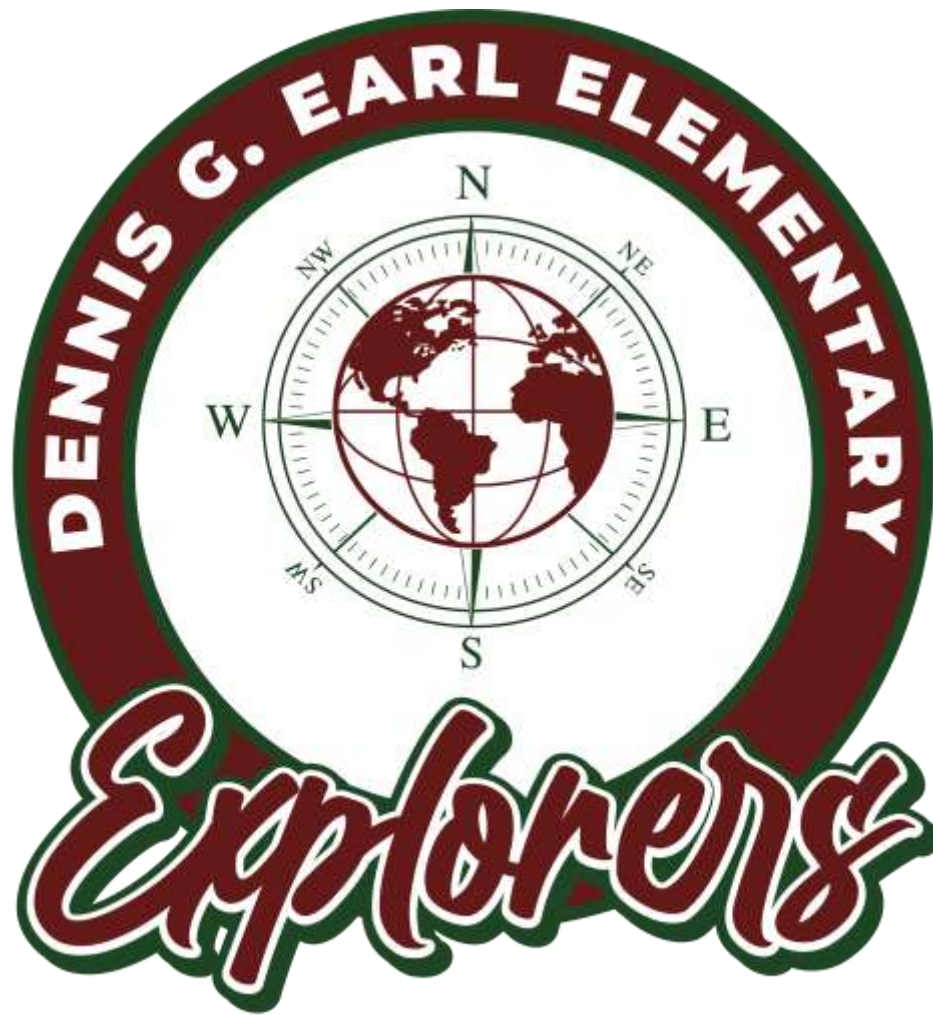


TURLOCK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dennis G. Earl Elementary

2023-2024 Student Handbook



Paulo Pimentel, Principal
Sarah Flora, Assistant Principal
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07/01/23

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CHARACTER TRAITS

TURLOCK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

ACHIEVER

Work hard and possess a great deal of stamina. Take immense satisfaction in being busy and productive.

RESILIENCY

Recover from or adjust easily to adversity or change.

EMPATHY

Sense other people's feelings by imagining themselves in others' lives or situations.

FOCUS

Take a direction, follow through and make the corrections necessary to stay on track. Prioritize, then act.

FUTURISTIC

Inspired by the future and what could be. Energize others with visions of the future.

INCLUDER

Accept others and show an awareness of those who feel left out and make an effort to include them.

KINDNESS

Display a friendly, generous, or considerate nature.

POSITIVITY

Demonstrate contagious enthusiasm and can get others excited about what they are going to do.

RESPONSIBILITY

Take ownership of what you say you will do. Committed to stable values such as honesty and loyalty.

SELF-ASSURANCE

Confident in the ability to take risks and manage their own lives. Have an inner compass that gives certainty in decisions.

Character is Our Strength



STRATEGIC PLAN

Adopted by the TUSD Board of Trustees: July 13 2021

WHY?

VISION

All students will become self-motivated, responsible citizens who graduate college and career ready.

BELIEFS

1. Every person is unique and has inherent value.
2. Every person can be a successful learner.
3. People are accountable for their actions.
4. Family engagement is essential to the academic and social-emotional success of students.
5. Honesty, integrity, and respect build trust in all relationships.
6. Motivation, grit, and mindfulness are necessary to achieve full potential.
7. High expectations yield greater levels of performance.
8. A quality education enriches all lives by creating and expanding opportunities.
9. Positive role models inspire excellence.
10. A service mindset is vital to a thriving community.

HOW?

LCAP GOALS

1. Academic Achievement & Social-Emotional Learning: Utilize a multi-tiered system of supports to increase academic achievement & social-emotional learning to enhance student success & well-being & promote college & career readiness among all students.
2. Equity & Access: Create equitable practices & experiences for all students & staff to mitigate social inequalities & embrace human diversity.
3. Curriculum & Instruction: Provide guaranteed & viable learning from highly qualified teachers who use adopted materials & effective instructional practices to implement standards.
4. Parent Engagement: Expand opportunities to increase parent & family involvement to support District initiatives.
5. Safety & Security: Uphold policies, procedures, & maintain facilities that reflect a safe, secure environment.

WHAT?

MISSION

Turlock Unified School District will deliver effective instruction in a safe, equitable, supportive environment in partnership with our families and diverse community.

OBJECTIVES

1. Students will demonstrate proficiency in all subjects.
2. Students will achieve personal goals tailored to their aspirations for college and career.
3. Students will develop and demonstrate positive character traits.
4. Students will earn a diploma or successfully complete their Individualized Education Program (IEP).



Turlock Unified School District



Dennis G. Earl Elementary School

Home of the Explorers

Paulo Pimentel, Principal

Sarah Flora, Assistant Principal

WELCOME TO DENNIS EARL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!

August 2023

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year at Dennis Earl Elementary, a school of exploration! An exciting and productive new school year is awaiting your child! We are all hopeful that you have enjoyed a fun and relaxing summer with family and friends. Our entire staff has been working tirelessly to prepare for this school year in order to make it better than any other in the past. I want to welcome all our new families joining the Earl Explorer community and want to extend a warm welcome back to all our returning families.

This handbook has been designed so that parents and students can utilize it as a guide to the policies of our school and district. It contains valuable information regarding character traits, attendance, parent communication, and opportunities for school involvement, general rules and much more. Please review this handbook with your child and visit our school and district websites for more information.

We look forward to developing a positive partnership in an effort to help your child reach their full potential. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact me by phone, email, or stop by the office. I look forward to meeting all of you throughout this upcoming school year and making this a great year to remember!

Sincerely,

Paulo Pimentel

Paulo Pimentel, Principal

Dennis Earl Elementary School

SITE ADMINISTRATION/OFFICE PERSONNEL

Paulo Pimentel, Principal
Sarah Flora, Assistant Principal
Elizabeth Jaramillo, Administrative Secretary
Lacey Vieira, Secretary I
Caty Nariman, Community Liaison
Ginger Machado, Attendance Clerk/Secretary
Guillermina Delgadillo, Community Liaison
Melanie Swanson, Health Technician

Office Hours – 7:30 to 4:00

BELL SCHEDULE AND INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

- Campus opens at 7:30 for breakfast and the playground.
 - Supervision of students begins at 7:30.

- TK/Kindergarten A.M. – 7:50 to 11:14 / TK/Kindergarten PM – 11:15 to 2:39
 - A.M. Lunch (optional) is at 11:15-11:40
 - P.M. Lunch (optional) is at 10:50 – 11:14

- 1st-6th grades – 8:00 to 2:39 (not Wednesdays)
 - First bell rings at 7:55 signaling students to line up.
 - A student who is not in class by 8:00 is tardy.
 - Lunch Schedule (may change by 20 minutes depending on recess schedule)
 - 1st/2nd grades eat at 11:00
 - 3rd/4th grades eat at 11:45
 - 5th/6th grades eat at 12:30

- Wednesday Schedule
 - All TK/Kinder come from 7:50 – 11:14 (optional lunch at 11:15-11:40)
 - 1st-6th grades come from 8:00 – 11:49.
 - Lunch Schedule (may change on a rotation basis due to earlier start time; recess may also be first instead of eating.)
 - 5th/6th grades eat at 9:45
 - 3rd/4th grades eat at 10:25
 - 1st/2nd grades eat at 11:05

STAYCONNECTED WITH FAMILY LINK

TUSD Family Link parent portal provides parents with access to their student academic information including grades and assignments as well as simple steps to update student data and approve annual authorizations online. Creating an account is as easy as providing your email address to your school office which will be followed by an email with the Family Link login information.

STUDENT FEE GUIDELINES

California Education Code Section 49011(a)(1) requires that “All supplies, materials, and equipment needed to participate in educational activities shall be provided to pupils free of charge”; and Code Section 60070, states “No school official shall require any pupil...to purchase any instructional material for the pupils' use in the school.” This means that schools in the Turlock Unified School District cannot require students to purchase supplies (e.g., paper, pens/ pencils/crayons, protractors, rulers, binders, workbooks, etc.) to participate in an educational activity. Donations of school supplies in any quantity are appreciated, but under no circumstances are they required.

ATTENDANCE

The Dennis Earl Elementary school staff believes an important part of education is participation in classroom activities on a daily basis. The school's attendance policy is designed to ensure that students comply with the state's education law and receive the maximum benefit from their education. Good school habits begin in elementary school. However, if your child must stay home due to illness, please call the school office at 634-1090. Teleparent will automatically call your residence, if we do not hear from you. Please understand that tardies are a disruption for other students, as well as your student.

Classroom instruction begins promptly at 8:00 (7:50 for AM TK & K) and students should arrive a minimum of five (5) minutes before school starts (no later than 7:55). A student who arrives in class after 8:00 is tardy. Excessive tardies and/or absences may result in the following:

- Denial of any Independent Study contract requests.
- An attendance letter from the principal/assistant principal
- A mandatory meeting with a school administrator and student be placed on an attendance supervision contract. This requirement results in that the licensed medical practitioner verifies all additional absences.
- Possible District Attendance Review Panel (DART) referral.

*Absences in excess of 3 consecutive days require a doctor's note. If you know your child will be absent from school five (5) or more days, please contact the school in advance to request an independent study contract.

Students are not to arrive before 7:30 a.m., as there is no supervision on campus until this time. Once a student arrives, he/she may not leave campus until 2:39, unless checked out by a parent/guardian or someone listed as their emergency contact. Students arriving late to school must report to the office for a tardy pass before going to class.

INDEPENDENT STUDY CONTRACTS

We encourage our families to schedule trips at times when school is not in session. However, we understand that emergencies may arise. If you have an unavoidable situation that arises that will require your child to be absent from school for five or more days, please contact the school 10 days in advance and request an Independent Study Contract. Students shall be allowed to complete all assignments/tests missed during any absence that can reasonably be provided, but in order for the school to receive credit the absence must be 3-14 days. Completed work needs to be returned within 72 hours after returning from the trip.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Report cards go home three times a year. The first one is given at a parent conference. The mid-year report card has no scheduled conference, but parents with questions or concerns are

encouraged to call the school and schedule a meeting with their child's teacher at any time during the year. Teachers often phone home or send notes with good news as well as during times when parental support is needed to solve a problem.

Phone calls from parents/guardians will not be passed through to the classroom during school hours except in the case of emergency. The office staff will gladly email or get messages to the teachers or students during lunch or after school.

PTA (PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION)

The PTA is a growing, integral aspect of the school community. We know children learn more and have increased engagement when parents, school staff, students and the community work together to share thoughts and ideas about programs and activities that benefit children. Our PTA is an active group that supports the school by planning, organizing, and implementing special activities. Their fundraising efforts help to provide extra yard equipment, special assemblies, and special materials for our teachers' classrooms. Plan on attending a meeting! It's a good way to meet other people in the community and to become involved in your school.

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL/ ENGLISH LANGUAGE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The School Site Council (SSC) and English Language Advisory Council (ELAC) are composed of the principal, assistant principal, teachers, parents and other school staff with voting members equally divided between staff and parents. The purposes of the councils are to plan, monitor and evaluate the activities and expenditures for programs operated at the school to improve student achievement. Notices of meetings are posted. Meetings are open to all parents.

VISITOR/VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES

All visitors must check in at the office immediately upon arrival on campus.

All volunteers must adhere to the district's volunteer application and current policy. Contact the school office on updates to this policy.

FOOD POLICY

On the recommendation of the Stanislaus County Health Department, any food that you send to school for classroom parties and celebrations must be purchased at a store or bakery. No home baked or homemade foods will be allowed. The Turlock Unified School District (TUSD) is committed to providing school environments that promote and protect children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating. TUSD adopted a "Wellness Policy" that supports healthy choices for all students. No food items, including cupcakes for birthdays, will be accepted in the office or classroom. You must contact your child's teacher prior to bringing any food for permission and best times for drop-off. Please see the complete Wellness Policy on the TUSD website. All fundraisers during school hours must meet the nutritional guidelines in the Wellness Policy as well. Sharing of foods is also prohibited during lunchtimes.

BREAKFAST / LUNCH PRICES

Meals will be offered to all students at no cost for 2023-2024. Lunch applications are no longer required to participate in the meal program. However, TUSD will request that parents complete the Household Family Survey which provides important information to our district in planning student services and programs. Students who wish to purchase extra items such as milk or bottled water (where applicable) will need to create an online payment account with MySchoolBucks. Parents can make payments to their child's meal account 24/7, 365 days a

year, view cafeteria purchases, track meal account balances, set up low-balance email reminders, and schedule recurring payments all online! Visit www.myschoolbucks.com to create an account today! (Convenience fee of \$2.75 per transaction will apply) **All students who wish to purchase milk are encouraged to take a reimbursable meal, which includes milk, entrée, and/or fruit/vegetable, at no cost*

TRAFFIC

Please follow all traffic and safety laws when picking up and dropping off your Earl Explorer. We have over 800 students that attend our fabulous school, and we want everyone to arrive at school and return home safely. We encourage our Earl parents to set a positive example for students by adhering to the following while on and around our campus before and after school:

- Use the crosswalk to cross the streets surrounding the school and parking lot. We have provided crossing guards for the safety of you and your child when crossing the street.
- PULL ALL THE WAY FORWARD when picking up and dropping off your child.
- Please DO NOT park in the yellow or red zone or exit your vehicle at any time while stopped in the yellow drop off zone in front of the school.
- Please drive slowly while in the parking lot and watch for students.
- Please enter and exit the parking lot at the designated exit and entrance only.
- Do not make a U turn on Olive or Springer as this causes an unsafe situation for all.
- Do not enter or block the bus lane with your vehicle.
- Follow the posted speed limit on the streets surrounding Earl.
- Use a hands-free device while driving in and around the Earl parking lot.

WALKING TO SCHOOL

Students are required to use crosswalks when walking to school. Students are expected to obey all rules for pedestrians as well as specific directions given by crossing guards. Adhering to traffic laws, posted signs, directions given by crossing guards and taking great caution while driving will help ensure the safety of all children. All students are expected to:

- ★ Obey the crossing guard.
- ★ Cross the street when it is safe and use crosswalks.
- ★ Cross only in the designated crosswalks.

BIKE, SKATES, ROLLER BLADE AND SCOOTER RULES

1. Upon arrival at school, bicycles must be placed in the designated area.
2. California law states: A person under 18 years of age shall not operate a bicycle, a non-motorized scooter, or a skateboard, nor shall they wear in-line or roller skates, nor ride upon a bicycle, a non-motorized scooter, or a skateboard as a passenger, upon a street, bikeway, as defined in Section 890.4 of the Streets and Highways Code, or any other public bicycle path or trail unless that person is wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet that meets the standards of either the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) or the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), or standards subsequently established by those entities. This requirement also applies to a person who rides upon a bicycle while in a restraining seat that is attached to the bicycle or in a trailer towed by the bicycle.
3. All bicycles should be individually locked in the bike racks and licensed with the Turlock Fire Department and/or Turlock Police/Community Services. There is no supervision of the bicycle area when school is in session. Bicycles are parked on school grounds at

student's risk. Students are encouraged to securely lock their bicycles. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen bicycles.

4. Students must not tamper with bicycles, nor loiter around the bicycle racks. Doing so puts students at risk of being accused when things are missing.
5. Students are not to loan or borrow bicycles.
6. Bicycles are to be walked on school grounds.
7. No riding double – one person only on each bike. Ride with the traffic in the designated bicycle lanes.
8. Roller blades must be removed off school grounds and not worn to the classrooms.
9. Scooters, skates, and/or bicycles may not be stored in the office.
10. Bicycles, roller blades, scooters, skates and skateboards may not be ridden at school at any time including after school and on weekends. (Turlock City Ordinance 4-14.204 et sec.)

ELECTRONICS

Cell Phones – Students may possess cellular phones on campus; however, they are to be turned off during the school day and stored away out of sight. Cell phones may not be used at any time during school hours on campus. (Education Code 48901.5)

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

BP 5145.7(a)

The Board of Trustees is committed to maintaining a safe school environment that is free from harassment and discrimination. The Board prohibits, at school or at school-sponsored or school-related activities, sexual harassment targeted at any student by anyone. The Board also prohibits retaliatory behavior or action against any person who reports, files a complaint or testifies about, or otherwise supports a complainant in alleging sexual harassment.

The district strongly encourages students who feel that they are being or have been sexually harassed on school grounds or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity by another student or an adult, or who have experienced off-campus sexual harassment that has a continuing effect on campus, to immediately contact their teacher, the principal, the district's Title IX Coordinator, or any other available school employee. Any employee who receives a report or observes an incident of sexual harassment shall notify the Title IX Coordinator.

Disciplinary Actions

Upon completion of an investigation of a sexual harassment complaint, any student found to have engaged in sexual harassment or sexual violence in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action. For students in grades 4-12, disciplinary action may include suspension and/or expulsion, provided that, in imposing such discipline, the entire circumstances of the incident(s) shall be taken into account.

Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer

The district designates the following individual(s) as the responsible employee(s) to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in accordance with AR 5145.71 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures, as well as to oversee investigate,

and/or resolve sexual harassment complaints processed under AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures. The Title IX Coordinator(s), Director of Student Services may be contacted at 1574 E. Canal Drive Turlock, CA 95380 (209) 667-0632 (ext. 3)

TUSD DRESS CODE

- Students MUST Wear:
 - Top with straps
 - Bottom: pants, skirts, shorts, etc. covering buttocks (no micro minis or short shorts with entire thigh exposed)
 - Shoes (no backless footwear for elementary students)
 - Secured clothing that protects and covers personal body parts
- Students MAY Choose to Wear:
 - Hats, including religious headwear
 - Hooded shirts/jackets (over the head is allowed)
 - Teachers/staff may direct students to remove/adjust the position of hats/hoods over the head on campus in situations that include, but are not limited to, classroom activities, headphone/earbud use issues, or visual identification of a student's face. This does NOT apply to any headwear worn for religious reasons.
- Students CANNOT Wear:
 - Clothing that depicts violent language or images
 - Clothing that includes, but is not limited to hats, shoes, headgear, belts, shirts, pants, piercings, key chain holders that are deemed a potential threat to student and/or staff safety
 - Clothing that illustrates images or language depicting drugs or alcohol (or any illegal item or activity) or the use of same
 - Clothing that displays hate speech, profanity, pornography
 - Clothing that includes images or language that create a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class
 - Clothing that is sheer or see-through, (clothing must be opaque)
 - Visible underwear, bralettes, bandeau tops, sports bras, or backless shirts
 - Unsecured clothing that allows personal body parts to be visible with movement or contact
 - Helmets, hoods, or other headgear that obscures a student's identity (except as a religious observance)
 - For identification purposes, a student's face must be clearly visible, including when taking school photos; this may require removal of a hood and/or hat

For more information on district policies for Dress Code, please see the Turlock Unified School District website at: <https://www.turlock.k12.ca.us/dresscode>

BULLYING

Bullying and harassment stand in the way of our social vision and our scholastic habits of respect, empathy and integrity. Therefore, our school has adopted the No Bully System for preventing and responding to harassment and bullying during in-school and after-school programs, on school field trips, school sponsored events, and when students are traveling to

and from school. This school-wide system applies to all students, teachers, staff, specialists, and anyone who works on our campus, whether employed by the school or district, working as contractors, or volunteers pursuant to Turlock Unified anti-bullying policy.

Bullying Identified

Bullying occurs when a student, or group of students, repeatedly try to hurt, humiliate or get power over another student in any of the following ways.

- Physical bullying is when a person uses physical force to hurt another (e.g., by hitting, pushing, shoving, kicking, taking a student's belongings or stealing their money).
- Verbal bullying is when a person uses words, images or gestures to intimidate or humiliate someone (e.g., by taunting, name-calling, teasing, put-downs, insults, threats and blackmail).
- Relational bullying is when a person excludes or isolates another person (e.g., through leaving them out, manipulating others against them, or spreading gossip or rumors).
- Cyberbullying is when a person or people use their cell-phones, text messages, e-mails, instant messaging, the Internet and social media to bully someone in any of the ways described above.

Bullying is different from conflict. Conflict is an inevitable part of life and can occur at school when a student perceives another student as being an obstacle to what they want or value. If students are in conflict but are not using bullying to get power over the other student, our school is committed to helping the students talk it through.

Bullying may at times amount to harassment. It is harassment to target a person online or face-to-face because of her or his actual or perceived disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or because she or he is associated with a student or group of students with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

It is sexual harassment to target a student with unwanted sexual comments, gestures, attention, stalking and physical contact that cause a student to feel uncomfortable or unsafe at school, or interferes with the student's schoolwork. This is dealt with under Turlock Unified sexual harassment policy.

Our school does not tolerate bullying or harassment for any reason. You are breaking the law if you harass anyone at our school. It is a serious breach of school rules if a student takes revenge or asks someone to threaten or hurt a student that has reported bullying or harassment.

How Students Can End Bullying

Bullying and harassment cause pain and stress to students and are never justified or excusable as "just teasing" or "just playing." When a student stands by doing nothing, or laughs or posts comments on-line when others bully, they are participating in bullying. As damaging as bullying may be, there is hope! With education and awareness, bullying can be prevented at school, in neighborhoods, and online.

REPORT IT ON THE STOP IT! APP



TUSD Website: <https://www.turlock.k12.ca.us/Page/2662>

STOPit! is an online reporting tool designed to deter and mitigate bullying and cyber abuse, consisting of an app and a back-end incident management system (DOCUMENTit!) for school administrators. This app will empower students to stand up for themselves and for one another. Students will have the power to help put an end to harmful and inappropriate behavior they see online through social media and other means.

For more information on district policies regarding Bullying, please see the Turlock Unified School District website.



TUSD Website: <https://www.turlock.k12.ca.us/Page/1408>

POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS (PBIS)

At Dennis G. Earl Elementary, ensuring student safety is one of our top priorities. We want everyone to have a supportive experience here. We work within the framework of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). The goal of PBIS is to create a positive school environment where students can learn, grow, and develop the social and emotional skills needed for success in both school and life. Because of this, Dennis G. Earl Elementary has adopted four core values:

- **Self-Control**
- **Engagement**
- **Effort**
- **Kindness**

Behavioral expectations within these four core values are posted in areas around campus and include specific guidelines for student behavior in each location.



Explorers Behavior Matrix

S.E.E.K in all locations	Classroom	Hallway	Playground	Cafeteria	Bathroom	Library	Office	Technology
S is for Self-Control	*Keep hands and feet to yourself *Use materials appropriately *Use a quiet voice	*Face forward in line *Keep hands and feet to yourself *Walk at all times	*Keep hands and feet to yourself *Be aware of others *Keep playground clean *Use all equipment properly	*Walk at all times *Stay seated *Stand in line *Keep you hands and feet to yourself	*Walk at all times *Keep hands and feet to yourself *Use a quiet voice *Respect the privacy of others	*Use a quiet voice *Use materials appropriately *Push in your chair	*Walk quietly *Sit silently and appropriately *Be polite	*Handle device with care *Use technology as directed by teacher *Follow the technology agreement
E is for Engagement	*Be on time *Follow directions *Listen attentively *Be willing to participate	*Listen to adult's directions *Pay attention *Stay in line when walking	*Follow rules *Line up when called *Respect other's space *Face forward in line	*Throw away all trash *Clean up after yourself *Eat your own lunch	*Go, flush, wash, leave *Walk with a purpose	*Look at the speaker *Ask for help if needed *Carefully select your book	*Listen to office staff *Complete tasks or errands quickly *Follow directions	*Stay on task *Follow directions *Return devices to appropriate location
E is for Effort	*Always do your best *Be prepared and ready to learn *Never give up	*Go directly to your destination *Walk with a purpose	*Line up quickly *Be alert *Report problems to an adult	*Raise your hand for help *Leave your area clean *Use inside voice	*Return to class quickly	*Explore new interests *Leave library neat and tidy Use materials appropriately	*Be responsible *Be respectful	*Use assigned device *Manage your time *Complete all assignments
K is for Kindness	*Treat others as you want to be treated *Use kind words *Help and share with others	*Use a quiet voice *Be aware of others *Respect other students and staff	*Invite others to join in *Take turns *Make friends *Use kind words	*Use your manners *Wait patiently *Use kind words *Be kind to others	*Wait your turn *Wash your hands *Keep restroom clean	*Return books on time *Treat books with respect *Say please and thank you	*Enter quietly *Wait patiently for an adult *Say please and thank you	*Sign out, shut down, and plug in *Be kind online

Reward System

Dennis G. Earl Elementary School uses a reward system where students can earn S.E.E.K. cards for displaying behaviors that show self-control, engagement, effort, or kindness while on campus. Students can then use their S.E.E.K. cards to purchase items from the Earl Global Market.



Behavior Flowchart

It is the goal of Dennis G. Earl Elementary School to do all we can to keep students in school and to avoid out-of-school suspensions whenever possible. The behavior flowchart identifies the process of how student behaviors will be managed.

