2026-2027
STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

TURNER ELEMENTARY

5218 E. Clay Ave.
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PRINCIPAL: LISA McDANNEL
VP: JESSICA MANUEL

Turner Elementary School
2026-2027 Calendar at a Glance

August '26						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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September '26						
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October '26						
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November '26						
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December '26						
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January '27						
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February '27						
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March '27						
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April '27						
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June'27						
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July '27						
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Semester Begins
8/17/26 and 1/11/27

Teacher Workdays- No School
10/12/26 and 3/8/27

Holidays - No School
9/7/26, 11/11/26, 11/23/26 through 11/27/26, 12/21/26 through 1/8/27, 1/18/27, 2/8/27, 2/15/27, 3/22/27 through 3/29/27, 5/31/27, 6/18/27, 7/5/27

End of Quarter 10/16/26, 12/18/26, 3/19/27, 6/10/27

Parent Teacher Conference Week
10/26/26 through 10/30/26

Back to School Night & Open House
8/13/26 & 4/29/27

Minimum Days (Release one hour early)
8/18/26, 8/25/26, 9/1/26, 9/15/26, 9/22/26, 9/29/26, 10/6/26, 10/20/26, 11/3/26, 11/17/26, 12/1/26, 12/8/26, 12/15/26, 1/12/27, 1/26/27, 2/2/27, 2/23/27, 3/2/27, 3/16/27, 4/6/27, 4/13/27, 4/20/27, 4/27/27, 5/4/27, 5/11/27, 5/18/27, 5/25/27

Message from the Principal

Welcome to Turner's 2026/2027 school year!

This handbook serves as a quick reference guide to the procedures and expectations of Turner Elementary. We encourage families to review these pages with their students.

Our goal is to provide a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment for all students. We are committed to meeting the needs of our diverse learners by offering a variety of academic and social supports.

We are excited about the upcoming school year and look forward to working in partnership with families to ensure the 2026–2027 school year is a successful experience for all students.

Sincerely,



Ms. McDannel
Principal
Turner Elementary

School Hours

Preschool	TK & Kinder	Grades 1-6
Please consult your teacher about student's class times	8:00 a.m.– 1:05 p.m.	8:00 a.m. – 2:05 p.m.

Instruction begins promptly at 8:00. Students entering their classroom after 8:00 will be marked tardy by the teacher.

Every five-day school week has a minimum day on Tuesday. Please refer to the 2026/2027 calendar on page 1 to note which days are minimum days.

Minimum Days and Parent Teacher Conference Week Monday, October 26 through Friday, October 30, 2026	12:00 dismissal, TK/Kinder 1:00 dismissal, 1st-6th grades *Please refer to Turner's At-A-Glance 2026/2027 Calendar on p. 1*
Last Day: Thursday, June 11, 2026	12:30 dismissal, TK-6th grade

Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival: All students should enter campus through the designated gate on Clay Avenue. To help keep our campus safe, the parking lot gates will remain closed during school hours. Students are welcome to arrive after 7:30 a.m. Students who are not eating breakfast may go directly to the blacktop, where they will be greeted by their classroom teacher. Instruction begins at 7:55 a.m., and we encourage students to be in their classrooms and ready to learn by that time. A five-minute grace period is provided; students who arrive after the 8:00 a.m. tardy bell will need to check in at the Main Office. Thank you for your support in helping our students start each day in a calm, safe, and successful way.

****Parents:** One of our goals is to help your child build independence and confidence. During the first week of school, we encourage families to help their child become comfortable with Turner's daily routines. Beginning in the second week of school, we kindly ask parents to say goodbye to their child at the Clay Avenue entrance. This practice helps students build trust with staff and supports a safe, calm environment for all students on campus. Thank you for your partnership and support.

Dismissal: Students are expected to leave campus right after school unless they are in the Extended Learning Program. To help keep students safe, please make sure your child is picked up on time each day. Families will be contacted if pickup is often late.
Before your child leaves for school, please review their pickup or walk-home plan so they know what to do at dismissal.
Exit locations have changed this year:

- Students walking home will exit through the East Gate.
- Students being picked up by car will exit through the Kinder/Preschool Gate.

Parents waiting for students should stay in their cars in the designated areas on Clay Avenue, as this is a loading zone.

Breakfast/Lunch and Snacks

Breakfast: To help keep all students safe, please do not drop off your child before 7:30 a.m., as supervision begins at that time.
We are happy to offer free breakfast for all students. Breakfast is served each day from **7:30 a.m. to 7:50 a.m.** Please note that breakfast will not be available after 7:50 a.m., except for students who arrive late due to the bus schedule.

Snacks: If your child brings a snack for morning recess, please help them follow these guidelines:

- Enjoy snacks in the designated snack area
- Help keep our campus clean by throwing away all trash
- Choose healthy snacks (no soda, juice, candy, gum, or chips)

Thank you for supporting a safe and healthy school environment!

Drinks: To help keep our campus clean, we ask that students only bring water to school.

Lunch: All students are provided with a free lunch; students are also welcome to bring lunch from home if they choose. Lunch times are as follows:

Preschool:	TK & K:	Grades 1 & 2:	Grades 3 & 4:	Grades 5 & 6:
10:55-11:35	10:30-11:04	11:05-11:39	11:35-11:52	12:05-12:39

Expanded Learning Program

Turner offers an Expanded Learning Program (ELP) for families who are interested. To enroll, families must fill out an application and attend a required parent orientation.

Since ELP is an extension of the school day, all school rules and expectations still apply. The program runs every day until 6:00 p.m., including minimum days.

For more information, please call (559) 253-6547 after 10:00 a.m. to speak with Mrs. Martinez.

Campus Safety

The Fresno Unified School District Board of Trustees is committed to keeping our schools safe and caring for all students. For everyone's safety, all visitors must check in at the school office and get a Visitor's Pass using the district's visitor system.

Our district also works to create a school environment based on respect, kindness, and appropriate behavior for everyone in the Turner community. If someone's behavior affects the safety or well-being of others, they may be asked to leave campus and will receive a copy of the District's Civility Policy.

These steps help keep our school safe, respectful, and supportive for all.

Sports Events

All eligible Turner students are encouraged to take part in district-approved sports programs offered throughout the school year. Some games and events will take place after school on the Turner campus.

To keep students safe, they may not attend games without a parent or guardian present, as the school cannot always provide staff to supervise after-school events.

Personal Information

To keep students and families safe, we cannot share student information over the phone. A parent or legal guardian must come in person and show a valid ID to make this request.

Parking

When visiting Turner for school business, parking is available on Clay Avenue. For your safety, please be sure to lock your vehicle and avoid leaving valuables visible inside your car.

Please note that Turner is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged items. Vehicles left unattended for more than 24 hours may be subject to towing.

Visitors

To help keep our students and staff safe, all visitors must check in at the school office and sign in through the Verkada System using a valid ID. Every adult on campus is required to wear a Visitor's Pass issued through this system. If you are asked to show your pass while on campus, please know it is part of our ongoing efforts to maintain a safe and welcoming environment for all students.

Volunteers

The Fresno Unified School District Board of Trustees values and encourages the involvement of parents, guardians, and community members who wish to share their time, talents, and expertise in support of our students.

To help ensure the safety and well-being of all students, all prospective volunteers are required to complete the District Volunteer Application Form at least two weeks before participating in any student-related activities. The completed form must be submitted to the school office and kept on file. As part of the process, applicants are asked to disclose any prior criminal convictions. Providing incomplete or inaccurate information will result in disqualification from volunteering.

Once the application has been reviewed and approved, a staff member will contact the volunteer with next steps. All volunteers are expected to respect and follow the District's confidentiality policies during their service.

Online Emergency Card

Online Emergency Cards are used when the school needs to contact families. Please be sure to keep your information up to date in the Atlas Parent Portal.

We encourage you to list current phone numbers for friends or relatives who can be contacted in case of an emergency. Only individuals listed on your child's Atlas Parent Portal emergency card will be allowed to sign your child out of class. For student safety, **permission cannot be granted over the phone**.

Illness

If a student becomes ill during the school day, they will be escorted to the office, where the school nurse or a trained staff member will assess the student with care and attention. If a medical concern is identified, parents or guardians will be contacted right away.

If the primary contacts cannot be reached, staff will call the emergency contacts listed in Atlas, following the order provided. To ensure student safety, ill students are not permitted to walk home.

Students must be picked up from the office by an individual who is at least 18 years old, has valid identification, and is listed as an approved emergency contact in the Atlas Parent Portal.

Medications

For students' safety, students may not carry or take medication while at school. If your child needs medication during the school day, a written doctor's note is required.

Prescription medications must be brought in their original container with the pharmacy label. Over-the-counter medications are only allowed with a doctor's note and must be in their original packaging.

All medications are kept locked in the nurse's office to ensure student safety.

Animals on Campus

To help keep everyone safe and healthy, please do not bring pets onto campus, including during arrival and dismissal times. Some students have strong allergies or asthma, and being around animals can make it hard for them to breathe.

Emergency Procedures

We practice fire drills once each month and lockdown and earthquake drills twice each year. These practice drills help everyone learn how to stay safe and respond calmly in a real emergency.

Student Behavioral Expectations

We believe in "teaching what we expect." Throughout the year, students will learn and practice routines such as playground behavior, entering and exiting buildings, walking in line, arrival and dismissal, and cafeteria expectations. These routines connect to our School-wide Rules for Success, which help create a safe, respectful, and positive learning environment:

1. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself
2. Use appropriate words and body language
3. Follow directions the first time they are given

We expect everyone in our Tiger Community to treat each other with respect. When students make poor choices, staff will guide them to learn and improve while following Fresno Unified behavior guidelines.

Steps to Support Positive Behavior:

1. Reminder or verbal warning (unless someone is in danger)
2. Teacher–student conference (recorded for follow-up)
3. Family contact by phone or in person
4. Office referral with documentation

5. Pre-suspension notice with parent contact
6. Suspension

Acceptable Use of Technology

All families are asked to sign an acknowledgment form for student use of District-issued technology, including laptops and programs like Microsoft Teams, Word, and Outlook. Laptops are provided by the district for student learning and will be kept in the classroom.

Student of the Month

Each month, teachers will recognize students for their hard work and positive choices. Selected students will receive a rewards packet and have their picture taken for recognition.

Students may be recognized for:

- **Character Counts:** consistently showing positive behavior in the classroom and on the playground
- **Excellent Attendance:** having no unexcused absences or tardies
- **Academics:** working hard and making progress in their learning

Student Awards/Recognition

At the end of each semester, an assembly will be held in which students are acknowledged for their successes in Academics, Effort, Citizenship, and Attendance.

Primary Awards:	• *Turner Math/Reading All-Star:* Students earn this recognition by meeting one or more of the following goals on i-Ready:
	  ○ Scoring at or above grade level
	  ○ Reaching 40% stretch growth (D2) or 80% stretch growth (D3)
	• *Terrific Tiger*: Awarded to students who show outstanding citizenship and put forth strong effort each day

Intermediate Awards:	• *Principal's Honor Roll*: Average of 4.0 *all year* • *Honor Roll*: Quarter G.P.A. average of 3.5-3.9 • *Merit List*: Quarter G.P.A. average of 3.0 - 3.49 • *Terrific Tiger*: demonstrating outstanding citizenship and effort A = 4 points, B = 3 points, C = 2 points, D = 1 point
Awesome Attendance:	*Awesome Attendance* recognizes students who have 95% or greater attendance rate using the following: • Minimal tardies (entering class after 8:00).

Grades 1 – 6 are eligible	• Minimal reverse tardies (picking up student earlier than dismissal times) • Limited absences

Homework Policy / Absences

Teachers have their own homework expectations and will share these with students and families throughout the school year. Please check your child's backpack each day to help them stay on track with any unfinished classwork or homework.

If a student is absent for two or more days, families may request homework by calling the front office at (559) 253-6540. Requested assignments will be ready for pick up the next school day.

To help us keep attendance records up to date, please call the office each day your child is absent.

Internet Policy

The Governing Board mandates that all students must have signed consent from parents prior to using the internet at school. The internet is a valuable instructional and learning resource. Please be sure you and your child read and sign the Acceptable Use Guidelines for the internet, located in your first day packet, and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Targeted Supports Team (TST) / Student Success Team (SST)

At Turner Elementary, we use the Response to Intervention (RTI) model to support student learning. This means all students receive instruction at their grade level and at the level that best meets their individual needs.

Using information from classroom work and assessments, teachers may provide additional support if a student needs extra help with learning or behavior.

If a student continues to need support after different strategies have been tried, the school team will meet to discuss next steps. This may include a **Targeted Supports Team (TST)** meeting to plan additional help, and, if needed, a **Student Success Team (SST)** meeting to explore further support options.

Parent Partnerships

At Turner, we value a strong partnership with families. When families stay involved, students often do better in school. We encourage you to stay connected in ways that fit your schedule.

Simple ways to stay involved include talking with your child each day about school, checking homework, reviewing Atlas, visiting the Turner website or social media, and looking through backpacks for important updates.

You are always welcome to participate as your time allows:

- Back to School Night
- Open House
- Sports Activities
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- School Site Council (SSC)
- English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC)
- Parent Engagement Hour
- Musical Performances
- Field Trip Chaperone
- Awards Assemblies

Parent Engagement Hour

Parent Engagement Hours are provided monthly to inform family members about the events surrounding Turner Elementary and Fresno Unified School District. This is also a time for parents and guardians to discuss volunteer opportunities and activities to better involve those in our school community.

School Site Council (SSC) and English Learners Advisory Committee (ELAC)

Turner's SSC and ELAC groups help guide school programs and budget decisions. While members vote on behalf of their groups, all parents are welcome to attend meetings, which are held four times each school year.

Atlas Parent Portal and Parent Square

ParentSquare is available to help families easily communicate with teachers. The Atlas Parent Portal lets you view attendance, grades, test scores, and update your child's emergency information.

If you need help accessing your Atlas or ParentSquare accounts, please contact the school office.

Classroom Communication

To help protect learning time, calls will not be sent directly to classrooms. For communication with teachers, please use ParentSquare. Teachers will do their best to respond within 24 hours. We appreciate your partnership and look forward to connecting outside of class time.

Teacher Requests

Class placement is carefully planned by teachers and administrators to support each student's success. Decisions are based on a variety of factors, including learning needs, behavior, class balance, and peer relationships.

While we consider parent requests, specific teacher placements cannot be guaranteed. Classroom requests will be reviewed after September 14, 2026.

School Parties

Classrooms are permitted, but not required, to host four (4) parties per year. The four parties may include:

- Winter Party
- Valentine's Day Party
- Spring Party
- End of year Party

Treats vary and are based on the discretion of the teacher.

Birthday Celebrations

Birthday parties, and/or balloons are not permitted at school, however, a small classroom treat during the last 5-10 minutes of the school day is permissible. **All items must be store-bought and in the original packaging.** Please discuss with the teacher via ParentSquare prior to bringing treats. To avoid hurt feelings, please do not pass out party invitations during the school day.

Sending Gifts

We ask that families refrain from sending gift deliveries to school during the day. Although we appreciate the intent, it causes a disruption to the educational environment. Any such items will be held in the office and given to the child at the end of the school day.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

Students may only use cell phones and electronic devices ***before*** or ***after*** school. During the school day, devices should be turned off and kept in backpacks.

If a device is seen or heard, it will be taken to the office, and a parent will be contacted to pick it up. A second incident will require a parent conference before the device is returned. We appreciate your support in maintaining a focused learning environment.

Lost and Found

Please label all clothing your child may remove at school with their first and last name, including items like sweaters and lunch pails. Labeled items can be easily returned. The Lost and Found is in the cafeteria, and any unclaimed items at the end of each semester will be donated to local charities.

Dress Code

A dress code is necessary to provide a safe school environment. The following list includes, but is not limited to, the most common dress code violations. For a complete outline of the FUSD Dress Code, please see the district guidelines

provided in your First Day Packet. Sunglasses prescribed by a physician are allowed.

Examples of inappropriate clothing include:

- clothing where the buttocks or torso is exposed, i.e., tube tops, half shirts, halters
- clothing that is see-through. (clothing must be opaque)
- clothing or accessories which show profanity, obscene words or pictures, sexually suggestive statements, or incites to violence
- clothing representing gang-related activities
- clothing where the entire thigh is exposed, such as micro minis or short shorts.
- bathing suits or cut-offs
- the wearing and carrying of tobacco promotional items, or items promoting controlled substances (drugs) and/or alcohol
- clothing where undergarments are exposed
- clothing that has text that is libelous, bullying, constitutes harassment or discrimination
- footwear must be worn at school and all functions
- no backless footwear for elementary students
- headwear inside buildings
- dangling earrings, large hoops, gauges, spikes, bars, or body piercings
- pointed nails, extreme make-up, or anything that may detract from the learning process while in school. Writing on body parts is prohibited

Bicycles, Skateboards, Scooters, and Rollerblades

If your child rides a bicycle, scooter, etc., to school, please ensure they wear a helmet and bring a sturdy lock. Bike racks are located between the main office and the cafeteria. There is no designated storage area for helmets or locks during the school day; keeping these items in the classroom is at the teacher's discretion.

Toys, Balls, and Sports Equipment:

Toys, balls, and sports equipment should not be brought to school, as they can be lost or damaged. Any such items seen during recess will be collected by staff and returned at the end of the school day.

CA Ed. Code Violations:

The State of California and Fresno Unified School District have established behavior expectations to support student learning and safety. If these expectations are not followed, students may face consequences, including suspension or expulsion from the classroom.

CA Ed. Code states that students who violate the following, will be subject to penalty:

- Found in possession of a loaded or unloaded firearm.
- Found in possession of laser and/or explosive devices.
- Found in possession of knife/knives.
- Found in possession of other dangerous objects.
- Found in possession and/or sale of controlled substances.
- Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause serious physical injury to another person, willfully used force or violence upon another person, except in self-defense.
- Commits or attempts to commit arson.
- Commits or attempts to commit sexual assault or battery.
- Makes terrorist threats.

STAY CONNECTED!

Turner Elementary School

@turner_elementary_school

@TurnerTigers

Download the Parent Square App

And remember to check our website or start a conversation:

https://turner.fresnounified.org

Let's Talk! Contact us