



HIGHGATE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Empowering all learners.

**13401 Pemberley Passage Ave.
Bakersfield, Ca 93311**

(661) 501-1617

PARENT HANDBOOK
2026-2027

The information in this handbook is subject to change based on District policy, Board action, or updates to state law. Families will be notified of significant changes through ParentSquare.

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Highgate Elementary School! We are pleased to have you as part of our school family. The staff at Highgate Elementary School is very proud to serve Highgate Students and will strive for the high standards in academics, athletics, and the arts that our District has stood for over the years.

The information contained in this handbook has been compiled to provide you with helpful information about Highgate Elementary School. The section regarding our school policies and procedures will answer many commonly asked questions. We hope you will read the handbook and keep it as a handy reference guide to use throughout the year.

We wish you success at Highgate Elementary and look forward to working with you. We have a wonderful Parent Club that works on behalf of our students, staff, and families, and we invite you to become involved.

We welcome your questions, comments, or concerns. Please feel free to contact the school office at (661) 501-1617. Our office hours are Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

We are looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Morgan Hicks

Morgan Hicks
Principal



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Panama-Buena Vista Union School District
4200 Ashe Road
Bakersfield, California 93313
(661) 831-8331

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GENERAL INFORMATION

ACCIDENTS, ILLNESS, AND SAFETY

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

We urge all children to use crosswalks and sidewalks, where available, coming to and from school. Please help your child choose the safest route possible.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL AND SUPERVISION

The Highgate Elementary School campus opens at **8:05 a.m.** Students should not arrive before this time, as supervision is not available prior to 8:05 a.m. The school cannot assume responsibility for students who arrive early. If a student arrives before 8:05 a.m., families will be contacted to arrange an appropriate plan. School gates close at **8:25 a.m.** Students arriving after 8:25 a.m. must check in through the front office before proceeding to class. Families are expected to follow all traffic and supervision procedures to ensure student safety.

ATTENDANCE

Families are expected to ensure their 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 (661) 501-1617 to report the absence and the reason. If you are unable to call, please send a note to school regarding the absence, upon your child's return. Absences not cleared within 48 hours will automatically become "unexcused." After 10 excused absences throughout the year, a doctor's note is required to excuse absences.

If your child is late because of a doctor or dentist appointment, please bring in a note from the doctor or dentist.

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 for 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 have homework provided, 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.

For additional information regarding compulsory attendance requirements and legal attendance expectations, please refer to the Required Annual District Notices section of this handbook.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

If your child will be absent for **3–14 consecutive school days**, you may request an Independent Study contract through the front office.

Guidelines:

- Independent Study requests must be approved by the assistant principal
- Requests may be made **up to two times per school year**
- The total duration of Independent Study **may not exceed 14 days per school year**
- Requests should be submitted in advance whenever possible

Requirements:

- A contract must be signed by both the parent and the student
- The contract confirms that all assigned work will be completed as outlined by the teacher
- All completed work is due **on the day the student returns to school**

Credit and Attendance:

- The teacher will review completed work and determine if it meets expectations
- If approved, the student will receive **full attendance credit** for the days missed

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Academic Recognition (Grades 4–6)

Students in grades 4–6 are recognized quarterly for academic achievement through Honor Roll and Principal's List. See 'Honor Roll and Principal's List' for qualification criteria."

School Letter (Grades 4–6)

Students in grades 4–6 have the opportunity to earn a school letter by participating in various school activities. Points are cumulative beginning in fourth grade and may be earned through student government, special activities, athletics, music, and scholastic achievement. Point totals are calculated at the end of each quarter.

Husky of the Month (Grades TK–6)

Students in grades TK–6 may be recognized as Husky of the Month for demonstrating the Husky Way: being safe, respectful, and responsible.

Honorable Husky (Grades TK–6)

Students are also recognized monthly as Honorable Huskies in the areas of Reading, Math, Writing, Work Habits, and Citizenship, as determined by the classroom teacher.

BEHAVIOR STANDARDS

At Highgate we believe a safe, positive, collaborative learning environment is essential to *Empower all Learners*. Throughout the school year, we explicitly teach and reinforce

Highgate's Behavior Expectations, ***The Husky Way: We are Safe, Respectful, Responsible.*** At the end of this handbook, you can find our Behavior Matrix for more detailed information. Students are expected to demonstrate the Husky Way and are acknowledged for their behavior in many ways including Husky High Fives.

The Highgate staff is committed to discipline policies that are proactive, instructive, restorative, and implemented consistently. All staff utilizes our behavior flowchart to respond to misbehavior which follows the steps outlined below.

1. First Incident: Verbal warning/redirection
2. Second Incident: Teacher/Staff Member reteaches expectation, documents incident, & provides an intervention (logical consequences: reflection, apology, loss of privilege/equipment, relocation, etc.)
3. Third Incident: Teacher makes parent contact (Staff member notifies teacher), documents incident, & provides an intervention
4. Fourth Offense: MAJOR Referral

Communication, parental cooperation with the school, and support of school standards are the keys to solving many behavior problems. You will be notified if your child exhibits unacceptable behavior.

Major behaviors will be managed by administration. Major and minor behavior definitions can be found at the end of this handbook. Our behavior policies are in line with those of the District. Parents can view or obtain a copy of the *Parent Information Booklet* by visiting the Panama-Buena Vista USD Website. Please take the time to review these guidelines and enforce them with your student.

Student discipline procedures are aligned with California Education Code and District policy. See the Required Annual District Notices section for additional information regarding student discipline rights and due process.

BICYCLES, SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS, AND ROLLERBLADES

Students in grades 3 - 6 may ride a bicycle, scooter, skateboard, or rollerblades to and from school. To do so, a student must have a [Bicycle, Scooter, Skateboard, and Rollerblade Permission Form](#) filled out and on file. These items may not be ridden on campus or on the sidewalks adjacent to the school. Bicycle riders should park their bicycles in the rack and lock them securely. Students must have permission from their teacher to store scooters, skateboards, or roller blades in the classroom. Otherwise, these items must be locked in the rack. By law, bicycle, scooter, skateboard, and rollerblade riders must wear an approved helmet at all times when riding. Students are to be responsible for the care and storage of their helmets.

Students should keep in mind that riding such items to school is a privilege. A student who fails to use good judgment when riding a bicycle, scooter, skateboard, or rollerblades may lose the privilege to ride them.

BIRTHDAYS

Each teacher acknowledges students' birthdays in the classroom; however, classroom parties are not held. To minimize disruptions to instructional time and support student health

and safety, birthday treats, food items, and deliveries (including balloons, flowers, or gifts) are not permitted at school. **Non-food goodie bags are permitted**, but they should be simple, age-appropriate, and distributed at the teacher's discretion (typically at the end of the school day). Goodie bags should not include food items.

Families are welcome to consider the following alternatives that honor students without interrupting learning:

- Donate a book to the Highgate Library in your child's name
- Contribute toward a classroom book or needed item through the teacher

CAFETERIA PROGRAM

Breakfast is served from **8:05 a.m. to 8:25 a.m.** Breakfast will not be served after 8:25 a.m. to ensure students have adequate time to eat and arrive to class on time.

Lunch is served during designated times (see Bell Schedule). All students may receive one breakfast and one lunch at no cost each school day.

Highgate Elementary is a closed campus. To ensure student safety and minimize disruptions, parents and visitors are not permitted on campus during the school day, including eating in the cafeteria. Families may drop off lunch items in the front office for their child to pick up at their designated lunch time.

CLASSROOM PARTIES

Class parties may be held at the discretion of each teacher. Birthday parties are not held on campus (see BIRTHDAYS above).

CLASS PLACEMENT

Class lists are carefully developed each spring for the upcoming school year by teachers and the principal. Classes are thoughtfully balanced based on a variety of factors, including academic needs, social dynamics, and overall classroom composition.

Families may share information about their child's learning needs or considerations to support placement; however, specific teacher requests will not be accepted.

While we value family input, requests for specific teachers cannot be guaranteed. The final determination of all class placements is made by the principal.

CLASSROOM STANDARDS

Students learning on a safe and kind campus is the top priority at Highgate Elementary School. Rules of courtesy to fellow students and teachers shall be followed at all times. Each student should behave in a manner that does not disrupt the rights of other students to learn. School wide and classroom procedures that promote positive behavior, safety, and learning will be taught and reinforced consistently in each classroom.

SPIRIT WEEKS

In order to promote and maintain school spirit, we will have spirit weeks throughout the school year. These will usually take place in the fall, winter, spring and end of year. All Highgate students and staff are encouraged to participate.

CORE CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS (CCSS)

Highgate staff members teach the district-adopted curriculum aligned to the California Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The core curriculum includes state standards, as well as the textbooks and instructional materials approved by the Panama-Buena Vista Union School District and the State of California.

Teachers are trained to deliver standards-based instruction and regularly assess student progress using a variety of measures.

Information about the curriculum, assessment practices, and grade-level expectations is shared with families at Back to School Night at the beginning of each school year. District Grade Level Expectations are also provided at that time.

COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS

Please make every attempt to communicate with your children about appointments, after-school care, and other situations before the school day begins. Getting messages to students in the classrooms is difficult and interrupts the teaching and learning for all students. Please send a note with your student to explain any change in the regular routine. Prior planning eliminates the need for “all call” intercom interruptions and student phone calls. Your cooperation will help us to focus on instruction and is greatly appreciated.

COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS

Good communication between parents and the teacher is an important part of your child’s education. Should you desire a conference with your child's teacher, please call the school office. The teacher will contact you to set up the date and time for the conference.

DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL

Students are to exit the campus after being dismissed from the classroom. Students will be watched during the ten minute dismissal period, but after-school supervision is not provided. For your child’s safety, make sure he/she walks home, rides the bus, or is picked up promptly.

DRESS CODE

In order to promote a school atmosphere where all children are able to learn, Highgate students are expected to dress appropriately. As such, the following dress code will be enforced:

- 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 both straps on the shoulders, not hanging loose.
- Commercial lettering or printing will be allowed on shirts and sweatshirts as long as it is acceptable for school attire. No clothing may be personalized other than with a student's given name. Jackets, backpacks, binders, etc. may bear the name of the owner in printed block letters. All other student writing on clothing, backpacks, binders, etc. is unacceptable as is writing on the hands or other parts of the body. Pants, shorts, or skirts with holes or heavy fraying above the knee are not acceptable.
- Clothing that is excessively revealing is unacceptable. "Excessively revealing" includes:
 - backless halter tops or dresses; tube tops; tank-top shirts or shirts cut low at the armpits or neckline
 - clothing that shows bare midriffs
 - shorts worn shorter than mid-thigh

- o clothing that is transparent or revealing
 - o excessively frayed pants
- Suggestive clothing or objects may not be worn which are libelous, obscene, or depicting illegal or gang-related activity. This includes buttons, arm bands, 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.
- No bare feet. No noisy, unsafe, or disruptive footwear shall be worn. Flip-flops/thongs are not permitted. Students must wear footwear that has a strap or is completely enclosed.
- 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.
- Hats and beanies are allowed while students are outside on campus (applies to boys and girls).
 - o Hats must be worn forward.
 - o Students must follow teachers' and staff members' rules regarding whether hats and beanies can be worn in classrooms and other campus buildings.
 - o Hats and beanies can be worn inside on special occasions (e.g. Spirit Week).

The District Board and administration reserves the right to declare any mode of dress that in their estimation inhibits the educational process or threatens the safety and protection of students as unacceptable. If students are dressed in an unacceptable manner, parents will be notified and corrective measures must be taken before the student will be allowed to return to class or the playground.

EMERGENCIES/DISASTER/EVACUATION

Contingency plans and supplies are in place to deal with any emergency or disaster situation that may arise. Students regularly participate in emergency 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.

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 tune to your local radio and television stations for information on fog delays. Local stations will broadcast the names of districts on a fog delay.

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.

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. As a parent you can:

- Provide a regular study time on those days that homework is given;
- Provide a quiet place for study;
- Give help and encouragement when needed;
- Minimize interruptions.

HONOR ROLL AND PRINCIPAL'S LIST

Students in grades 4–6 are eligible for academic recognition each quarter.

Honor Roll

To qualify for the Honor Roll, a student must:

- Earn a 3.0 (B) average or higher in all academic subjects
- Not receive a grade below a C in any subject
- Demonstrate appropriate behavior, including no D or F in conduct

Principal's List

Students who earn all A or A- grades in academic subjects will be recognized on the Principal's List.

LOST AND FOUND

Inquiries regarding lost articles may be made by our students during recesses, before school and after school. A "Lost and Found" box is maintained for articles of clothing that remain unclaimed. The box is usually located outside the cafeteria. Our goal is to empty the box and donate unclaimed items on the first Friday of each month.

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, especially valuable ones, should not be brought to school.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

State laws and district policies govern the taking of medication by students while at school. Anytime prescription medication is to be given by school personnel it must be in a container with the pharmacist's label attached.

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*, which will give us the specific 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.

MUSIC AND SPORTS PROGRAMS

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 music program.

Students in grades five and six are eligible to participate in after-school sports. Students must meet certain academic and behavioral standards to be eligible.

PARENT CLUB

The Highgate Parent Club provides an opportunity for you to be more involved in your child's school. Several fund raising activities are sponsored by the Parent Club each year. All funds that are generated as a result of Parent Club activities directly benefit our students and school. If you would like to become involved in the Highgate Parent Club, you may call the school office for more information.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Highgate Elementary School values strong partnerships between home and school and is committed to fostering meaningful parent involvement in all school programs. Communication is maintained through ParentSquare messages, newsletters, phone calls, conferences, and school events. ParentSquare is the primary communication platform. Families are expected to monitor messages regularly. In the event of an emergency, ParentSquare will be used as the primary method of communication.

Parents are encouraged to share suggestions through meetings, written communication, or individual conversations. All input is valued and will be considered in a timely manner.

While maintaining a safe and structured learning environment, Highgate welcomes family participation through scheduled opportunities such as classroom support, assemblies, school events, and field trips. The staff at Highgate Elementary School is dedicated to providing a supportive learning environment and a rigorous curriculum for all students. We believe a successful educational experience results from strong collaboration among students, families, and staff.

Parent Committees and Councils

- **Parent Club**

A volunteer organization that raises funds and supports programs, materials, and enrichment opportunities for students and staff.

- **School Site Council (SSC)**

A decision-making body composed of parents, staff, and the principal that develops, monitors, and evaluates the School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA), including the use of Title I funds.

- **English Learner Advisory Council (ELAC)**

A committee of parents and staff that advises the school on programs and services for English Learners.

- **Title I Parent Involvement Opportunities**

As a Title I school, Highgate provides additional opportunities for parent engagement, including the annual Title I meeting, family workshops, and input on the School-Parent Compact and Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

PHONES AND SMART WATCHES

Students may bring phones to school, but the devices must remain off and in students' backpacks during the school day. Students may wear smart watches, but the sound for

notifications must be turned off, and the watch cannot be a distraction 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. Student use of District technology resources must comply with District technology expectations. Please refer to the Required Annual District Notices section for additional information regarding acceptable technology use.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be mailed home quarterly. Parent/Teacher conferences take place at the end of the first grading period.

SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD (SARC)

The SARC, available in the office, provides information on school policies, practices, student test scores, and school and district demographics.

SPEECH SERVICES

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 pathologist 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 ASSESSMENT

Student progress in all academic areas will be monitored and assessed throughout the year. Conferences, report cards, progress reports, phone calls, written communication, and Student Success Team (SST) meetings provide parents with additional information about student progress.

STUDENT SUPPORT

At any point you feel that your child could be more successful at school academically, behaviorally, or social-emotionally, **you may request a SST.** The SST at Highgate consists of our Admin Team, the Special Education Team, our Academic Coach, our Intervention Teacher, our Psychologist, our Behavior Interventionist and you. If you would like to request a SST for any concern you have regarding your child’s success, please contact the front office staff and ask for our Academic Coach, Lauren Oliver to schedule a SST. You will receive a response within 2 school days.

Students may utilize the Husky Self Referral Form to request support for themselves. These referrals may result in support staff talking with your child or a SST.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Student Council is a program in which participants learn the elements of 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 Safety, and Superintendent of Grounds. A teacher or an administrator serves as the advisor to the Student Council.

VISITING CAMPUS

You are always welcome to visit our campus and your child's classroom. All visits must be pre-scheduled and approved in advance. Please contact your teacher and call the office 48 hours before you would like to visit. Parental visits are limited to twice per month for a maximum of one hour per visit. Additional visits may be scheduled through the principal if more observation time is needed.

Whenever you arrive at Highgate (for a scheduled visit or other business), please check-in with the Raptor system at the office first. You will need to bring a government ID. We will give you a visitor tag to wear so you will not be questioned by our staff. We do our best to minimize interruptions and protect our students from unwanted visitors. Please help us by checking-in with the office first.

Highgate Family Matrix

“The Husky Way”



	Attendance	Arrival and Dismissal	Family Engagement
Be Safe	I will... Keep my child at home if he/she is showing contagious symptoms.	I will... Follow all safety protocols in place for buses, carpool, and walkers.	I will... Consistently encourage my child to adhere to all behavioral expectations.
Be Respectful	I will... Follow PBVUSD attendance protocols.	I will... Demonstrate common courtesy to those around me during drop-off and pick-up time.	I will... Reinforce Highgate's Husky Way and model it to students, other parents, and school staff.
Be Responsible	I will... Inform office when my child is absent with a written note, phone call or email.	I will... Drop my child off no sooner than 8:05 a.m. and pick my child up at the designated dismissal time.	I will... Support my child developing healthy habits that will prepare him/her for academic and social-emotional success at school.

BELL SCHEDULE 2026-2027

**Gates are open from 8:05 a.m.- 8:25 a.m.
Instruction Begins at 8:28 a.m.

	<u>Start Time</u> Regular Day	<u>AM Recess</u> Start-End Time	Total Recess Minutes	<u>Lunch Time</u> Start-End Time	Total Lunch Minutes	<u>Dismissal Time</u>
TK	8:28	9:45-10:00	15	11:00-11:45 W- 10:30-11:15	45	2:50 W- 1:20
Kindergarten	8:28	10:00-10:15	15	11:30-12:15 W- 11:00-11:45	45	2:50 W- 1:20
1st Grade	8:28	10:15-10:30	15	12:00-12:45 W- 11:30-12:15	45	2:50 W- 1:20
2nd Grade	8:28	10:15-10:30	15	12:00-12:45 W- 11:30-12:15	45	2:50 W- 1:20
3rd Grade	8:28	10:15-10:30	15	12:30-1:15 W- 12:00-12:45	45	2:50 W- 1:20
4th Grade	8:28	10:40-10:55	15	12:30-1:15 W- 12:00-12:45	45	3:00 W- 1:30
5th Grade	8:28	10:40-10:55	15	1:00-1:45 W- 12:30-1:15	45	3:00 W- 1:30
6th Grade	8:28	10:40-10:55	15	1:00-1:45 W- 12:30-1:15	45	3:00 W- 1:30

2:50 TK-3rd Dismissal

3:00 4th-6th Dismissal

***EVERY WEDNESDAY IS A 90 MINUTE EARLY OUT FOR EACH GRADE LEVEL: 1:20 TK-3rd Dismissal & 1:30 4th-6th Dismissal**

Panama-Buena Vista Union School District
HIGHGATE ELEMENTARY
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.

Notification of Classroom Visitation Procedures: Parents shall receive notification of classroom visitation procedures. The notification used should be substantially as follows:

"Parents are encouraged to visit their child's classroom and observe the instructional program. Visits must be scheduled directly with the classroom teacher and, generally, at least 48 hours in advance.

"Distractions and interruptions seriously impair the educational process. To minimize distractions during valuable classroom time, parental visits are limited to twice per month for a maximum of one hour per visit. Additional visits may be schedule through the Principal if more observation time is needed.

"While visiting, parents are generally required to remain quiet and in the back of the room in order to minimize the classroom interruption which a visitor's presence typically causes.

"Copies of the school's classroom observation procedures are available upon request."

REFERENCES:

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

Required Annual District Notices

1. Parent Rights

Parents/guardians have the right to be informed of and participate in decisions regarding their child's education, including access to records, instructional materials, and school programs, as provided under California Education Code §§ 48980, 49063–49079 (pupil records/FERPA alignment).

Related Board Policies:

- [BP/AR](#) 5125 – Student Records
- [BP](#) 6020 – Parent Involvement

2. Attendance Law

California law requires that all students attend school regularly. Absences must be verified and fall within allowable categories defined in Education Code § 48205. Compulsory attendance is governed by §§ 48200–48293. Excessive absences may result in referral to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB).

Related Board Policies:

- [BP/AR](#) 5113 – Absences and Excuses
- [BP/AR](#) 5113.1 – Chronic Absence and Truancy

3. Student Discipline

Student behavior is governed by California Education Code §§ 48900–48927. Schools emphasize positive behavioral interventions; however, violations may result in disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion consistent with due process requirements.

Related Board Policies:

- [BP/AR](#) 5144 – Discipline
- [BP/AR](#) 5144.1 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process
- [AR](#) 5144.2 – Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process (Students With Disabilities)

4. Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP)

The District follows Uniform Complaint Procedures pursuant to 5 CCR §§ 4600–4670 to address complaints related to programs, discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and other legally protected areas.

Related Board Policies:

- [BP/AR](#) 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures

5. Title IX/Nondiscrimination

The District prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on actual or perceived protected characteristics, including sex, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation, in accordance with Title IX (20 U.S.C. § 1681) and Education Code §§ 200–262.4.

Related Board Policies:

- [BP/AR 5145.3](#) – Nondiscrimination/Harassment
- [BP/AR 5145.7](#) – Sexual Harassment

6. Technology Use

Students must comply with the District Acceptable Use Policy when using technology resources, consistent with Education Code §§ 48900 (student conduct) and 51870–51874 (technology use). Misuse may result in disciplinary action and/or loss of privileges.

Related Board Policies:

- [BP/AR 6163.4](#) – Student Use of Technology
- ➔ Full legal notices are available in the District Annual Notice.

7. Photography

The district regards photographs as a category of directory information that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Therefore, a student's photograph, together with the student's name, may be published on district or school websites/social media unless the student's parent/guardian has notified the district in writing to not release the student's photograph without prior written consent.

Related Board Policies:

- [BP/AR 5125.1](#) - Release of Directory Information.
- [BP/AR 1113](#) - District and School Websites

➔ Full legal notices are available in the District Annual Notice.



Highgate Behavior Expectations

“The Husky Way”

	BE SAFE	BE RESPECTFUL	BE RESPONSIBLE
Office	Remain in student waiting area	-Remain quiet -Wait your turn -Wait patiently	-Follow directions -Complete tasks/errands quickly
Hallways	-Walk in an orderly line -Keep your hands to your sides -Face forward	-Remain quiet -Allow classrooms to focus on learning	Go directly to your destination
Bathrooms	Wash your hands	-Wait your turn -Allow others privacy	-Clean up after yourself -Use only what you need
Cafeteria	-Eat your own food -Walk	-Raise your hand for help -Use a quiet voice	-Clean up after yourself -Wait your turn -Follow directions
Library	Use the furniture appropriately	-Keep shelves neat -Use a quiet voice -Treat books with care	-Complete AR goals -Know your AR goals -Turn in books on time
Playground	-Keep your hands to yourself -Use equipment appropriately -Follow playground rules	-Involve others -Take turns -Take care of the equipment	-Return equipment -Line up promptly -Use the restroom

	SAFE	RESPECTFUL	RESPONSIBLE
Waiting for the Bus	- Keep hands, feet, and belongings to yourself - Line up and stay on the sidewalk - Stay calm and patient	- Use kind words and actions - Use school appropriate language - Wait your turn	- Be in line on time with all school supplies - Cell phones off and away - Load the bus on time
Riding the Bus	- Keep your whole body and your belongings on your seat - Face forward - Maintain a quiet voice	- Use kind words and actions - Follow the bus driver's directions - Keep the bus clean	- Cell phones off and away - All personal items put away - Sit down quickly where assigned

Classroom-Managed Offenses		Admin-Managed Offenses	
Type of Behavior	Definitions	Type of Behavior	Definitions
Inappropriate Language	(a) Any unkind spoken or written communication that insults, mocks, or belittles another student. (b) Additionally, any unkind spoken or written communication that indirectly disrespects a teacher or staff member. (c) Any verbal message that includes swearing and/or use of words in an inappropriate way to another student. (d) A non-credible threat of harm made toward another student.	Major Verbal Aggression	(a) Any verbal message that includes language considered to be offensive or associated with hate toward specific groups (e.g. race, sexuality, etc.). (b) A credible threat of harm made toward another student. (c) Additionally, any verbal message that includes swearing and/or use of words in an inappropriate way directed toward a teacher or staff member.
Disruptive Behavior	Low-intensity, but inappropriate disruption such as noises, talking out, not listening, giggling, off-task communication, out-of-seat, etc. Student will respond to redirection.	Continual Disruptive Behavior*	High-intensity behavior causes a teacher to stop instruction to address the situation such as but not limited to screaming, yelling, out-of-control behavior, sustained loud talk, sustained off-task

			behavior or disruption. Problem behavior has become habitual and/or a student shows no desire to reduce misbehavior.
Non-Cooperative Behavior	Brief or low-intensity failure to respond to adult requests.	Defiance/Continual Non-Cooperative Behavior*	High-intensity refusal to follow directions such as intentionally ignoring a staff delivered directive or knowingly breaking a school rule after being redirected. Problem behavior has become habitual and/or student shows no desire to reduce misbehavior. (4 times-same behavior)
Minor Physical Aggression	A student engages in non-serious but inappropriate physical contact; poking, tripping, bumping into others, pushing, scratching, biting, spitting, hitting/slapping.	Major Physical Aggression	Actions involving serious physical contact where serious injury may occur; hitting, slapping, shoving, hitting with an object, throwing an object, kicking, pulling hair, scratching, biting, spitting, poking with/without object.
Minor Dishonesty	A minor incident in which a student has intentionally delivered a message that is untrue or is intended to deceive another person (including cheating).	Major Dishonesty	Deliberately violating a rule or lying to staff members about violating a rule. Problem behavior has become habitual and/or a student shows no desire to reduce misbehavior.
Minor Offensive Behavior	(a) Any unkind gesture or action that insults, mocks, or belittles another student will be considered inappropriate. (b) Additionally, any unkind gesture or action that indirectly disrespects staff members will be considered inappropriate.	Continual Offensive Behavior	Any unkind gesture or action that directly disrespects students and staff members will be considered inappropriate. Problem behavior has become habitual and/or a student shows no desire to reduce misbehavior.
Minor Theft	Taking another's property (minor value) because there is a "want", refusing to return a borrowed item. Honest when confronted and shows remorse.	Theft	A student is in possession of, having passed on, or being responsible for removing someone else's property or has signed a person's name without the person's permission. Possible denial when confronted.
Minor Elopement	A student leaves class/school without permission for a brief period of time.	Major Elopement	A student stays out of class/school without permission for an extended period of time. Loitering or "ditching" in non-classroom areas during instructional time such as in hallways, bathroom,

			playground, etc.
Minor Property Damage	Behavior that reduces the value, changes the appearance, or requires repair of an object or property.	Major Property Damage	Participation in an activity that results in substantial destruction or disfigurement of property; any damage done to school property that impairs its use; carving desktops, graffiti, punching holes in walls, destroying outside property, writing in textbooks, etc.
Minor Harassment/ Teasing	Making fun of or attempting to provoke an individual or group using unkind words or actions.	Major Harassment	The act or an instance of harassing, or disturbing, pestering, or troubling repeatedly toward the same individual or group; persecution:
Dress Code Violation	A student wears clothing in violation of the school dress code.	Continual Dress Code Violation	Problem behavior has become habitual and/or a student shows no desire to reduce misbehavior.
Minor Electronic Device Misuse	A student uses an electronic device improperly or without permission (i.e. cell phone, Chromebook, etc.)	Major Electronic Device Misuse	A student repeatedly uses an electronic device improperly or without permission (i.e. cell phone, Chromebook, etc.). Problem behavior has become habitual and/or a student shows no desire to reduce misbehavior.
		Bullying/ Cyberbullying	Severe or pervasive verbal or physical misconduct that would impact a reasonable pupil resulting in either: (1) fear or harm (person or property); or (2) substantial interference with either: (a) academic performance; or (b) participation in or benefit from services, activities, or privileges. “Severe” means causing great discomfort, damage, or distress. “Pervasive” means spreading widely throughout an area or a group of people.
		Contraband Possession (weapons, drugs)	A student had, used, or gave to another person a weapon , explosive, dangerous object, or controlled substance. Possession- having direct control over an item or control over the item through another person

		Sexual Harassment	Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made against another person of the same or opposite sex in the educational setting, under any of the following conditions (Education Code Section 212.5; Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Section 4916): 1. The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact on the student's academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. 2. Submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the student is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting the student. 3. Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or a condition of a student's academic status, or progress. 4. Submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the student is used as the basis for any decision affecting the student regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through any District program or activity.
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PARENT HANDBOOK

The Highgate 2026-2027 Parent Handbook is available online through ParentSquare. Printed copies of the handbook are available at the school.

After your review, please sign and return the acknowledgement attached below, indicating you have received and reviewed these materials. Signed forms are to be returned to your child's teacher.

I have read the Highgate 2026-2027 Parent Handbook and will contact the office if there are any further questions.

Student Name

Teacher's Name

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature