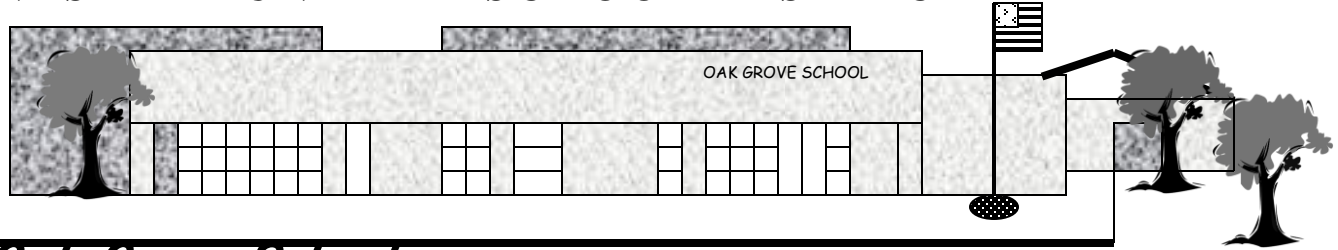


VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Oak Grove School

4445 W. Ferguson 559 622-3105 Fax 622-3108

...a community working hard toward excellence and academic success.

August 6, 2024

Dear Oak Grove Families and Students,

Welcome, or welcome back, to Oak Grove School! I am looking forward to a new school year - one in which we help all of our students learn and excel, provide engaging activities for students and families, and spend time together as an amazing Oak Grove community.

Our school mission is to be “A community working hard toward excellence and academic success.” At Oak Grove, our students and staff practice O.W.L.S. - being Organized, Working hard, striving as Leaders, and acting with Self Control. This acronym promotes the characteristics that we want all of our students to learn and uphold to ensure that they are ready for success in high school and beyond.

The first day of school is Thursday, August 15, 2024. **School gates open at 7:30 each day.** All students can enter through the gate between our Main Office and Kindergarten area, or through the gate near our bike rack area of Linwood St.

- TK and Kindergarten students can be dropped off between 7:30 and 8:10 am. Supervision is provided in the cafeteria from 7:30 to ~8 am. The Kindergarten playground opens ~8 am with staff supervision.
- For student drop off and pick up, you can use our Main Office parking lot at the corner of Ferguson Ave and Linwood St. Please enter the parking lot northbound on Linwood St, or from either direction on Ferguson Ave.
 - You can also walk and meet your student in the bus lane on Linwood St, but you may not drive-through or park in the bus lane for drop off and pick up.
- We have two crossing guards: one at the intersection of Ferguson and Linwood, and one at the crosswalk on Linwood St, south of our bus lane. Our crossing guards are in place from approximately 7:30 – 8:20 am and 2:15 – 2:45 pm each day.
- Our bike rack area, located south of our bus lane, is open before and after school for students to store their bicycle or scooter during school hours. It is strongly recommended that students bring a lock from home so that their bicycle or scooter is secure.

On the first day of school, look for a “start of school checklist” to come home with your student. The checklist and items should be completed and returned **no later than Monday, August 19.**

- Items include the online Emergency Card, the online Student Housing Questionnaire, and Student Insurance Information. **Our district technology team has already emailed you a special one-time “snap code” to complete the online items at home.**

All VUSD elementary and TK-8 schools (including Oak Grove) have a new daily bell schedule for 2024-25.

- **Classes begin every day at 8:10 am for all Oak Grove students.** There will be a warning bell at 8:07 am, and our gates will close promptly at 8:10 am. (This is the same as last year.)
- **Classes end at 2:30 pm (not 2:55 pm) EVERY DAY for all Oak Grove students.** All students TK-3 will continue to have dedicated Physical Education, Classroom Art, and Classroom Music.

(more info on next page)

- **There is no longer an early dismissal time on Wednesdays. (This was 1:30 pm last year.)** There will continue to be some Mondays with 12:30 pm dismissal throughout the school year. The first one is Mon, 9/16/24.
- Some Grade 6-8 students may have a “pre-1st” period from 7:20 – 8 am every day: Advanced Orchestra and Advanced Band classes. Unless your student has a “pre-1st” class, please do not drop them off on campus until 7:30 am or later to ensure adequate supervision.

Breakfasts and hot lunches are available every school day for all students, at no cost. Breakfast is served in the school cafeteria from 7:45 – 8:00 am. Teachers take a “hot lunch” count of their classroom at the start of every school day. Students are welcome to bring a lunch from home if they wish. For information about school meals and a lunch calendar, please visit our district website at www.vusd.org.

The HEART program will continue to provide after-school activities at Oak Grove every school day. These are available to students at no cost to families. Students can be picked up at regular intervals after school each day, and are not required to stay until the end of the program at 6 pm. For more information and to apply for HEART for your student, please visit their website at <https://www.proyouthexpandedlearning.org/>

Here are a few important dates to start the school year:

August 8 (estimated): Parents/guardians receive a VUSD email with information about your student’s teacher assignment.

- **On Thursday, August 8, I will also send a unique email** to each Oak Grove parent/guardian if your email is in our school database. It will include the name of your student’s assigned teacher and classroom. If you do not receive the email by the end of the day on August 8, please call our office on Friday, August 9 so we can help you.

Tuesday, August 13: “Back To School Night & Meet Your Teacher” at Oak Grove

- New this year, we are combining our “Meet Your Teacher” morning event with our evening “Back To School Night” to make one event.
- **Please join us at our “Back To School Night” event on Tuesday, August 13, from 5:30 – 6:45 pm here at Oak Grove.** This is a great opportunity to visit your student’s classroom and gather information about our school. You can also return any library books that you have at home.
- TK and Kindergarten students should report to their classrooms, which are near the Kindergarten playground on the north side of campus.
- The event is divided into two identical sessions so that you can visit with two teachers if you have more than one Oak Grove student. Session 1 is 5:30 – 6 pm, and Session 2 is 6:15 – 6:45 pm.
- Our Oak Grove PTA and HEART after-school program staff will also be here to meet with you and answer questions.

Thursday, August 15: First day of school, and “start of school checklist” sent home

- School starts at 8:07 am. Families are welcome to walk their students to their classroom if they wish.
(more info on next page)

We need your help, too! We are looking for parents/guardians who want to be involved at Oak Grove through our:

- **Parent Teacher Association (PTA):** Visit <https://sites.google.com/view/oakgroveptavusd>
- **English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)**
- **School Site Council (SSC):** Nomination forms for our School Site Council will be sent home later in August.
- **Volunteering in classrooms:** Information about becoming a classroom volunteer can be found on our school website.
 - All volunteers need to fill out an application form and be trained each school year.

- Parents interested in helping as chaperones for school field trips must also register as a volunteer and complete the background check process, too.
- If you would like more information about any of these, please contact our office.

I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with students, parents, staff and members of the Oak Grove community this school year. By working together, we will provide an outstanding educational experience for all students.

Sincerely,



Travis Hambleton, Principal
thambleton@vusd.org

School Contact Information:

Office hours are 7:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday, starting July 29, 2024.

Phone & Fax:

Main Office: (559) 622-3105
Venessa Morales (vmorales@vusd.org) – student registrations
Carly Lewis (clewis@vusd.org) and Annette Rocha (arocha@vusd.org) – student attendance and volunteers
Attendance: (559) 622-3105
Fax: (559) 622-3108

Administration:

Principal	Travis Hambleton	thambleton@vusd.org
Assistant Principal	Kristen Alburn	kalburn@vusd.org

For additional information and updates, please visit us online: <http://www.vusd.org/OakGrove>

