



John C. Fremont Elementary School

Student Handbook

2025-2026

Merced City School District

Welcome to Fremont Elementary School, home to the **EXPLORERS**! Fremont is the perfect place for students to explore academics and social development in their world. It is a place where we set personal goals, and address the needs of students academically, physically, and socially-emotionally. Fremont Explorers are sure to have an exciting year and learn a lot.

Parental support, cooperation, and partnership are necessary for our school to be a success. Parents have a great influence on students' attitudes towards school. We hope to have your support, and we want to work cooperatively. In the first few days of school, you have a lot to read and look over. We are counting on you to read this handbook and have a discussion with your child about the information within. We have made great efforts to make it as concise as possible to honor your time. Please bring suggestions and concerns to the attention of the teacher or office staff for the information contained within.

The purpose of this student handbook is to give our students and their parents/guardians an understanding of general systems, procedures, and protocols that will help your attending student receive the highest quality education. Our policies and procedures are enforced with fidelity to ensure that the safety of the students and staff is paramount at all times. The safety and well-being of our students is the building block the guidelines are established. If you have any concerns, you are encouraged to file a *Parent Concern Form* and make an appointment to see your student's grade level administrator. It is important that we protect the academic integrity of school programming together.

If there is ever a revision or update to a board policy, the most adopted board policy will supersede site-level guidelines and general rules. If there is a change to a policy mid-year, we will communicate the changes in real time to all students, staff, and parents/guardians. This handbook is available on our school website. You can access the website at <https://www.mcsd.k12.ca.us/Fremont/> and click on the hyperlink where the student handbook is illustrated. Should you be unable to access the handbook, please request a paper copy at the office. All students are required to return the letter on the back page, signed by the student and parent, for receipt of this handbook at the time of registration or enrollment packets. Feel free to keep all other pages for future reference if ever needed.

We have endured a global pandemic for the past year or more. You are the primary teacher of your child. You are so very important to the success they will find here in the educational experience. We are counting on a cooperative relationship between home and school, where the needs of our students are all met so they may thrive optimally. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the office for any questions or concerns that may arise.

Exploring who we are, mapping our future, and enjoying the journey together!

Fremont Elementary School

2150 S Street

Merced, CA. 95340

(209) 385-6627

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Our Mission Statement is the fundamental purpose of John C. Fremont Elementary School. It is the statement that articulates why the school exists and reflects our priorities, which guide our decision making and system pathways.

Mission Statement:

It is the mission of John C. Fremont School to create an inclusive, engaging environment where students, parents, staff, and the community are partners in the educational process. Within a rigorous standards-based curriculum, we emphasize a high level of student achievement. We look toward action steps with fidelity to increase the opportunity and achievement gaps for all students.

Our School Vision should reflect what we must become to accomplish the purpose of our mission explained above. Fremont Elementary School uses the site goals from the Single Plan for Student Achievement as our vision. This gives a sense of direction that helps us assess the current reality of academics using data, potential strategies, programs, and procedures to improve that reality. The goals are collaboratively created with all stakeholders every year. The goals are aligned with our district and state goals. They are monitored to ensure we are making progress towards our purpose. These are our priorities with time, resources, and funding. They provide the collective accountability to ensure we are all one team for our students.

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Single Plan for Student Achievement Goals:

Fremont Elementary School Plan for Student Achievement can be found on our school website and the California Department of Education. The Merced City School Board approved the plan at a public platform on June 22, 2021. There are three goals in the plan for Fremont Elementary School. One goal is about academics. One is about the wellness of the students as a whole, and the third is about building partnerships with the school, homes, and community.

Goal #1: Academics

Sixty percent of all students will meet the Key Performance Growth Indicators in the 2021-2022 school year in all academic areas as measured by local data.

Goal #2: Student Wellness

Fremont will demonstrate continuous improvement in the area of student wellness to optimize positive culture as reflected in positive attendance rates of 95% or higher, fewer at home suspensions and recidivism rates of 2% or less, increased participation rates in surveys of 20% or more, and social emotional training for students and staff at attendance and completion rates of 60% or more.

Goal #3: Family and Community Empowerment

Fremont will increase the number of family-focused events where the Fremont Elementary School's Community Coalition provides more opportunities for equal partnerships in education for all students.

Goal #4: Increase Academic Achievement for African American and Foster Youth

There are significant gaps in African Americans, the homeless, and foster youth. Fremont School has implemented a confidence-building program to assist these students.

We use a scientific research-based cycle of refining our action plans to meet our goals. The cycle is often called the Plan-Do-Study-Act Cycle (PDSA). We meet with parents and stakeholders regularly to share data on all of the progress throughout the year. We offer a wide range of behavioral and academic interventions using a systemic approach of analyzing data, looking for trends, and working together to support students.

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Information Frequently Asked For:

Lost and Found: Personal property is left on the playground, in the hallways, classrooms, bathrooms, library, and cafeteria. Fremont Staff encourages parents/guardians to label the tags or items to help locate the owner if left about. Clothing that is found is placed in the Lost and Found rack near the front door of the office.

Media Support: Are you having trouble logging in or getting onto a program the teacher is using? Many teachers use different technology platforms. If you need help, it is best to start by asking the teacher for guidance. If there is a problem with the network or system, the teacher will notify the office of a technology support request.

How to Update/Change Your Address: It is very important that the information the school has is the most current. We do not look to exclude our students, and there are options available to stay at a school even if you have moved. In the event of a real emergency, we are limited to relying on Social Services if the information we have is not up to date. Parents can access their accounts through the AERIES Parent Portal System. There is a hyperlink on the school and district websites. If you are not technology savvy or wish for a personal approach, our office team would be glad to facilitate a change of address or update of contact information for you.

Court Orders/Child Custody: Schools are often asked to engage in court issues regarding Family Law. We refrain from engaging and hope to forge positive contact with all parents. In many cases, even non-custodial parents retain and exercise their Educational Rights for a minor. It is imperative that we remain neutral to advocate for the best interests of your children. We execute and follow a court order. We ask that parents/guardians update the school with any most recent documents. When disagreements arise, we notify the authorities and allow the stewards of the law to sort out details. In the meantime, we remain faithful stewards to the student.

Health/Examinations/Shots/Medication Procedures: Did you know that there are some milestones that will actually limit a student from participating in school? Sometimes, students cannot attend due to a health or medical clearance of sorts. Our school nurses and health assistants are available to you to answer any questions about shots, medicine, medical needs, or concerns.

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Homework Help: Fremont offers a gamut of after-school and before-school tutorials. We also have an ASSETS Program after school that functions through our facility but is hosted by our Merced County Office of Education. If you need help with homework, reach out to the teacher or make an appointment to see an administrator at your student's grade level.

Parents Who Want to Help at Fremont

Fremont works hard to build partnerships with families and the community. We welcome your involvement and trust you to understand that the main purpose of schools is to provide a safe education to students. Schools are not considered open to the public. School campuses are limited public forums, and there are access and regulations that we follow to ensure safety with regard to the children's education. The California Constitution requires schools to ensure a safe, secure, and peaceful environment for students and employees (Article I, Section 28). There are several Education Code and Penal Code provisions regarding limitations on campus with respect to access and disruptions of school activities by visitors of any kind.

Fremont built the Fremont Character Counts Coalition in 2019-2020. We host meetings to plan events together that welcome families to participate as well as glean support from our sponsors of said events within our community. We host annual events such as Fremont Eat-n-Run, which engages fathers/uncles/grandparents/community leaders to play soccer with students at lunch. Our local firefighters, peace officers, business proprietors, and athletic teams have flooded our fields for this annual event. We hosted a day to celebrate National Grandparents' Day, along with National Literacy Day, with Fremont Storytime with Grandparents. We opened our campus to hundreds of community members who would come in a read aloud to students who wanted to adopt a grandparent for the day. Grandparents and extended family members or friends were encouraged to stand in for the read-aloud as well. We hosted an annual Mom-n-Me Crafting event where hundreds of mothers/aunts/grandparents/community leaders/friends came to participate in a craft-making project together. All events are planned and supervised with school personnel. We host Family Fun Nights, Fremont Family BBQ Events, Family Movie Nights, and annual Fall Festivals. We need help from many people to pull these events together and make real connections with each other. We count on you to participate, engage, and partner with us to make great things happen.

Field Trip Chaperones/Classroom Volunteers: There is a need for parent chaperones for some of the field trips, but not all of them. Any adult who volunteers during instructional time **not** listed in the Fremont Character Counts Coalition must undergo a screening process. Volunteer forms are available at the office, but do **NOT** guarantee your eligibility to chaperone or be a classroom volunteer. The

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screening forms are given to the teams, and a lottery for a set number of chaperones required is supervised for equity and fidelity purposes. It is very important that any parent chaperone let the teachers know as soon as possible if they are interested in becoming a chaperone for the fieldtrips. Some teachers opt to have a regular classroom volunteer. That is still an option at the discretion of a teacher, of course. If you are interested in volunteering, the same screening process mentioned above is required, with prior approval from an administrator. Don't let the requirements discourage your efforts to get involved. It is surely beneficial for your student and worth the security measures for student safety.

Parents Wanting to be Parent-Leaders for Other Parents and Community Events

Safety Committee: The Fremont Safety Committee reviews the Fremont Safety Plan, refines the emergency response plans, and provides feedback regarding safety concerns with proposed solutions.

Character Counts Coalition/Parent Teacher Club: Every grade level recruits one parent representative and one alternate to join the Parent Teacher Club and Fremont Community Coalition. This group works diligently to make our school a wonderful place for families and friends. Grade-level fundraisers, funding goals, family events, planning and coordinating, and student-driven fun events are funneled through the lenses of this club

School Site Council (SSC): This is a team of teachers, administrators, students, community members, and parents who are the governing committee to ensure we are fiscally aligning our spending to reflect the school mission as explained in the School Plan for Student Achievement.

English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC): This is a team of teachers, administrators, and parents/guardians who ensure the English Learning Programs at our school meet the needs of our diverse student populations, specifically those who are learning English as a second language. This is a great group to join if you are interested in the best practices for learning English. The same best practices are simply good for all students. Our students learning English are not just learning to speak English. They are learning mathematics, science, social studies, and other subject matter with the application of using a standard of English. It is a very rigorous task. If you learned English or another

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language as a second language to your native language, please jump into this adult group that is charged with advocating for students' needs.

Attendance Policies and Procedures:

Sick students should stay at home. What constitutes a sick day? That varies from household to household. We respect and honor your parenting instincts for sick days. We do want to share some frequently asked questions and interesting facts that we ask that you consider:

1- What are some examples of sick days that would make a school send a student home? Fever, vomiting, or diarrhea.

2- What can I do to make sure my student does not fall behind with school if they are sick? Ask the teacher for the missing work to complete. There is no guarantee for make-up work if absences are unexcused.

3- Isn't attendance just about money? No, poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade. Poor attendance can be an influence on children being retained, or not being able to get special services. The leading indicator that students will drop out of high school is 6th-grade Chronic Absences. Students have a harder time catching up when they miss a lot of school.

4- What is "Chronically Absent"? Students in MCSD who miss 14 or more days are considered Chronically Absent.

5- Does it matter if the days were excused? The impact of missing 18 days of the year is the same whether the absences are excused or unexcused.

6- Why do I get letters in the mail? Our policy is to send out letters after 5 and 7 days of absences. At 10 days of absences, we schedule a conference to assist in understanding California guidelines and help families find resources to help get students to school. At 15 days, the Student Resource Officer, or an administrator, will make a home visit to ensure support for families. At 20 days of absences, cases are referred out to the Student Attendance Review Board.

7- What is a truancy? According to the California Department of Education (retrieved 6/5/2017 at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ai/tr/>), "The California Legislature defined a truant in very precise language. In summary, it states that a student missing more than 30 minutes of instruction without an excuse three times during the school year must be classified as a truant and reported to the proper school authority. The California Legislature defined a truant in very precise language. In summary, it states that a student missing more than 30 minutes of instruction without an excuse three times during the school year must be classified as a truant and reported to the proper school authority." It is easy to avoid a truancy by notifying the school when your child is absent.

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Finally, if we work together, student success is greater. We want to help families, not hurt families. If you have a need, questions, or concerns, just give us a call. Our Attendance Officer is Mrs. Ramirez, who can be reached at 385-6627.

Discipline Policies and Procedures:

Fremont Elementary School is an award-winning Model School for Positive Behavior Intervention Systems of Supports. We use positive interventions to explicitly teach what behavior is expected. We reteach behavioral expectations repeatedly. Parents can access all of the lessons we teach at Fremont on the website. We use an acronym to remember the four rules at Fremont. H.E.R.O is the acronym used to teach H=Hands and Feet Ready, E=Everybody Belongs, R= Respect and Responsibility, O=On-task. We separate behavior deficits into two categories, from minor infractions to major infractions, so that we respond appropriately. When there is a minor infraction, the teacher will use a classroom intervention to aid in the social skill development of the student. Some things will work for some students but not for others. There is not one thing that works for all students, so we have many things to try. When a student has five interventions with praise and corrective measures, the repeat of the same behavior deficit is addressed at an administrative level. Major behavior deficits are addressed with the administrative leader of that grade level. Sometimes, a police officer is required when addressing student behaviors categorized under a judicial or educational code. We surely hope to restore positive behavior and to lean toward interventions that restore good character choices for students. We need parental support to help students succeed to the maximum benefits as the students learn to navigate the educational setting. There are rare instances when educational or judicial codes require students be removed from school. We hope to intercede while behaviors are minor to support positive choices that eliminate those more severe consequences. Alternative actions such as restoration circles, mediation pathway interventions, conflict resolutions, and HERO Academy of social skills lessons will be attempted when appropriate and at the discretion of the administrator or designee.

Character Counts: Fremont Elementary School utilizes Character Counts Programs. That program includes character education and social emotional learning curricula to establish six pillars of good character. The pillars are celebrated every month, and praise and incentives are recognized in small student assemblies at the flag pole periodically.

Conscious Discipline: Conscious discipline is a program of classroom management and trauma-informed practice used at Fremont Elementary School. We host parent sessions for coaching, training, and

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consultations throughout the year. We encourage parents to participate in the parent meetings to bring cohesion to student behaviors and support.

Acts of Violence: Any acts of violence, including intimidation, threats, or terroristic acts, will not be tolerated and dealt with most severely. Fremont Elementary School has no tolerance for violence against students or staff. All California Education Codes 48900 series and 48915 series will be followed with fidelity. Violations of those education codes or other juvenile codes may also warrant involvement of resource or peace officers.

Student Safety and Procedures:

Fremont Elementary School updates its Safety Plan annually. It is a document that encompasses over 150 pages of emergency measures carried out by schools as regulated by governing authorities. Those parameters change a little bit each year, and there is a committee that includes parents that reviews the plan to refine our best practices. We practice our procedures so that we are ready for any real incident. We host fire prevention and safety assemblies, train safety assemblies, CPR and First Aid, bus evacuation safety, evacuation safety, active intruder safety, earthquake safety, bloodborne pathogen safety, anti-bullying and self-harm awareness training, lockdown and lockout safety, and many other mandated required safety measures. We are inspected annually, and our weekly and monthly updated reports are shared with the safety committee, district personnel, and community response contacts. We do safety drills here regularly. The drills are unannounced and may require staff and students to leave campus for a short period of time. We explicitly teach emergency drill procedures. These drills are imperative to ensure your child's safety. When we practice drills routinely, we build the capacity to respond in the most appropriate ways should the need arise. In the event of a real emergency, we contact parents via ParentSquare. It is vital that your contact information stays up to date to ensure you are notified.

Skateboards/Skate Shoes and Scooters: Skateboards, skate shoes, roller blades, scooters, and any item with wheels outside of authorized bicycles are not permitted on school property. They will not be stored in the office or in classrooms. If said items are discovered at school, an adult will be called and asked to retrieve such items.

Bicycles are allowed at school, and we provide a bicycle rack to store them. Bicycles should be locked and secured at the responsibility of owner. We are not liable for lost, stolen, or damaged bicycles if they are brought to school. Any child under the age of 18 in California must wear a helmet while riding or operating a nonmotorized scooter, bicycle, roller skates, or skateboard (Article 4, California Vehicle Code: Operation of Bicycles [21200-21213], retrieved 7/9/2021). Please help keep students safe with helmets if bicycles are brought. We do not ride bikes on campus.

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Dress and Appearance Guidelines

Fremont Elementary School follows the Merced City Standard of Dress (MCSD AR 5132).



Merced City School District follows a "Standardized Student Dress".

Standardized Student Dress guidelines as outlined in Board Policy 5132 and Administrative Regulations 5132 are as follows:

1. Only non-modified school hats, bill worn forward, specific to that campus site are allowed. Other hats, caps, or other types of head coverings may not be worn indoors, except for special dress-up days, school-related hats or caps, or for religious or cultural observance. Students may wear sun-protective clothing, including hats, outdoors during the day. (Education Code 35183.5)
2. Wearing apparel, accessories, or colors that advocate, promote or reference gang activity or is perceived to be a threat to students or staff is not allowed. Gang-related apparel may include, but is not limited to, jewelry, belts, buckles, bandanas, insignias, body writings, drawings, decals, and pictures. (Education Code 32282)
3. Clothing, jewelry, accessories, and personal items (backpacks, fanny packs, gym bags, water bottles, etc.) shall be free of writing, pictures, or any other insignia which is crude, vulgar, lewd, obscene, profane, violent, or sexually suggestive, or which bears drug, alcohol or tobacco company advertising, promotions and likenesses, or which advocates racial, ethnic or religious prejudice.
4. Attire, which does not cover both male and female students' undergarments or midriffs, is not allowed. Incidental visibility of straps or waistbands are not a violation and should not be corrected.
5. Shoes must be worn at all times and must not limit student participation in school activities. Sandals must have heel straps and toes must be covered. Slippers, or sock-like footwear are a safety risk and are not appropriate for school.
6. Only prescription glasses shall be worn in class. A valid medical note, on file in the office, is required for wearing prescription sunglasses. Sunglasses outdoors are not a violation.
7. Pants must be worn at the waist and cannot sag or bag. Shorts, skirts and dresses shorter than mid-thigh are prohibited. Rips in pants or jeans are allowed below mid-thigh only.

In case of questionable dress and grooming situations not covered by these guidelines, the site administrator will determine the appropriateness and make the final decision in accordance with all guidelines above.

Please contact the school principal with any concerns.

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Bullying/Harassment/Cyberbullying:

Acts of violence are not tolerated at Fremont Elementary School. Any act of violence should be reported.

Disagreements are a given in our life journey. We work together with parents, mentors, counselors, and staff to help students develop skills to resolve disagreements. Conflict resolution and a mediation path are often social skills we explicitly teach when there is a mutual disagreement or hostility between peers. Sometimes the conflicts are unexpected, and sometimes peer conflicts can escalate into violence. Those students involved with violent behavior have comparable emotional reactions. Resolution does not negate consequences at Fremont Elementary School. Peer conflict should always be reported to an adult. It is normally resolved by assisting students in the conflict resolution skill, but may result in behavior interventions or discipline actions if warranted. Peer-to-peer conflict may not meet the definition of bullying under educational and juvenile codes of conduct.

Although bullying can be one instance or several, it should always be reported to an adult. Bullying is defined as an intentional act or acts directed at another student AND is severe or pervasive AND creates a disturbance to the orderly operation of the school or learning. It is threatening in nature, and one person is made to feel weaker or less powerful than another. Peer-to-peer conflict can be bullying if there is a perception of power exchange. Bullying can be direct or indirect. Direct bullying is physical, verbal, or articulated with gestures. Indirect bullying is getting another person to engage, spreading rumors repeatedly, and deliberately excluding them from activities. Bullying is a serious offence and is considered a major violation.

Fremont Elementary School uses a vast video system that is often used in response to reports of behavior infractions. There are operational cameras in a multitude of areas, and supervision or revision of events is often the tool used to seek the facts regarding a report. If behaviors are reported, they are investigated with due process. Camera systems are also used on our buses, in cafeterias, in hallways, and on fields.

The span of authority for addressing bullying is not limited to the physical location of Fremont. If a student is off campus and commits an act of bullying that has a nexus to any school function, it is also within the span of authority in educational and juvenile codes to be addressed in the same school system of discipline. One example is offered for consideration: If a student is using their school email address on any device in a threatening way, it is still a behavior addressed by the school.

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Social Emotional Supports at School:

Fremont has a school counselor and shares a behavioral analyst with sister sites. There is a team of professionals who meet on a regular basis to design and refine supports for each child as a person. The students may access the school counselor for services and resources such as social skills, small group sessions, and whole class lessons that are proactively created to address developmental challenges at different grade levels. Conversations that students have are private, but all adults at school are mandated reporters, as is required by law. There are times when it is beneficial for a student to share information with adults who help them be more successful at school. Many students get help with personal and social events in their lives through the school counseling support. Parent permission is required for individualized student needs and supports. Permission slips are available upon request in the front office. Talking to our school counselor does not affect a student instructionally with respect to grades. Students who see the counselor do so with a pass from asynchronous work time or free time.

Health Services:

The purpose of any health service at school is to provide optimal health and welfare support for students. There is a school nurse at Fremont Elementary School for health planning, prevention systems of health service support, immunization, and outreach supports, and medical liaisons with providers and doctors. We often have release of information agreements so that we can support the more serious medical needs of students with long-term health plans. There is also a Health Service Assistant at Fremont daily to address emergency first aid treatment for any and all school-related injuries. If a student becomes ill at school, it is necessary that the school contact the primary adult listed on the contact information registration form and then any other contact parents/guardians have designated. The health support system at Fremont is designed to genuinely care for each student's health and welfare needs. They may make suggestions as to considerations for the need for medical evaluations.

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Internet and Technology Usage Agreement:

**MERCED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Student Technology Acceptable Use Agreement**

I agree to:

- Use the device for school work and to learn when my teacher and parents say it is OK
- Show respect for all hardware and software that I use
- Not take anything from the internet or send anything over the internet that belongs to someone else
- Inform my teacher if I know someone is breaking any of these rules

I will:

- Use good manners
- Be polite at all times on the computer
- Never tell anyone my full name, my home address, or phone number
- Not look at anyone else's files without their permission
- Only use email appropriately and only for school assignments
- Sign in as myself only and will not use other's login information
- Not share my login information with others
- I will use my own district assigned device only

I will show respect by:

- Not emailing any bad words, hurtful words, or inappropriate pictures to anyone
- Never searching for sites or words not approved by my teacher or parents
- Not running a business on the internet, or posting advertisements for commercial or noncommercial activities
- Taking care of the whole device and the charger so it is in the same condition that I received it

If I am in grade 6, 7, or 8:

- I will take care of my assigned chromebook because I will use this same chromebook through grades 6 - 8, including summers before graduating from MCSD

I understand these rules and promise to follow them. If I do not follow these rules, I know that I may not be able to use the computer at school anymore.

I PROMISE TO RESPECT THE TECHNOLOGY.

School: _____ Teacher: _____

Student Name: _____ ID: _____ Gr: _____
(Please print)

Student Signature: _____ Date of Training: _____

Updated June 2023

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Personal Property at School:

Fremont Elementary School will not be responsible for loss or damage to a student's personal property. We encourage students to refrain from bringing personal property to school. Large sums of money, cell phones, and other articles of an expensive nature should not be brought to school. Items that create a disturbance to school activities, such as radios, toys, cameras, athletic equipment, animals, contraband, hazardous or dangerous objects, and medicine should not be brought to school.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices:

Cellular phones and all electronic devices brought to school are not the responsibility of the school or staff. All devices must be turned off and put away upon entering campus, as they create a distraction to a learning environment, as determined by the school principal or designee. Electronic devices should remain off during all school hours (8:30-2:55 pm). Students who are observed with devices out and in use will be sent to the office to secure the device, which is assumed to have value as described above. Devices will be secured until a parent can retrieve said device. Devices used to videotape other students (minors) and/or participate in any California Education Code Violation for bullying, cyberbullying, or sexual harassment may be confiscated as authorities determine. Students should not expect privacy regarding any transmission of data utilized while on campus or related to any school activity. School staff will not look for or stop school activities for lost, damaged, or stolen personal property that students may bring after strong encouragement to leave all valuable items safely at home.

[YONDR/Student Cell Phone Policy](#)



School Handbook **Supports**

MCSD desires for its students to Focus on Learning while on campus. School staff and many families agree that student use of cellular phones, applications, and other electronic signaling devices - including wireless earbuds - distract students all too often during the school day. On Tuesday, March 26, 2024 the Merced City School District Board of Education approved updates to its Board Policy (BP), 5131. Administrative Regulation (AR) has also been created to support the effective implementation of the BP. Impactful elements of the policy include:

"Cellular telephones or other mobile communication devices including, but not limited to, MP3 players, wireless earbuds, smartwatches, and/or any other device capable of transmitting and/or receiving data in the form of a voice, text message, and/or capable of accessing the Internet Such devices shall be turned off and stored away while on campus."

"Cellular telephones or other mobile communication devices may instead be placed into locked and sealed bags provided by a school if the school adopts usage of such a program to control and deter device usage during the school day."

MCSD Administration has worked together to create protocols and frequently asked questions so that we can clearly and intentionally inform families and students of our plan.

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School District Property/Damage:

When school district property is damaged, destroyed, or taken off campus without permission, the school administrator is notified. There are extensive camera systems on campus and tracking devices that afford us the capacity to track such property. Students are encouraged to be responsible for school district property since they may be held liable for any loss, damage, or defacement of things, including but not limited to textbooks, Chromebooks, iPads, library books, instructional supplies, furniture, buildings, and equipment.

Visitors on Campus:

Fremont Elementary School is a closed campus. We do have chaperones and volunteers who go through a screening process and may have been chosen using a lottery system. It is important to establish steps to protect the safety of students and staff in accordance with laws related to volunteers and visitors. Parents can observe a class with an administrator with an appointment and a meeting prior to the observation. Parents who want to volunteer can complete a registration form with a background check and volunteer screening prior to service start dates. Screenings include the Megan's Law website and arrest.org. There are penal codes that may limit access to prospective volunteers at a public school in the setting of minor children. Volunteers who serve for a long period of time may be fingerprinted, and the request for any criminal record summary report from the Department of Justice must be received before the service exceeds a certain number of days. Those will be addressed with an administrator on an as-needed basis.

You trust Fremont with the safety of your child. We take that responsibility seriously and are honored that you share your legacy of children with our team. In all cases where a person is not prohibited by law from volunteering, we try to accommodate the requests, but determination is always made on a case-by-case basis.

Our Parent Teacher Club purchased some benches in an open quad where families can come and enjoy lunch with their child. Visitors all sign in at the office for every visit. Visitors can only partake in lunch with the students they are listed as an emergency contact for. Some parents want to bring lunch for their child for a special occasion or to celebrate a time, as others just make it a wonderful tradition now and then. You are welcome to come and bring lunch here to have such experiences with your child.

Under no circumstances are visiting parents ever authorized in common areas exposed to other children. Visitors refrain from being in the cafeteria, playground, and library. Visitors are either in the office, in a classroom, or eating in the separate quad with their child/children.

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Fremont Elementary School

2150 S Street

Merced, CA. 95340

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Bell Schedule**BELL SCHEDULE****2025 - 2026****8:00-8:25 am BREAKFAST****8:25 am FIRST BELL (WARNING)****8:30 am INSTRUCTION BEGINS****RECESS**

9:10- 9:40 am TK Recess

9:40 - 10:10 am Kindergarten recess

9:50 -10:10 am 1st - 2nd-grade recess

10:15 - 10:35 am 3rd - 4th- grade recess

10:40 - 11:00 am 5th - 6th-grade recess

LUNCH

11:00 – 11:48 am TK (Released to playground @ 11:23) (Teacher lunch ends 11:50)

11:30 - 12:18 pm Kinder (Released to playground @ 11:54) (Teacher lunch ends 12:20)

11:54 – 12:42 pm 1st – 2nd (Released to playground @ 12:18) (Teacher lunch ends 12:44)

12:18 - 1:06 pm 3rd - 4th (Released to playground @ 12:42) (Teacher lunch ends 1:08)

12:42 - 1:30 pm 5th - 6th (Released to playground@1:06) (Teacher lunch ends 1:32)

2:55 pm DISMISSAL**2:05 pm Wednesday Dismissal Only*****Exploring who we are, mapping our future, and enjoying the journey together!*****Fremont Elementary School****2150 S Street****Merced, CA. 95340****(209) 385-6627**

Bus Safety Procedures:

Transportation » Bus Rules

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students will:

1. Observe appropriate classroom behavior in order to protect their riding privileges.
2. Be courteous to others. Demonstrate responsible citizenship through positive social interactions while on the bus. Do not use profanity or be verbally abusive. Do use inside voices on the bus.
3. Remember that eating, chewing gum, drinking, smoking, and possessing illegal substances, weapons, or obscene materials are not allowed on the bus.
4. Cooperate with the bus driver and follow the bus driver's instructions the first time they are given.
5. Remain seated and facing forward while the bus is in motion.
6. Extend nothing, including head, hands, and feet, out of the bus windows. Open &/or close windows only with permission.
7. Be responsible for intentional damage to the interior or exterior of the bus and will be charged for such damages.
8. Display proper respect for the rights and comfort of others on the bus.
9. Be on time and respect private property while waiting at bus stops. **Buses cannot wait for tardy students.**
10. Allow the bus driver to escort students across the street in front of the bus where required by state law.
11. Limit objects that are brought on the bus to those items that can be safely held by the student. Do not bring or use any items on the bus that could affect of health, safety, and security of any passengers. Examples: balloons, skateboards and live animals may not be transported on the bus.
12. Be responsible for any electronic device (cell phones, games, etc.) that they might bring on the bus. If any electronic device causes ANY driver distraction or disrupts to the safe operation of the bus, such device(s) may be confiscated by the bus driver.
13. Realize that ANY driver distraction is potentially hazardous to the safety of all passengers.

Transportation Department Contact Information:

2105 Wardrobe Ave
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-6690

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Live Receivers:



444 West 23rd Street, Merced, CA
95340



Board of Education: Allen Brooks -President, Birdi Olivarez-Kidwell -Clerk, Jessee Espinosa, Priya Lakireddy, Beatrice McCutchen
District Acting Superintendent: Brian Meisenheimer

NOTE: If your child does not intend to ride a school bus then this form is not required.
Parental Acknowledgement of Required Kindergarten Receiver Form

Merced City School District requires all preschool, transitional kindergarten, and kindergarten students to have a designated receiver when participating within the district's student home to school transportation services. A receiver must physically meet their student at the school bus and be acknowledged by the school bus driver. A qualified receiver may be an older sibling or other, if the older sibling is confirmed as the designated receiver, by the student's parent or guardian, and capable of safely and responsibly receiving the arrival at the student's designated bus stop.

All students will be returned to the school site for parent pick up when not properly received. This means in any event when a student requires a mandatory receiver for a safe and proper release and/or pick up at their assigned stop, the designated receiver must be present. If the designated receiver is not present the driver cannot release your child for their own safety. Please ensure the receiver is acknowledged by the school bus driver at the school bus. Again, the driver cannot release your student otherwise and you will be required to receive your child at your assigned school site upon completion of the school bus route. School buses are scheduled on extremely tight schedules in order to pick up or drop off other students, so we ask that your receiver is present and on time each day. The student transportation schedule does not afford additional waiting times for late designated receivers and it is highly likely your student will be returned to their assigned school location.

A parent or guardian may confirm the responsibility assignment of a primary and an alternate designated receiver for your student. This form is required each school year and expires upon the completion of the school year. This process is mandatory and may not be opted out of for any students, as described above in this letter. This form is intended to be a safety communication tool for the protection and safety of your student.

COMPLETE ONE FORM PER EACH KINDERGARTEN STUDENT & RETURN TO SCHOOL SITE STAFF

Student Name:	_____		Student ID #:	_____
	AM TIME		PM TIME	
School Site:	BUS STOP		BUS STOP	
Primary Designated Receiver	Name _____		Phone #	_____
Alternate Designated Receiver	Name _____		Phone #	_____
Parent/Legal Guardian	Signature _____	Print Parent or Guardian Name _____	Date	_____

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL OFFICE
(Returning to Bus Driver will cause delays in the Safe Transport of Your Child.)

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For more information, visit the Transportation website:

<https://www.mercedcsd.org/departments/administrative-services/maintenance-operations-transportation/transportation>

Receipt of Handbook Signature Page

This Student/Parent Handbook is available on the website as shared throughout this document. You can access that at any time, and we encourage you to retain all of this packet EXCEPT this page.

We ask parents/guardians to review this packet and read it together. We ask both to sign this page, indicating that each has read the handbook. Please read it carefully and keep it in a safe location for any future reference. Please help us keep all students safe by understanding the importance of following the rules and guidelines with fidelity. If you have a concern, please call the teacher or make an appointment to see your child's grade-level administrator. In order to protect the academic integrity of school programming and supervision, an administrator may not be available should you arrive without an appointment. We ask that this one page be returned to the school because we believe you covering this information with the student is so important to the success, as it establishes our cooperative relationships. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Student's Name Printed

Student ID/Lunch Number

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date _____

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