Oak Grove School

4445 W. Ferguson Ave Visalia, CA 93291
(559) 622-3105 Fax: (559) 622-3108
www.vusd.org/oakgrove

Our mission:
A community working hard toward excellence and academic success

August 3, 2026

Dear Oak Grove Families and Students,

Welcome, or welcome back, to Oak Grove School! I am looking forward to a new school year - one in which we help all our students learn and excel, provide engaging activities for students and families, and spend time together as an amazing Oak Grove community.

Our school mission is to be "A community working hard toward excellence and academic success." At Oak Grove, our students and staff practice O.W.L.S. - being Organized, Working hard, striving as Leaders, and acting with Self Control. This acronym promotes the characteristics that we want all of our students to learn and uphold to ensure that they are ready for success in high school and beyond.

The first day of school is Thursday, August 13, 2026. School gates open at 7:30 each day. All students can enter through the gate near our TK/Kindergarten playground, or through the gate near our bike rack area off Linwood St.

- TK and Kindergarten students can be dropped off between 7:30 and 8:10 am. Supervision is provided in the Cafeteria from 7:30 to ~8 am. The TK/Kindergarten playground opens ~8 am with staff supervision.
    - Every school day, TK parents are welcome to walk their students to meet staff in the Cafeteria (before ~8 am) or to their classroom (from 8:00 to 8:10 am).
- For student drop off and pick up, you can use our Main Office parking lot at the corner of Ferguson Ave and Linwood St. Please enter the parking lot northbound on Linwood St, or from either direction on Ferguson Ave.
    - You can also walk your student to the bus lane on Linwood St, but you may not drive-through or park in the bus lane for drop off and pick up.
- We have two crossing guards: one at the intersection of Ferguson and Linwood, and one at the crosswalk on Linwood St, south of our bus lane. Our crossing guards are in place from approximately 7:30 – 8:15 am and 2:15 – 2:45 pm each day.
- Our bike rack area, located south of our bus lane on Linwood St, is open before and after school for students to store their bicycle or scooter during school hours. It is strongly recommended that students bring a lock from home so that their bicycle or scooter is secure.

If you have not yet already done so, be sure to log in and update the enrollment information for each of your VUSD students. This is something that all parents will be required to do at the start of every school year. You may have already completed this - our district technology team emailed a special one-time "snap code" to complete the online items at home, starting back in May.

All Oak Grove students will follow the same daily bell schedule as last year.

- **Classes begin every day at 8:10 am for all Oak Grove students.** There will be a warning bell at 8:07 am, and our gates will close promptly at 8:10 am.
- **Classes end at 2:30 pm EVERY DAY for all Oak Grove students.**

(more info on next page)

- **There are some** Mondays with 12:30 pm dismissal throughout the school year. The first one is Mon, 9/14/26. There are also Parent-Teacher conference days in November and March with a 12:30 pm dismissal.
- Some Grade 6 and 8 students may have a "pre-1st" period from 7:20 – 8 am every day: Advanced Orchestra and Advanced Band classes. Unless your student has a "pre-1st " class, please do not drop them off on campus until 7:30 am or later to ensure adequate supervision.

Breakfasts and hot lunches are available every school day for all students, at no direct cost. Breakfast is served in the school cafeteria from 7:45 – 8:00 am. Teachers take a "hot lunch" count of their classroom at the start of every school day. Students are welcome to bring a lunch from home if they wish. For information about school meals and a lunch calendar, please visit our district website at www.vusd.org.

Our after-school program will now be run by Visalia Unified (not Teaching Fellows) and will provide after-school activities at Oak Grove every school day. These are available to students at no direct cost to families. We anticipate that students can be picked up at regular intervals after school each day, and are not required to stay until the end of the program at 6 pm. For more information and to apply for your student, please visit their website at: https://www.vusd.org/departments/student-services/expanded-learning-opportunities

Here are a few important dates to start the school year:

August 6 (estimated): Parents/guardians receive a VUSD email with information about your student's teacher assignment.

Tuesday, August 11: "Back To School Night and Meet Your Teacher" at Oak Grove

- We are combining our "Meet Your Teacher" and "Back To School Night" to one event this year.
- **Please join us at our "Back To School Night" event on Tuesday, August 11, from 5:30 – 6:45 pm here at Oak Grove.** This is a great opportunity to visit your student's classroom and gather information about our school. You can also return any library books that you have at home.
- **This year, we will open our gates at 4:30 pm so families can come early and enjoy some food truck options** if they wish. Please plan to finish all food and drinks BEFORE entering our classrooms.
- TK and Kindergarten students should report to their classrooms, which are near the TK/Kindergarten playground on the north side of campus.
- The event is divided into two identical sessions so that you can visit with two teachers if you have more than one Oak Grove student. Session 1 begins at 5:30 pm, and Session 2 begins at 6:20 pm.
- Our Oak Grove PTA and VUSD after-school program staff will also be here to meet with you and answer questions.

Thursday, August 13: First day of school, and "start of school checklist" sent home

- School starts at 8:07 am. Families are welcome to walk their students to their classroom if they wish on the first two days of school.

Friday, August 14: Second day of school

- **We will kick off our weekly Friday assemblies on Friday, August 14, at ~8:10 am.** Families are welcome to join us, stand behind our student area, and participate as an important part of our Oak Grove community!

(more info on next page)

We need your help, too! We are looking for parents/guardians who want to be involved at Oak Grove through our:

- **Parent Teacher Association (PTA):** Visit https://sites.google.com/view/oakgroveptavusd
- **English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)**
- **School Site Council (SSC):** Nomination forms for our School Site Council will be sent home later in August.

Parent Volunteers in classrooms and field trips, and Visitors on campus:

- Our District continues to use Raptor Technology to approve visitors and clear volunteers on our campuses. **Reminder that our front doors in the Main Office are locked to all visitors at all times. Please use the interactive "doorbell" to the right of the door to speak with our office team and gain entrance.**
- **To be a Parent Volunteer, you must apply online.** Please use the information provided on our District Website to apply at https://www.vusd.org/volunteer
- Everyone on our campuses who is not a student or staff member must check in through our Oak Grove Main Office each day.
- If you would like more information about any of these, please contact our office.

I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with students, parents, staff and members of the Oak Grove community this school year. By working together, we will provide an outstanding educational experience for all students.

Sincerely,

T. Hambleton

Travis Hambleton, Principal
thambleton@vusd.org

School Contact Information:
Office hours are 7:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday, starting August 3, 2026.

Phone & Fax:
Main Office: (559) 622-3105
Venessa Morales: vmorales@vusd.org – student registrations
Carly Lewis: clewis@vusd.org – student attendance and volunteers
Fax: (559) 622-3108

Administration:			
	Principal	Travis Hambleton	thambleton@vusd.org
	Assistant Principal	Cristin Gomez	cgomez03@vusd.org

For additional information and updates, please visit us online:
http://www.vusd.org/OakGrove

OWLS
OAK GROVE