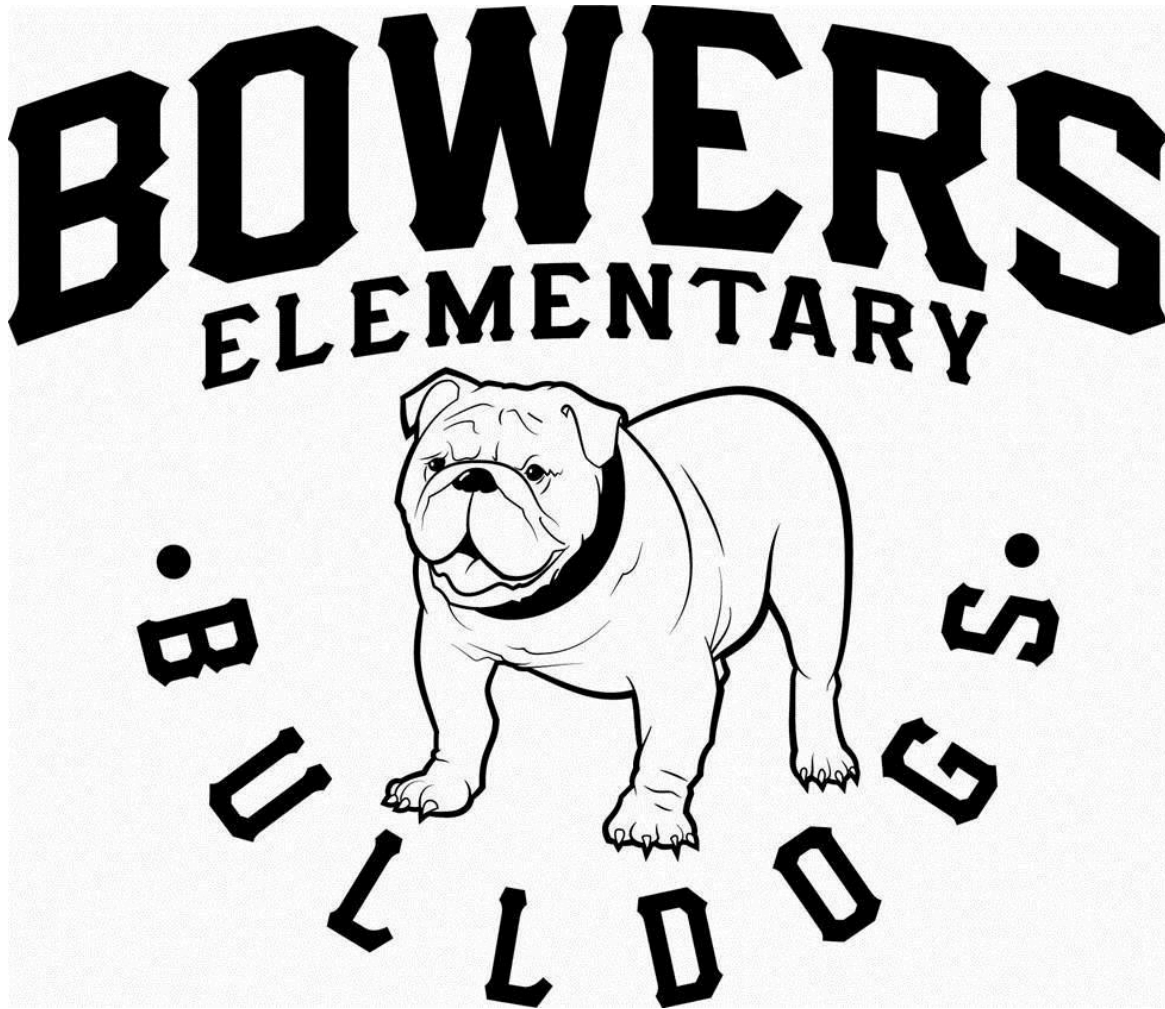


*Santa Clara Unified School District*



School Handbook

2755 Barkley Avenue  
Santa Clara, CA 95051  
Phone: 408 423-1100

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# *Vision, Mission, and Philosophy*

## *Our Vision*

**Achieve.   Belong.   Contribute.**

## *Mission Statement*

Bowers Elementary School's mission is to create independent learners by fostering an inclusive community that educates the whole child and empowers students to contribute actively in an increasingly diverse society.

### ***We believe that:***

- All students deserve equal access to the core curriculum and have the innate desire to learn
- A safe, secure learning environment fosters independent thinkers, lifelong learners, and content students
- Kindness, respect, and responsibility are essential as we work, learn, grow, and play together
- Home-school collaboration is essential to student success

# Bell Schedules

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

| TK       |          |                 | Kindergarten |          |                 |
|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|----------|-----------------|
| Start    | End      | Minutes         | Start        | End      | Minutes         |
| 8:15 AM  | 10:00 AM | 105             | 8:15 AM      | 10:00 AM | 105             |
| 10:00 AM | 10:15 AM | Recess (15 min) | 10:00 AM     | 10:15 AM | Recess (15 min) |
| 10:15 AM | 11:50 AM | 95              | 10:15 AM     | 11:50 PM | 95              |
| 11:50 AM | 12:34 PM | Lunch (44 min)  | 11:50 PM     | 12:34 PM | Lunch (44 min)  |
| 12:34 PM | 1:30 PM  | 56              | 12:30 PM     | 2:10 PM  | 100             |
|          |          | 256             |              |          | 296             |

| Grades 1 and 2 |          |                 | Grades 3, 4 and 5 |          |                 |
|----------------|----------|-----------------|-------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Start          | End      | Minutes         | Start             | End      | Minutes         |
| 8:15 AM        | 10:00 AM | 105             | 8:15 AM           | 10:00 AM | 105             |
| 10:00 AM       | 10:15 AM | Recess (15 min) | 10:00 AM          | 10:15 AM | Recess (15 min) |
| 10:15 AM       | 12:00 PM | 105             | 10:15 AM          | 12:00 PM | 105             |
| 12:00 PM       | 12:44 PM | Lunch (44 min)  | 12:00 PM          | 12:44 PM | Lunch (44 min)  |
| 12:44 PM       | 2:10 PM  | 86              | 12:44 PM          | 2:35 PM  | 111             |
|                |          | 296             |                   |          | 321             |

Pre-school students enter through Gate B (See Arrival and Dismissal)

TK-5th Grade students enter through GATE D on Barkley Ave. (See Arrival and Dismissal)

### Wednesday Minimum Days

| Wednesday |          |                 | Wednesday |          |                 |
|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-----------------|
| TK        |          |                 | Kinder    |          |                 |
| Start     | End      | Minutes         | Start     | End      | Minutes         |
| 8:15 AM   | 10:00 AM | 105             | 8:15 AM   | 10:00 AM | 105             |
| 10:00 AM  | 10:15 AM | Recess (15 min) | 10:00 AM  | 10:15 AM | Recess (15 min) |
| 10:15 AM  | 11:50 AM | 95              | 10:15 AM  | 11:50 PM | 95              |
| 11:50 AM  | 12:34 PM | Lunch (44 min)  | 11:50 PM  | 12:30 PM | Lunch (44 min)  |
| 12:34 PM  | 1:05 PM  | 31              | 12:34 PM  | 1:21 PM  | 47              |
|           |          | 231             |           |          | 247             |

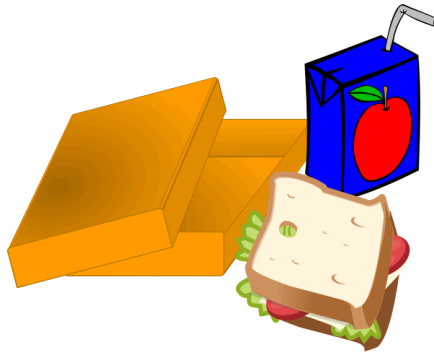
| Wednesday |          |                 |
|-----------|----------|-----------------|
| 1st-5th   |          |                 |
| Start     | End      | Minutes         |
| 8:15 AM   | 10:00 AM | 105             |
| 10:00 AM  | 10:15 AM | Recess (15 min) |
| 10:15 AM  | 12:00 PM | 105             |
| 11:50 PM  | 12:30 PM | Lunch (44 min)  |
| 12:44 PM  | 1:21 PM  | 37              |
|           |          | 247             |

Minimum days are designated for staff meetings, professional development, collaboration, planning, preparation, and other professional responsibilities. Please ensure your child is picked up on time.

# *TK- 5th Grade Lunch Schedule*

Monday - Friday

| Lunch Schedule |             |             |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
|                | Eat         | Play        |
| TK             | 11:50-12:12 | 12:12-12:34 |
| Kindergarten   | 11:50-12:12 | 12:12-12:34 |
| First          | 12:00-12:22 | 12:22-12:44 |
| Second         | 12:00-12:22 | 12:22-12:44 |
| Third          | 12:22-12:44 | 12:00-12:22 |
| Fourth         | 12:22-12:44 | 12:00-12:22 |
| Fifth          | 12:22-12:45 | 12:00-12:22 |



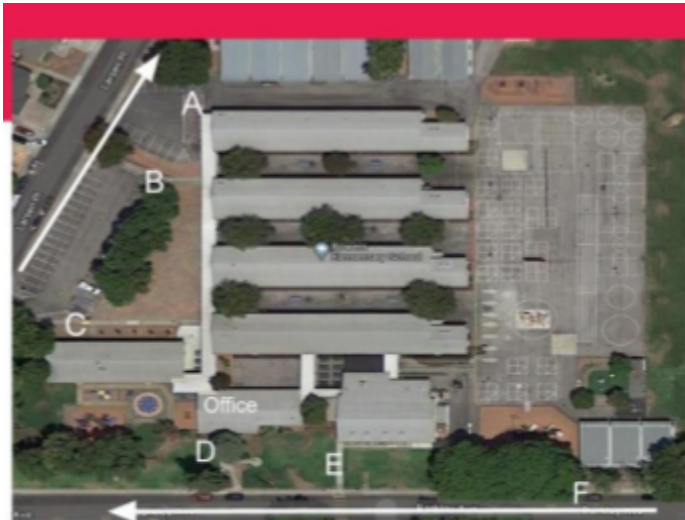
Breakfast is served between 7:50 a.m. and 8:10 am.

# *SAI Preschool*

| SAI PRESCHOOL   |       |         |
|-----------------|-------|---------|
| Monday - Friday |       |         |
| Start           | End   | Minutes |
| 8:15 AM         | 11:45 | 210     |

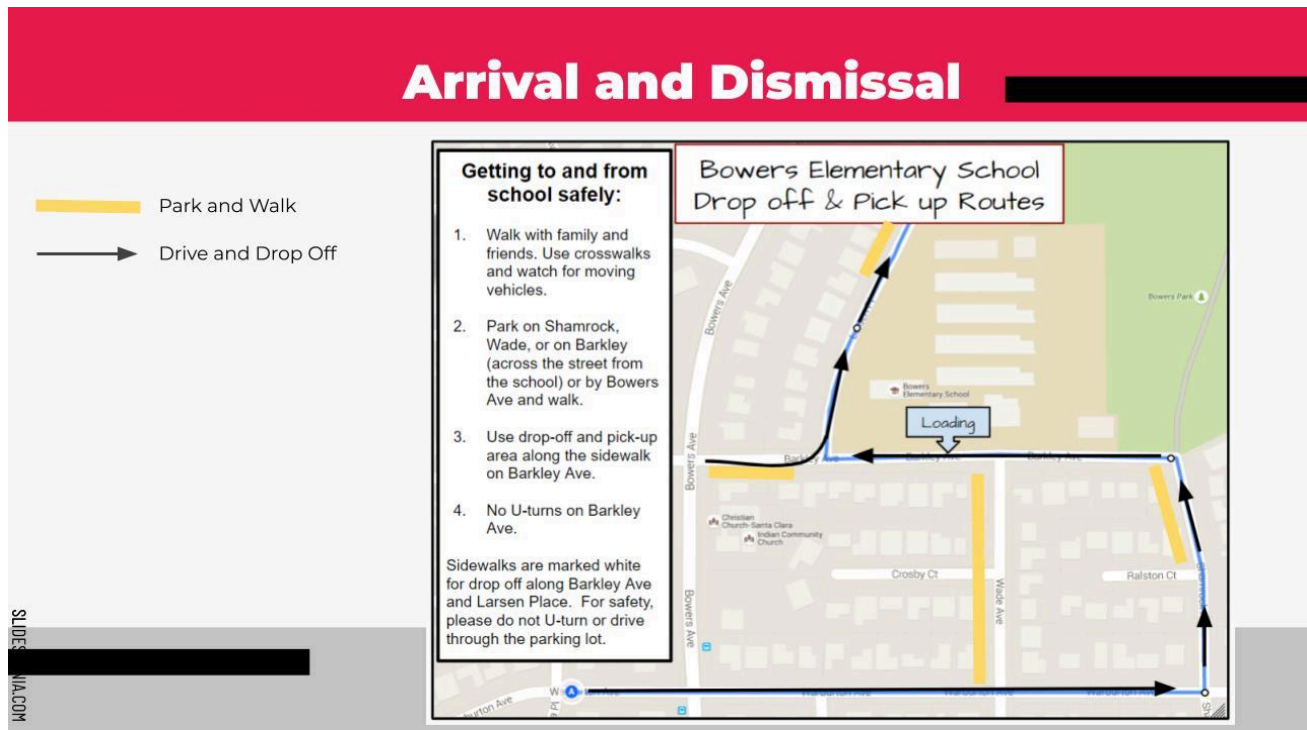
Preschool families enter through Gate B at 8:15 a.m.

The gates will be locked at 8:20 a.m. Students arriving after that time must check in at the office to receive a tardy slip.



SAI Preschool Arrival and Dismissal at Gate B

# Arrival and Dismissal



## Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

The staff parking lots are closed to parents. All TK–5 students must be dropped off and picked up on the Barkley side of the school. SAI and State Preschool students are dropped off and picked up on the Larsen side.

U-turns are not allowed on either Larsen or Barkley. If you plan to park and walk your child to or from the gate, please avoid blocking our neighbors' driveways and always use the crosswalk when crossing the street.

The white zone along Barkley Avenue is designated for bus and passenger loading and unloading only—no parking is allowed in the white zone at any time. Please drive cautiously, as student safety is our top priority.

## Arrival

Students who are eating breakfast may arrive starting at 7:50 a.m. All other students should arrive between 8:00 and 8:13 a.m.

Students not eating breakfast should hang up their backpacks and head directly to the playground—waiting in the hallways before school is not allowed. Gates will be locked at 8:15 a.m., and any student arriving after that time must check in at the office to receive a tardy slip.

## Dismissal

All students **not** enrolled in after-school programs or special activities are expected to leave campus immediately after school. Teachers will escort their students to the gates. Students should be picked up on the Barkley side of campus or take the bus home.



### Arrival Gates

Gate A: *Not an Entrance (parking lot)*

**Gate B** (Between Parking Lots): SAI  
Preschool & State Preschool

Gate C: *Not an Entrance (parking lot)*

**Gate D**: All TK-5th Grade Students

**Gate E**: Not used

**Gate F**: Not used

### Dismissal Gates

Gate A: *Not an Entrance (parking lot)*

**Gate B** (Between Parking Lots): SAI  
Preschool & State Preschool

Gate C: *Not an Entrance (parking lot)*

**Gate D**: TK, Kindergarten, 4th and 5th  
Grade Combo class

**Gate E**: First, Second, and Third (*Cafeteria*)

**Gate F**: Fourth & Fifth (*Portables*)

### **Walking or Biking to School**

We encourage students to walk or bike to school to help reduce traffic congestion and promote a healthy lifestyle.

Students who ride bicycles to school must:

- Enter and exit through Gate D (by the office), walking their bikes.
- Follow basic bicycle safety rules.
- Wear a properly fitted helmet.
- Lock their bicycles in the designated bike rack.
- Walk their bicycles on and off campus (both feet on the ground, walking beside the bike).

The administration reserves the right to revoke a student's biking privilege if safety rules are not followed.

Please note:

- The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or vandalized bicycles.
- Students may not ride or operate motorized scooters on or near campus during or after school.
- By law, children under the age of 16 are not permitted to operate motorized scooters.



# *Breakfast, Lunch, and Snacks*

All SCUSD students may receive breakfast and lunch free. We recommend that families continue to fill out meal applications. Qualification letters can be used for after-school care, cable TV, internet, and other discounted services.

[Complete a Meal Application](#)

[Menus and Meal Nutrition Information](#)

If you need help, please

Email: [nutritionservices@scusd.net](mailto:nutritionservices@scusd.net)

Call: 408-423-2077

Visit: [scusdnutrition.net](http://scusdnutrition.net)

## **Home Lunches**

Please ensure that all lunches brought from home are clearly labeled with your child's name and room number. Do not send food that requires heating, as microwaves are unavailable for student use.

If you drop off lunch after the school day starts, please bring it to the front office—lunches may not be delivered directly to classrooms. All dropped-off lunches must be marked with the child's name and room number. Please inform your child that their lunch will be waiting in the office.

The school does not provide snacks. However, students may check the Share Cart, which our student Green Team manages. Untouched fruits, vegetables, and packaged items are placed on the cart for others to take, helping reduce food waste.

***Please avoid sending candy or spicy chips as snacks.***

# *Attendance Policy*

## **Attendance**

Regular attendance is essential for a child's success in school. It is also a requirement established by the State of California under both the California State Education Code and the Administrative Code, Title V. Some key excerpts from these sources are:

- Students shall attend school punctually and regularly (A.C. Title V, Section 62).
- Students shall be required to provide validation of absences for health reasons. You may be asked to provide a doctor's note to verify an absence (A.C. Title V, Section V, and Section 306).

## **Reporting Absences,**

You may report your child's absences in three ways:

- Email: at [bowersattendance@scusd.net](mailto:bowersattendance@scusd.net)
- Bowers Website: (simply go to the about use and click the "attendance" page)
- 24-Hour Phone Line: **408-423-1105**

Parents must notify the school **each day** their child is absent. Please provide the following information:

1. Student's name (last name first).
2. Teacher's name and/or room number.
3. Reason for absence (illness, family emergency, medical appointments, etc.).
4. Caller's name and caller's relationship to student (parent, guardian, etc.).
5. Phone number where you can be reached during the day.

**If you do not clear your child's absence, the absence will be considered unexcused.** Absences are excused for illness and medical/dental/court appointments. All other absences are considered unexcused, though they must be reported to the school.

Students attending a school through Open Enrollment or intra-district transfer will be disenrolled after ten (10) days of unexcused absences. Students with an absence problem will be referred to the District School Attendance Review Board (SARB).

## **Tardies – Please be on time for school**

A warning bell will ring at 8:13 a.m. for students to line up for class. Students not in line at the 8:15 a.m. bell will report to the office for tardiness. Tardies are closely monitored since they interrupt instruction time and student learning. A tardy of more than 30 minutes is considered truancy and is only excused if due to a medical appointment. Students with a tardy problem will be referred to the District School Attendance Review Board (SARB).

## **Appointments**

Parents are requested to schedule medical, dental, or other appointments for their

children after school, on days off, or in emergencies after 10:30 a.m. For your child's protection, no student will be allowed to leave the school grounds without being checked out by his or her parent or guardian in the school office. Parents ***must come*** to the office to request their child and sign the child out. We will call your child from class after the child has been checked out. The child will then meet the parent in the office.

## *Health and Medications*

Students who become ill in class will be sent to the office and cared for by the health clerk or an office staff member. We must have an emergency release form on file for every student so that we may contact parents in case of an accident or illness and be advised of particular medical problems. Please update your child's emergency information each time a change occurs.

Children who come to school with a fever will be sent home. Please do not send your child to school when he/she has a temperature over 100, has vomited in the last 24 hours, or has an undiagnosed skin rash.

### **When you are contacted that your child is ill or injured:**

- Arrange to pick up your child immediately.
- Have an alternate plan for care if you work or are unavailable.
- Evaluate his/her readiness to return to school
- Keep your child at home until he/she is fever-free for 24 hours.

### **Medications**

If a student needs to take medication during school hours, it must be administered through the school office. The doctor and parent must complete the necessary forms. This includes over-the-counter medication such as aspirin, cough drops, etc. Contact the office for more details.

### **Nurse**

Our school nurse is on campus as needed. In addition to helping students with special health needs, the nurse performs vision and hearing screenings, oversees the school's first aid and health procedures, and reviews health records. A health clerk is also on campus daily.

# *School Safety*

Safety for all people who enter Bowers Elementary is our number one priority. If you are a visitor or a volunteer, you must check in at the office first. Please drive safely anywhere around the school. Please obey all traffic laws and safety procedures.

## *Fire, Earthquake, & Lockdown Drills*

Throughout the year, students and staff practice fire, earthquake, and lockdown procedures, which include:

1. Procedures for exiting buildings in the event of an emergency.
2. Safety protocols in an earthquake, fire, or other disaster/emergency.
3. Assigned duties for all staff, including using emergency equipment.

Bowers Elementary procedures are outlined in the district's Earthquake/Disaster Emergency Plan Handbook. Parents are welcome to review the emergency handbook. In case of a major earthquake, students will be held at school until the severity of the earthquake and post-earthquake damage is determined and until safety can be responsibly assured.

## *Crossing Guards and Safety Patrol*

Fifth-grade student crossing guards are used at the intersection of Barkley and Wade. *Please respect our student crossing guards, teachers, and parent volunteers.*

## *Emergency / Disaster Procedures*

In case of an emergency, such as an earthquake, parents follow these procedures:

### **Checkout Procedures**

- Do not phone the school.
- Park away from school.
- Report to the Student Release table (near the office) and complete a Release Request slip for your student and other children for whom you are responsible. Do not go to the classroom or the classroom's evacuation

location.

- Wait for the student(s) to be brought to the Command Center.

## *Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports*

**Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)** is an approach to teaching positive behaviors. This school-wide approach to discipline focuses on building a safe and positive environment where all students can learn. The home and school share the responsibility for developing good citizens. Parents, teachers, students, and our community must work together to maintain a safe learning environment.

Teachers, administrators, counselors, and support staff will be responsible for teaching students positive behavior expectations as part of PBIS.

PBIS means students will know exactly what is expected of them. Students who take responsibility for behaving positively will be recognized and acknowledged in various ways. Students will also know the consequences when they choose NOT to meet the school-wide expectations.

### *School-Wide Behavior Expectations*

#### *3Bs*

- Be Safe
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible

Behavior expectations will be taught and reinforced throughout the school year. Staff will help students learn what the expectations “look” and “sound” like in every setting during the school day. This will become a regular part of our instructional program with continued practice.

Some ways we expect students to show these behaviors are:

- Come to school ready to learn.
- Be on time - don't come early or late.
- Complete all assignments. Bring all work and materials to class.
- Know that personal items that interfere with learning can be taken away from students. Arrangements to retrieve items must be made with the teacher or Principal.
- Use good manners with teachers, fellow students, and all other adults on campus. Follow directions from adults the first time.
- Solve problems by talking. If the discussion doesn't work, tell an adult if it's

serious, or ignore it if it's not.

- Follow playground and cafeteria procedures.
- Use playground equipment appropriately.
- Use appropriate language. Refrain from swearing, teasing, calling people names, or using abusive or offensive language.
- Be sensitive to the feelings of others.
- Keep our school clean. Use the garbage cans for trash disposal. Help pick up litter.
- Walk in the hallways.

## *Bowers Bucks and Top Dog Recognition*

Acknowledging and reinforcing positive behavior is one of the best ways to change and encourage appropriate behavior. Students will earn Bowers Bucks at Bowers to meet behavior expectations or follow our 3Bs. Students will enjoy entering their Bowers Bucks for weekly drawings. During our Friday Flag salute, students are publicly recognized. They receive a Top Dog Pencil, a certificate, and a voucher for a free ice cream from our PTA.

## *Items not allowed at school*

Items to be left at home include:

- Game systems
- All toys
- Athletic equipment
- Trading cards
- Gum and candy
- Weapons of any kind

## *Harassment*

Children are injured by words as well as by physical actions. We want Bowers Elementary to be a safe place for all students, so they all may learn and succeed. Teasing, taunting, slurs, threats, cyberbullying, and all other forms of harassment will not be tolerated. Students should report incidents to the adult in charge and/or the principal.

## *Grounds for Suspension*

Major infractions are a direct violation of the Education Code (EC48900 a-h) and will not be tolerated; these include

1. Theft and/or damage to school or private property.
2. Unprovoked actual or threatened physical injury to another person.
3. Possessing dangerous weapons or objects (SCUSD supports Zero Tolerance on weapons).
4. Possession or use of an alcoholic beverage, drugs, or tobacco on school premises.
5. Persistent willful defiance of school personnel.

District policy forbids bringing weapons to school to maintain a positive and safe environment. This includes any type of knife and all toy guns. If these items are on campus, the principal will take them, and parents must pick them up.

# *Phone and Device Free Schools*

## **Cell Phone Free School Policy**

Beginning with the 2025-26 school year, cell phones and personal electronic devices are prohibited during the school day at all SCUSD schools. We strongly discourage elementary students from bringing cell phones or any personal device to school. If a parent insists that their student bring a device, that student will be provided with a Yondr pouch to store their cell phone, smart watch, wireless earbuds, and other electronics. The cellphone must be powered off or in "Do Not Disturb" mode while inside the pouch. The pouch must be secured (locked) by the start of the first period of the day until the end of the last class period of the day. The pouch is to remain in the student's possession throughout the day, typically in the student's backpack.

If a student does not bring their Yondr pouch to school on a given day, that student must come to the Main Office before the first period of the day and surrender their phone and any other personal electronic devices for the duration of the day.

Tampering with the pouch's locking mechanism, intentionally damaging the pouch, or losing the pouch will result in financial liability. Students/families will be responsible for the replacement cost of a new pouch in addition to school consequences up to and including detention and the loss of participation in school events/activities for repeated violations.

If a student has a specific health-related condition that necessitates access to cell phones, that student should bring their concern to their classroom teacher and/or the school health office for possible alternative protocols.

If a student is seen by a teacher or other staff member with a cell phone or otherwise not following these protocols, the staff member will immediately contact an administrator or supervisor for support. The consequences for unauthorized cell phone use given by that administrator/supervisor will be:

- 1st offense - verbal warning and re-Yondr the device
- 2nd offense - device is confiscated the rest of the day, and student can pick up the device in the office at the end of the day
- 3rd offense - device is confiscated until the parent/guardian can pick up the device, and have a conference about the behavior with the school administrator and the student.
- 4th offense - student will not be allowed to have personal devices in their possession on campus. That student must turn in all devices everyday to main office prior to school start time or keep devices at home.

For more information, please refer to the full [Board policy and accompanying administrative regulation](#).

# *Uniform Policy*

The Bowers uniform is key in maintaining a safe, distraction-free environment that supports learning. We have simplified our uniform policy: students may only wear polo (collared) shirts—T-shirts are not allowed except on designated days such as BRAVE, Science Camp, and Walk-a-Thon. All bottoms must be solid black.

## *Student Dress Code*

### Tops

- Solid white polo shirt
- Solid red polo shirt
- Bowers logo, white polo shirt
- Bowers logo, red polo shirt
- Bowers logo sweatshirts or SOLID red, white, black, or gray sweatshirts

### Bottoms

- Solid black pants, capris, jeans, or leggings
- Solid black walking shorts, skirts, or “skorts” (no shorter or longer than 3” above/below the knee)

### Students:

- No logos, team wear, stripes, or colored accents on shirts, shorts, or pants.
- Hats may be worn outside during recess or lunch **only**.
- Short—or long-sleeved shirts worn under uniform shirts must be solid black, red, gray, or white.
- DARE, Science Camp, and Walk-a-Thon shirts may be worn.
- All clothing must be size and uniform-appropriate. Belts should be worn with pants only if needed to fit your child.
- Tennis or athletic shoes are required for PE and are encouraged daily for all students. All shoes must be closed-toe and have a heel strap or covered heel.

***The last Friday of the month is a Free Dress Day.***

# *Title IX Compliance and Uniform Complaints*

**Title IX of the Civil Rights Act** states that “no person... shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal assistance.” [20 U.S.C. §1681(a)]

The **Title IX Coordinator** is responsible for providing information about the district's nondiscrimination policy and complaint procedures, ensuring that appropriate training is conducted regularly, and monitoring the district's response to allegations of sexual harassment.

Santa Clara Unified School District Office

1889 Lawrence Road

Santa Clara, CA 95051

(408) 423-3509

[title9@scusd.net](mailto:title9@scusd.net)



For Title IX information, a copy of the Procedures for Complaints and Resolutions, or assistance filing a complaint, please contact our district's Title IX / Civil Rights Coordinator.

## **Uniform Complaints**

All community complaints are handled quickly, and mutual resolution is attempted. If the complaint is unresolved, the complainant should visit the complaint section on the school and/or [District website](#) and obtain the form to file a written complaint.

# *Family Partnership*

The Bowers School staff recognizes the importance of a strong partnership between home and school. We encourage parents to take an active role in supporting the goals of our school program.

A successful school experience relies on the shared responsibility of parents, teachers, and students. To foster positive and constructive relationships, we ask parents to work with the school in promoting good behavior and a positive attitude in their children.

Parents are encouraged to:

- Stay informed and engaged in their child's academic progress.
- Support daily homework and reading habits.
- Provide a quiet, distraction-free space for schoolwork and reading.
- Review report cards and progress reports regularly.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences.
- Send their child to school with a positive attitude toward learning.

## Parent-Teacher Conferences

In the fall, a goal-setting conference will be scheduled with all families. Attendance is required. If you are unable to attend at your scheduled time, please make every effort to reschedule with your child's teacher.

In the spring, you may be invited to participate in a follow-up conference to discuss your child's progress or any concerns.

Parents are welcome to request additional conferences at any time by contacting the teacher directly. Please note: California law allows employees of businesses with 25 or more staff members to take up to four hours per year to attend school-related conferences.

## Homework

Reading for pleasure is the most important activity your child should do at home. In addition to reading, students may be assigned homework to reinforce and extend classroom learning.

Please set aside a specific time and quiet space each day for your child to complete their assignments. Establishing a consistent routine and encouraging good study habits will support your child's academic success.

If your child is absent, you may request assignments by contacting the teacher directly. Please allow up to 24 hours for teachers to gather the materials. Students may also reach out to a classmate to stay up to date on missed work.

In addition to reading for at least 20 minutes daily, the following homework time guidelines are recommended by the school board:

Kindergarten No more than 10 minutes 2 days per week

Grade 1 10-20 minutes 2-3 days per week

Grade 2 10-20 minutes 3-4 days per week

Grade 3 15-25 minutes 3-4 days per week

Grade 4 30-40 minutes 4 days per week

Grade 5 30-50 minutes 4 days per week

## Volunteering

Volunteering is a wonderful way to support our school, classrooms, students, and your child's teacher.

Parents and community members are valued partners in Bowers Elementary School's educational program. Volunteers provide a variety of essential services that enhance the learning environment.

To get started, please visit the [district website](#) to access the volunteer packet and review information about TB test requirements for school volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact your child's teacher, school administration, or a member of the PTA Executive Board for available opportunities.

- Volunteering in classrooms.
- Volunteering to chaperone on field trips.
- Serving on the PTA Board, organizing and supporting school-wide activities for parents, teachers, and students.
- Support all fundraising efforts by the PTA and the School.
- Helping at PTA events such as the Halloween Dance, Walk-a-Thon, etc.
- Serving on the SSC or ELAC elected groups of parents and school staff members who meet periodically, implement, and evaluate school

programs.

### **Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)**

The Bowers PTA is dedicated to supporting our students and families and to helping make our school a better place to learn and grow. The PTA plays an active role in supporting school programs and activities and is committed to helping provide the best possible education for all children.

We encourage all parents to get involved in PTA activities. There are many volunteer opportunities available, including project-specific roles for those interested in contributing their time and talents.

Our membership drive will begin in August—we look forward to welcoming you!

### **School Site Council (SSC)**

The School Site Council comprises parents, certificated staff, a classified employee, and the principal. The group meets at least six times yearly to oversee the school budget and programs. Parents are always welcome to input or discuss school concerns at meetings. Meeting dates are published on our website calendar and weekly newsletter. Board members are elected to our SSC, but anyone can attend SSC meetings to learn more about our school.

### **English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC)**

All parents of English Learners are encouraged to attend ELAC (English Learner Advisory Committee) meetings to learn more about the school and how to best support their child's education. ELAC meets four times a year.

### **Report Cards**

Report cards are objective, written evaluations provided on a trimester basis using the standard district report card format. They are sent home approximately two weeks after the end of each trimester and on the last day of school. Report cards are also available online through the [Parent Portal](#).

### **Gallery Walks**

A highlight of each social studies or science thematic unit is the culminating gallery walk. During this event, families and guests are invited to visit the classroom as students proudly showcase their learning.

### **Title 1 Parent Involvement**

Bowers Elementary School receives Title I funds, which are federal resources allocated to support schools with higher percentages of students from low-income families. Each year, we hold a Title I meeting to inform parents of their rights, share opportunities for

family engagement, and gather feedback on how these funds can best be used to enhance our instructional programs.

### **Home School Communication**

Stay informed by signing up for [ParentSquare](#). Classroom newsletters and our school's weekly Bulldog News are posted every Friday through ParentSquare. Text message reminders and updates will also be sent.

Your child's teacher will send home an envelope containing important flyers and school notices each Wednesday. Please review the contents, sign any necessary forms, and return the envelope by Thursday.

### **Bussing**

School bus transportation is provided for students who live across the San Tomas Expressway and attend Bowers Elementary. Kindergarten students who ride the bus must be met by an adult at the bus stop; otherwise, they will be returned to Bowers.

Please complete the [Bus Pass application form](#) if you want your child to ride the bus.

### **Parent Concerns**

If your child is facing social or academic challenges, please start by contacting their teacher. Should you need further assistance, you can reach out to the school office to arrange a meeting with both the teacher and the Principal. For any questions about school operations, please don't hesitate to call or visit the office.

### **Lost and Found**

Many clothing items and other belongings accumulate in the Lost and Found each year. These items are kept for a reasonable period and then donated to a charitable organization. To help prevent lost clothing, please label your child's items with their name written inside the collar using a permanent marker.

The main Lost and Found is located outside the Health Office. A separate Lost and Found for small or valuable items is located in the front office.

# *Special Programs*

## **Garden Program**

Students in grades TK through 5 participate in our Garden Education program, where they learn to grow and harvest fruits and vegetables, explore composting and sustainability, and have the opportunity to try new foods.

## **Library**

All TK–5 students at Bowers are encouraged to check out books from the school library. Each student may borrow up to two books each week. Please help your child take good care of the books and return them on time so others can enjoy them. All TK–5 classes visit the library once a week!

## **Physical Education**

The Physical Education (PE) program focuses on improving cardiovascular health, strength, and flexibility. We have a full-time PE teacher and PE paraprofessional on campus.

Students in grades K–2 have one 50-minute PE class weekly with the PE staff. Per Education Code requirements, classroom teachers and PE staff provide 50 minutes of PE weekly.

Students in grades 3–5 attend two PE classes per week with the PE staff. Teachers will inform students of their PE schedule so they can wear appropriate clothing and shoes on those days.

If a student is ill and unable to participate in PE, a [PE Modification form](#)—available on the Bowers website—is required. Absences from PE exceeding three consecutive activity days require a doctor's note.

## **Visual and Performing Arts/Starting Arts**

SCUSD provides music instruction for all third—and fourth-grade students. They participate in a 40–50-minute music class with our music teacher once a week.

All fifth-grade students participate in the instrumental music program, where they can learn to play a string or band instrument. The district provides the Instruments. Instrumental music classes also meet once a week with our music teacher.

**Infant/Toddler Care**

This fee-based program is for children from 6 weeks to 3 years old. For more information, visit the [SCUSD website](#).

**State PreSchool**

Bowers has three fee-based State Preschool classes. Additional information is available at [Family Child Education](#).

**SAI (Specialized Academic Instruction)**

All SAI students receive services and instruction that address specific and identified learning needs and goals outlined in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) from the SAI staff daily. The SAI teachers also provide Parents' Rights booklets for Special Education. Students are also mainstreamed in general education classrooms for appropriate activities. Bowers has three SAI Preschool classrooms. Visit our website for more information.

**Extended Learning Opportunities Program and YMCA Afterschool Program**

Bowers is proud to have the YMCA run a great after-school program. This program is for Transitional Kindergarten—5th-grade students. It provides students with a quality study and enrichment program at a nominal monthly cost. Visit [SCUSD ELOP website](#) for more information.