



**Blackshear Elementary**  
**Principal: Valerie Rivera**

501 S. Dixie Blvd.  
Odessa, Texas 79761  
Phone: (432) 456-1271  
[valerie.rivera@ectorcountysd.org](mailto:valerie.rivera@ectorcountysd.org)



The ECISD Non-Negotiables:  
**College and Career Readiness**  
**Safe and Supportive Learning Environment**  
**Purposeful, Timely Two-Way Communication**  
**Academic Excellence**



# MISSION

**The Mission of Blackshear Elementary is to establish a culture of GROWTH Mindset among all staff members and students, so that all students are encouraged and empowered to reach their highest potential for academic achievement, college and career readiness, and to become productive citizens.**

**educate**

**connect**

**inspire**

**succeed**

**dream**

Ector County Independent School District | Phone: (432) 456-0000 | P.O. Box 3912, Odessa, Texas 79760 | [www.ectorcountysd.org](http://www.ectorcountysd.org)



**Blackshear Elementary  
Principal: Valerie Rivera**



**Employed with ECISD for 25 Years**

**Bilingual Teacher for 11 Years**

**Assistant Principal for 6 Years**

**Principal for 8 Years**

**Attended ECISD Schools from Elementary through High School**

**Bachelor's in Education**

**Masters in Special Education and Principalship**

**educate**

**connect**

**inspire**

**succeed**

**dream**



## **Laura Melendez, Assistant Principal**

**I'm so proud to be a part of the Blackshear team. I have an MA in Educational Administration from the Sul Ross State University. I was the TLI Teacher Leader at EPISD, I conducted data meetings, modeled lessons and attended Literacy Trainings. One of my greatest accomplishments is seeing students succeed. When our students succeed, we succeed. In the future I plan to get a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership. I have been married for 34 years, I have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. I love eating pizza and watching movies with my grandchildren.**

**educate**

**connect**

**inspire**

**succeed**

**dream**

# **Yvette Abila**

## **ECISD Principal Fellow**

### **Assistant Principal**



**Greetings! I am glad to be part of the Blackshear family this year. I was raised in Pecos, TX and moved to Odessa when I started attending college after high school graduation. I started in education 17 years ago working with the Upward Bound Program and have been working in ECISD for the last 9 years. I have received the following degrees: an Associate's Degree from Odessa College in General Studies, Bachelor's Degree from UTPB in Political Science with a minor in History, and a Master's degree in Public Administration and Leadership also from UTPB. Currently, I am enrolled at Texas Tech University working on my Master's Degree in Educational Leadership through the Principal Fellowship Program.**

**I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling, learning new things, watching movies, camping, going to the beach and relaxing. I have four children: Juliana, Isaiah, Lauren and Ariz. My husband and I also enjoy watching baseball (my favorite sport), attending Texas Ranger games, going to dinner together and exploring new places.**

**One of my goals is to have students achieve their own definition of success and find a love for learning. It is important for students to learn through experience, commitment and responsibility so that they can reach their best potential. I find joy in watching students "ah-ha" moments as each day offers new opportunities for growth and reflection. If you dream it, believe in yourself that you are able to achieve your dreams and goals by being committed, dedicated and working towards them.**

**My motto: Dream...Believe...Achieve**

**educate**

**connect**

**inspire**

**succeed**

**dream**

# Steve Brooks, Counselor



## Education:

- Undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin in Education
- Master's degree in Educational Leadership with Principal's Certificate from UTPB
- Master's degree in Counseling from Sul Ross State University

## Work Experience:

- Was a tour guide for eight years, taking groups to Scandinavia, Canada, Mexico, Central America, and throughout the United States
- Taught and coached high school football, basketball, track, and golf for nine years
- Worked at Region 18 Education Service Center for nine years
- Owned a mediation and training company for twelve years
- Have been with ECISD for 11 years as a teacher, coach, and counselor

## Family and Hobbies:

- Married for 40 years; 1 daughter and 2 granddaughters
- Reading
- Watching movies with my wife
- Collecting World War II memorabilia





# Blackshear Office Staff

**Valerie Contreras**  
**Secretary**



**Esmeralda Castillo**  
**Attendance Clerk**

**Esperanza Rodriguez**  
**Records Clerk**



**educate**

**connect**

**inspire**

**succeed**

**dream**



## The Right Stuff

As a student of  
Blackshear  
Elementary,  
I promise:  
To do my best,  
To show respect,  
To be an active  
listener,  
To have good  
manners,  
To exercise  
self-control,  
To practice good  
communication....  
To Have The  
Right Stuff!

**educate**

**connect**

**inspire**

**succeed**

**dream**

C  
A  
F  
E  
T  
E  
R  
I  
A



S



GYM

FRONT  
DOORS

Form two lines for drop off and pick up. Please remain in car. For the safety of our staff and students, no one is allowed in the building. We will call your child by radio.

**K-2<sup>nd</sup> graders will enter through front doors at 7:20 and exit at 3:20. If they have an older sibling in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, they may enter/exit through front doors. No visitors allowed in building. Parents may not walk their child to class. Please ensure all K-2<sup>nd</sup> graders have a name tag. K-2<sup>nd</sup> graders will wait indoors until parents arrive for pick-up. Please remain in your car. Do NOT walk up to the front door.**

D  
I  
X  
I  
E

Kindergarten:  
Ms. Grant  
Ms. Sigala  
Mrs. Hernandez  
  
Music: Katelyn Zimmer

A  
W  
I  
N  
G

OFFICE:  
Ms. Rivera  
Mrs. Melendez  
Mrs. Contreras  
Mrs. Castillo  
Mrs. Rodriguez  
Mrs. Abila  
Nurse:  
Mrs. Evora

B  
W  
I  
N  
G

2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE: Miss Araujo  
Ms. O. Hernandez  
Mrs. Young  
Mrs. Villacorta  
Mrs. Lipsey  
  
1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE: Miss Escobar  
Mrs. Ramirez  
Mrs. Christian  
Mrs. Ortega  
Miss Moore

AUDITORIUM

LIBRARY

W

E

3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders enter at 7:20 a.m. through Northwest doors. They will dismiss at 3:20.



3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE:  
Mrs. Chavez  
Mrs. Corrales  
Mrs. Hutson  
Mrs. Allen  
Mrs. Marrero

E  
N  
T  
R  
A  
N  
C  
E

D  
I  
X  
I  
E

5<sup>th</sup> GRADE:  
Mrs. Pirela  
Mrs. Gutierrez  
Mrs. McDermott  
Mr. Salgado

D  
W  
I  
N  
G

N

C  
W  
I  
N  
G

4<sup>th</sup> GRADE:  
Mrs. Galindo  
Mr. Machuca  
Mrs. Zermeno  
Mrs. Gonzales  
Mrs. Sosa

Form one line. Drop off 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students with no siblings. No visitors! No visitors! allowed on campus.

MURPHY

educate

connect

inspire

succeed

dream



# **Blackshear Magnet School Expectations and Discipline Plan**

Teaching children and preparing them for the future is our primary goal. In order to achieve this goal, a positive learning atmosphere is essential. At Blackshear, students are expected to obey the following rules:

1. Always show respect and courtesy.
2. Keep hands, feet, and all objects to yourself.
3. Common Area violation. (PBIS)
4. **C**onversation rules.
5. **H**elp rules.
6. **A**ctivity rules.
7. **M**ovement rules.
8. **P**articipation rules.

In order to guarantee your child and every student at Blackshear receives the excellent educational climate they deserve; the Blackshear Expectations have been developed for this campus. This plan will be in effect in all classrooms at Blackshear at all times. The discipline plan is designed to improve the learning climate by increasing the effectiveness of assertive discipline in the classroom. It also establishes good communication between parents and teachers and provides a hierarchy of documentation to support disciplinary action.

According to the ECISD dress code, students are not allowed to wear extreme modes of hairstyle or clothing.

- Students will not be allowed to wear “Mohawks” that are standing up or laying down flat, nor are they allowed to have extensive etched designs in their hair. Please refer to the dress code.
- Students should not wear “spaghetti strap” shirts, “muscle” shirts, “tank tops” or shorts that are more than 5 inches above the knee or pants that are “sagging”.

Please help us enforce these ECISD and Blackshear expectations.

## **Consequences for dress code violations and/or behavioral code violations can include any of the following:**

1. Warning
2. Parent contact
3. Lunch detention
4. In-school suspension (ISS)
5. Office level referral
6. Alternative Educational Placement
7. Community/ School Service

**educate**

**connect**

**inspire**

**succeed**

**dream**

## **Chronic Misbehavior**

Students whose behavior is consistently unacceptable may be referred to the Alternative Education Program. We will make every effort to ensure that your child feels welcome, safe, and comfortable in my room. Children do their best learning when they feel at ease. With that said, we will not tolerate discipline problems. It is not fair to let one child disrupt 20 other children and keep them from learning. If your child becomes a discipline problem, you can expect a phone call from us and that the issue to be dealt with promptly.

## **Bullying**

*Blackshear Magnet is a **BULLY-FREE ZONE.*** Bullying is defined in state law as a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that: • Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property; • Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student; • Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school; or • Infringes on the rights of the victim at school. Bullying includes cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is defined in state law as bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of: • A cellular or other type of telephone • A computer • A camera • Electronic mail • Instant messaging • Text messaging • A social media application • An internet website • Any other internet-based communication tool.

Bullying is prohibited by the district and could include: • Hazing • Threats • Taunting • Teasing • Confinement • Assault • Demands for money • Destruction of property • Theft of valued possessions • Name-calling • Rumor-spreading • Ostracism.

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or witnesses the bullying of another student, the student or parent should notify a teacher, school counselor, principal, or another district employee as soon as possible.

## **Lunch Detention**

Lunch detention will only be assigned by Ms. Rivera, Mrs. Melendez or Mrs. Abila. Prior to sending a student to the office, parent contact will be made by the teacher regarding the behavior. Students will be asked to bring work to lunch and will be provided a place to complete that assignment. Students will not be allowed to go outside for recess.

## **Suspension**

Suspension means the child may not return to school or participate in any school related activities for up to but not exceeding three days. Examples of “severe” behavior which may result in suspension include, but are not limited to the following:

- Fighting
- Profanity/Severe disrespect for others
- Vandalism
- Stealing
- Consistent misbehavior or classroom disruptions

## **Overnight Suspension**

Overnight suspension means that a child may not return to school without a parent/guardian conference. The parents must meet with an administrator to discuss student behavior.

## **Referrals**

If a student receives a referral in a 9 weeks grading period, there will be an automatic drop in the student’s conduct grade for that period. For example: if a student has an E in conduct and receives a referral, the student’s conduct grade will automatically drop to an S. If a student has an S in conduct and receives a referral, the student’s conduct grade will drop to an N, etc.

## **Rewards for positive behavior can be any of the following:**

1. Praise
2. Ambassador privileges
3. Leadership responsibilities
4. Positive notes/Calls home
5. Tangible rewards
6. Intrinsic rewards

## **Compulsory Attendance**

Prekindergarten and Kindergarten:

- Students enrolled in prekindergarten or kindergarten are required to attend school and are subject to the compulsory attendance requirements as long as they remain enrolled.

Ages 6–18:

- State law requires that a student who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has not yet reached their 19th birthday, shall attend school unless the student is otherwise excused from attendance or legally exempt.
- To receive credit or a final grade in a class, a student must attend the class at least 90 percent of the days it is offered. A student who attends fewer than 90 percent of the days the class is offered will be referred to the attendance review committee. To determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit or a final grade.

## **Late Drop Offs and Early Pick Ups**

The Blackshear school day is from 7:30-3:20. Students are expected to be in their classrooms NO later than 7:40 to ensure their success. All doors will be closed and locked promptly at 7:40, with the exception of the main doors.

The office staff will NOT be able to call down any child to the office within 15 minutes of dismissal. If you need to pick up your child early, please understand that it will count against your student's daily attendance and you must do so before 2:45, or you will have to wait until dismissal to pick them up. The last fifteen minutes of the day are extremely hectic and busy in the office and we want to ensure the safety and security of all learners at all times.

## **Parent Responsibilities**

A detailed explanation of school policy is contained in the Student Code of Conduct. Parents should read the Code of Conduct and discuss it with their child. Remember, *the foundation for success for every student begins with **attendance***. As a parent, it is your obligation to make sure that your child arrives at school every day before the tardy bell rings. Children should not miss school unless they are sick or there is a family emergency. Your child's future rests in your hands; attendance should be a priority for everyone.

Another important part of your child's successful education, each parent should remain in close contact with your child's teachers. If you have any questions, please direct them to the teacher as soon as possible.

Please take time each day to discuss school work with your child and have a place designated for the student to complete homework. Creating good work habits now will help to ensure student success. Support your child's teacher with respect to discipline and work habits. Expect your child to be responsible for his/her behavior and academic work.

Please be prompt in responding to a teacher's request for a conference, a note, or a call. Our teachers are professionals with many years of combined experience in helping children to be successful learners. The teachers and administrators at Blackshear hold high expectations for student behavior because we know that behavior impacts student performance in the classroom.

The teachers, principals, and all other staff members will be working hard to ensure your child's success both behaviorally and academically, but their job will be much easier with your support. Working together, we can strive to provide your child a successful year at Blackshear Elementary.

## **Academic Expectations**

Our teachers work hard to provide meaningful and relevant lessons for your child each day. Therefore, it is expected that all students will do their best on every assignment, project, test, or state assessment. Although a grade of 70 is considered passing, students should consistently strive to achieve the highest grade possible and should not be satisfied with "just getting by." Parents are encouraged to inspire and promote good grades by their children, and to provide support and assistance for students as they complete their homework.



## **Grading, Report Cards, Progress Reports, and Conferences:**

Blackshear Magnet operates on a nine-week grading cycle. Grading systems are left to the individual teacher and are designed to reflect each student's relative mastery of each assignment. Teachers are required to post a minimum number of student grades in core subjects during each cycle to assess continuing academic growth.

At the end of the first three weeks of a grading period OR during the fourth week of a nine-week grading period, parents will receive a progress report if their child's performance in English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies is near or below 70 or is below the expected level of performance. If a student receives a grade lower than 70 in any class or subject at the end of a grading period, the parent will be asked to schedule a conference with the teacher.

While three-week progress reports are an excellent method of keeping parents updated as to their children's advancement, it is strongly recommended that each parent speak with their child's teacher and devise a method for parents to be able to check on student grades on a daily or weekly basis if the parent desires. Electronic systems such as Class Dojo, and hands-on methods such as daily assignment folders allow parents to measure student academic growth and identify any problems as early as possible.

Report cards with each student's performance and absences in each class or subject are issued every six (6) weeks. Grading guidelines are designed to reflect each student's relative mastery of each assignment.

Report cards and unsatisfactory progress reports must be signed by the parent and returned to the school within five (5) days. The district may communicate academic information about a student electronically, including for progress reporting purposes. An electronic signature will be accepted by the district, but parents are entitled to request a handwritten signature of acknowledgment instead.

# Dismissal



You may designate your child to one of our dismissal groups. Please inform your child and their teacher of their dismissal designation. Please see below:

Parent Pick Up	These children wait for a parent to pick them up after school. K-2 <sup>nd</sup> wait indoors until a parent arrive through the pickup line. 3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> graders w/siblings wait indoors near the office until a parent arrives. 3-5 with no siblings are released on Northwest doors closer to Murphy. Please remain in your vehicle and do not approach the front door.
Walkers	They walk home. A teacher escorts 3rd – 5th to a crosswalk. K-2 <sup>nd</sup> are released to an older sibling or parent. K-2nd will not be released to walk on their own. They will wait in front of the school on the Southwest side of the school.
Bus	These students receive transportation services. Please send bus Information to school with your child.
Daycare	These students are picked up by a daycare that the parent has contracted. Please send daycare information to school with your child. Daycare students wait in the parent pick up line until daycare provider arrives.
Boys & Girls Club	These students are escorted by a staff member to the Crosswalk on Murphy Street. They walk to the Boys & Girls Club.

WE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR ADHERING TO OUR PROCEDURES.

WE WANT TO ENSURE ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF ARE SAFE!

**educate**

**connect**

**inspire**

**succeed**

**dream**