

BLANTON ELEMENTARY

WELCOME PACKET

2026-2027



Blanton Elementary Welcome Packet

Blanton Elementary is a vibrant learning community where students grow academically, socially, and emotionally. We are proud of our Dolphin Spirit, our inclusive culture, and our commitment to excellence.

Pinellas County Schools Student Code of Conduct

A copy of the Pinellas County Schools Student Code of Conduct can be found on the PCS website: <https://www.pcsb.org/about-us/code-of-conduct/code-of-conduct-english-pdf> .

School Information & Contacts

School Hours

- **Student Arrival:** 8:15am
- **Breakfast:** 8:15-8:45am
- **Instruction Begins:** 8:45am
- **Dismissal:** 2:55pm

Front Office

- **Phone:** 727-547-7820
- **Hours:** 7:30am-4:00pm
- **Office Clerks:** Kim Ogaldez & Melin Faza
- **Secretary:** Leanne Pickett
- **DMT (Registrar):** Amber Berthelot

Key Contacts

- **Principal:** Charmion Berg, bergcha@pcsb.org
- **Assistant Principal:** Tenishelah Johnson, johnsonten@pcsb.org
- **School Counselor:** Marina Reid, reidmari@pcsb.org
- **School Psychologist:** Bryce Allen, allenbr@pcsb.org
- **School Social Worker:** Tierra Pender, pendert@pcsb.org
- **School Nurse:** Mike Angerstein, angersteinm@pcsb.org

Blanton Vision:
100% Student Success

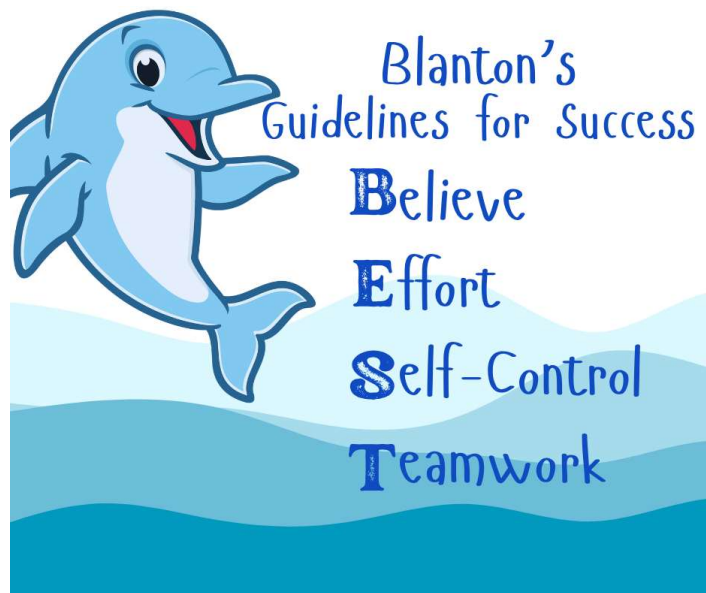
Blanton Mission:

To inspire lifelong learning and to provide opportunities for students to gain knowledge, skills, and develop character for success in our changing world.

Blanton Values:

Commitment to Children, Families, and the Community
Respectful and Caring Relationships
Cultural Competence
Integrity
Responsibility
Connectedness

Dolphin Guidelines for Success:



Absences, Tardies & Early Pickup

Absences

Regular attendance is essential for student success. When a student misses school, they miss important instruction, classroom discussions, and learning experiences that cannot be fully replaced. If your child is absent, please contact the front office or classroom teacher. Please send in any doctor's notes you may have.

Excused absences include illness and medical appointments. Please note that 5 illness or medical related absences may be excused with just parent confirmation. After 5, doctors' notes must be provided for them to be excused.

If you know your child is going to be absent, notify their classroom teacher as soon as possible.

Tardies

Arriving on time sets students up for a successful day. Instruction begins promptly at 8:45am, and students should be in their classrooms ready to learn when the bell rings. When a student arrives to school or to class after the 8:45am bell, they are marked tardy. Students arriving to school after 8:45am should report to the front office for a tardy slip before going to class.

Frequent tardies can cause students to miss important morning routines, directions, and learning opportunities. If your family needs assistance establishing a consistent morning routine, our team is happy to assist.

Early Pickup

At Blanton, we prioritize uninterrupted learning time. If a student needs to leave early for any reason, families should report to the front office to sign the student out. For safety, students are only released to adults listed in their Focus account and a physical photo ID is required.

To minimize classroom disruptions, we kindly ask that early pickups occur before 2:30pm. Pickups after this time interfere with dismissal procedures and may delay end-of-day routines. If you must pickup after 2:30pm, this should be prearranged with the front office and the teacher.

Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

Morning Arrival

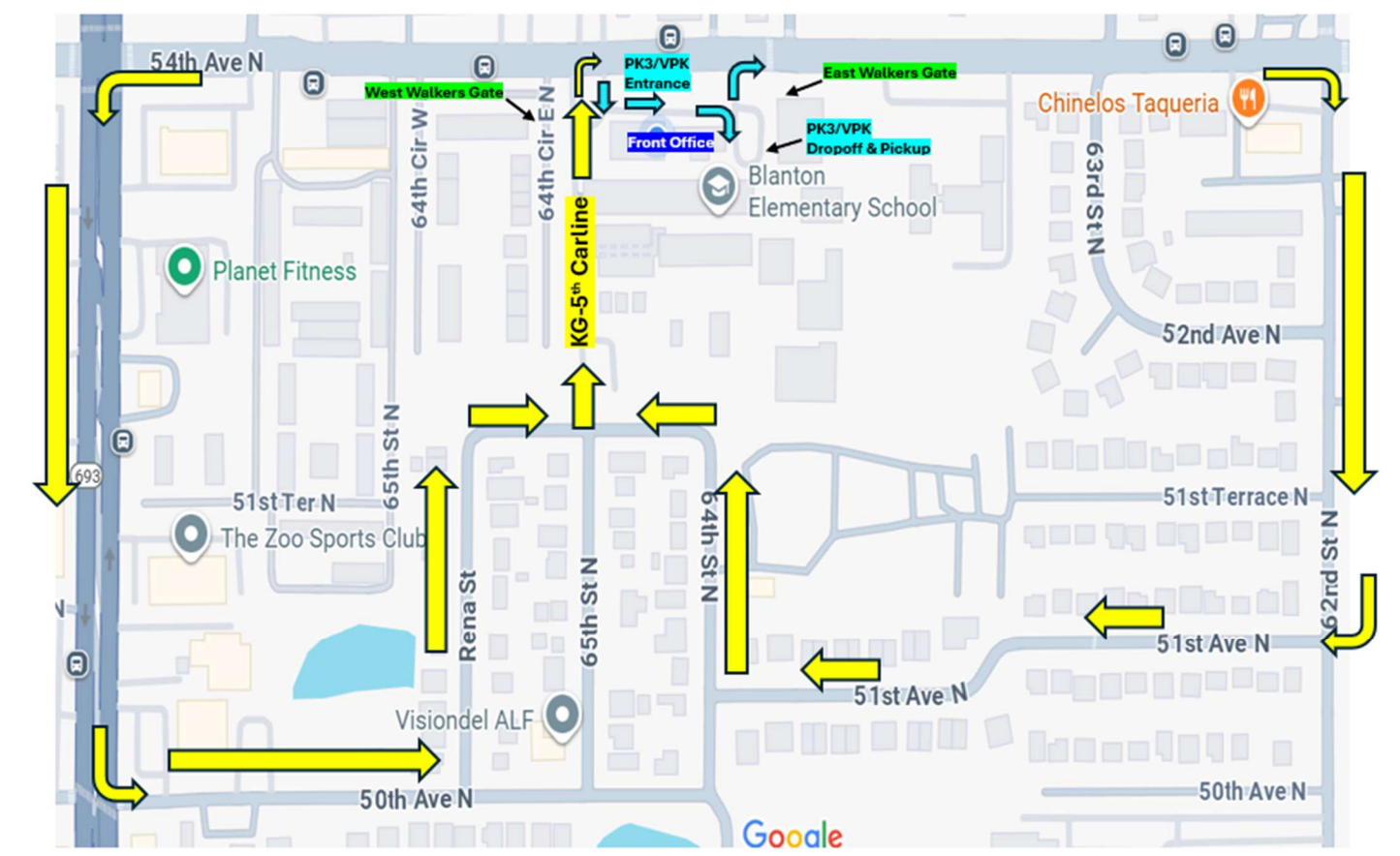
- Students may enter campus beginning at 8:15am.
 - Please note, supervision begins at 8:15am. Students should not be unattended at gates prior to 8:15.
- Breakfast is served daily from 8:15am to 8:45am in the cafeteria. A bagged breakfast option will be offered to students who arrive between 8:45am and 9:15am.
- **KG-5th Grade Car Riders:** Families dropping off should use the car line and follow all staff directions. This ensure the safety of our students, families, and staff members.
 - Pull forward to the next available number. Once cars are stopped, your child should exit at that number. Please do not wait to pull up to the first number for your child to exit as this causes a backup in the car line.
 - Adults should remain in the car unless if your child needs physical support to exit the vehicle.
 - Drop off at the front of the school is not permitted between 8:15am and 8:45am with the exception of PreK 3s and VPK.
- **PK3 & VPK Car Riders:** Students in PK3 and VPK should be dropped off in the front car loop between 8:15am and 8:40am.
 - Ensure your car tag is visible to enter the parking lot.
 - Enter the parking lot at the west end of the front of the school.
 - Drive past the front office and turn right into the front car loop.
 - Pull forward as far around the loop as possible OR park in an available spot and walk your child to the staff on duty.
 - If a school bus is unloading, please do not drive past until they are completely finished.
 - You must sign your child in each day.
- **Walkers:** Walkers can enter on the east or west end of the front of the campus.
 - Walkers should not enter at the back of the school as there is not a designated walking path.
 - If a student rides a bike or scooter, they must walk it through campus to our bike rack.
- **Late Arrival:** If your child arrives after 8:45am (8:40am for PK3 and VPK), they must be brought into the front office and signed in by an adult guardian.
 - Please pull into a parking spot and do not stop or park in the fire lane.

Afternoon Dismissal: 2:55pm-3:15pm

- Classroom teachers and staff will escort students to their designated dismissal area.
- **Car Riders:** Car riders will pick up in the car line. The front of the school will not be available for pick-up between 2:55pm and 3:15pm.
- **PK3 & VPK Car Riders:** PreK3s and VPK car line will be in the same area as the morning. Pick-up is between 2:45pm and 3:00pm.
 - If a school bus is loading, do not drive past until they are completely finished.

- **Walkers:** Walkers and bike/scooter riders will exit at the front of the school at the east or west walkers gate.
- **Bus Riders:** Bus riders will wait in the designated bus area until a staff member loads the bus.
- **Late Pickup:**
 - Students in PreK3 and VPK will be brought to the front office at 3:00pm.
 - Students KG-5th grade will be brought to the front office at 3:15pm.
 - If you are going to be later than 3:15pm for any reason, please contact the front office as soon as possible.
 - All students will need to be signed out by an adult in the front office.
 - Pull into a parking space and do not stop or park in the fire lane.
- Please keep your dismissal plan consistent.
 - If you need to change your dismissal plan prior to the start of the day, please ensure your child is aware and you make a note or email your child's teacher.
 - If you need to change your dismissal plan after the start of the day, please contact the front office and email your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Map



Breakfast & Lunch

- All students receive free breakfast and lunch each day.
- Students may bring their lunch from home if preferred.
- If your child has a food allergy, you must fill out and submit a [Medical Statement to Request Special Meals and/or Accommodations](#) form to the cafeteria manager.
- Full sized bags of chips, large portions of candy, and soda are not permitted.

Clinic & Health Information

Medications

All medication must be checked in with the school nurse with proper documentation by the parent or guardian.

Illness Guidelines

Students should stay home until they are fever, vomit, or diarrhea free for 24 hours.

Health Plans

Families of students with serious medical conditions or needs such as asthma, seizures, major allergies, or diabetes, should be with the school nurse as soon as possible to ensure all staff are made aware and proper protocols are followed.

Communication

School Website & Social Media

- Website: <https://blanton-es.pcsb.org/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/myblantones>
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/my_blantonelementary/

Staff Communication

You may receive communication from Blanton staff via:

- Email
- Phone Calls
- Agenda Communications
- Focus Communication
- Parent Conferences

Please ensure your contact information is always kept up to date in your Parent Portal in Focus.

Events & Family Engagement

Blanton hosts a variety of family-friendly events throughout the year including:

- Title 1 Literacy, Math, & Science Nights
- Winter & Spring Concerts
- Fall Festival
- Award Ceremonies
- PTA and SAC Meetings

Be sure to be on the lookout for a calendar of events to save the dates!

Pod System

At Blanton we use a Dolphin Pod system (similar to a “house” system). This Pod system builds belonging, leadership, and school spirit.

Pod Overview

Each student and staff member belongs to one of the four Pods:

- Calf Pod (always PreK3 and VPK students): the pod of curiosity
- Bottlenose Pod: the problem solving pod
- Orca Pod: the leadership pod
- Risso Pod: the resilient pod

Once a student enters a Pod, they will remain in that same Pod until they leave Blanton (if they are retained they will shift to a new Pod), with the exception of the Calf Pod. All PreK and VPK students are in the Calf Pod and when they move up to kindergarten, they will be placed into one of the other Dolphin Pods.

Safety

Safety Drills

- **Fire Drills** — Conducted periodically throughout the year to ensure students know evacuation routes and procedures
- **Active Threat Drills** — Held four times per year; students practice age-appropriate responses to a variety of scenarios
- **Severe Weather Drills** — Conducted twice per year to prepare for tornado or high-wind events
- **Mandatory Drill Participation** — Every person on campus must fully participate in all drills. No one may enter or exit the campus until the drill is complete.

Safety Protocols

- **Locked Campus Procedures** — All doors and gates remain closed and locked during the school day unless monitored by staff.
- **Student Safety Expectations** — Students must follow school rules and guidelines at all times to ensure their safety and the safety of others.
- **Check-In & Check-Out Protocols** — Families must follow established procedures when picking up or dropping off students. If a student is tardy or is late getting picked up, an adult must come in to the front office and sign them in/out. All pickups during the school day require a valid physical photo ID and the person picking up must be listed in the student's Focus account.
- **Visitor Requirements** — All visitors must present a valid physical photo ID to enter campus or check out a child.
- **Fire Lane Rules** — Do not stop or park in fire lanes; always use designated parking spaces.
- **Campus Driving Safety** — Drive slowly and cautiously; be alert to pedestrians and other vehicles.
- **Pedestrian Awareness** — Walkers should remain aware of vehicle movement and surroundings at all times.
- **Car Circle Restrictions** — No left-hand turns are permitted out of the car circle during arrival and dismissal, as indicated by signage.

Bullying Prevention & Reporting

- **Bullying Prevention** — Blanton Elementary is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful environment where all students feel valued. Bullying, harassment, and threatening behavior are not tolerated.
- **Say Something Reporting** — Students and families may report bullying, concerning behavior, or safety concerns through the *Say Something* website. This tool allows individuals to share information quickly and confidentially so staff can respond promptly.
 - <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/say-something-tips/>
- **Encouraging Student Voice** — Students are taught to speak up if they see unsafe or unkind behavior. If something feels wrong, they should tell a trusted adult or use the reporting system.

Technology & Devices

District Devices

- Students will use district-issued devices in class to support academic learning.
- Families must sign the technology agreement.
- Students must follow PCS Student Code of Conduct and Blanton's Guidelines to Success when using these devices.

Personal Devices

- Personal devices including tablets, cell phones, and smart watches must be powered off and stored in the student's backpack.
- Per the PCS Student Code of Conduct, "Any student who chooses to bring a wireless communication device to school shall do so at their own risk and shall be personally responsible for the security of their wireless communication device(s). School Board staff are not responsible for preventing theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to wireless devices brought onto school property, or left on school-sponsored transportation, including any wireless communication device(s) confiscated due to inappropriate use).
- If a student is found to be using their personal device, the following discipline will be followed:
 1. 1st offence: Warning and parent notified of infraction and reminder of rules by staff member
 2. 2nd offence: Device is confiscated and given to administration. Parent or guardian is notified by administration and a parent or guardian must pick up the device from the front office.
 3. 3rd+ offence: Device is confiscated and given to administration. Parent or guardian is notified of offence and rules and must pick up the device from the front office. Student must turn in their cell phone each day or not bring the device to school. Student receives a written referral.

Title I

Blanton Elementary is proud to be a Title I school, which means we receive additional federal funding to support students from low-income families. These funds help us ensure every child has a fair, equal, and meaningful opportunity to meet state academic standards.

Title I resources allow us to:

- Strengthen reading and math instruction
- Provide small-group support
- Purchase instructional materials
- Offer family engagement activities
- Support professional development for teachers to enhance classroom instruction

Because Blanton operates a schoolwide Title I program, all students benefit from these supports – not just those who qualify individually. This helps us create a learning environment where every Dolphin can thrive.

Title I Compact

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Teacher Name: _____

As an Blanton Student,

I agree to carry out the following
"Blanton's BEST" responsibilities:

- **Believe** – Believe in yourself, practice growth mindset, and always use respectful language.
- **Effort** – Show effort by staying focused, participating positively, and trying your best even when work feels challenging.
- **Self-control** – Use self-control by arriving on time, being prepared with materials, and making responsible choices that support learning.
- **Teamwork** – Work together as a team to keep our campus safe, clean, and a welcoming environment for learning for all.

Student Signature: _____

Blanton Elementary School Where the "B" stands for BEST! Student/Family/Teacher Compact 2026-2027

As a Blanton Parent/Guardian/Family Member,

I agree to carry out the following
"Blanton's BEST" responsibilities:

- **Believe** – Believe in my child's potential by encouraging growth mindset, supporting positive behavior, and communicating respect for learning at home.
- **Effort** – Show effort by staying informed about my child's progress, communicating with teachers, and actively participating in school events, meetings, and learning opportunities.
- **Self-control** – Model self-control by helping my child establish routines – arriving on time, being prepared with materials, and making responsible choices that support academic success.
- **Teamwork** – Work as a team with teachers, staff, and the school community to create a positive, safe, and supportive environment where all students can thrive.

Parent Signature: _____

As a Blanton Teacher,

I agree to carry out the following
"Blanton's BEST" responsibilities:

- **Believe** – Believe in every student's ability to learn and grow by fostering a positive, inclusive classroom environment and modeling respect, encouragement, and a growth mindset.
- **Effort** – Demonstrate effort by planning and delivering high-quality, engaging instruction that challenges students, supports diverse learners, and upholds high academic and behavioral expectations.
- **Self-Control** – Exhibit self-control by enforcing school and classroom expectations consistently and equitably, using professional language and actions, and modeling calm, respectful responses in all situations.
- **Teamwork** – Engage in teamwork by maintaining open communication with students, families, and colleagues, collaborating to support student success, and contributing to a safe, positive school community.

Teacher Signature: _____

We reviewed the student's academic and behavioral progress and set goals.

Conference #1 _____
Date

Family Initials _____ Teacher Initials _____

Conference #2 _____
Date

Family Initials _____ Teacher Initials _____

Uniform & Dress Expectations

Blanton Elementary follows a school-friendly dress code designed for comfort, safety, and readiness to learn.

• Tops

- Solid colored (no prints such as stripes, polka dots, etc...)
- Collared or non-collared
- Any logos must be able to be covered by the child's palm
- Hoodies are okay but hoods may not be worn indoors or outside when it is hot/warm
- Sleeveless, spaghetti strap, crop tops, and tank tops are not permitted
- Blanton shirts can be worn any day

• Bottoms

- Solid colored (no prints such as stripes, polka dots, etc...)
- Jeans are permitted
- No rips, tears, or fraying
- Leggings, gym shorts, and sweatpant/short bottoms are permitted
- Length of skirts, dress, and shorts must meet PCS dress code requirements (refer to [PCS Student Code of Conduct](#))

• Shoes

- Closed toed and closed back shoes only
- Croc style shoes not permitted

• Dress Down Days

- On occasion, there may be days where students are able to dress down or out of uniform. Students must follow PCS Dress Code when participating in these days.

BLANTON

Uniforms



SOLID COLORED
SHIRT-ANY COLOR



LARGE
GRAPHICS/LOGOS,
PRINTS, AND TANK
TOPS NOT PERMITTED

SOLID COLORED
BOTTOM-ANY COLOR
INCLUDING JEANS-
LENGTH MUST MEET
PCS DRESS CODE



HOODIES ALLOWED



HOODS UP INDOORS
OR WHEN IT IS
WARM/HOT OUTSIDE
NOT PERMITTED

CLOSED TOE &
CLOSED BACK SHOE



CROC STYLE
SHOES NOT
PERMITTED



RIPS/TEARS, LEGGINGS,
GYM SHORTS,
SWEATPANTS NOT
PERMITTED

Welcome to the Blanton Dolphin Family!

We are thrilled to partner with you. Blanton Elementary is a place where your child will learn, grow, and shine – and we are honored to be a part of their educational journey.