







COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

February 2026



Instead of "HOW WAS YOUR DAY"

-  Did anyone do something kind?
-  What challenged you today?
-  Did someone do something funny?
-  Tell me about three different times you used your pencil today.
-  What is your teacher's most important rule?
-  What is one thing from home you wish you had at school?
-  If you could teach any subject, what would it be?

Talking with your child every day—beyond the simple “How was your day?”—has a powerful impact on their learning and well-being. Research shows that children who regularly have meaningful conversations with adults build stronger language skills, higher emotional intelligence, and better academic outcomes. Asking open-ended questions like “What made you laugh today?”, “What was something tricky you worked through?”, or “Who did you help or who helped you?” invites children to reflect, express feelings, and build confidence. Just a few minutes of intentional conversation each day strengthens connection, helps children feel seen and heard, and supports their success in school and in life.

Sports Highlight

Basketball Schedule

- February 3
 - Girls and Boys - 4:30pm / 5:45pm / 7:00Pm
- February 10
 - Girls and Boys - 4:30pm / 6:00pm



Upcoming Events

- STC Food Distribution- February 11, 2026
- Food Link Food Distribution- February 23, 2026
- February 11, 2026**
 - Tulare County Public Health 9am-11am
 - flu vaccines (\$25 gift card given)
 - FHCN 1:30-4pm
 - Medical Assistance, Cal Fresh

We Are Here To Help

- **Attendance Clerk:**
Miss Martinez
Contact to excuse an absence.
559-949-8413 ext. 129
- **Community Coordinator:**
Miss Guzman
Contact for community resource.
559-949-8413 ext. 113



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Attendance

Did you know?

Beat the Bell Challenge

Remember to be in line by 7:55am - 7:59am

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



CHRONIC ABSENCE

18 or more days

WARNING SIGN

10 to 17 days

GOOD ATTENDANCE

9 or fewer absences



Reminders

- No School: February 9,10,16
- Progress Reports (6-12th grade)
- Alpaugh's School Wellness Committee - March 18



Stay Connected



District Website



App



Morning Checklist Challenge

A School Day Checklist helps children start each day feeling prepared, confident, and ready to learn. By checking off simple daily tasks, students build independence, responsibility, and positive routines that support success at school and at home.

<u>Make the bed</u>	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
<u>Eat your breakfast</u>	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
<u>Brush your teeth</u>	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
<u>Get dressed</u>	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
<u>Pack a water bottle</u>	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
<u>Leave for school on time</u>	M	T	W	T	F	S	S



Promoting good attendance

All winter long - for families



We know how much you want your child to continue learning and to feel connected to school. Yet every winter – fog, freezing temperatures or even heavy rains – can present challenges to getting children to school. So can illnesses such as colds, flu and fevers. Below are tips to help you during the winter months.

What can parents and caregivers do?



Develop back up plans for getting your children to school in bad weather

- Check to see who can give your children a ride to school if you aren't able to take them or the bus doesn't arrive.
- Talk with your school about forming a “walking school bus” with other families to get students to school safely.
- Tell school administrators about transportation challenges, including safety, and ask how they can support transporting students.



Keep your children healthy

- Maintain a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Ensure students eat a good breakfast every morning or check to see if your school serves breakfast.
- Ensure your children visit their medical provider and have received their immunizations, including flu.
- Stress hand washing, particularly before and after eating, and after using the restroom.
- Reinforce the importance of avoiding close contact with individuals who are sick, and not sharing cups and/or utensils with others.
- If your children seem anxious about going to school, ask teachers, school counselors, your medical provider and other families for advice.



Keep your children engaged in learning if they cannot attend school in person

- Ask your children's teachers or school for resources that you can use at home to keep your children learning.
- Identify who can support your children's learning at home, especially if you must go to work.
- Encourage your children to call classmates and stay connected to the teacher to find out about what they missed.



Overview



Oral language is the foundation of literacy. Pre-kindergarten children are not reading yet, but they are building comprehension skills through listening, the lively back-and-forth of everyday conversations, pretend play, and active read alouds where parent and child are having a dialogue about the book.

Parents can develop oral language and comprehension with these activities:

Active everyday conversations

Sharing oral stories

Reading books together

Singing and playing rhyming games

Listening games, such as "Simon says"

Dramatic play where your child takes on imaginary roles

TIPS



One shift that will advance your child's oral language skills

This video is from Home Reading Helper, a resource for parents to elevate children's reading at home provided by [Read Charlotte \(opens in a new window\)](#). Find more video, parent activities, printables, and other resources at [Home Reading Helper \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Lively conversations

Everyday conversations with your child are so important! Sometimes those interactions are necessarily brief and direct — "Let's put on your socks and shoes so we can get to the store." Try to also build in open-ended conversations each day — talk that is active, with lots of back-and-forth between you and your child (sometimes called "multi-turn conversations"). You're teaching your child how to take turns listening and speaking and showing your child that you value their thoughts and ideas.

Ask your children questions that require more than a "yes" or "no" answer. Some questions that help them to talk more openly are "Why do you think that happened?" "What do we do next?" "What would happen if we did it this way?" "What can we do about that?" "How can we make this better?"

Read together every day

Reading aloud is one of the best ways to help your pre-K child absorb new words. It's also a great way to help young children learn about the world and make connections between their own lives and what's in the book — that helps children see the world with empathy. And last but not least, it's a wonderful time to snuggle up with your child and share the experience of reading and discovery together.

Bring in the nonfiction

There are so many great nonfiction and informational books for very young kids (such as the popular DK Eyewitness series). Try to include some of these during your next trip to the public library. Even very young children love learning about the real world and are proud to share what they know!

Explore your world together

Even a walk around the neighborhood or a trip to the grocery store can be a rich learning experience for young children. A child may see an urban bunny for the first time on a walk and then be able to connect it to stories about rabbits. These personal connections help children connect what they read with what they know — a powerful way to build comprehension skills!

Build Your Child's Comprehension: Start with a Book

Walk and talk

When you take a walk through your neighborhood, encourage your child to point out things she sees and to talk about them. React to her observations, ask open-ended questions (who, what, why, where, when, how), and add your own observations to encourage a lively conversation. During the walk you might want to stop and say, "Listen, what can you hear?" Or if you hear a familiar sound, stop and say, "Do you hear that knocking sound? What do you think that could be? Maybe it's a woodpecker — let's look up and see if we can spot the bird."

Act it out

Read stories such as *The Three Bears* or *Three Billy Goats Gruff*. Act out the stories using different-sized stuffed animals. This is a great opportunity to talk about the concepts of "small, medium, and large." Go on a scavenger hunt in your home to find other objects of different sizes (shoes, socks, cups, etc.) and ask your child to classify the items by size. You might also ask your child if he knows another word for small and large.

Sing it

Create or learn songs to expand your child's vocabulary. One idea: make up songs to describe your daily routines, periodically adding new verses that include new vocabulary words.