

Buena Vista Elementary



Family Handbook 2023-2024

Buena Vista Elementary
6547 Buena Vista Road
Bakersfield, CA 93311
(661) 831-0818
Office Hours 7:00 – 3:30

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year!

Buena Vista has provided "Excellence in Education" since 1875. This tradition rests solidly on a professional and caring staff, engaged parents, and motivated students working together to achieve state and district standards. Buena Vista teachers are currently reviewing both CAASPP and STAR testing results and using the information acquired to improve and drive the instructional program. Adults have high expectations for children in their studies and behavior. We will work to meet each child where they are academically, socially, and emotionally.

Mission Statement: To Inspire Our Learners to Become Dedicated, Lifelong Leaders.

At Buena Vista Elementary School, we are dedicated to developing confident, lifelong learners with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in the rapidly changing world of the twenty-first century. An effective partnership between home, school, and community empowers students to become socially responsible citizens who effect positive change in our culturally diverse society. Buena Vista Elementary School will continue to provide a safe and learning-focused environment; promote local and national service, and embrace the diversity of our community.

Whether you are a first-time visitor or are already a member of our community, I encourage you to explore the Buena Vista Bulldog website and discover the activities and programs happening in our classrooms. Please don't hesitate to let us know if we can be of any assistance. We are here to help you and, most importantly, to help your child be successful!

Thank you for being a part of our Bulldog community and allowing my team and me to work with your children each day.

Daniel Hansford

Daniel Hansford
Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

To further learning, teachers and parents will encourage, support, and expect each child to:

- Take the responsibility to develop good work and study habits
- Clarify with the teacher any questions pertaining to the instructions for classwork or homework at the appropriate time
- Take home any materials and information needed to complete homework
- Learn to budget his/her time
- Take advantage of study time provided during the day
- Take responsibility to return all assignments to the teacher by the date requested
- Make up work missed during an absence

ACCIDENTS

In case of significant accidents or injury at school, children are given first aid and every effort is made to contact the parent for instructions. Consequently, it is **very important** that changes in telephone numbers and addresses be reported to the school promptly. In the event that the parent cannot be reached, we will call the person named on the emergency card to act on your behalf.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

The Buena Vista campus opens and supervision begins at 7:20 AM. **We ask that no student be at school before 7:20 AM unless enrolled in the school's Day Care program.** Visitors will enter through the office. **When visitors are allowed, we will have the RAPTOR System in our Front Office. Each guest is required to scan a valid ID, and wear the printed ID badge. Parents cannot walk their child to the classroom. Parents will still be able to eat lunch and attend any special events. TK/Kindergarten parents can drop their child off at the supervised Kindergarten gate. For the safety of our students, thank you for obeying all parking, loading zone, and safety precautions.**

ATTENDANCE

We ask your support in seeing that your child attends school each day. Any absence from school places a hardship on the student and hinders learning. By law, an absence may be excused only for the following reasons:

- Illness
- Doctor's appointment
- Death in the family

If your child is absent from school for **ANY** reason, **please call the school at 831-0818 by 9:00 a.m. to report the reason for the absence.** If you are unable to call, please send a note to school regarding the absence. You may also leave a voice mail message before or after school hours.

California law requires children to attend school and to be on time every day. Absence from school for three or more days per year for unexcused reasons will result in a child being declared legally truant from school. Truant students are reported to the School Attendance Review Board and/or appropriate agencies such as Child Protective Services.

Unexcused absences, including family trips for pleasure/recreation and business purposes, or failing to provide proper verification for an absence of more than 10 consecutive days, can result in the student being dropped from the class and the risk of the student not returning to the same class or school.

If your child is absent and you would like to request homework, please call the school office and allow the teacher 24 hours to compile the work. Homework may be picked up in the office. Please do not interrupt the classroom to ask a teacher for work.

AWARDS

Students in grades 4 - 6 have the opportunity to earn a school letter by participating in various school activities. Points are cumulative starting in the fourth grade and are given for activities such as student government, athletics, music, and scholastic achievement. Point totals are calculated by teachers at the end of each quarter of school.

As a staff we look for additional ways to motivate students in their learning, involvement, and social skills.

BEHAVIOR STANDARDS

Buena Vista Elementary uses a set of school-wide rules based on district standards. Please refer to the Panama-Buena Vista Union School District Parent Handbook. Teachers will continue to personalize procedures and routines in their classrooms. All students are encouraged *to choose to follow our school rules inside the classroom, on the playground, while riding the school bus, on field trips, and when participating in after school sports.* The biggest payoff to our Bulldogs is a *safe, learning focused environment.*

BIRTHDAYS

Teachers may acknowledge students' birthdays in the classroom, although parties are not held. Please check with the teacher before you bring treats or other birthday items. We try to avoid interruptions of the classroom routine, which detract from the learning of all students. **We do not allow flowers or balloons to be delivered to the classroom as they generally become a distraction and are not allowed on the school bus.**

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Students residing in some attendance areas will be provided bus transportation to and from school. For safety reasons, we have bus riding rules that our students must follow. Students who do not adhere to the rules may receive a bus referral or may be refused transportation for a period of time. A complete set of the bus riding rules have been included in the Parent Information Booklet distributed by the Panama-Buena Vista Union School District office. Students also are expected to behave appropriately while traveling to and from the bus stop and while waiting for the bus. If a child needs to take another way/mode of transportation home, please send the teacher/office a note stating that they will not ride the bus but will ride home with the named adult. Buena Vista students should:

- Board and get off the bus at designated stops
- Wait at the stop in an orderly manner
- Respect other people's property
- Arrive at the stop five minutes before the scheduled pick up time

CAFETERIA PROGRAM

Breakfast and hot lunches are free to all students in the school cafeteria. Monthly menus will be sent home with each child.

Students may also go to their own home for lunch as permitted in advance by their parents. As per district safety regulations, children may not go to a friend's home, restaurant, etc., unless accompanied by an adult so designated by that child's family.

CAMPUS SAFETY

Out of concern for your child's security and safety during the school day and as per California Ed. Code 32211 and 44810, it is required that any visitor check in with the front office **before** entering the school grounds. Visitors are required to show a valid ID and wear a provided identification badge while on campus. To further your child's security and proper identification of adults on campus, side gates will be closed during instruction.

- School activity hours are 7:20 AM through 2:00 PM (primary dismissal) or 2:30 PM (intermediate dismissal).
- Regular school office hours are 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM, Monday - Friday.
- Parent/teacher conferences should be scheduled in advance during non-instructional time.

CELLULAR PHONES

Students may possess or use electronic signaling devices, including but not limited to cellular telephones, provided that such devices do not disrupt the educational program or school activity. Electronic signaling devices shall be turned off during the official instructional day and at any other time directed by a district employee. Electronic communication devices may be used before and after the official instructional day. If disruption occurs, the employee may direct the student to turn off the device and/or confiscate the device until the end of the class period, school day, or activity.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that his/her electronic signaling device is secured and in his/her backpack during the instructional day. Students who violate the rules and regulations concerning the use of electronic signaling devices are subject to disciplinary action. The district and/or school is not responsible for retrieval, replacement, or any charges incurred as a result of a lost, stolen or damaged device.

CLASS PLACEMENT

Class lists are carefully developed each spring for the following year by the teachers and the principal. We attempt to form balanced classes in terms of the number of boys and girls, academic achievement, and behavioral standards. Careful thought is given to the placement of each child and to the composition of the class. Class lists are generally posted at 4:00 PM the Friday before school starts.

Regretfully, it is not always possible to place each student with the teacher of his/her parents' choice. If you, as a parent, feel that your child has special needs, and your feelings can be educationally justified, please submit a letter to the principal **before May 24th**. Final determination of class placements will be made by the principal.

CLASSROOM PARTIES

Class parties are planned by the room parents and teacher and will be held before the winter recess, Valentine's Day, and the last day of school. Birthday parties are not held (see Birthdays).

CLASSROOM STANDARDS

Buena Vista students shall enter in an orderly manner. They shall be seated, quiet, and ready for work when the bell rings. Rules of courtesy to teachers and fellow classmates shall be followed at all times. Students shall meet each teacher's standards concerning class procedures such as: sharpening pencils, getting needed materials, staying in seats, etc. Students should be responsible for keeping the classroom neat and to see that things are picked up off the floor.

COLOR DAY

In order to promote and maintain school spirit, the last Friday of each month is designated Color Day. All Bulldogs are encouraged to wear our school colors of navy blue and white, or a class t-shirt, or a t-shirt or sweatshirt from one of our clothing sales.

COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS

Good communication between parents and the teacher is an important part of your child's education. **Our main form of communication is ParentSquare.** Should you desire a conference with your child's teacher, please call the school office. Teachers may also provide you with an email address. The teacher will contact you to set up the date and time for the conference.

Please do not ask to have an impromptu conference with the teacher. Teachers are seldom able to remove their attention from the class in order to have a conference during class time or at dismissal.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Occasionally, Buena Vista School will notify parents of an opportunity for their children to participate in a vendor sponsored fundraising event for our campus. Examples include *Canes, Panda Express and Chipotle*. Our school appreciates the donations and recognizes the entertainment that these events provide the families in our school community. However, these are designed and held as non-chaperoned events. It is strongly suggested that parents chaperone or arrange another trusted adult to chaperone their children should they choose to participate.

DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL

Students are to report to bus or car pick-up zones located on the sides of the campus after being dismissed from the classroom. Students will be watched during the dismissal period, but after school supervision is not provided. There are no provisions for primary students to wait on campus for older students, and no supervision is available on the playground. For your child's safety, make sure that he/she rides the bus or is picked up promptly. Students will be expected to ride their normal bus or be taken home by the usual adult unless a note or ParentSquare to the office is received by the school no later than the morning of the change. Thank you for planning ahead. Your child's safety is our primary concern.

Students shall be released during the school day to the custody of an adult only if:

1. The adult is the student's parent/legal guardian with custody.
2. The adult has the appropriate identification and the verified authorization of the student's parent/legal guardian with custody.

DRESS CODE

The Governing Board's position with respect to student dress is to be adhered to by all pupils attending schools of the Panama-Buena Vista Union School District. The purpose of the dress code is to help guarantee a positive learning environment and to guarantee the health and safety of all students.

Pupils attending the schools of the Panama-Buena Vista Union School District are expected to wear clothing that is appropriate for the promotion of an effective educational program. It is not the intent of the District to oppose the rights of students regarding dress, but rather to assure that the rights of all students are considered and upheld. It is the responsibility of the school to provide an atmosphere where all children will be able to learn; and it is the responsibility of the students and their parents to help create and maintain this atmosphere.

Conditions of dress and appearance are:

1. Excessively large trousers, pants, and overalls may not be worn. All trousers and pants must be worn at the waist. Belt ends may not hang down. Overalls must be worn with straps on the shoulders, not hanging loose.
2. Commercial lettering or printing will be allowed on shirts and sweatshirts as long as it is appropriate for school. No clothing may be personalized other than with a given name. Any personalized printing or writing on clothing, backpacks, binders, etc. is not acceptable, nor is writing on the hands or other parts of the body.
3. Pants, shirts, or skirts with holes or heavy fraying above the knee are not acceptable.
4. Clothing that is excessively revealing is unacceptable. This includes:
 - Backless halter tops or dresses, tube tops; tops cut low at armpits or neckline.
 - Clothing that shows bare midriffs
 - Shorts or skirts the length of which are shorter than mid-thigh.
 - Clothing that is transparent or revealing
5. Suggestive clothing or objects may not be worn which are libelous, obscene, or depict illegal or gang-related activity. This includes buttons, armbands, shirts, insignias, etc. Clothing with crude or vulgar printing or pictures depicting tobacco, drugs, alcoholic beverages or clothing that is sexually suggestive or disruptive is not acceptable.
6. Shoes must be worn at all times. Students must wear footwear that has a strap on the back or is completely enclosed. During Physical Education (P.E.), Intramurals, or any other designated physical activity, athletic shoes or completely enclosed shoes should be worn unless other arrangements have been made.
(no flip-flops are allowed).
7. Cosmetics to the face and hair that distract from the educational process such as spray-painted hair, extreme painting of the face, glitter in the hair, etc., are unacceptable except on appropriate days declared by the administration.
8. Students are allowed to wear sun-protective clothing, including but not limited to hats

(hat bill must be forward), for outdoor use during the school day.

EMERGENCIES/DISASTER/EVACUATION

In the event of serious accidents or injuries at school, students are given first aid, and every effort is made to contact the parents immediately. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that we have *current home, work, cell, and emergency contact telephone numbers*. An emergency contact card will be sent home at the beginning of the year. We ask that parents complete it, **in pencil**, and return by the indicated date. Please call us immediately if there is a need to update this information.

Contingency plans and supplies are in place to deal with any emergency or disaster situation that may arise. Students regularly participate in fire and earthquake drills. In the event of a major disaster, students will be held at the school in a safe location until they are picked up by parents or other designated adults.

If there is a need to evacuate the students from this campus, they will be transported to a site designated and publicized by the Panama-Buena Vista district office. Students would be chaperoned and remain at that site until picked up by a parent or other designated adult.

FIELD TRIPS

Teachers occasionally arrange field trips that are intended to extend and enhance the curriculum. You will be advised in advance of field trips. Your written permission will be required before your child will be allowed to participate. You are encouraged to return permission slips promptly as district policy will not allow us to accept verbal consent.

FOG DELAYS

In the event of fog, you are advised to refer to local radio, television, and web sites for information on fog delays. Local stations will broadcast the names of districts on a fog delay. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL TO REQUEST FOG DELAY INFORMATION.** If it is announced that there will be a two hour delay for the Panama-Buena Vista Union School District, that would include Buena Vista School. The two hour delay refers to transportation only. Buses run exactly two hours later than usual. However, if you transport your child to school, he/she may report to their class at 7:20 AM. Appropriate activities will be provided until the majority of students arrive.

HOME TEACHING

Parents may request a home teacher if it has been determined by a physician that the student will be out of school for a period of three weeks or longer. A signed note from the physician is required before a home teacher can be assigned. Home instruction is limited to five hours per week.

HOMEWORK

Homework offers a valuable opportunity for teachers to meet the individual needs of your child. Assignments vary by grade level and from class to class according to the interest, skills, and maturity level of the child. This can also include Independent Reading, journal writing and working on math facts.

As a parent you can:

- Provide a regular study time on those days that homework is given
- Provide a quiet place for study
- Monitor daily assignments and dialogue with the teacher throughout the year
- Give help and encouragement when needed
- Minimize interruptions from family, friends, and the television set

HONOR ROLL AND PRINCIPAL'S LIST

Students in grades 4 - 6 are eligible for the Honor Roll. To qualify for the Honor Roll a student must obtain a "B" (3.0) average in all academic subjects for the quarter. A grade of "C" or below in conduct will prevent a student from being on the Honor Roll regardless of the overall average. Receiving two or more "Needs Improvement" marks will also disqualify a student from the Honor Roll regardless of the grade average.

Principal's List recognition will be given to those students whose grades in the academic subjects are all either "A" or "A-".

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY/LOST AND FOUND

Students should never trade or exchange items on campus. Money is not allowed to change hands between students while on campus. Students should only bring money to school for school related activities and events.

Inquiries regarding lost articles may be made by our students during recesses, before school and during the dismissal period after school. A "Lost and Found" box is maintained for articles of clothing that are unclaimed. The box is located outside the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) in the quad area.

To avoid confusion, coats, sweaters, hats, lunch boxes, etc., should be clearly marked with a student's first and last name.

Students, not the school, are responsible for the items they bring to school. Personal items such as sports equipment, toys, or any other item of significant cost, are not allowed at school. Items that are not claimed by the end of each semester will be donated to relief agencies.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

State laws and district policies govern the taking of medication by students while at school. Before we can administer any medication (prescription and/or non-prescription), we must have on file a completed form, "Pupil Medication to be Administered at School", detailing instructions regarding your child's medication. The form must be signed by the parent and the prescribing physician.

STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SELF-MEDICATE. This includes headache remedies, cough drops, throat lozenges, and the like. However harmless these items may seem, they are still subject to the same procedures as above. MEDICATIONS ARE TO BE DELIVERED TO THE OFFICE BY THE PARENT AS THEY WILL BE COUNTED AND VERIFIED.

MUSIC

Vocal and instrumental music is an integral part of our curriculum. In the primary grades, music is taught by the classroom teacher and may, on occasion, be supplemented by the vocal music specialist. The specialist spends one period each week with each intermediate class. Students in grades five and six may participate in chorus. **Interested fifth and sixth graders may also participate in our instrumental program. Students will receive information regarding instrumental music after school begins.**

NOTICES FROM THE OFFICE

To ensure a strong communication link to our families, all notices from the office will be sent home with your child. Please check your child's backpack on a daily basis for notices from the district office, school office, or classroom teacher.

PARENT CLUB

We have a very active parent organization at Buena Vista School. They will sponsor several fundraisers and other activities during the school year. All funds that are generated as a result of their efforts remain here at Buena Vista and will directly benefit our children. If you would like to become actively involved in the Parent Club, you may call the office or contact the Parent Club directly at BVPTA@pbvusd.net.

PARKING

The front staff parking lot will be closed off for drop-off and pick up 30 minutes before and after school. Someone will monitor the entrance or exit of the staff parking lot for handicapped placards or district employees.

PREP DAYS

All Wednesdays are a 90 Minute Early Out. Students will be released TK-3rd at 12:30 PM and 4th-6th at 1:00 PM

As always, our goal is to strengthen student achievement and provide the best possible education for your child.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be mailed home on the following dates: October 30-November 3 (Conference Week), January 12, 2024, March 15, 2024 and May 30, 2024.,

Grades TK - 6 will schedule parent-teacher conferences during the first quarter, October 30-November 3.

SPEECH

Some children have speech difficulties (faulty articulation, stuttering, and voice disorders) that require special help. Students who appear to have speech disorders will be screened by our speech therapist and possibly placed into speech therapy. You will be contacted if your child is a candidate for speech services, as your permission is required before therapy can begin.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Student Council is a program in which participants learn the elements of the democratic process by discussing issues and ideas that come before the Council. The Student Council is made up of elected officers and representatives from each of the intermediate classes. The elected officers are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Athletics, Director of Safety, and Superintendent of Grounds.

STUDENT SUCCESS TEAM

Our school is fortunate to have staff that has voluntarily trained and gives time to cooperatively meet, brainstorm, and facilitate student success with parents on a case by case basis. The parents and faculty are encouraged to partner in this forum to address academic and behavioral concerns.

YEAR LONG CALENDAR 2023-2024

August 16	Instruction Begins
September 4	Labor Day Holiday
September 6	Back To School Night
October 30-November 3	Conference Week (1 Hour Early Out)
November 10	Veterans' Day Holiday
November 17	2 Hour Early Release
November 20-24	Autumn Recess (No School)
December 22	2 Hour Early Release
December 25-January 5	Winter Recess Begins
January 8	Instruction Resumes
January 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
January 16-19	6th Grade to Camp KEEP
January 12	Report Cards Mailed Home
February 12	Lincoln's Birthday Observed
February 19	Presidents' Day Observed
March 15	Report Cards Mailed Home
March 22	2 Hour Early Release
March 25 - April 1	Spring Recess
April 2	Instruction Resumes
May 16	Open House (1 Hour Early Dismissal)
May 27	Memorial Day Holiday
May 30	Last day of Instruction
May 30	Report Cards Mailed Home

****Every Wednesday: 90 Minute Early Dismissal****



Buena Vista Elementary

2023-2024 BELL SCHEDULE

7:15	Lobby Doors Open/Breakfast Starts
7:20	Panama Bus Loop Gates Open
7:38	Instruction Begins K-6
9:15	First Kindergarten Recess
9:30	Second Kindergarten Recess
9:45	Recess Begins 1st - 2nd
10:00	Recess Ends 1st - 2nd / Recess Begins 3rd - 4th
10:15	Kindergarten Lunch Begins
10:15	3rd/4th Recess Ends
10:20	5th/6th Recess Begins
10 :35	Recess Ends 5th - 6th
10:50	Lunch Begins 1st - 2nd
11:05	Kindergarten Lunch Ends
11:17	Lunch Begins 4th
11:25	Lunch Begins 3rd
11:40	Lunch Ends 1st - 2nd
11:55	Lunch Begins 5th - 6th
12:12	Warning Bell 3rd - 4th
12:15	Lunch Ends 3rd - 4th
12:50	Warning Bell 5th - 6th
12:53	Lunch Ends 5th - 6th
1:00	Bathroom Break Begins 1st
1:05	Bathroom Break Ends 1st / Bathroom Break Begins 2nd
1:10	Bathroom Break Ends 2nd
2:00	K-3 Dismissal
2:30	Intermediate Dismissal

SCHOOL SUPERVISION SCHEDULE

Grade	Arrival Time	Class Begins	Dismissal	Lunch
Kindergarten	Not Before 7:15	7:38	2:00	10:15-11:05
1st-2nd	Not Before 7:15	7:38	2:00	10:55-11:45
3rd-4th	Not Before 7:15	7:38	2:00/2:30	11:17/11:25-12:15
5th-6th	Not Before 7:15	7:38	2:30	11:55-12:53



BUENA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
A California Distinguished School
 6547 Buena Vista Road
 Bakersfield, CA 93311
 (661) 831-0818 Fax (661) 831-4842



General School Rules

1. Respect for others should guide student behavior at all times.
2. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
3. Running, playing, or loitering in the hallways or near classes that are in session is not allowed.
4. Students are not allowed to play in or around the bathrooms or drinking fountains.
5. In the hallways, students are to use the sidewalks and stay off the grass and out of all planters.
6. Abusive physical contact of any kind (punching, hitting, kicking, biting, etc.) is never permitted.
7. No tag type or chase games are allowed at school unless supervised by an adult.
8. Students may not kick balls while on the blacktop, including at the ball wall.
9. Students may not kick balls near the sump on the west end of the field.
10. Football games (including flag, tackle, and two-hand touch) are not allowed unless under the supervision of a staff member.
11. Students are not allowed to exchange, trade or give food, toys or money on campus.
12. Students are not allowed to bring toys, card games, handheld games, balls, etc. from home and will be confiscated and given to the student's teacher.

Bullying/Cyberbullying

The Board desires to prevent bullying by establishing a positive, collaborative school climate and clear rules for student conduct.

The District may provide students with instruction, in the classroom or other educational settings, that promotes communication, social skills, and assertiveness skills and educates students about appropriate online behavior and strategies to prevent and respond to bullying and cyber-bullying.

School staff shall receive related professional development, including information about early warning signs of harassing/intimidating behaviors and effective prevention and intervention strategies. Parents/guardians, students, and community members also may be provided with similar information.

Students may submit a verbal or written complaint of conduct they consider to be bullying to a teacher or administrator. Complaints of bullying shall be investigated and resolved in accordance with site-level grievance procedures specified in AR 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment.

Note: Penal Code 653.2 makes it a crime for a person to distribute personal identity information electronically with the intent to cause harassment by a third party and to threaten a person's safety or that of his/her family (e.g., placing a person's picture or address online so that he/she receives harassing messages). In addition, Penal Code 288.2 makes it a crime to send a message to a minor if the message contains matter that is sexual in nature with the intent of seducing the minor (i.e., sexting).

When a student is suspected of or reported to be using electronic or digital communications to engage in cyberbullying against other students or staff, or to threaten district property, the investigation shall include documentation of the activity, identification of the source, and specific facts or circumstances that explain the impact or potential impact on school activity, school attendance, or the targeted student's educational performance.

Students shall be encouraged to save and print any messages sent to them that they feel constitute cyberbullying and to notify a teacher, the principal, or other employee so that the matter may be investigated.

Any student who engages in cyber-bullying on school premises, or off campus in a manner that causes or is likely to cause a substantial disruption of a school activity or school attendance, shall be subject to discipline in accordance with district policies and regulations. If the student is using a social networking site or service that has terms of use that prohibit posting of harmful material, the Superintendent or designee also may file a complaint with the Internet site or service to have the material removed.

Defining Bullying Behavior

What is bullying? At first glance, many people might think this behavior is easy to define. Their first image of bullying might be of a physically intimidating boy beating up a smaller classmate. While that can still be considered bullying today, parents need to know that bullying behaviors can be much more complex and varied than that typical stereotype. For example, harmful bullying can also occur quietly and covertly, through gossip or on the Internet, causing emotional damage. Let's consider a few definitions of bullying.

Although definitions of bullying vary, most agree that an act is defined as bullying when:

- The behavior hurts or harms another person physically or emotionally. Bullying can be very overt, such as fighting, hitting or name calling, or it can be covert, such as gossiping or leaving someone out on purpose.
- It is intentional, meaning the act is done willfully, knowingly and with deliberation
- The targets have difficulty stopping the behavior directed at them and struggle to defend themselves.

Bullying can be circumstantial or chronic. It might be the result of a situation, such as being the new student at school, or it might be behavior that has been directed at the individual for a long period of time.

Steps to Take If Your Child is Being Targeted by Bullying at School

It is important that parents approach this situation in a calm manner. It is helpful if parents and school staff work together to resolve the issue. Parents can use the following steps to resolve the issue.

Step I. Work With Your Child

Thank your child for telling you. Tell your child that the bullying is not his or her fault. Talk with your child about the specifics of the situation and ask:

- Who is doing the bullying? What happened? What days and times were you bullied? Where did the bullying take place?
- Was it: Verbal bullying? Physical bullying? Cyber-bullying?

Also find out how your child responded to the bullying and if other children or adults might have observed the bullying. Does your child know the names of these people? Tell a school staff (teacher, principal, other staff). Go to the next step if needed.

Step II. Work With The School

Meet with your child's teacher:

- Discuss what is happening to your child using information from Step One.
- Ask what can be done so your child feels safe at school.

Make an appointment to meet with the principal to discuss the bullying situation:

- Share information from Step One.
- Mention your work with your child regarding the situation.
- Share the outcome of your meeting with the teacher.

Panama-Buena Vista Union School District
Buena Vista
CLASSROOM VISITATION PROCEDURES
(Observation of Instructional Program by Parents)
From Adopted District Administrative Procedures

Who May Visit: The right to observe a child's instructional program during classroom time resides solely with a child's parent, legal guardian, or foster parent and does not extend to grandparents, other interested close relatives, or caregivers as defined in Family Code Sections 6550-6552. A grandparent, close relative, or caregiver may schedule a classroom visit if a parent has provided written permission and the classroom teacher consents. Visits by grandparents, close relatives, or caregivers must be scheduled through the Principal rather than the classroom teacher.

Scheduling: Visits shall be scheduled by the classroom teacher for a time and date convenient to both the parent and the teacher. The parental observation date shall be within a reasonable time frame following the initial request. A request for a specific date must be made no less than 48 hours in advance.

Frequency and Duration: To minimize interruptions and distractions during valuable classroom time, parental classroom observations are limited to two visits per month per related student with a maximum duration of one hour per visit. If there is a need for more parental observation, additional visits may be scheduled through the Principal.

Parental Conduct During Classroom Visitation: Parents may enter and exit the classroom only once during each visit. Parents shall remain in the back of the classroom and may not interact with students or the teacher unless the interaction is initiated by the classroom teacher. Unnecessary noise and/or movement must be kept to a minimum.

The classroom teacher may direct a parent to leave the room if the parent's presence or conduct unduly interferes with the instructional program, and the parent must leave the classroom if directed to do so. Any concerns or complaints may be addressed directly to the classroom teacher after regular school hours or to the Principal.

Violation of Classroom Visitation Rules: A violation of the classroom visitation rules may be resolved by the classroom teacher through counseling of the offending parent privately. If this form of correction is not effective, the Principal may, as necessary, temporarily preclude a parent from visiting his/her child's classroom during regular school hours for a period of time not to exceed 14 continuous days.

When a parent has been precluded by the Principal from visiting his/her child's classroom, the parent may appeal the decision to the District's Assistant Superintendent in charge of Educational Services who will investigate and consider the matter in a timely fashion.

REFERENCES:

Education Code Sections 32212, 35160, 49091.10, 51101
PBVUSD Board Policy 1250

CELLULAR PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC SIGNALING DEVICES

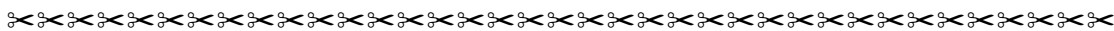
Students will have limited use of electronic signaling devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, pagers, and beepers. To avoid disruption of the instructional process, students shall not display, use, activate, or permit electronic signaling devices to be activated during the school day. For purposes of this policy and procedure, the “school day” is defined as the moment a student enters the school grounds until the student exits the school grounds following the final dismissal bell. The “school day” also includes, but is not limited to, study hall, lunch break, class changes and any other structured or unstructured instructional activity that occurs during the normal school day.

It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that his/her electronic signaling communication devices are turned off and secured at all times. Students who violate the rules and regulations concerning electronic signaling communication devices are subject to having the device confiscated and to disciplinary action. (Board Policy 5131)

In accordance with the Board’s policy and administrative procedure on search and seizure, a school official may search a student’s mobile communications device, including, but not limited to, reviewing messages or viewing pictures.

The district is not responsible for retrieval, replacement, or any charges incurred as a result of lost, stolen or damaged electronic communication devices.

No student shall be prohibited from possessing or using an electronic signaling device that is determined by a licensed physician or surgeon to be essential for the student’s health and the use of which is limited to health-related purposes. (Education Code 48901.5) If a student wishes to use an electronic communication device at an unauthorized time for medical purposes, his/her parent or guardian must submit a written request for permission to the school principal or his/her designee to determine the validity of the request.



Authorization for Student Cell Phone/Electronic Signaling Device Use

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read and have a clear understanding of the policy and procedure relating to cellular phones and other electronic signaling devices stated above. Your signature further authorizes your child to possess a cell phone or other electronic signaling device while at school.

Please return this to your child’s school principal.

Child’s Name: _____

Parent’s Signature : _____

School: _____

BUENA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A California Distinguished School
6547 Buena Vista Road
Bakersfield, CA 93311
(661) 831-0818 Fax (661) 831-4842

BICYCLE/SCOOTER PERMIT (No Motorized Scooters Allowed)

I hereby give permission for _____ to ride his/her scooter or bicycle to and from school.
(Name of Student)

I will provide an approved bicycle helmet for my student and insist that he/she wear it when riding to and from school.

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Grade _____ Room _____

(DETACH PERMISSION SLIP AND RETURN TOP PART TO SCHOOL)

RULES FOR BICYCLE SAFETY

- You must be in grades 3-6 to ride your bicycle or scooter to school.
- You must wear an approved helmet when riding your bike.
- Keep your bicycle in good mechanical condition (tires, chain, etc.). Always lock your bike.
- Obey all traffic rules and signs.
- Always ride with the traffic – as close as possible to the right hand side of the road.
- Do not leave your bike overnight at school.