

CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

"A School of Arts and Innovation"

2025-2026

4795 Magnolia Ave.

Riverside, CA 92506

Telephone: (951) 788-7282

Fax: (951) 328-2580

Web Site: central.riversideunified.org

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Principal Shani Dahl
Assistant Principal McKenzie Kelly
Counselors Fred Baxa (7th)
 Nicole Johnson (8th)
MTSS Counselor Michelle Clayton
SAP Counselor Leticia Lopez

CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL...THE PURPOSE OF OUR WORK

Central students will develop and utilize the knowledge, skills, and attributes necessary to meaningfully interact with an ever-changing global society.

COMMON INSTRUCTIONAL COMMITMENTS

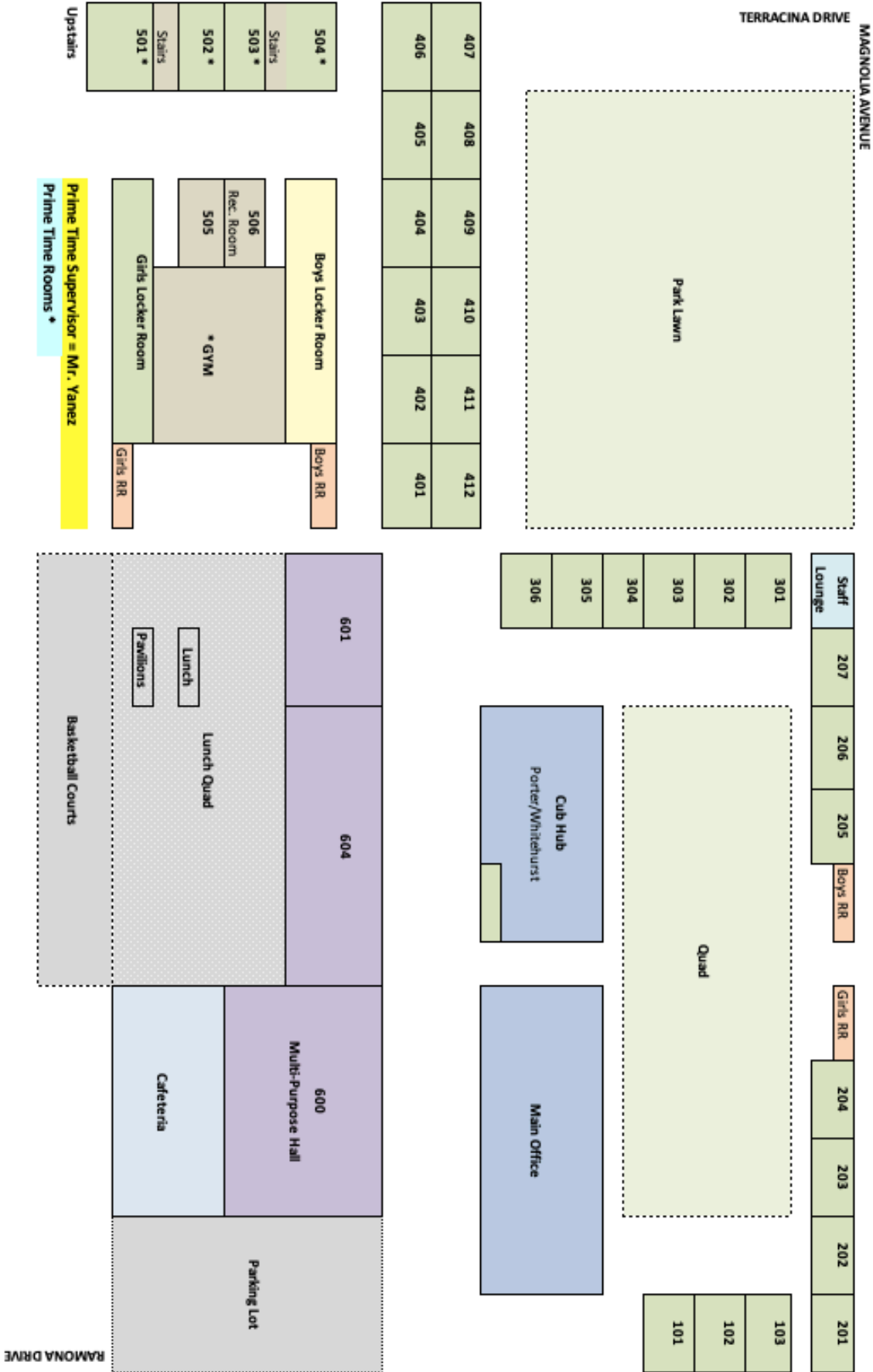
- *Students will be challenged daily to connect to learning goals that are rigorous and relevant and aligned to the Common Core content standards. Learning goals will be posted daily for students, as well as referred to during each lesson.*
- *Students will collaborate with each other to foster both precision and flexibility in their learning.*
- *Students will show evidence of reading and writing that is thoughtfully relevant to the learning goals*

This Student Planner belongs to:

Name: _____

CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

4795 Magnolia Avenue • Riverside, CA 92506 • 951.788.7282



INFORMATION

SCHOOL HOURS

School hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 2:25 p.m. Wednesday Planning Day hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. Supervision is provided on campus from 7:30 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. All students should be picked up and dropped off within these times. In order to ensure students' safety, it is important that they be picked up promptly. Students not picked up after 2:50 p.m. will have to be signed out from the office quad by parents. Students walking home must leave within 10 minutes of the dismissal bell. Students involved in the PRIMETIME after school program will be on campus from the end of school until they are signed out. PRIMETIME ends at 6:00 p.m.

RESTROOMS

- Restrooms are open for student use before school, during passing periods and lunch.
- During class students needing to use the restroom must get a pass from their teacher to use the 400 or 200 restrooms.

CHANGE OF TELEPHONE, EMAIL OR ADDRESS: If you have a change of address, please provide us with two current utility bills so that we can keep our records updated and send correspondence to the correct address. Also, if you have a change in phone numbers or email address, please notify our office as soon as possible so that we have accurate information and are able to make contact in case of emergencies.

Central is a closed campus. This means that students may not leave the school grounds at any time during the school day without permission from the office. Visitors must check in with the office. All visitors will be required to provide a state ID and will be scanned through the Raptor System.

Food Delivery: Food may not be delivered to students via a delivery app (Doordash, UberEats). If a student forgets lunch or is not eating the school lunch, a parent may drop off lunch, prior to the beginning of the student's lunch time.

Check out Procedures: If a student is going to move out of the Central school attendance area, the student needs to bring a note from their parents and take it to the attendance office before the first period. The note should state the new address, the date the family is moving, and the name of the school the student will attend. All books issued to students must be returned to withdraw from the school.

Loco parentis: School personnel act in "*loco parentis*." Loco parentis is the act of school personnel serving as the child's parent during the school day when children are required to be in school. As such, the court's have long held that school personnel have the right to discipline students, including, conduct interviews, conduct student searches, and the like.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE: The principal/designee has the authority to conduct searches when reasonable suspicion exists to suspect that the student has contraband in his/her possession or control in violation of a rule, regulation or statute.

TRANSPORTATION

BUSES: Bus service is not available for students in grades seven through twelve. Our after-school program, PRIMETIME, has a bus to take students home. These buses depart CMS at approximately 5:30 p.m. and will drop students at bus stops after 6:00 p.m. *For more information, call the R.U.S.D. Transportation Office at 352-1200.*

BICYCLES/SKATEBOARDS/SCOOTERS:

- Riders must follow all bicycle laws and school rules.
- Students not following laws and school or school rules will have consequences assigned.
- 1st Offense - Warning.
- 2nd Offense - Detention.
- 3rd Offense - Wednesday School.
- 4th Offense - Saturday School and confiscation of bike, skateboard or scooter privilege.
- All students riding a bike, scooter, or skateboard must have a helmet.
- Bicycles, skateboards and scooters are always walked or carried on the school grounds.
- Bicycle racks just inside the school entrance near the MPH. Bicycles, skateboards and scooters must be parked and locked in this designated area. Students riding bicycles, skateboards and scooters must enter campus by the MPH and not from the Terracina entrance.
- The Riverside Unified School District shall not be responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged bicycles, skateboards, or scooters.
- Any theft should be reported to the office and to the Riverside Police Dept.
- Skates and roller blades are not allowed.
- Trespassing or skateboarding on Central's campus at any time is prohibited and will result in a police report being filed.

WALKERS / RIDERS / CARPOOLS

- Students, who walk to school, receive rides from their parents and/or car pool should be alert to before and after school traffic in all areas. The staff parking lot in front of the school is off limits to students. Parents should drop off and pick up students in the designated areas located in front of the MPH or curbside in the eastbound lane on Terracina. Students should not be dropped off on Ramona, while waiting in the drop-off line or in the westbound lane on Terracina. Students who walk home from school must depart within 10 minutes of the school day ending.

Students Returning to School Following an Absence must be re-admitted through the attendance office before school. If an absence is not verified by the parent / guardian within **3 days**, it becomes truancy.

ABSENCE VERIFICATION: When a student is absent from school, the parents should telephone the attendance office at 788-7282, ext. 1 and provide the following information: full name (spell last name clearly), grade level of the student, dates of absence, reason for absence, name of person calling and relationship to the student. Or students may bring a note with the above information and take it directly to the attendance office before going to his/her first class.

EXCUSED ABSENCE is when students are absent for the following reasons: illness, doctor appointment, or a funeral of an immediate family member.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE occurs anytime a student's absence cannot be verified as an excused absence.

TRUANCY is when a student has been absent from school without a valid excuse and when an absence has not been verified by a parent or guardian. Your student will be reported as truant to the Child Welfare and Attendance Office. Truancy notices shall be sent to parents. Students who are determined to be truant are subject to disciplinary action.

EXCESSIVE ABSENCE: A student is considered to have excessive absences when he or she has missed 10 or more days in a school year. Students with excessive absences are referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB).

APPOINTMENTS: If a student is leaving school during the day for a doctor or dentist appointment, the parent or guardian who is on the emergency card must come to the receptionist area, present a photo ID, and sign their child out of school. Students will not be released without a parent or guardian present. Students must bring a copy of the doctor or dentist appointment slip to the attendance office upon return to school, and get a re-admit to verify absence of classes missed.

SHORT TERM INDEPENDENT STUDY: Independent Study is a courtesy program to enable students with a flexible learning option for those who are in need of a planned absence(s) from traditional classroom instruction for a short period of time. The contract is for a minimum of one day (not including holidays or weekends) with a maximum of 15 days within a school year. Parents/Guardians must notify the school in advance, at least five (5) school days, prior to the planned departure from school.

TARDIES: It is very important that students be in class for all instruction, and that they do not disrupt other students' learning. Also, making sure students are in class on time is one of our best tools in ensuring their safety. Whether to School or Class—Students are expected to be in their seats, ready to work, when the bell rings.

The first couple of days, students are allowed to find their way to classes and tardies are not counted against them. This grace period will be considered their warning. Students are expected to attend each of their scheduled classes. Students who fail to attend one or more classes will be considered truant, and disciplined accordingly.

Tardy Policy: Consequences are progressive and increase the more tardies are accumulated. 1st period tardies are considered part of this policy. A previous consequence does not make the consequences start over. **Note: A parent CANNOT excuse a student tardy, only a doctor or dental note can!**

CENTRAL Tardy Protocol	
1st Tardy	Teacher issues a verbal warning
2nd Tardy	Teacher issues a verbal warning
3rd Tardy	Teacher phone call home
4th Tardy	30-minute after-school detention assigned The Attendance Assistant will make the call and issue the detention for the next school day.
5th Tardy	Wednesday school assigned - The Attendance Assistant will make the call, issue the Wednesday school, and mail home. - The office will call home on the Tuesday before to remind parents of the Wednesday School.
6th Tardy	Saturday school assigned - The Attendance Assistant will make the call, complete Saturday school referral and mail it home. - The office will call home on the Friday before to remind parents of the Saturday School.

HEALTH SERVICES

Health Office: Any injury should be reported to the teacher, who will issue a permit to the health office. Parents will be contacted immediately in cases of serious injury or illness. You must have an emergency card, listing current emergency contacts, on file in the Health Office. When this information changes, e.g., in the case of a move or employment change, parents or guardians are responsible for immediately notifying the office to update information on the emergency card.

Medication: All medication must be checked in through the Health Office according to district policy. This includes aspirin, midol, antihistamines, asthma inhalers, or any over the counter medications.

Student use of crutches while attending school: Students who are required to use crutches while attending school **MUST** provide a medical release from their physician or physical therapist. If such a release is not available, the student must be evaluated by a District school nurse to determine whether or not it is safe for the student to be on a public school campus while using crutches.

SCHOOL WIDE INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES

DIGITAL DEVICES/BOOKS: Students access their books using a school digital device. The digital device will be documented using our library database. Students will be issued a digital device to use for the school year. They will be responsible for the care and use of the device per the RUSD open access policy. Students are held responsible for damage or loss and will be assessed fees when necessary. Special privileges will be withheld for non-payment of fees.

STUDENT PLANNER: Students are **required** to carry and use the Student Planner. The school provides each student with a Student Planner at the beginning of the year. Replacement Planners are available in the office for \$5.00.

STUDENT ID CARDS: Student ID cards are a means of identifying a student as a member of the Central Middle School student body. ID cards are required for purchases, entrance to school functions, library use, and identification in the event of an emergency. One ID card is issued to students at no charge each school year. If a card is lost or damaged, a replacement fee of \$5.00 will be required. Students are **required** to carry their ID cards at all times.

HOMEWORK: The amount of homework is at the discretion of the teacher.

MAKE-UP WORK: When students are absent they need to ask their teachers for make-up work. Students have one day for every day of absence plus one extra day to complete make-up work. When anticipated absences due to illness or emergency exceed one week, the office needs to be contacted to set up a program for work completion.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS: Substitute teachers are school employees and must be treated with respect and courtesy. Substitute teachers have the same authority as regular teachers. Students are expected to follow the directions given by substitute teachers and shall be given a consequence for defying the authority of the substitute teacher.

PROGRESS REPORTS: Students/parents will receive progress reports five weeks into each quarter and a report card at the end of each semester. In addition to receiving letter grades in subject areas, you will receive comments from teachers to further explain the grades. A grade of Incomplete turns to an F in two weeks' time if assignments are not completed in that time frame.

AERIES: Aeries can be accessed via the internet to provide ongoing monitoring of your student's grade, attendance and academic progress. This can be accessed through the Central webpage at www.central.riversideunified.org

PARENTSQUARE: All communication from the school will be sent out via ParentSquare. Information regarding ParentSquare, including setting up you account can be found at www.riversideunified.org/parents/parent_square_parent_resources

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: All students are eligible to participate in school activities (after-school sports, dances, assemblies for entertainment, student government, field trips, reward events, etc.), if they exhibit good citizenship on the campus:

No drug/alcohol/tobacco/vape related suspension this year

No more than 5 days of suspension this school year

No more than 10 tardies for each quarter.

If students do not maintain a 2.0 grade average, they will be ineligible for certain activities like athletics, performing groups, and student government. We encourage all students to strive to be positive participants in their school.

8TH GRADE PROMOTION / END OF YEAR ACTIVITIES: Middle school students must pass 20 classes out of 24 classes attempted over two years to participate in the promotion ceremony. If a student is in jeopardy of not participating in the promotion ceremony, an Individual Promotion Plan (IPP) may be completed by a designated school representative, student, and parent. The goal of the IPP is to identify a plan of action that will be taken by all stakeholders to assure the student's participation in the promotion ceremony. .

It is important that students keep in mind that participation in 8th grade end-of-year activities is a privilege. The privilege to participate is determined by:

- No drug/alcohol/tobacco/vape related suspension this year
- No more than 5 days of suspension this school year
- No Suspension AFTER Spring Break
- No more than 2 assigned Wednesday Schools for discipline AFTER Spring Break
- No more than 10 tardies AFTER Spring Break
- Return of all school books and equipment (fines are assessed for lost or damaged items and must be paid before the event).
- Student attendance, including excessive tardies throughout the year.
- Passing 20 of 24 classes attempted over two years.

We want students to participate in their 8th grade field trip and promotion, but hold all students to the above-mentioned requirements.

PROCEDURE FOR RESOLVING PROBLEMS OR ADDRESSING CONCERNS:

1. **Contact the Teacher for a telephone conference or an appointment to discuss questions or concerns.**
2. **Contact the Student's Counselor for additional assistance.**
3. **Contact the Assistant Principal if the problem persists.**
4. **Contact the Principal if the above steps fail to resolve the problem.**

STUDENT SUPPORT

Counselor(s): The school counselors work with students, teachers, and parents in many ways. They are available to review academic progress or discuss personal, family, or health problems and can make recommendations concerning community resources. They are happy to assist with classroom difficulties, study skills, peer problems or family problems and educational and vocational planning. Students may make an appointment to see their counselor before or after school or during the lunch hour with the guidance secretary in the main office. Parents may make appointments with a counselor by calling (951)788-7282.

For additional information about student support services contact the school counselors at (951) 788-7282.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

All students are expected to read the Central Behavior Policy and Student Handbook and the Central Code of Conduct with their parents. Students are responsible for knowing and understanding the contents of this policy.

CAMPUS RULES:

- Central is a closed campus.
- All food and drinks are allowed only at lunch.
- Outside Food and Drink are not allowed to be dropped off or delivered by delivery services or parents/guardians
- Gum is not allowed on campus
- Profanity is not allowed at Central! The use of racial and homophobic slurs (such as the "N" word) directed toward someone or in conversation is not allowed and will not be tolerated.
- PE lockers are the property of the district, and as such, locker use is a privilege. Lockers are subject to search under district policy.
- Cameras and the use of camera devices is NOT allowed on campus. Electronic devices must be used in accordance with the AUP.
- Gambling, game cards, or playing cards are not allowed on campus.
- All medication, including aspirin, antihistamines and asthma inhalers must be checked in through the Health Office according to district policy.
- Fighting or aggressive behaviors of any kind are not tolerated at Central. ***Students must use the least amount of force necessary to remove themselves from the situation.*** This includes "play fighting", pushing, shoving, "rough housing", slamming, depantsing, bodies, neck slapping or chasing.
- Public displays of affection, such as putting arms around one another, hugging, kissing, and holding hands is not allowed. Appropriate consequences will be administered to students who choose to participate in these kinds of activities.
- Involvement in gang activity such as intimidation, drugs, graffiti or tagging, use of gang clothing, names, symbols, or signs, is strictly prohibited.
- Use or possession of inappropriate materials which are sexually suggestive, promote violence, racism or vulgarity, (e.g., magazines/printed material, digital access or personal items) is forbidden.
- Theft on the Central campus is not allowed. Students are expected to respect other individuals' belongings and keep their hands off others' personal items and/or school property.
- Buying, selling or trading anything at school is strictly prohibited.
- **Cheating, plagiarism** is not allowed. **1st Offense** - Students will receive a discipline referral, a zero on the assignment, a parent contact will be made by the teacher and will be assigned a Wednesday School; **2nd Offense** - Students will receive a discipline referral, a zero on the assignment, a parent contact will be made by the teacher and the student will receive a Saturday School; **3rd Offense** - will result in a suspension or suspension from school.

Cell Phones and Personal Digital Devices

Students may bring phones to school but, cell phones must be turned off and cell phones, earphones/earbuds/airpods must be inside backpacks before students enter campus and remain in backpacks until students exit campus at the end of the day. This policy extends to handheld gaming devices. Students who violate this policy will be referred to the office and will receive progressive discipline based on the number of violations. Students bring personal electronics at their own risk. The school or district is not responsible for lost or stolen phones, earbuds/earphones, gaming devices, or student owned computers/Chromebooks/tablets.

- Chromebooks are only to be used as directed by the teacher. Students using their Chromebook in a manner other than as directed by the teacher or staff member will be considered In violation of the electronics policy.
- **Electronic device violations** will result in the following consequences: **1st Offense** - Administrative referral – detention; **2nd Offense** - Administrative referral – Wednesday School; **3rd Offense** – Administrative referral – Saturday School: **4th and subsequent Offenses** – In School Suspension, possible confiscation of Chromebook.

Criteria for Participation in School Events (Dances, Field Trips, 8th Grade Activities)

A No-Go or Non-Participation List will be created for all of our activities and events for the school year. The following is a list of criteria that students need to meet in order to participate.

- No drug/alcohol/tobacco/vape related suspension this year. A student may complete DDP to be removed from the No-Go List for the following quarter.
- No Suspension during the quarter of the activity.
- No more than 5 days of suspension for the school year.
- No more than 2 assigned Wednesday Schools for discipline during the quarter of the activity.
- No assigned Saturday Schools for the quarter in which the event occurs.
- No more than 10 tardies in each quarter (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarter)
- Students must have 90 % attendance or higher for the quarter. Tardies and absences may be made up via Saturday School.

Central Middle School
School Wide Expectations

	Be Respectful	Be Responsible	Be Safe
Hallway	• Use school-appropriate language • Use words like “<i>please</i>”, “<i>thank you</i>”, and “<i>excuse me</i>” • Throw trash in trash cans	• Go directly to and from your destination • Use the water fountains appropriately • During class, have a pass • Cell Phones turned off & in your backpack	• Keep hands and feet to self • Follow directions • Accept consequences for your actions
Restroom	• Respect privacy • Use equipment and supplies properly	• Use the restroom and leave right away • Use the restroom in the right way • Flush the toilet after use • Throw trash in trash cans	• Remind others of rules • Return to room promptly • Go, flush, wash
Assembly	• Eyes and ears on speaker • Participate • Use appropriate applause	• Keep hands and feet to yourself • Sit appropriately • Use indoor voices • Cell Phones turned off & in your backpack	• Enter and exit quietly • Follow directions
Lunch Court	• Respect other's space • Use kind words and actions • Throw trash in trash cans • Eat in the lunch area only	• Leave a clean table, seat and floor • Say “<i>please</i>” and “<i>thank you</i>” • Cell Phones turned off & in your backpack	• Clean up after yourself by picking up food and trash • Maintain a single-file line when waiting for food • Walk at all times
Cub Hub	• Take care of books, furniture, and supplies • Respect others who are trying to read and learn • Clean up after yourself	• Stay on task • Put things away in their proper place • Return materials on time • Cell Phones turned off & in your backpack	• Use appropriate voice level • Use time wisely • Push in your chairs
Classroom	• Use classroom books, furniture, and supplies appropriately • Raise your hand and wait to be called on before speaking • Listen when others are speaking • Throw trash in trash cans	• Be ready to learn • Follow directions promptly • Do your best • Stay on task • Participate and ask questions • Cell Phones turned off & in your backpack	• Walk at all times • Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself
Locker Room	• Respect other students' space • Use school-appropriate language • Talk quietly • Maintain locker area • Respect the time limit to change	• Lock up all belongings in your own space • Be prepared with PE uniform and appropriate shoes daily • Cell Phones turned off & in your backpack	• Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself • Walk at all times • Respect others personal space and personal property

Central Middle School
School Wide Expectations

	Se Respetuoso(a)	Se Responsable	Mantente Seguro(a)
Pasillos	• Usa un lenguaje apropiado para la escuela • Usa palabras como "<i>por favor</i>", "<i>gracias</i>" y "<i>disculpe</i>" • Tira la basura en los botes para la basura	• Ve directamente hacia y desde tu destino • Usa las fuentes de agua apropiadamente • Durante las clases necesitas un pase • Mantén el celular apagado y en tu mochila	• Mantén las manos y pies para ti mismo • Sigue las instrucciones • Acepta las consecuencias de tus acciones
Baño	• Respeta la privacidad de otros • Utiliza correctamente los equipos y suministros	• Usa el baño y sal con prontitud • Usa el baño de la manera correcta • Bajale al baño después de usarlo • Tira la basura en los botes para la basura	• Recuerdale a otros las reglas • Regresa a tu clase de inmediato • Ve al baño, bajale al baño y lávate las manos
Asamblea	• Mira y escucha al orador • Participa • Aplaude apropiadamente	• Mantén las manos y pies para ti mismo • Siéntate apropiadamente • Usa voces bajas • Mantén el celular apagado y en tu mochila	• Entra y sal calladamente • Sigue las instrucciones
Área de Almuerzo	• Respeta el espacio de los demás • Usa palabras y acciones amables • Tira la basura en los botes para la basura • Come tu almuerzo en la área designada solamente	• Deja la mesa, silla y el piso limpios • Di "<i>gracias</i>" y "<i>por favor</i>" • Mantén el celular apagado y en tu mochila	• Limpia tu alrededor al recoger tu comida y basura • Mantén una sola línea recta mientras esperas la comida • Camina en todo momento
Biblioteca (Cub Hub)	• Cuida los libros, muebles y suministros • Respeta a los demás que intentan leer y aprender • Limpia tu área	• Concéntrate en tu asignación • Pon las cosas en su lugar apropiado • Devuelve los materiales a tiempo • Mantén el celular apagado y en tu mochila	• Usa un nivel de voz apropiado • Usa el tiempo sabiamente • Regresa la silla a su lugar
Salon de Clase	• Usa los libros, muebles y suministros apropiadamente • Levanta la mano y espera antes de hablar • Escucha mientras otros hablan • Tira la basura en los botes para la basura	• Mantente listo(a) para aprender • Sigue las instrucciones con prontitud • Haz lo mejor que puedas • Concéntrate en tu asignación • Participa y haz preguntas • Mantén el celular apagado y en tu mochila	• Camina en todo momento • Mantén tus manos, pies y otros objetos, para ti mismo
Vestuarios	• Respeta el espacio de otros • Usa un lenguaje apropiado para la escuela • Habla en voz baja • Mantén los vestuarios limpios • Respeta el plazo de tiempo para cambiarte	• Guarda todas tus pertenencias en tu espacio solamente • Prepárate con tu uniforme y zapatos apropiados todos los días • Mantén el celular apagado y en tu mochila	• Mantén tus manos, pies y otros objetos, para ti mismo • Camina en todo tiempo • Respeta el espacio y la propiedad de otros

NO PHONE ZONE

Central Middle School is a No Phone Zone campus

1. Cell phones must be turned off and inside backpacks before students enter campus and remain in backpacks until students exit campus at the end of the day
2. Headphones, earbuds, and airpods are only allowed for instructional purposes with teacher permission and when paired with student chromebook
3. Students may not use cell phones, headphones, earbuds, or airpods during the after-school program

CONSEQUENCES:

1st offense – student referred to office to turn in cell phone

2nd offense – student referred to office to turn in cell phone AND student assigned Wednesday school

3rd offense – student referred to office to turn in cell phone AND student assigned Saturday school

4th offense – student referred to office to turn in cell phone AND parent or adult will be required to pick up phone

**consequences also apply to headphones, earbuds, and airpods*



CONTRABAND: In order to maintain school safety of person and property, the following items are not allowed at Central Middle School (The following list is not all inclusive and will be adjusted at the discretion of the school administration):

- Jewelry and chains of all types that can be used in an unsafe manner (including wallet chains and chain necklaces)
- Sports equipment or balls (these items will be provided by the PE department or coaches)
- Inappropriate materials which are sexually suggestive or depicts violence, racism, or vulgarity, are not allowed
- Party Flyers
- Water pistols, Water balloons
- Studded or spiked accessories
- Belt buckles with more than one letter
- Matches, lighter, tobacco products
- Marijuana products
- Gum
- Alcoholic beverages of any kind.
- Laser Light Pens or other dangerous objects.
- Permanent Markers

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY: Riverside Unified School District does not permit bullying of anyone at any time. Bullying behaviors include direct physical contact such as pushing or shoving a student, verbal assaults such as teasing, calling him/her nasty or unkind names, socially isolating, teasing, doing mean things to others and/or manipulating a student. Cyberbullying or use of social media for any of the above-mentioned actions will not be tolerated at Central. If someone is bullying you, you should immediately notify a teacher or other staff member. Students who are reported as bullies, and who are found to be bullying others, will be disciplined. A student who is caught bullying others can be suspended or may even be expelled from school.

Be a Third-Party Reporter!!!

If you see someone being bullied, teased or picked on, tell an adult. Speak Up, it's the right thing to do!

RACIAL LANGUAGE/HATE SPEECH: At Central, the use of racial slurs, hate speech, or speech that seeks to hurt or harm a particular group of students based on race, ethnicity, gender, religion, or any other student affiliation is not tolerated! Students will be given progressive consequences including Wednesday School, Saturday School, Suspension, and possible Expulsion based on the offense.

POSITIVE REWARDS

Students who choose to follow school rules and demonstrate academic success may be rewarded with the following:

Dances: **Eligible** students have the option of attending various dances sponsored by our ASB throughout the year. Students with book fines and unsatisfactory behavior may lose this privilege.

Good Citizenship Days: Eligible students will have an opportunity to attend assemblies or teacher/team directed special activities.

Academic Awards Night : An awards night is held at the end of first semester to recognize the academic efforts of students showing academic excellence.

Most Improved Awards: During a special presentation students are recognized for improvement in grades, behavior, and effort. These nominations are made by teachers of the CMS students.

Perfect Attendance: All students who have perfect attendance for the year at CMS will receive certificates and recognition.

Cub Coupons: The coupons are awarded to students by the CMS staff for working or doing tasks above and beyond the average citizen at CMS. These coupons are placed in a drawing held monthly. The student may receive prizes such as movie tickets and gift cards. This program is sponsored by our partners at Altura Credit Union.

8th Grade Awards: Students will receive the following awards during this year's end celebration- Presidential Award of Excellence, Perfect Attendance, Community Awards, Awards for Citizenship and Departmental Awards.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION / INTERVENTIONS / CONSEQUENCES	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	
31	
32	
33	
34	
35	
36	
37	
38	
39	
40	
41	
42	
43	
44	
45	
46	
47	
48	
49	
50	
51	
52	
53	
54	
55	
56	
57	
58	
59	
60	
61	
62	
63	
64	
65	
66	
67	
68	
69	
70	
71	
72	
73	
74	
75	
76	
77	
78	
79	
80	
81	
82	
83	
84	
85	
86	
87	
88	
89	
90	
91	
92	
93	
94	
95	
96	
97	
98	
99	
100	

Students who become involved in areas of problem behavior will be subject to certain disciplinary actions. Depending upon the behavior problem of the student, one or more of the following actions may be taken by the school officials, according to Board policies and state law. The frequency and severity of inappropriate student behavior will determine the level of intervention/discipline administered. In all cases, guidelines laid out in section 48900 of the California Education Code will be followed.

- **WARNING/COUNSELING** A school official (staff member) will counsel with the student to identify the inappropriate behavior and discuss alternative behaviors and consequences.
- **PARENT PHONE CONTACT OR LETTER CONTACT**
- **PARENT CONFERENCE** A formal conference is held between the student, parent, and one or more school officials. Parent involvement will be solicited in an attempt to modify/improve student behavior.
- **STUDENT BEHAVIOR REVIEW TEAM/BOARD** Established by students, parents, and one or more school officials to bring about change in the student's behavior. This may include a daily/weekly progress report.
- **SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT OR CLASS TRANSFER**
- **LUNCH DETENTION** Students may be detained during the lunch break by their teacher(s) or other school official(s) for disciplinary or other reasons. Students must be allowed to eat their lunches during the time provided.
- **AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION** Students may be detained in school for disciplinary or other reasons (including tardies) for a maximum of one hour after the close of the school day. Parents will be notified by phone or written notice in advance.

- Wednesday School - 12:30 - 2:10 pm
- Saturday School - 8:00 - 12:00 pm

- **SATURDAY SCHOOL** Students may be assigned Saturday School for defiance, truancies and excessive tardies. Saturday School is typically held on designated Saturdays, between the hours of 8:00 am and 12:00 pm. Late students will not be admitted.
- **COMMUNITY SERVICE** Students may be assigned a designated number of hours to contribute to the community. Students may choose the activity with which they will become involved. The assignment must be approved by the administration.
- **LOSS OF PRIVILEGES** Students are prohibited from attending or participating in student activities for a definite period of time.
- **REQUEST PARENT ATTENDANCE** Parent(s) may be requested to escort/attend classes) with their child. At the discretion of the administration, parent attendance may be used in lieu of other consequences.
- **RESTITUTION** Restitution (either in payment or in kind) will be expected.
- **POLICE CONTACT** The police will be contacted if drugs, alcohol or weapons or facsimile of said items are brought onto the campus. In addition the police will be contacted when students are in a physical altercation.
- **DRUG DIVERSION PROGRAM (DDP)** Parents of students who are caught in possession of or under the influence of alcohol, drugs or controlled substances will have an option to enroll in the DDP which will allow the infraction to not be considered as part of the discipline history after successfully completing the program and a calendar year.
- **SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL** (up to five days) The student is informed that he/she is subject to a suspension (up to five days). The student's parent(s) or legal guardian is notified by telephone, mail, or in person that the student is subject to a suspension. (May be recorded in the student's file.)
- **EXPULSION** The student will be informed that he/she is subject to expulsion. The student's parental or legal guardian is notified by telephone and letter that the student is subject to expulsion. Notification to the parent(s) or legal guardian will include clear instructions regarding the due process procedure. The principal will recommend to the Administrative Hearing Panel that the student be expelled.
- **ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING PANEL** The Administrative Hearing Panel will recommend to the Board of Trustees that the student be expelled. The expulsion does not become effective until the due process procedure has been completed. (Recorded in student file.)

Suspension Under Education Code 48900

- a.1 Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person. *
- a.2 Willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except in self defense. *
- b. Possessed, sold or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object. *
- c. Unlawfully possessed, used, sold or otherwise furnished, or been under the influence of a controlled substance. *
- d. Unlawfully offered, arranged or negotiated to sell a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind, and either sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to a person an imitation. *
- e. Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
- f. Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property. *
- g. Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property. *
- h. Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products.
- i. Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- j. Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell drug paraphernalia.
- k. Disrupted school activities, or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of school personnel.
- l. Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.
- m. Possessed an imitation firearm.
- n. Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault, or sexual battery.
- o. Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a pupil who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding.
- p. Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.
- q. Engaged in, or attempted to engage in, hazing.
- r. Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act.
- t. Aided or abetted the infliction of physical injury to another person.

48900.2 Committed sexual harassment. (Grades 4-12 only)

48900.3 Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause or participated in an act of, hate violence. (Grades 4-12 only)

48900.4 Intentionally harassed, threatened, or intimidated, creating a hostile educational environment. (Grades 4-12 only)

48900.7 Made terrorist threats against school officials and/or school property (Grades 4-12 only)

The following violations of EC 48915(c) require mandatory suspension and a recommendation for expulsion:

- 1. Possessing, selling or otherwise furnishing a firearm.
- 2. Brandishing a knife at another person.
- 3. Unlawfully selling a controlled substance.
- 4. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault
- 5. Possession of an explosive.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE: *

- The principal/designee has the authority to conduct searches when reasonable suspicion exists to suspect that the student has contraband in his possession or control in violation of a rule, regulation or statute. The following regulations apply:
- Personal Search - A personal search shall be defined as any inspection of a student's purse, pocket, book bag, locker or similar receptacle used for the student's belongings.
- The school official may request a police officer to conduct or assist in any search.
- A metal detector shall be used when reasonable grounds exist to suspect that the student is in violation of a rule, regulation or statute.
- A Drug Dog comes on campus randomly to visit classrooms and check for controlled substances.

California law requires all children, between the ages of 6 and 18 years to attend a public school, unless exempted by enrollment in an authorized private school, or by virtue of having completed the required course of study and graduated from the public schools. Since students are required to attend school, school personnel therefore act "*in loco parentis*." Loco parentis is the act of school personnel serving as the child's parent during the school day when children are required to be in school. As such, the courts have long held that school personnel have the right to discipline students, including conducting interviews and conducting student searches without the permission, consent, or inclusion of their parents.

*Due process will be followed and the student's civil rights protected at all times.

HATE VIOLENCE:

- Hate violence is an act that interferes with the exercise of an individual's civil rights, defacing or damaging personal property, or actions against persons because of the victim's race, color, religion, nationality, or ancestry. Students are subject to suspension and/or expulsion for hate violence when other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct or if the student's presence causes a continuing danger to physical safety or threatens to disrupt the educational process.
- Articles of attire or the display of symbols, emblems, or signs related to hate groups are strictly prohibited on all campuses.

INTENTIONAL HARASSMENT: Intentional harassment is defined as threats or intimidation directed against a student or group of students that is sufficiently severe or pervasive that it materially disrupts class work, creates disorder, and invades the rights of that student or group of students. It is important for students to tell their teachers or the school administration when this happens. Students are subject to suspension and/or expulsion for harassment when other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct or if the student's presence causes a continuing danger to physical safety or threatens to disrupt the educational process.

- **SEXUAL HARASSMENT:**

- Definition of Sexual Harassment: California and Federal laws define sexual harassment as unwanted sexual advances, or unwanted visual, verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Such offensive behavior includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- Unwanted sexual advances, including propositioning and requests for sexual favors, or repeatedly asking someone out for a date after it is clear that the person is not interested.
- Explicitly or implicitly offering employment or academic benefits in exchange for sexual favors.
- Making threatening reprisals after a negative response to sexual advances.
- Visual conduct leering; making sexual gestures; displaying sexually suggestive objects, pictures, cartoons, or posters.
- Verbal conduct; making or using derogatory comments, epithets, slurs, or jokes, making sexually based remarks about another person's own body.
- Verbal abuse of a sexual nature, graphic verbal commentaries about an individual's body, sexually degrading words used to describe an individual, suggestive or obscene letters, notes or invitation.
- Physical conduct: Touching, assaulting, impeding or blocking movement.
- Basing employment or academic benefit on whether or not a person submits to behavior such as described in items (a) through (g) above.
- Unwelcome behavior as set forth in items (a) through (g) above which has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual's work or academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or educational environment.
- This sexual harassment policy is intended to protect against sexual harassment before it becomes actionable sexual harassment. The term "sexual harassment" is intended to mean sexual harassment in the broadest meaning of that term in current popular as well as legal usage.

GANG DEFINITION: A street gang is defined as a group or subgroup of persons who have three or more members who socialize on a continuous basis, have a name, claim a geographic territory and/or who plan or engage in criminal conduct.

GANG PREVENTION REGULATIONS:

- Articles of attire or the display of symbols, emblems, or signs related to gangs or gang affiliation are strictly prohibited on all campuses of the Riverside Unified School District. Gang symbols, signs, and attire which may cause rival gang members to be openly hostile to each other, or create an atmosphere of intimidation, encourage the commission of illegal acts, or disrupt the educational process are prohibited.
- School officials may confiscate any articles related to gang affiliation if the article is found to be disruptive to the educational process. The article will be retained and given to the parent/guardian or to a police officer if the article is known to be evidence of a criminal act. Repeated offenses are grounds for disciplinary action.
- Students whose attire is inappropriate shall be required to call parents to bring a change of clothes or to take the student home to change. When possible, a change of clothes will be offered at the school.

REGULATIONS FOR DRUGS, NICOTINE, AND ALCOHOL:

Possession, use, furnishing, selling or transporting for sale, of drugs and alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, or look-alike substances, is against school and district regulations. Students will not bring or possess matches, lighters, tobacco products or drug paraphernalia onto campus. Consequences are as follows:

1. Using or possessing alcohol, intoxicants, or controlled substances of any kind:
 - a. First offense – 1-3 days of suspension and enrollment in Drug Diversion Program level 1
 - b. Second offense (after 1 year from 1st offense) – 5 day suspension and enrollment in Drug Diversion Program level 2
 - c. Third offense – 5 day suspension and recommendation for expulsionOR
 - b. Second offense (less than a year from 1st offense) – 5 day suspension and recommendation for expulsion
2. Selling intoxicants or controlled substances of any kind:
 - a. First offense - 5 day suspension and recommendation for expulsion
3. Possession or using nicotine products:
 - a. First offense – Saturday School, parent/guardian notified
 - b. Second offense - 1 day suspension, parent/guardian notified

WEAPONS:

- Students are subject to suspension and/or expulsion upon a first offense.

REPLICA FIREARMS:

Replica firearms are not allowed on any campus or within the jurisdiction of the Riverside Unified School District. Any student who possesses a replica of a firearm or other dangerous object while under the school's jurisdiction is subject to suspension or expulsion. A replica is any reproduction of a firearm so constructed as to appear to a reasonable person to be a firearm. Students who threaten another person with a replica weapon shall be reported to law enforcement and are subject to arrest under California Penal Code 417.2.

POLICE NOTIFICATION:

Appropriate law enforcement officials will be notified under, but not limited to, the following circumstances:

- When a weapon, including any firearm, knife, explosive or other dangerous object is taken from a student.
- When any student possesses a replica of a firearm or other deadly weapon.
- When a student possesses, furnishes, or sells drugs, alcohol, controlled substances, or look-alike substances.
- In any case when a student has assaulted, attacked, or menaced a school employee, the employee and the employee's supervisor are required to report the incident to law enforcement and may result in a fine.
- When an illegal article is taken from a student.
- When a student has caused injury to another student if circumstances warrant such a report, i.e. hate violence, serious injury, attacks, etc.

JURISDICTION: A student may be disciplined by the school for acts related to school activity or attendance that occur at any time, including but not limited to, any of the following: while on school grounds, coming to or from school, during or while going to and from a sponsored school activity.



SEVERE OFFENSES

- *Firearms/Knives/Replica Weapons:* 5 days suspension; recommendation for 1 year expulsion. (Police report filed)
- *Drugs/Alcohol or "Look-alike" substances:* 5 days suspension and maybe a recommendation for expulsion. (Police report filed)
- *Second Offense for Alcohol, Drugs, or "Look-alike" Substances, Supplying or inhaling (huffing) substances to become intoxicated:* 5 days suspension and recommendation for 1 year expulsion. (Police report filed, \$500 fine.)

MANDATORY EXPULSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Any student who has committed any of the following violations while under school jurisdiction shall be immediately suspended and expelled for one calendar year. This expulsion is effective in all schools in the district and in the State of California. The Superintendent or School Board may modify this action on a case by case basis.

- Possession, sale or furnishing of a firearm
- Brandishing a knife
- Unlawful possession and /or sale of a controlled substance
- Committing or attempting to commit sexual assault or battery

Title I School-Level Parental Involvement Policy

Central Middle School
4795 Magnolia Avenue
Riverside, CA 92506
(951) 788-7282

Central Middle School has developed a written Title I parental involvement policy with input from Title I parents. Central presented the Title I parental involvement policy to SSC, ELAC/Title I consultation group and PTSA for discussion and input. Central Middle School has distributed the policy to parents of Title I students at the beginning of the school year during the first SSC, ELAC and PTSA meetings. Central Middle School's policy describes the means for carrying out the following Title I parental involvement requirements:

Involvement of Parents in the Title I Program

Central Middle School does the following:

Convenes an annual meeting to inform parents of Title I students of Title I requirements and their rights to be involved in the Title I program:

- Information will be included on school website.
- Discussed at SSC and ELAC/Title I Consultation.
- Letters mailed to parents/guardians.
- Display information on school marquee.
- Use phone dialer to inform parents.

Offers a flexible number of meetings:

- Title I Consultation Group/ELAC meetings will be held at least five times a year to discuss

Comprehensive School Plan, Parent Compact, Needs Assessment, School Safety Plan, Parent training sessions, etc. Babysitting and translating will be made available, if necessary. Phone dialer will be used, as well as phone calls from the Translator to communicate any reminders or added information.

- SSC will meet at least seven times a year to discuss the Comprehensive School Plan, Parent Compact, School Safety Plan, programs, etc.

Translation will be provided, if necessary. Phone dialer, telephone calls and emails (if available) will be sent to members.

Involves parents of Title I students in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of its Title I programs and the Title I parental involvement policy:

- Present to SSC, ELAC, and Title I Consultation Group for discussion and input.
- Present this policy at the beginning of each school year.

Takes the following actions to distribute to parents of participating children and the local community, the School Parental Involvement Policy:

- Policy will be distributed to members of SSC and ELAC/Title I Consultation Group at the first meeting.
- Copies will be available in the front office.
- Distribute to staff members.

Updates periodically its School Parental Involvement Policy to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school:

- Present this policy to SSC and ELAC/Title I Consultation Group every two years for discussion and input.
- Present to staff members for review and input.

Provides parents of Title I students with timely information about Title I programs:

- School website will include important dates for parents.
- Phone dialer is used to communicate all upcoming meetings and events at least one week in advance.
- Letters and/or flyers are sent directly to parents at least one week in advance.
- Information displayed on school marquee weekly.

Provides parents of Title I students with an explanation of the curriculum, assessments, and proficiency levels students are expected to meet:

- School Accountability Report card is made available through the school website.
- Information is sent out with the summer mailer, when available. Information is made available in both

English and Spanish.

- Counselors and teachers share this information with parents during parent conferences and any other parent nights.
- Information is made available in the front office.

Provides parents of Title I students, if requested, with opportunities for regular meetings to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children:

- Parent Conferences are made available at any time at the request of a parent/guardian. Translation is readily available.
- Parents/Guardians are encouraged to attend SSC, ELAC/Title I Consultation meetings.
- Translation is readily available. Meetings are held at a time that is convenient for the majority of parents/guardians.

School-Parent Compact**

**A copy of the *Central Middle School* Home-School Compact is attached.

Central Middle School has jointly developed with and distributed to parents of Title I students a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. It also describes how the school and parents will develop a partnership to help children reach proficiency on the California content standards. The school-parent compact describes the following items in addition to items added by parents of Title I students:

- The shared responsibility of parents, students and the entire school staff to improve students' academic achievement.
- The shared responsibility between the school and parents to help children achieve the statewide academic content standards.
- The school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that helps children served under Title I meet the statewide academic content standards.
- The ways in which parents will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion and television watching; volunteering in their children's classroom; participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to the education of their children and the positive use of their children's extracurricular time.

The importance of ongoing communication between parents and teachers through, at least, annual conferences, reports on student progress, access to staff, and opportunities to volunteer and participate in and observe the educational program:

- Frequent reports to parents about their children's progress.
- Reasonable access to staff.
- The Home-School Compact is provided annually. This gives parents/guardians ample time to review this compact and bring any comments to the first parent meeting of the year. The Parent Compact is sent in both English and Spanish and requested to be returned at Spirit Day (registration day). A parent/guardian signature is required. The Parent Compact is presented at the first SSC, ELAC and Title

Consultation Group meeting. Compact is reviewed and discussed. Any input is appreciated. This compact is reviewed, discussed and updated yearly.

Building Capacity for Involvement

Central Middle School engages Title I parents in meaningful interactions with the school. It supports a partnership among staff, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. To help reach these goals, the school does the following:

- Assists Title I parents in understanding academic content standards, assessments, and how to monitor and improve the achievement of their children.
- Parent Training will be done regularly through our parent meetings.
- Information will be disseminated as needed.

Provides (with the assistance of the district) materials and training to help Title I parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement:

- Parent trainings will be done through our SSC and ELAC/Title I Consultation parent meetings.

Educates staff, with the assistance of Title I parents, in the value of parent contributions and how to work with parents as equal partners:

- Staff will be informed of parent feedback, concerns, and comments from various parent groups.

Coordinates and integrates the Title I parental involvement program with other programs and conducts other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children:

- Counselor(s) visit feeder schools with information about entering middle school.
- Parents may meet with teachers to discuss the academic needs of their child. Parents are made aware of the expectations of their child enrolled at this school. Teachers share interventions with the parents. Interventions include: tutoring, parent training, and other resources that may be helpful with the success of their child.

Distributes to Title I parents information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities in a form and language that the parents understand:

- Phone dialer is used for schoolwide messages, both in English and Spanish.
- If there is a request for any other languages, appropriate measures are made to fit those needs.
- Written communications are written in a parent-friendly format and in English and Spanish.

- School website is readily available and advertised in the summer mailer.
- Phone calls are made in both English and Spanish to relay information regarding meetings and/or activities.

Provides support for parental involvement activities requested by Title I parents:

- Keep lines of communications open at all times.
- Continue to encourage parents to attend all school activities and stay involved.
- Share any vital academic information with parents briefly describe or bullet how this happens at your school.

Accessibility

Central Middle School provides opportunities for all Title I parents to participate, including parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students. This includes providing information and school reports in a form and language parents understand:

- Phone dialer is used for schoolwide messages, both in English and Spanish.
- If there is a request for any other languages, appropriate measures are made to fit those needs.
- Written communications are written in a parent-friendly format and in English and Spanish.
- School website is readily available and advertised in the summer mailer.
- Individual staff members have websites available to parents.
- Phone calls are made in both English and Spanish to relay information regarding meetings and/or activities.

Report cards and trimester assessment information is sent to parents in both English and Spanish. If information is only available in English, then this information is translated and available to parents with limited English proficiency in a format that is easy to read and understand.

Adoption of School Level Parental Involvement Policy

This school level Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs.

The school will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A students.

Central Middle School

Daily Bell Schedule

2025 – 2026

0 Period 7:00-7:50

Period	Time	Instructional Minutes
--------	------	-----------------------

1 (announcements)	8:00 - 8:26	26 min.
-------------------	-------------	---------

2	8:30 - 9:20	50 min.
---	-------------	---------

3	9:24 - 10:14	50 min.
---	--------------	---------

4	10:18 - 11:08	50 min.
---	---------------	---------

5	11:12 - 12:02	50 min.
---	---------------	---------

6A	12:06 - 12:56	50 min.
----	---------------	---------

2nd Lunch	12:56 - 1:31	35 min.
-----------	--------------	---------

or

1st Lunch	12:02 - 12:37	35 min.
-----------	---------------	---------

6B	12:41 - 1:31	50 min.
----	--------------	---------

7	1:35 - 2:25	50 min.
---	-------------	---------

Central Middle School

Planning Day Bell Schedule (W)

2025-2026

0 Period 7:00-7:49

Period	Time
2 (Announcements)	8:00 - 8:40 40 min.
3	8:44 - 9:20 36 min.
4	9:24 - 10:00 36 min.
5	10:04 - 10:40 36 min.
6A	10:44 - 11:20 36 min.
2 nd Lunch	11:20 - 11:55 35 min.
	or
1 st Lunch	10:40 - 11:15 35 min.
6B	11:19 - 11:55 36 min.
7	11:59 - 12:35 36 min.

Name:	Topic/Objective:	
Class/Period:	Identify significant literary devices	
Lang. Arts	that define a writer's style and	
Date:	use to interpret work	
Oct. 12, 2009		

Essential Question:

How does Langston Hughes' poem, "Mother to Son", advice the reader to overcome difficulty and keep from giving up in life?

Questions:

Notes:

What is the significance of the speaker in the poem?

- ① Speaker -
- * voice that communicates a poem's ideas, actions, descriptions, & feelings
 - similar to narrator
 - can be unknown or specific (like character)

How does a poet's choice of speaker affect the mood/meaning of a poem?

- Impt.
- Poet's choice of speaker - contributes to the poem's mood/meaning
 - who speaks is as impt. as what is said
 - different points of view regarding same event (ie. parent, child, elderly person)
 - * the person telling the story gives point of view and affects the message told ← P.O.V *

How does Hughes use vocabulary to contribute to and convey his message?

- * writer's/poet's style
- ③ Vocab - helps to understand meaning
- "crystal stair" = luxuries (metaphor) compares 2 things
 - ie. "Life for me ain't been no crystal stair"
 - "reachin'" - replace letter at end of word (dialect)
 - "'cause" = because → slang
- var. lang. use by group speech patt.

Summary:

The speaker/voice in the poem is important because it communicates the ideas/feelings of the poem. Who the poet chooses as the speaker identifies the point of view and affects the message/meaning. Hughes uses vocabulary and style to convey the message that life is hard when Mother says "Life for me aint been no crystal staircase."

