

BACK TO SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025



Letter From the Principal, Ms. Kubler

Dear Portola Families,

Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year! I hope your summer was filled with fun, rest, and special moments with family and friends. As your principal, I am excited to welcome both our returning families and those who are new to Portola Elementary. We are proud to serve a community that values education, connection, and the well-being of every child.

This year, we remain committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and engaging environment where every student can thrive academically and socially. Our dedicated teachers and staff have been hard at work preparing for a strong start, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with you to support your child's success.

We are especially excited to welcome new members to our Portola team and to share new learning opportunities, enrichment programs, and family engagement events planned throughout the year. Please be sure to check our school website, class newsletters, parent square, and social media for regular updates and important information. Open communication between home and school is essential, and we are always here to answer questions, listen to feedback, and work together in support of our students.

Thank you for being an essential part of the Portola community. We are looking forward to a fantastic school year filled with growth, joy, and learning!

TOP NEWS

District Annual Updates

All parents are required to complete the forms for the district Annual Update by August 15, 2025.

Please be sure to login to Aeries (venturausd.aeries.net) to update your child's information before school starts. We are hosting 3 office hour dates to help families complete the update. We hope to see you there:

August 12: 1:30pm-3:30pm

August 19: 4:00-5:30 pm

August 27: 5:30-7:30 pm

Who is My Teacher?

Families can view official Fall 2025 schedules on Aeries. Teacher assignments will be available on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 after 4:00 PM on Aeries. You must set up a user name and password to access your teachers name.

Venturausd.aeries.net
Select parent/student portal.

BACK TO SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025



Daily Schedule:

The first day of School Aug. 13 is a banking day.

TK dismissal 11:50

K dismissal is at 11:20

Grades 1-3 dismiss at 12:20

Grades 4-5 dismiss at 12:25

Daily Bell Schedule Link Here

Attendance

Learning achievement starts with being present in mind and body. Students should arrive at school on time and attend school daily. The principal and office staff will monitor absences and tardies and will follow the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) Policies.

- Parents must notify the office and give the reason for the absence with a note, by e-mail, ParentSquare or by voicemail within 3 days of the absence. No notification from the parent to the attendance office will result in the absence classified as being unexcused.
- Unexcused absences: Vacations/Trips, family emergencies, and arriving more than 30 minutes late are considered unexcused absences and contribute to truancies.

Tardies

- Please arrive by 7:55
- Gates close promptly at 8:00
- Class starts at 8:00

Students arriving after 8:00 must have an adult sign them in at the office. Tardies not only affect your child, they impact class routines for all students. Please be on time. The attendance team will meet with parents monthly that have more than 4 tardies or 3 absences in a month. Families will be referred to SARB for help with inconsistent attendance

UPCOMING DATES

Aug 12 - TK/K Orientation

Aug 13-First Day of School /Banking day dismissal.

12:20 grades 1-3

12:25 grades 4-5

Aug 13 - Boo Hoos and Yahoos for parents Library 8:00

Aug 16 - Annual Update Due

Aug 19 - First practice Cross Country

Aug 27 - Back To School Night 6:00 PM

Sept. 17 - Back to School Picnic

Phone Numbers:

Office: 805-289-1734

Attendance: 805-289-1734 ext. 1002

Want to be involved in your child's education? Parent Volunteers are needed and wanted. Please ask your teacher or check-in with the PFFO for ideas!

Links to the websites

[Portola Elementary](#)

[Portola Faculty and Family organization](#)

[District Calendar](#)

[Daily Schedule](#)

Email Addresses:

Attendance: Gloria.Cervantez@venturausd.org

Principal: Laura.Kubler@venturausd.org

Office Manager: Jennifer.Ellison@venturausd.org

BACK TO SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025



Cafeteria News

The cafeteria will be open at 7:30 for breakfast. Breakfast will be served until 7:50 so that students have time to eat and arrive at class when instruction starts.

All students will continue to have free lunch.

Portola's Cross Country

Portola is fortunate to have a cross country team. The first practice is on August 20, 2025. All forms must be complete to participate in this program. This includes a physical form signed by a doctor and the other forms in the packet coming home the first day of school. Team advisors are Tami Hertenstein, Michael Pontecorvon and Tawnya O'Neil.

Entering and Exiting Campus

After August 29, all parents must check-in at the office before entering school grounds

This year Portola will continue with the same entrance and exiting procedures as last year, except, all students entering campus after 8:00 will need an adult to sign the child in. This means if you drop your child off in the carpool lane after 8:00, you will need to park and sign your student in. Any adult on campus needs to check in at the office before entering school. If you need to speak with your child's teacher, please connect through parent square and arrange a meeting time. All students will wait in designated areas before the 7:55 passing bell rings. All parents will pick up from the gates. **Kindergarten** will enter through the same gates as grades 1-5

Parents will be allowed to walk students to class through August 29, 2025

PORTOLA PFO

At Portola, we are very fortunate to have a Parent/Faculty Organization to help with strengthening our school community and organizing fundraising events for our school.

Please look at their website. The link is listed on the previous page under websites.

They are always looking for parent volunteers to help make Portola the best school in VUSD. We value our parent participants.

At back to school night, the PFFO will kick off their direct donation campaign.

Please consider donating to the PFFO. Last year, they were able to donate \$20,000 to Portola students and programs. As you can see this organization is a vital part of our school.

Throughout the year, they will host restaurant nights, movie nights, spirit wear and the Portola Ninja Warrior Event.

We need parents to join the PFFO and volunteer to help at events if we want them to continue. Please see the website if you are interested in learning more about the PFFO.

Spirit Wear

Spirit Wear will be available to order through the PFFO website

SHOW PANTHER PRIDE

BE RESPECTFUL - BE RESPONSIBLE
BE SAFE - BE KIND

THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING I CAN DO!



Portola Community Behavior Expectations: The 4 B's

1. **Be Respectful.** Interact with teachers, parents, students, and staff respectfully and refrain from any behavior that infringes on the rights of others. Use kind words and actions always.
2. **Be Safe.** Resolve conflicts in a non-threatening, no physical, non aggressive manner. Follow all school and classroom rules.
3. **Be Responsible.** Come to school prepared to learn. Follow through and stick with deadlines. Maintain school property and supplies with pride. Respect the boundaries and property of others.
4. **Be Kind.** Treat others the way you want to be treated. It's about using kind words and actions to make others feel respected, safe, and welcome.

Positive Reinforcement:

A safe environment where everyone can learn
Positive parent communication
Praise
Rewards
Recognition
School field trips and assemblies
Whole class reinforcement for group responsibility
Community Promise
Behavior expectation chart at desk
Restorative Practice

Negative Reinforcement:

Loss of time on task and learning opportunities
Think/ Reflection Sheet
Redirection
Parent/teacher contact - Behavior logged on teacher record
Parent, students, teacher, principal conference
Referral to Principal - Behavior logged on student record
Learning Module
Denial of preferred activity or school privilege

Extreme Disregard for School Expectations will result in parent contact and appropriate consequence.

Dress:

Student appearance should be appropriate so that it does not bring undue attention or distraction to the learning environment.
Hats or head coverings can be worn according to religious beliefs or outdoors only for sun protection or warmth.
Shoes must enable student to participate in active play and physical activity.
Closed toe shoes only.

When we are Kind,
Respectful, Responsible
and Play Safe, we can all
have fun!



Portola Shines Because of You!