



**Parent/Student  
Handbook  
2021-2022**

**Blanton Elementary**

4101 Lynbrook  
TX 79762  
(432) 456-1259

Principal- Kamyé Smith  
Assistant Principal- Brandon Carter  
Principal Resident- Amanda Bizzell  
Secretary- June Ybarra  
Clerk- Gracie Palomino

# **Letter from Mrs. Smith**

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Dear Parents:

Welcome to Blanton Elementary School, one of the Ector County Independent School District's most exciting and unique elementary schools!

In order for the school to operate as effectively as possible, this Parent and Student Handbook has been compiled for all students about the expectations of day-to-day operations, as well as Ector County Public School's local and state policies and procedures. Students and parents are expected to become knowledgeable of its contents and to utilize the information to make a positive and significant difference in the instructional program for the students at Blanton Elementary.

The Parent and Student Handbook includes contact information for the school's leadership team, general information about our curriculum and instructional design, and specific school policies and procedures which, if followed consistently, will contribute to the development of our community and the success of Blanton Elementary.

The second section describes the specific policies and procedures that will be implemented to encourage appropriate conduct and ensure a safe learning environment.

Should you have a question that is not answered within these pages, please feel free to contact me, another member of the school's leadership team, or your child's teacher.

At Blanton Elementary, we recognize that educating children requires a team effort, and we look forward to joining you in this vital pursuit. Working together, we can realize our shared vision of excellence in Ector County Independent School District.

Sincerely,

Kamye Smith, Principal

# **School Overview**

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## **Purpose-**

**Blanton Elementary staff and students** act on five guiding principles-

**Believe in yourself**  
**Embrace diversity**  
**Achieve Greatness**  
**Respect others and reach for the**  
**STARS!!**

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## **Our Mission-**

*At Blanton Elementary, we **foster a learning environment** through **establishing** structured systems of **collaboration** and **communication**, **embracing diversity** of others, **promoting a positive foundational belief** in the social, emotional, and academic well being of every student, and **ensuring ALL** students receive **high quality instruction** in every classroom that lays a strong foundation for **life-long learning**.*

## **Campus Leadership-**

- **Kamye Smith- Principal**  
**432-456-1259**
- **Brandon Carter- Assistant Principal**  
**432-456-1259**
- **Amanda Bizzell- Principal Resident**  
**432-456-1259**
- **Robin Pomroy- Instructional Coach**  
**432-456-1259**
- **June Ybarra- Secretary to Principal**  
**432-456-1259**
- **Gracie Palomino- Campus Clerk**  
**432-456-1259**

## **Other Important Contacts-**

- **Kelly Benavides School Nurse**  
**432-456-1259**
- **Melanie Thayer- Part-time Campus Counselor**  
**432-456-1259**
- **Patricia Harbor- Part-time Campus SAS Counselor**  
**432-456-1259**

## **School Days-**

Instruction will begin promptly at 8:00a.m. and ends at 3:20p.m. Monday through Friday.

The school doors will open at 7:10a.m. There is no adult supervision for children until that time. Cafeteria doors will close at 7:40a.m. and students will have to enter through the front entrance.

Students are late to school starting at 7:45 a.m.

Students are dismissed each day beginning at 3:00 p.m. for PK students and SCC students. Walking students, bus, and daycare students are dismissed at 3:10p.m. Students that are parent drive up or parent walk up are dismissed at 3:20 p.m.

Students picked up prior to dismissal time will have a 'leave early' note indicated on their attendance record. We know there are times when students have arranged appointments and need to leave early. We ask that all efforts are made to arrange appointments outside of school hours.

Periodically there will be district early release days. Early release guidelines are as follows-

- PK/SCC- 11:05a
- Walkers/Bus/Daycare- 11:15a
- Parent Drive Up and Parent Walk Up- 11:30a

## **Breakfast and Lunch-**

Students at Blanton Elementary are eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch each day.

Breakfast begins daily at 8:00a.m. and ends at 8:15a.m. Any student who arrives late will receive a breakfast. **No outside breakfast food is permitted.**

All students will have a designated lunch period for their grade level. Any food allergies must be reported to the Office Manager at time of enrollment to ensure the proper accommodations are made for the student. Students also have the option to pack their lunches if desired. Outside food is permitted to be dropped off in the front office with **full identification and before** the designated grade level lunch.

Lunch visitors are allowed after **Monday, October 25th.**

### **PARENT EXPECTATIONS AT LUNCH:**

- Arrive at the scheduled time of your child's lunch time
- Limit the number of guests to 2 people
- Eat with only your child on that grade level
- Be courtesy with your language to other parents, staff and students
- Dispose of your trash and wipe off table
- Dismiss the cafeteria at the same time as your child's dismissal
- Sign out from the office after leaving the cafeteria

## **Title 1 Services-**

Blanton Elementary is a School Wide Title 1 funded school. Students can qualify for Title 1 services after academic performance data is analyzed. Title 1 services are put in place to provide support to students who struggle academically and need additional academic services to improve overall performance in Math and Reading. A quarterly data analysis is completed by administration and Title 1 staff to provide proper support to meet the academic needs of each student that qualifies.

## **Homework-**

Your child will be given homework assignments regularly. Students in grades K-2 may be assigned up to 20 minutes of homework per night; students in grades 3-4 may be assigned up to 40 minutes of homework per night; and students in grade 5 will be assigned up to 50 minutes of homework per night. Each student is responsible for completing his or her assignments and for turning them in on time.

- Make homework rules together with your child.
- Decide when it will be done, where it will be done, and what will happen if it is not completed.
- Provide a quiet place for your child to do homework, such as a desk in his or her room or the kitchen table. Make sure there is sufficient light and that distractions are limited.
- Show an interest in your child's homework and ask him or her about it each night.
- Give your child a healthy snack before he or she begins homework. This should help with concentration.
- Give your child a short break from his or her work if needed.
- Encourage your child to work independently. Assist him or her if needed. Give your child positive words of encouragement, such as, "I'm proud of you," or "I knew you could do this all by yourself!"

## **Field Trips-**

Field trips are on hold at this time until further notice by the district.

# **School wide Expectations**

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The following concept is a part of our school's culture and will be the guidelines that will allow us to create the school climate that we know is essential for students to be successful.

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a school-wide system for explicitly teaching appropriate behaviors and expectations in a positive manner.

CHAMPS follows classroom systems for explicit teaching appropriate behaviors and expectations in a positive manner. CHAMPS is an acronym for

C- Conversation Level

H- Help- How students ask for help

A- Activity- What activity are students engaging in

M- Movement- What movement is expected in the classroom at the time of the activity

P- Participation- How students are expected to participate in the activity

S- Following expectations always lead to SUCCESS!!

## **Dress Code-**

The district's dress code teaches grooming and hygiene, prevents disruption, and minimizes safety hazards. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the following:

- The district prohibits pictures, symbols, emblems, or writing on clothing, accessories (i.e. jewelry, rings or belt buckles) and in hair design, including, but not limited to, shaved or cut eyebrows and shaved images in hair that:
  - Are lewd, offensive, vulgar, or obscene;
- Advertise or depict tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or any other illegal substance;
- Refer to satanic, cult, or gang activities; and/or
- Represent death and dismemberment and/or violence.
- Clothing (dresses, skirts, shorts, skorts) must be no shorter than five inches from the top of the kneecap.
- Form fitting, too tight clothing will not be allowed.



- Students will not be permitted to wear see-through clothing or have bare midriffs, bare shoulders, or backless fashions.
- Tank tops, muscle shirts, or clothing with spaghetti straps or strapless garments may be worn only with a full t-shirt (with sleeves) underneath.
- Undergarments may not be worn as outerwear.
- Pants, shorts, and slacks must be worn at the natural waist (no more than one size larger than natural waist size).
- Students must wear shoes at all times. Taps, metal plates, or cleats on shoes will not be permitted. Specifically prohibited footwear are bathroom slippers, footwear not intended for outdoor wear, and shoes equipped with roller blades/wheels. Flip flops are acceptable.
- Extremely torn clothing will not be permitted. All clothing must be hemmed.
- Students will be required to wear their hair well-groomed and clean at all times. Extreme modes of hair design and color will not be permitted; mohawks are permitted as long as they are under 2 inches in height.
  - Students may not wear hats, caps, sweat bands, visors, head coverings or bandanas in the building (neither males nor females). Bandanas are not allowed on campus.
  - Sunshades may not be worn in the building or classroom, unless prescribed by a physician for indoor use.
  - Clothing items which present a concern for safety may not be worn (i.e. chains, dog collars).
  - Any disruptive, unsafe, or distracting mode of clothing, eyewear, tattoos, or appearance that adversely impacts the education process is not acceptable.
  - BELTS MUST BE WORN APPROPRIATELY IN BELT LOOPS AND AT THE NATURAL WAIST.

## **Code of Conduct-**

Schools must set boundaries that will ensure all students experience a safe, orderly and productive environment. Schools' ability to ensure this experience is influenced greatly by individual and school-wide discipline.

The code of conduct is the behavioral framework by which Blanton carries on its day to day operations. The code reflects academic standards and the right for every student to learn in a non-threatening environment.

Students must follow the School’s Code of Conduct before, during, and after school, as well as in school buildings, on school grounds, at school-related activities, at breakfast and lunch, and on the way to and from these activities. Students’ behavior must not keep any of the members of the school community from doing their jobs.

The code that appears on the following pages governs the most serious and obvious types of student misconduct. The prohibited acts listed in the code are not to be construed as all-inclusive. Nor is the list to be seen as a limitation upon the authority of school officials to deal appropriately with violations of school rules and regulations or with other types of conduct that interfere with the good order of Blanton, the proper functioning of the educational process, or the health and safety of students, staff and visitors.

The administrators of Blanton Elementary will issue consequences and enforce violations of the Code of Conduct. It is our goal to treat each situation with consistency. However, there will be occasions where the use of flexibility within this plan will best serve the needs of the individual student and the population as a whole. Details regarding specific incidents are not available for public scrutiny. The Eagle administrators reserve the right to make decisions based on experience and knowledge of individual cases.

### **Restorative Discipline**



Restorative Discipline (RD) is an approach that focuses on building relationships, empathy, and righting a wrong. Traditional punishments may stop an unwanted behavior in the moment but do not lend to teaching necessary social skills required to be successful in schools and everyday society. Restorative Discipline teaches students rules to live by while holding themselves accountable for their actions. Eagle Elementary uses a Restorative Discipline approach school wide.

When there is an issue, students will work with those involved (peers, teachers, etc.) answering these essential questions-

1. Who has been hurt?
2. What are their needs?
3. What caused the hurt?
4. What is needed to make things right?

## **Classroom Management-**

Teaching and learning can only occur in an orderly environment. Within the classroom, teachers take time to build relationships with each child, get to know their interests, and help them identify goals for the future. “No significant learning occurs without a significant relationship” - James Comer

We know that students must feel safe, be heard, and be engaged in order to learn. Teachers will explicitly teach and allow students to practice CHAMPS expectations throughout the school year.

When a student is not following schoolwide expectations, teachers will work with the student and family to address behavioral concerns. Our goal is for all students to be actively engaged in their learning. However, if a student is habitually disruptive or unsafe in this learning environment, he/she may be removed from the regular class setting.

## **Bus Infractions-**

All bus infractions will be handled according to the Code of Conduct. Students can and will be suspended from riding the bus. Busing is a privilege and can be revoked depending on the number of infractions, and the type of infractions.

## **Suspension -**

Any time students are sent to the Principal for disciplinary consequences, a Referral Form will be generated. This form briefly describes the behaviors that caused the student to be removed from class, hallway, playground, breakfast/lunchroom or bus.

The Principal keeps an electronic record of all infractions. When students have accumulated a record that, in the Principal's view, reflects unwillingness to abide by school rules, the Principal will recommend suspension. **Students who are suspended will continue to do assigned work while suspended; however, it will only count towards partial credit towards their grade.**

## **Corporal Punishment -**

All ECISD schools do not participate in corporal punishment.

## **Searches-**

The following section delineates The School's policy relative to searches. Within the context of this section "personal possessions" includes, but is not limited to, purses, backpacks, book bags, packages, and clothing. "Reasonable suspicion" means that a school official has grounds to believe that the search will result in evidence of a violation of school policy, rules, and/or law. Reasonable suspicion may be based on a school official's personal observation; a report from a student, parent, or staff member; a student's suspicious behavior; a student's age and past history or record of conduct, both in and out of the school context; or other reliable sources of information.

### **DESKS-**

School desks are the property of Blanton Elementary. Inspection of the interior of desks may be conducted by school officials for any reason, at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

### **Personal Possessions and a Student's Person-**

The personal possessions of students and/or a student's person may be searched when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will disclose a violation of law or school rules. The search will be reasonable in its scope and intrusiveness.

### **Random Searches-**

All school property, students, and personal possessions of students are subject to a random search at any time. Random searches may be conducted at the discretion of the Principal. The search will be reasonable in its scope and intrusiveness.

### **Parent Involvement -**

Parents are encouraged to participate in school-related activities, including those pertaining to curriculum and instruction, such as assisting with workshop groups and storytelling.

### **Parent Conferences -**

Formal parent/teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year to facilitate open communication between parents and teachers regarding students' progress. Letters will be mailed home two weeks prior to the conference week. Conference Dates have been scheduled on the School's calendar. Additional conferences may be requested at any time with your child's teacher.

Blanton Elementary maintains an open-door policy, and parents are encouraged to visit their children's classrooms to see them in action. **We do ask that parents notify the office at least 24 hours prior to visiting the school so as to keep disruptions to a minimum.** Informal conferences or conversations are encouraged and may also be scheduled with teachers or school leaders at any time throughout the year.

### **Parent Newsletters-**

parents will receive monthly newsletters from the Principal with announcements of upcoming events and School-wide activities. These will always be sent home on the first day of the month. Each parent will receive a calendar of events for the entire school year, the second week of school.

### **Progress Reports and Report Cards-**

Progress reports and Report cards will be sent to parents two times during the 9 weeks to provide specific information about student progress in each subject. At the end of the 9 weeks, parents will receive report cards with cumulative data on their children's performance and progress.

## **Attendance Policy -**

Students at Blanton Elementary must attend school in order to learn! **They must come to school daily, and they must be on time.** State law is clear: No parent, guardian, or person having care of a child of school age shall violate any provision of those laws which govern school attendance.

### **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, as well as any applicable accelerated instruction program, extended-year program, or tutorial session, unless the student is otherwise excused from attendance or legally exempt.

State law requires a student in kindergarten–grade 2 to attend any assigned accelerated reading instruction program. Parents will be notified in writing if their child is assigned to an accelerated reading instruction program based on a diagnostic reading instrument. A student will be required to attend any assigned accelerated instruction program before or after school or during the summer if the student does not meet the passing standards on the state assessment for his or her grade level and/or applicable subject area.

### **Students with Disabilities-**

If a student with a disability is experiencing attendance issues, the student's ARD or Section 504 committee will determine whether the attendance issues warrant an evaluation, a reevaluation, and/or modifications to the student's individualized education program or Section 504 plan, as appropriate.

Ages 6–18 When a student ages 6–18 incurs three or more unexcused absences within a four-week period, the law requires the school to send notice to the parent. The notice will:

- Remind the parent of his or her duty to monitor the student's attendance and require the student to attend school;

- Request a conference between school administrators and the parent;and
- Inform the parent that the district will initiate truancy prevention measures, including a behavior improvement plan, school-based community service, referrals to counseling or other social services, or other appropriate measures.

The truancy prevention facilitator for the district can be contacted at the Community Outreach Center at 432-456-8569. For any questions about student absences, parents should contact the facilitator or any other campus administrator.

A court of law may impose penalties against the parent if a school-aged student is deliberately not attending school. The district may file a complaint against the parent if the student incurs ten or more unexcused absences within a six-month period in the same school year.

If a student age 12–18 incurs ten or more unexcused absences within a six-month period in the same school year, the district, in most circumstances, will refer the student to truancy court.

**Any time your child is absent, you must call the school the morning of the absence and report the reason your child will not be in school. The number to the school is 432-456-1259.**

### **Documentation after an Absence**

(All Grade Levels) A parent must provide an explanation for any absence upon the student's arrival or return to school. The student must submit a note signed by the parent.

The campus may accept a phone call from the parent but reserves the right to require a written note.

A note signed by the student will not be accepted unless the student is age 18 or older or is an emancipated minor under state law.

The campus will document in its attendance records whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

Note: The district is not required to excuse any absence, even if the parent provides a note explaining the absence, unless the absence is an exemption under compulsory attendance laws.

### **Doctor's Note after an Absence for Illness**

(All Grade Levels) Within five (5) days of returning to school, a student absent for more than four (4) consecutive days because of a personal illness must bring a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the absence. Otherwise, the absence may be considered unexcused and in violation of compulsory attendance laws.

Should the student develop a questionable pattern of absences, the principal or attendance committee may require a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the absence to determine whether an absence will be excused or unexcused.

[See policy FEC(LOCAL) for more information.]

### **Tardiness**

Students are expected to be punctual and respectful of other people's time. Tardiness not only impacts the beginning of the child's day, but it is also disruptive to the class and infringes upon the rights of others.

## **Electronic Devices and Technology Resources**

(All Grade Levels)

Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Cell Phones, and Other Electronic Devices The district permits students to possess personal cell phones for safety purposes; however, these devices must remain turned off during the instructional day, including during all testing, unless they are being used for approved instructional purposes.

If a student uses a telecommunications device without authorization during the school day, the device will be confiscated. The parent may pick up the confiscated telecommunications device from the principal's office.

Confiscated telecommunications devices that are not retrieved by the student or the student's parent will be disposed of after the notice required by law.

[See policy FNCE for more information.]



In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal telecommunications device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See Searches on page 85 and policy FNF for more information.]

Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. The district is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen telecommunications devices.

### **Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources**

District-owned technology resources may be issued to individual students for instructional purposes. Use of the district's network systems and equipment is restricted to approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign a user agreement (separate from this handbook) regarding use of these district resources. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

### **Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources**

Students are prohibited from possessing, sending, forwarding, posting, accessing, or displaying electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition also applies to conduct off school property, whether on district-owned or personally owned equipment, if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment.

Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content—commonly referred to as “sexting”—will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, may be required to complete an educational program related to the dangers of this type of behavior, and, in certain circumstances, may be reported to law enforcement.

This type of behavior may constitute bullying or harassment, as well as impede future endeavors of a student.

We encourage parents to review with their child the "Before You Text" Sexting Prevention Course, a state-developed program that addresses the consequences of sexting.

Any student who engages in conduct that results in a breach of the district's computer security will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. In some cases, the consequence may be expulsion.

## Blanton Elementary

The success of Blanton Elementary depends on the support of each member of the school community. Working together, faculty and staff, parents, and students can promote academic achievement and good character, and ensure the success of students at the school and throughout life.

On behalf of the administration, management, faculty, and staff of Blanton Elementary, I pledge to fulfill the responsibilities and uphold the expectations outlined in the Student Handbook. Blanton Elementary is dedicated to ensuring that communication between the school and parents is continual, on-going, and uniform.

Your signature in the appropriate space below will indicate your commitment to helping fulfill the school's primary purpose and mission.

As the parent of \_\_\_\_\_,

I pledge:

- to maintain high expectations for my child and the school
- to demonstrate consistent interest in my child's progress at school
- to support my child's best efforts
- to model appropriate and encouraging life skills to ensure the development of citizenship and character in my student
- to support and work with school staff to promote my child's learning

I have read the Parent and Student Handbook and support the rules and expectations outlined herein.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_ / \_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

As a student at Blanton Elementary, I pledge:

- act with Blanton Bear guiding principles
- follow CHAMPS expectations and try my best in everything I do. I come to school to learn and will have a positive impact on our community.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_ / \_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

