For more information, please see BVSD’s Concussion Resources page.

**Contacting Teachers**

Please feel free to call the school anytime during the day. The Office is open from 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. If you call after school hours, you can leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible. If you would like to leave a message in a teacher’s voicemail, call the main number and follow the prompts. Please keep in mind that during school hours all calls for teachers will be transferred to their voicemail. The teacher’s primary responsibility is the classroom and keeping interruptions to a minimum is appreciated. We encourage parents to make arrangements for transportation and after school activities with their children before school. It is very inconvenient and disruptive to interrupt classrooms with messages for children. In addition, it is not always possible to get a message to a student during the last minutes of the day. We understand that emergencies come up and we will try to help when that happens.

All BVSD teachers have email addresses which are typically firstname.lastname@bvsd.org. Some teachers prefer phone messages to email, so check with your child’s teacher to determine if this is the preferred method of communication.

**Contacting the Principal**

Many days the principal is outside before and after school and welcomes any informal dialogue, questions, or insights from parents. Please also feel free to use emails for quick questions or comments (tanner.dayhoff@bvsd.org). If there is something you would like to discuss that might take longer than a few minutes, or requires a greater level of privacy, parents can make an appointment by calling the Office and asking Michelle to set up a time to meet.
Counselor
Bear Creek has a full-time school counselor who works with the general population on social emotional development. The counselor does this by providing whole class, small group, and (occasionally) one-on-one instruction. While the counselor touches base with and talks to all students at the school on a regular basis, sometimes a need arises for some more in-depth help. In cases where the counselor plans to meet more regularly with an individual student, he/she will speak with the parents to gain consent and communicate the plan.

Cruger Cup/Walk to School
Bear Creek encourages students to walk, bike, scooter, skateboard, carpool, etc... to and from school. There are many benefits of fewer cars on the road and students getting fresh air and exercise. Students who travel to school by one of the above methods every single day that school is in session and that they are present earn the Cruger Cup (named after our former principal, Kent Cruger). Even if you are an open-enrolled family and must travel part of the way to school by car, we have made accommodations so that you can participate in our efforts. Look for more details at the beginning of the year or ask in the Office about car-free commuting efforts at Bear Creek.

Discipline Approach
Bear Creek is fortunate to have students who almost always display appropriate conduct. At the same time, we know and expect that every child will make an occasional bad choice in behavior. We see these bad choices as learning opportunities, and opportunities to grow as a person.

When students do make a poor decision, they will be supported by a consistent discipline approach that will re-clarify expectations and ensure that all students at Bear Creek are safe. Part of our discipline plan encourages children to think through consequences and figure out ways to repair the situation. We believe this approach this will help develop problem solving skills and build empathy for others.

When a child is having a difficult time following class rules, and is having low-level behavior issues, they will have a “Classroom Conference” with the teacher. This may mean a short talk with the teacher, a time-out to re-focus, or an accommodation of a different space or learning partner. Each teacher will handle the conference in a way that best suits his/her style and the age of the child. The goal is always to invite the child back to learning quickly. Teachers may have multiple “Classroom Conferences” with students throughout the year; however, if improvement does not occur over time, the student may be directed to the Office.

When more serious behaviors occur, or when multiple “Classroom Conferences” have been tried and the behaviors have not improved, students may be sent to the Office for a 10 to 20 minute re-focusing time. A short "debriefing" time between the teacher/principal and child will occur as soon as possible, and a plan for improved behavior agreed upon. If possible, amends will be made in a timely manner.
When even more serious actions occur, including hurtful physical behavior, destroying property, verbal harassment, continuous disruptive behavior, and defiance of authority, parents will be included in the process. A phone call home will be made by the principal, teacher, or student. In-school consequences will usually accompany this level, including restorative practices when possible and removal of appropriate privileges for a brief period of time.

Other serious behavior problems that violate BVSD Policy will be handled by the principal in accordance with BVSD policies for suspension and expulsion. For example, possession of a weapon or drugs, tobacco or alcohol, theft, fighting, vandalism, causing a false alarm, ethnic/gender intimidation, and serious frequent disruptive behavior all are offenses that would be handled according to BVSD policies for suspension and expulsion.

**Dogs at School**

For many Bear Creek families, walking to school in the morning is a treasured family time together that includes the family dog. In order to respect those families who want to walk with the family pooch as well as those folks who are uncomfortable with or allergic to dogs, we ask that dogs are kept on the outskirts of the fields, not near the flagpole or in the playground areas, and away from paths and walkways and where students are gathering. Dogs must always be on a leash with their owner (not tied-up) and should always be cleaned up after. BVSD insurance does not cover incidents involving dogs, and Bear Creek staff will approach families who are not abiding by these rules. Frequent violations of these practices could result in Bear Creek property becoming a “No Dog Zone.” (Note - “Show and Tell” with family pets is not allowed.)

**Emails from School**

We believe email is a good avenue for some, but not all, communication to and from school. When an issue is emotional to you, or may create an emotional reaction in someone else, we encourage communicating by phone or better yet, in person. Tone, body language, and intent are very difficult to read in an email.

The email contact you can expect from the Office includes the weekly Bear Creek Blast, the monthly Bear Tracks newsletter, and occasional notices from Office Staff and the P.T.O..

Teachers often send their newsletters by email and typically will use it for short reminders or quick updates.

**Field Trips**

A permission slip will be sent home with each student prior to every field trip. The slip must be signed by a parent or legal guardian, and returned to the teacher in order for the student to participate. Teachers will notify parents about other specific needs, such as volunteer needs, sack lunches, or donations.
Food Policies
Parents should not bring any food to school that is going to be shared with other students without consulting with the classroom teacher or the Office. We do not allow Birthday Treats.

The school does not use food at school as a reward nor will it be withheld as a punishment.

At special parties (Halloween, winter party, Valentine’s Day, and end-of-the-year party), parents should make efforts to have most of the food (75% or more) comply with Healthy Food Guidelines. We emphasize aspects of celebration not related to food, including games, crafts, cultural traditions, etc... Classroom events specific to curriculum that include foods related to content (e.g., first graders studying Japan and trying sushi) will be exempt from the above.

Activities planned by school staff or by our PTO should comply with Healthy Food Guidelines. Having one treat is acceptable at each community event, but when possible most of the food (75% or more) offered at any function will comply with the Healthy Food Guidelines.

Fundraising
The PTO presents the Tools for Learning Challenge Direct Donation Campaign that begins in the Spring and continues in the Fall. It is Bear Creek’s main fundraiser. This type of fundraising campaign is in place to make it easy for parents to support the efforts to enhance outstanding learning experiences and programs by asking for a one time donation. All donations are tax deductible. In light of our State’s budget recovery, donations keep our school running at the level we have come to expect.

The school also participates in several cash-back programs through local grocers. Please see the P.T.O. or School Office for more information.

Gifts
Teachers and other school employees cannot accept gifts from students or parents that are more than $25 in value per family. Families cannot “pool together” gifts, except for major life events (i.e. - birth of a child, marriage). Please see Board Policy GBEBC-R for more explanation.

Halloween
Halloween is celebrated with a Great Pumpkin Festival, organized by the Student Council. Students may decorate (no carving) a small pumpkin to display at school. Rules and schedules will be in Bear Tracks in early October.

In addition, there is a school-wide parade in the gym on Halloween (or the day before if Halloween falls on a weekend). The details will be announced in Bear Tracks in the middle of October. Toy weapons may not be brought to school, even as part of a costume. This includes (but is not limited to) water pistols, rubber knives, swords, guns, darts, war and self-defense toys, etc... Given the young age of many of our students, exceptionally gory costumes are not appropriate for school. And, consider reserving full makeup for non-school celebrating.
Halloween is a “hallowed” tradition at Bear Creek, and we love to keep it creative and fun!

Health Room
The Bear Creek Health Room is staffed by Office staff. There is also an Emergency Response Team (First Aid/CPR trained staff or faculty) to handle severe injuries. There is not a fully trained nurse in the school on a routine basis. Health care and first aid are provided by the Office staff under the guidance of a School Nurse Consultant.

Vision and Hearing Screenings are conducted each year. Immunizations are tracked following State and BVSD Policies. For more information, refer to BVSD’s Immunization Resources page. If your child has a significant health problem (i.e. - asthma or allergies), please inform us so that we can avoid any complications. A physical is recommended for students entering Kindergarten, fourth grade and for new students to Boulder Valley School District.

Emergency Information: It is extremely important that the Emergency Information is updated through the Annual Data Update (ADU). Also, describe any health conditions which may affect your child’s school routine or performance, including any medications prescribed for your child, whether or not they are given during the school day. It is important that two emergency contacts are listed. Be sure to notify the Office with any changes in emergency information and phone numbers: both home and work. If your child is ill, he/she may only be released to those listed through the ADU. If you will be out of town, please call and inform office staff in writing to report who will be caring for your child in your absence.

Health Screenings (Vision and Hearing)
Vision and Hearing Screenings are conducted in the Fall. Please watch Bear Tracks for exact dates. Parent volunteers are needed for this event.

HelpAtSchool
HelpAtSchool is our volunteer website. We have a strong volunteer community at Bear Creek, and lots of opportunities to help out: from providing teacher snacks or making a dish for Parent-Teacher Conferences, to helping in the library or school garden, to assisting with events like Carnival. Pick an opportunity that fits your schedule and your interests. HelpAtSchool is also used to sign-up for Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Homework
Bear Creek staff works hard to stay current on the most recent research regarding homework. During the 2019-2020 school year, we will be revisiting our practices with homework in order to obtain a balance between the benefits and drawbacks of homework. For the time being, individual teachers will articulate their homework expectations to students and parents.
**Immunizations**

This school year BVSD will be enforcing Colorado law (Board of Health rule 6 CCR 1009-2), which requires all students attending Colorado schools and licensed child cares to be vaccinated against certain diseases unless a signed medical, religious or personal exemption is filed with the school. More information regarding Immunizations can be found on the [Boulder County Public Health](https://www.bouldercounty.org) website.

**Inclement Weather**

On days with inclement weather, there will be a either a red flag or a green flag flying under the American flag. A red flag means that students should come inside the front door and sit in their designated grade level spots until they are dismissed to their classrooms. A green means that we have deemed the weather safe enough to be outside before school.

**Intramurals**

Intramurals is for 4th and 5th graders. It meets two mornings a week at 7:45 a.m. and is run through the P.E. program from September to March. More information will be posted in the August *Bear Tracks* Newsletter.

**Library**

Students go to the library weekly with their class for a scheduled library time. Teachers will let you know which day that will be for a given school year. During this time, students will come for a lesson, read aloud, or book talk. Students then choose books. Kindergarteners check out one book at a time, 1st and 2nd graders two, 3rd and 4th graders three, and 5th graders four. With their teacher’s permission, students may also come to the library during the school day to check out books. Parents are welcome to get library cards and check out books as well.

Patrons may keep their books for two weeks, but if they want to check out new books during their next library session, they need to return their books. Books are considered overdue if they have been checked out longer than two weeks, and patrons will receive an overdue notice. Students are not allowed to check out books until they return all overdue books. Books can be renewed. We do not charge fines for overdue books, but replacement costs are charged for lost or damaged materials. Students who do not pay for lost books from the previous year will be expected to pay for them before they can resume library privileges.

**Lip Sync**

Lip Sync is an annual event that usually happens in early February. Parents help their children form groups of 4 or more students, pick a song they want to perform, and after practicing at home (the school cannot be used for practices), they perform on a chosen evening. The school has DVD recordings of past Lip Sync’s that you can borrow and look at to see what this event is all about. Parents can help by encouraging inclusivity in groups rather than exclusivity.
Litter
In order to teach responsibility, please keep our school grounds clean, and be respectful of the neighbors. Please also keep an eye on and encourage students to pick up after themselves and not leave wrappers, food containers, clothes, etc... on the playground or in the hallways. Bear Creek takes pride in taking care of our neighborhood and environment.

Lost and Found
The lost and found for clothing or large items is located at the end of the hallway next to the Gym. Smaller items and valuables are kept in the Front Office. All unclaimed articles are donated to charity approximately three times a year. A notice will be placed in Bear Tracks prior to the donation. Please label all jackets, lunch boxes, backpacks, water bottles and any other gear with your student’s name.

Lunch
All BVSD schools participate in The School Food Project. In 2009, BVSD changed all of our ingredients, recipes and menus to improve the quality of food we serve to our students. Highly-processed foods, such as chicken nuggets, are gone. We eliminated chocolate milk, which decreases the amount of added sugar available for children to ingest in school. Every school cafeteria in the district has a salad bar, which always has animal and vegetable proteins available on it as well as an assortment of fresh vegetables and fruits. Foods containing high fructose corn syrup, added trans-fats, and added colorings/preservatives have been removed from the menu. Our bread, buns, and rolls are whole grain products made regionally from Wheat Montana. The 1% bulk milk served at lunch is organic, Colorado milk, and the 1% container milk served for after school snacks and breakfast in the classroom is hormone- and antibiotic-free. Lunch menus will be sent home at the beginning of the school year, and are available at this link: MENUS

Hot lunch must be ordered during attendance period in the morning (by 8:45 A.M.). Please make sure your child is clear on whether he/she is eating hot lunch or cold lunch. If your child is going to miss the morning attendance period, please call the Office with lunch information so we can order the appropriate item(s).

Lunch Account: There are two ways to manage your child’s lunch account. All children have their own lunch accounts with their own account pin numbers. (This is their student number which is available one week before school starts. Just call the Office!) Parents are asked to make an initial deposit into their child’s account on the first day of school by check or by credit card on MyPaymentsPlus.com.
   1. MyPaymentPlus is a secure online payment system which simplifies payment, collection, and balancing of funds for school districts. Payments can be made by credit card 24/7 and parents can review purchases and balances. Parents receive an email reminder when the account is low or overdrawn. You need a student number to sign up at https://www.mypaymentsplus.com.
2. Cash or check to the Office. Money for all items purchased in the lunchroom should be sent in a lump sum. Parents will receive an automated phone call when their child’s account is low or overdrawn. Additional deposits to their account can be made in the Office at any time. Checks should be made payable to “BVSD.”

Families in need of financial assistance may apply for Free and Reduced Lunch.

Please make arrangements with your child’s teacher if you plan to take him or her out of school for lunch. Remember to sign your child out in the Office and have him/her sign-in upon their return to school.

Joining your child for lunch? If you would like to join your child for lunch, we would love to have you. Please let the Office know by 9:00 A.M. if you will be joining us for lunch that day, as lunches are brought in from off premises. Make sure your child has enough money in his/her account to cover BOTH your lunches.

**Lunchroom Rules**

The lunchroom is supervised by paraprofessionals and teachers/administration (as needed). The Lunchroom Rules are referred to often, and include:

- Walk at all times
- Use a quiet voice
- Stay at your spot
- Raise your hand for adult attention
- Eat Neat
- Wait to be dismissed

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Assembly**

Each year Bear Creek students learn about civil rights leaders from various countries and eras. Students also explore the impact of the work of Martin Luther King, and student songs from the American Civil Rights Movement. The culmination of these studies is an assembly in late January/early February to celebrate students’ learning and the life of Martin Luther King. Parents are encouraged to attend this powerful event.

**Medication at School**

Whenever possible, you are encouraged to give your child medication at home rather than during school hours. The Health Room can ONLY dispense prescription and non-prescription medication that is accompanied with a completed Medication Administration Authorization form signed by you and your child’s physician.

All over-the-counter medicine (including aspirin, Tylenol, cough medicine, cough drops, vitamins, supplements, Emergen-C, Airborne, etc…), must be accompanied by this form as well. **This is state law; please do not ask us to violate it.**
The following guidelines are in place in the Boulder Valley School District, to provide safety for all students. Keep in mind that most staff who administer medication to students are non-medical personnel working under the supervision of a School Nurse Consultant.

- Medications are not to be in the personal possession of students.
- A new Authorization form must be signed and submitted for each new prescription medication or dosage change. New Authorization forms must be completed each year.
- Prescription medication supplied by the student’s parent or guardian must be in a properly labeled bottle dispensed by a pharmacy.
- Non-prescription, “as needed” medications must be in the original labeled container.
- Prescriptions should also be labeled with the student’s name.
- It is the responsibility of the parent to obtain all unused medication at school when the medication is discontinued, the school year ends, or the student transfers to another school. At the end of a school year, school staff will dispose of all unclaimed medications.

Parents are always welcome to come to school and administer medication to their child.

Meet and Greet

Usually a day or two before school starts, you and your child will be invited to school to meet your new teacher(s), hand in registration forms, talk to the PTO and reconnect with friends after the summer. The event is scheduled for 45 minutes, but it usually takes only 15 minutes to accomplish the above tasks. Hence, if the Meet and Greet time is scheduled from 9:00 a.m.-9:45 A.M., you need not show up right at 9:00 A.M., but can stop by at any point within that time frame.

Milk Caps for Moola

Longmont Dairy trades milk caps for money for our school. If you receive Longmont Dairy milk, be sure to save the caps and bring them to the Office.

Music Program

Spotlights: This vocal choir is open to 4th and 5th graders who have an interest in developing vocal skills and performance skills, and who can commitment to attend rehearsals and performances. The choir rehearses mornings twice-a-week before school and performs two programs during the year at school. The Rehearsal Schedule is published in Bear Tracks and events are posted on the school-wide calendar.

Drumming: Meets once a week before school to learn drumming techniques, and performs two programs during the year at school.

National Geographic Geography Bee

This national competition tests the geography skills of our students. In preparation for the Bee, students learn about climate, maps, latitude, longitude, landforms, elevation, population density and more. This program is open to 4th and 5th graders.
Newsletters
Classroom newsletters are an important tool utilized by our teachers. Teachers regularly communicate with parents about classroom activities, events, programs, and areas of study. Please take time to open and read these emails.

No School Days/PD Days
During the school year there are various No School Days and Professional Development Days for teachers. On these days, special programs are offered by the YMCA at Bear Creek. Parents need to complete a one-time registration, health and emergency information form with the YMCA. Once registered, parents can then choose any or all of the days that the YMCA offers children's activities. Visit the YMCA in the lunchroom for more information.

Office Hours
The Office is open from 7:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The office phone number is (720) 561-3500.

Open Enrollment Tours
Open Enrollment Tours occur in December and January as we prepare for the coming school year. Each event includes a parent-led tour, question and answer time with the principal, and classroom walk-throughs. This is our main way to introduce prospective parents to our school. Dates and times are published on the school website and BVSD website.

Outdoor Education
In the fall, Bear Creek 5th graders participate in a 3 day, 2 night outdoor education experience at Cal-Wood in Jamestown. This is a highlight of most 5th grader’s school year. Bear Creek staff and Cal-Wood staff supervise the students. In the past, even children who had never previously spent a night away from home or have had serious medical issues have attended. There will be a parent (and student) presentation at Bear Creek prior to the excursion when all questions will be answered.

Paraeducators
Paraeducators (often referred to as paras) are hired by Bear Creek to assist in classrooms, support small groups, complete clerical duties, and supervise lunch and/or recess.

Parent Engagement Network
Parent Engagement Network (P.E.N.) http://parentengagementnetwork.org is a BVSD district-wide collaboration to engage parents in fostering healthy choices among all youth, and increase awareness of available resources for parents and families.

Parent Teacher Conferences
This individualized meeting with your child’s teacher(s) will be held each Fall and Spring.
Conferences are also available upon request anytime during the year. The first conference will occur in October. You will sign-up for a time slot using Help@Schools. Watch the early September Bear Tracks for exact dates. The second conference will be in February, with sign-ups a few weeks before the conference dates. See Bear Tracks in late January for this information.

At your appointment time, wait outside your child’s classroom while the teacher finishes with the appointment before you. Teachers will be on a tight schedule that evening, so please be on time.

**Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)**
The Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) supports fundraising, community events, outreach and coordination of volunteers. Their primary communications tools are meetings, emails, and Bear Tracks. The PTO welcomes new members at any time! PTO Board Members and others interested meet one Tuesday a month from 1:30 to 3:00, with dates being published on the school calendar. Parents do not need to come to the PTO meetings in order to be involved with the PTO – there are numerous volunteer opportunities.

**MypaymentsPlus**
To set up a lunch account, go to [https://www.mypaymentsplus.com](https://www.mypaymentsplus.com). You will need your student number.

**Phone Directory**
In compliance with BVSD guidelines, this is an “opt in” process and the information shared is directed by parents. The Bear Creek directory link will be provided to our Bear Creek Community parents only and will be maintained by the office. This directory is to be used for playdates and social events. It is **not** to be used for mass mailings, political messages/endorsements, business use or gossip. Throughout the year information contained in the directory can be modified at the request of a parent via email or phone conversation. The home page of the directory is “ABC” format and individual class information is available on tabs at the bottom of the document.

**Phone Usage**
Students need their teacher’s permission to use the classroom phones. Since the number of lines are limited, student usage is for emergency purposes and not social engagements.

**Photos: Individual and Class**
Individual student pictures and class pictures will be taken and be available for purchase. Information on the packages available, costs, and dates will be sent home approximately two weeks in advance of picture day.
Physical Education

Physical Education classes require appropriate footwear. Shoes need to cover, cushion, and hug your child’s feet. The shoes should leave no marks. Students may not wear: Crocs, Keens, sandals, heavy boots, snow boots, or like footwear.

Fun and Fitness Day: An all-school activity in the Spring for students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. This fun event is for students to showcase and demonstrate skills that have been practiced during Physical Education class. Parents are invited to watch and even participate.

Intramurals: A before school activity for 4th and 5th graders. This activity is designed to give students extra time to further develop motor skills, as well as enjoy a more competitive game environment. Sportsmanship and safety are first priority.

Jump Rope Club: A before school activity for students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. The objective is to increase cardiovascular endurance, improve coordination and agility, meet friends, have fun and learn to become a great rope skipper.

Playground and Recess

Bear Creek staff (teachers, paraeducators and the principal) actively monitor students during all recesses. Our general rules are based on Bear Creek “ROCKS” - Respect, Own It, Cooperation, Kindness, and Safety. Staff works with students to ensure safety, while also trying to allow kids to enjoy recess as they would playing on the weekends with family and friends. While “Safety” is the top rule, our other general rules include:

- No hurtful, physical behavior
- No bullying or harassment
- No excluding others from games (this doesn’t mean that you have to play with someone who is being unkind
- No throwing of rocks (or snowballs in the Winter)
- No running with or using sticks as weapons
- No tackling or grabbing other students and pulling on them
- No offensive language
- No cell phones, “wearables,” or video games
- Stay in the Bear Creek boundaries

These rules apply before and after school as well.

Registration and Enrollment

When you first move to the Bear Creek Elementary School neighborhood, you may enroll using the [http://www.bvsd.org](http://www.bvsd.org) website. You will be guided through the on-line registration and prompted to upload certain information into the application.

Other than when a family first moves to the Bear Creek neighborhood or is accepted to Bear Creek through Open Enrollment, registration occurs each January for the following school year. If your address changes please let the Office know, and they can advise you on Open Enrollment to stay at Bear Creek, or simply change the address if you are still within our boundaries.
Report Cards
Report cards will be available electronically 3 times a year. The first trimester ends in early November. All report card evaluations at the elementary level are aligned to the District standards, and on the 4-3-2-1 scale of proficiency. Report cards can be accessed through the Campus Parent Portal and viewing is available for 60 days after being issued.

Safety and Emergency Procedures
It is extremely troubling that our country continues to experience emergencies and tragedies at schools and public venues. We’re proud that BVSD works to stay current on safety protocols and practices to help ensure everyone’s safety. More information on BVSD’s approach to safety can be found at https://www.bvsd.org/parents-students/be-ready.

Bear Creek has specific plans for emergencies that are regularly reviewed with staff and BVSD Security personnel. Our plan is specific to the unique needs of our school. These plans are also practiced with students through lessons and regular drills. Any questions parents have regarding safety and emergency procedures at Bear Creek should be directed to the principal.

All community members can support safety at Bear Creek by taking three specific actions:
1) If you see something, say something!
2) All adults at Bear Creek must wear an employee ID or a visitor name tag at all times. If you spot someone without an ID or name tag, please alert the nearest employee.
3) Doors should not be propped open at any time. Please do not prop open any door, and if you see an open door please report it to the Office.

School Accountability Committee
The School Accountability Committee is an official group that helps the school create and monitor the school’s improvement goals. In addition, the SAC is a leadership group that discusses important changes at the school, the school budget and the school climate. Please contact the principal if you are interested in joining SAC.

School Hours
School begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m.

School Improvement Goals
The School Accountability Committee is an official group where the community can be involved in educational improvement at a school. It is through the cooperative efforts of teachers, parents, staff, administrators, students, and community members that foundations for school improvement are built. The SAC is an advisory team that looks at school goals, reviews school budgets, supports parent engagement, and drives school improvements. BVSD requires each school to have an active SAC, to serve as a grassroots organization for accountability that advises the school Principal. The school’s Principal is ultimately responsible for ensuring
compliance with all federal, state, and district requirements and meeting the academic performance expectations defined by the BVSD. If you are interested in joining SAC, please contact the principal.

**School Supplies**

School supplies, including pencils, pens, rulers, scissors, etc... are purchased by the school in bulk in order to save money, create less waste from year to year, and ensure that all students have the right materials for the school year. Parents will be asked to pay for supplies at the beginning of the school year.

**Snacks**

Parents should send in a snack with their child every day. Parents are highly encouraged to send in single-serving snacks (reusable containers are fine) that will make a positive contribution to their child’s diet and health. Please help ensure health and safety by reminding your child that snacks are not to be shared at school.

**Snow Days**

The cancellation of school due to weather is a district-level decision. If you are unsure if BVSD is closed or delayed to weather, watch the area at the top of the front page of the [BVSD](https://www.bvsd.org) website. Public notice of a closure or delay will be posted on a banner there as soon as possible after the decision has been made. Additionally, an email, a phone call and a text message (for those who have opted in to receive text messages from BVSD) will be sent to everyone whom the closure or delay directly affects.

**Spelling Bee**

The *Daily Camera* Spelling Bee is held each Winter and is open to all 4th and 5th graders. Students take a classroom pre-qualifying test and top score recipients proceed to a school-level bee. The Bear Creek champion participates in the District Spelling Bee. If you would like to be a monitor for the Spelling Bee, please respond to the call in *Bear Tracks* several weeks prior to the competition.

**State Testing**

The Colorado Measures for Academic Success (CMAS) assessments are administered in March and April each year. Students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades are assessed in reading, mathematics, and writing. Every 3 years, 4th grade students are assessed in social studies, and 5th grade students are assessed in science. More information will be available in the January *Bear Tracks* newsletter.

**Student Council**

Students are elected student representatives and alternates for each half of the year in 1st-5th grades. The council meets twice a month after school, and sponsors school, community and world-wide projects.
Student Identification Number (I.D.)
Your child has a student number assigned by BVSD. For new students, it is available the week before school starts. You will need the student number to log onto the MyPaymentPlus system to prepay for lunches by credit card. The Office can provide you with your child’s student number.

Student Support Team
Sometime during your child's time at Bear Creek you may be invited to a Student Support Team (SST) meeting. Usually the teacher will suggest having a SST to the parent because the teacher is worried that the student is not achieving (academically or social-emotionally) to his or her full potential. The goal of the meeting is to use the individual knowledge and collective expertise of the group to make a plan for the best growth possible. The team usually consists of 4-5 professionals, and is specific to the child’s needs.

The Student Support Team is part of BVSD's Multi-Tiered Systems of Support. For more information, please visit https://www.bvsd.org/parents-students/academics/mtss.

Toy Weapon Policy
Bear Creek students shall not bring toy weapons to school (including, but not limited to: water pistols, rubber knives, swords, guns, darts, war and self-defense toys, etc...). Students not adhering to this policy will have their toy weapon taken from them, and possibly face a suspension. A parent will need to come to school to pick up the toy weapon if a student brings it to school. Students are not allowed to have toy weapons as part of their Halloween costume.

Transportation/Parking Lot/Drop-Off Location Alternatives
Parking Lot: Please observe the following practices for our school parking lot. Our primary goal is to ensure the safety of all children as they arrive at and depart from school. Following these guidelines will help make the school drop-off and pick up times run more smoothly.

- Traffic into the main parking lot (east of the school) must enter at the north driveway and exit at the south driveway. Traffic flow is ONE WAY through the lot and the drop-off/pick-up lane; please minimize circling back through the lot to get to the drop-off/pick-up lane again.
- The red zone in front of the flagpole is to be kept clear for emergency access at all times. CARS MAY NOT PARK IN THIS ZONE, NOT EVEN TO DROP-OFF OR PICK-UP CHILDREN.
- THE CURB AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE PARKING LOT IS A DROP-OFF/PICK-UP ZONE ONLY. It is painted yellow to show that this is a loading zone at all times. CARS MAY NOT PARK IN THIS ZONE AT ANY TIME. During morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times, do not leave your car in this area – you must be able to move your car for other traffic at any time.
- The drop-off/pick-up zone is only the lane closest to the curb along the perimeter. Double stopping is NOT PERMITTED in this zone, as it forces children to run between parked cars, and it impedes traffic flow. Please continue along the drive until you are
immediately behind the next car in the loading zone.

- If you need to park and leave your car, either to meet your child or to conduct business in the school, use the parking lot spaces, or park along Table Mesa Drive. Please do not leave your car in the yellow drop-off/pick-up zone at any time, not even for a few minutes.
- Have your child ready to get out of the car as soon as you arrive at the school in the morning. Also, talk to your child about when and where you will pick them up in the afternoon; if they are ready to meet you, you can avoid leaving your car to get them.
- Please use the painted crosswalks at the sidewalks and in front of the flagpole to cross between the parking lot and the school sidewalks, especially during the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times.
- Staff on duty in the parking area are in charge of child safety, which includes directing the flow of traffic. PLEASE SHOW STAFF RESPECT, AS THEY ARE TRYING TO ENSURE ALL MEMBERS OF OUR SCHOOL ARE SAFE.
- Note that staff on duty in the parking area have primary responsibility for child safety. Please make other arrangements for discussions about your child or the classroom, and do not distract them from their supervision.
- The back parking lot, west of the school, MAY NOT BE USED FOR CHILD DROP-OFF OR PICK-UP AT ANY TIME. This is our teacher parking lot and spaces need to be accessible to teachers. Also, the driveway is too narrow to allow two cars to pass safely and there is no sidewalk or teacher supervision of this location, so children may be at risk.
- Extra caution and patience will be needed on bad weather days. More children are driven to school on these days, and slippery conditions may exist. Please watch for slipping children or cars in the crossing lanes.
- Please do not use your cell phones while dropping-off and picking-up children. Even with hands-free and wireless earpieces, the distraction can be very dangerous.
- Families outside the Bear Creek enrollment area may wish to form carpools. Please use your directory to research families who live in close proximity to you.

**Drop-Off Location Alternatives:** We highly recommend the use of alternatives to drop-off and pick-up in the school parking lot. If you live close to the school, walking and bike riding are easy alternatives. Older children can be dropped-off near the school and walk the last block.

- Park on Table Mesa Drive westbound, and walk across the street using the pedestrian light at the corner of Stephens Road. (Do not allow your child to jaywalk across the middle of Table Mesa Drive – this road is dangerous with all the traffic.)
- Coming westbound on Table Mesa Drive, turn right on Ithaca Drive or Stephens Road to circle west of the school; you can then park on Table Mesa Drive eastbound or drop-off your child on the school property.
- Coming westbound on Table Mesa Drive, turn right into Table Mesa Court, on the north side of Table Mesa Drive opposite Lehigh Street. Your child can walk up the north side of Table Mesa Drive to the pedestrian light at the corner of Stephens Road.
- Coming westbound on Table Mesa Drive, go past the school, and then turn left on Ithaca Drive. Two sidewalks connect from Ithaca directly to the school property between the houses. The more northerly sidewalk is marked by a crosswalk and school crossing sign; the southerly one is at the right-angle turn where Ithaca turns into Wildwood Lane. You can continue on Wildwood to connect back to Bear Mountain Drive and then to Lehigh.
Valentine’s Day
Individual teachers will communicate the manner in which Valentine’s Day will be celebrated in each classroom. Please do not include any food as part of your Valentine cards. Watch for more information from your classroom teacher in late January.

Visitors: Parents and Volunteers
Per BVSD Policy, all parents, volunteers, visitors, vendors, contractors, etc... are required to stop by the School Office, sign-in, and pick-up and wear a visitor or volunteer badge throughout their visit. Please return the badge to the Office and sign-out upon leaving the building. Items being dropped off for students (lunchboxes, water bottles, instruments) are to be left in the Office, and will be delivered to students.

Volunteer Opportunities
At Bear Creek, the process of educating our children is a team effort. Teachers, support staff and parents share the goal of providing the best education possible for our students. Parents are an integral part of this effort. Your valuable help enables teachers to meet the many and varied needs of our students.

Volunteers must adhere to BVSD Volunteer Guidelines and Policies - https://www.bvsd.org/parents-students/get-involved/volunteers

Website
The Bear Creek website (https://bce.bvsd.org/Pages/default.aspx) and the District website (https://www.bvsd.org/) are other useful sources of information. The lunch menu, links to MyPaymentPlus, school calendar, curriculum standards, and school closings can be found on both websites, along with other helpful information.

Weekly Folders
Folders are sent home weekly (more often in some classes), and include graded work, newsletters from the classroom teachers, various forms, and any other written materials that the school or teacher deems important enough to print. Please read all the materials in the folder and return the folders to school in a timely fashion. Most teachers send the folders on Friday and need them returned on Monday to stay organized!

Yearbook
The Yearbook is published once a year. Orders are placed in February, and books are delivered in May. You will receive an order form in your weekly folder.

Students are invited to participate in creating the yearbook, but parent photographs are always welcomed. A teacher supervises this club.
YMCA/ Y-Care

The YMCA rents space at our school to offer the highest quality care for our students. You can register for either mornings, afternoons, or both. You can also pre-register your child ‘just in case’ you need drop-in care periodically during the school year. Programs are offered to the full school community for teacher work days and many vacation days. The school year before and after care, called Y-Care, dovetails with YMCA summer program. Fliers for this come home weekly folders. You can also get more information by emailing bearcreek@ymcabv.org.

“You Rock” Slips

The staff members at Bear Creek recognize the positive behavior they see in students at school by passing out our Bear Creek “You Rock” slips. All staff members wear lanyards that have Bear Creek Rocks slips attached. When staff see a student doing the right thing they give the students a Bear Creek “You Rock” slip. The recognition is immediate, specific and often. The goal is to give attention to students when they are doing the right thing, which is actually very easy to do given that 99% of our students are doing the right thing 99% of the time.

Students will typically receive several Bear Creek “You Rock” slips a week. Any time a student gets a Bear Creek “You Rock” slip, they put it in a jar in their classroom for weekly Bear Creek Rock Star recognition. The emphasis of the program is recognition, not rewards (but we do occasionally add some fun, exciting rewards.)

See the Bear Creek R.O.C.K.S. portion of this handbook for more details.