



WALNUT GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Parent/Student Handbook

2026-2027

K-6 SCHOOL w/ Dual Immersion 50/50 Strand
775 NORTH HARTLEY STREET
Patterson, California 95363
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District Parent Handbook

The Patterson Unified School District 2026-2027 Parent Handbook contains district-wide practices, procedures, notices, and policies. Families should review the current district handbook available through the Patterson Unified School District website.

Welcome to Walnut Grove School!

On behalf of the staff at Walnut Grove School, welcome to the 2026-2027 school year. Please review this handbook carefully with your child. It is designed to answer common questions about school procedures, policies, safety, attendance, academics, and student conduct. We ask families to support these expectations so that every child can learn in a safe, productive environment and reach their full potential.

After reviewing the handbook, please complete and return the required acknowledgment form, which can be found at the end of this document.

Walnut Grove Focus

VISION

Walnut Grove will earn a reputation for academic excellence by achieving significant, measurable academic growth each year.

MISSION

Walnut Grove will cultivate the ROAR characteristics of students in order to perform, create, and innovate, to achieve academic excellence and multicultural awareness. In addition, Dual Language Immersion students will develop bilingualism and biliteracy.

ROAR Behavior Expectations

- Respect Others
- Offer Kindness
- Act Responsibly
- Remember Safety

These ROAR expectations apply across classrooms, the cafeteria, hallways, playground, restrooms, arrival/dismissal areas, and school activities.

Academics

Our goal is for all students to achieve academic excellence by meeting grade-level standards as measured by state, district/program, and classroom assessments and to be college and career ready. Walnut Grove Dual Language Immersion students also work toward: (1) bilingualism/biliteracy, (2) high academic achievement in both program languages, and (3) sociocultural competence. Students must meet pathway criteria at the end of sixth grade to continue into the Dual Maintenance Program at the middle school level.

Student academic performance may be recognized through categories such as Most Improved, Wildcats List, and Principal's List, consistent with Walnut Grove practices.

Aeries, Addresses, Telephone Numbers, and Emergency Contacts

Student information must remain current at all times. Notify the office immediately of changes to home/work telephone numbers, address, emergency contacts, or custody orders. Current information is essential for family communication and emergencies. Anyone authorized to pick up a student should be listed as an emergency contact.

After-School Pick Up / Method Home

Parents/guardians are responsible for picking up students on time and arranging the child's method home. Any change to a student's method home must be communicated directly to the classroom teacher so the teacher is aware of the dismissal plan.

Walnut Grove's existing dismissal expectation remains that students in grades K-2 may not be dismissed without a parent, guardian, or older sibling. Repeated late pickup may jeopardize placement for students attending outside neighborhood boundaries or under an Intradistrict Agreement. Students left beyond school hours may be treated as abandoned, and appropriate authorities may be contacted.

Appropriate Appearance and Dress for School



WALNUT GROVE ELEMENTARY DRESS CODE

R.O.A.R.



Our dress code helps everyone feel safe, respected, and ready to learn. Let's work together to make Walnut Grove a great place for all Wildcats!



 WHAT WE EXPECT	 WEAR	 DON'T WEAR	 BE PROUD WILDCAT!
 No solid blue or red.	 Polo shirts, t-shirts, or long sleeves	 Shirts with spaghetti straps, crop tops, or deep cut necklines	Parent contact will be made and a change of clothes or shoes will need to be provided to the student in violation of our dress code.
 Clothes should be the right size and stay in place.	 Pants, jeans; shorts, skirts, or dresses must be below your fingertips	 Short shorts, ripped clothes, or holes above your knee	
 Wear clothes that have kind words and are respectful.	 Athletic shoes or closed-toe shoes	 Flip flops or slippers	
 Wear safe shoes that help you learn and play.	 NEED SUPPORT? Reach out to Miss Byanka Marin who manages our Wellness Center. 		
 Hats and hoods can only be worn outside.			

 **NOT ALLOWED**



Pajamas



Underwear showing



Hats & hoods inside



Sunglasses & large jewelry



Clothes with mean or hurtful words or pictures



Toys or pretend weapons

 **NOT SURE?**

Ask yourself:

- ☒ Is it kind?
- ☒ Is it safe?
- ☒ Is it ready for learning?

If you answered YES to all, *you're good to go!*



When we follow the dress code, we show respect, responsibility, and pride.



Arrival and School Schedules

Campus opens at 7:15 a.m. Breakfast is served beginning at 7:30 a.m. Students should arrive no later than 7:55 a.m. The first/welcome bell is at 7:55 a.m., and students are tardy beginning at 8:00 a.m. Students should be in designated supervised areas and may not remain in unsupervised hallways or between classrooms.

Assessment

California students participate in statewide and local assessments that, together with grades, classwork, and teacher observations, provide families and educators information about student learning and areas for support.

- CAASPP - Smarter Balanced ELA/Math: Students in grades 3-6 take computer-based assessments aligned with the California Common Core State Standards.
- California Alternate Assessments (CAA): Eligible students whose IEP identifies alternate assessments participate in alternate assessments for ELA, mathematics, and science at applicable grade levels.
- California Science Test (CAST): Students take the CAST in grade 5; it is aligned with the California Next Generation Science Standards.
- California Spanish Assessment (CSA): The optional computer-based CSA is available in grades 3-6 and assesses Spanish reading, listening, and writing mechanics. Walnut Grove Dual Language students participate as applicable.
- ELPAC / Alternate ELPAC: Students identified through the home language survey take Initial and/or Summative ELPAC assessments until reclassified. Eligible students may take the Alternate ELPAC.
- Physical Fitness Test: Students in grade 5 take the FITNESSGRAM® physical fitness assessment.
- i-Ready Local Assessment: Computer-adaptive ELA and mathematics assessments are administered at all grade levels to provide information about grade-level status. Walnut Grove uses i-Ready as a local assessment. Students in Dual Immersion take the Spanish i-Ready assessment as well.

Attendance, Student Absence, Tardies, and Early Check-Out

Regular attendance is a major factor in school success. If your child is absent, contact the school office by phone or written note. Proper documentation may be requested.

Attendance, tardiness, and early check-out are monitored carefully. Automated notices and conferences may be used for excessive absences or tardies. Continued concerns may be referred through SART (School Attendance Review Team) and SARB (School Attendance Review Board). Being absent on the day of an extracurricular activity may make a student ineligible to attend that activity.

Bullying: Guidance for Families and Students

Bullying of a student by another student is prohibited on school property, in school buildings, on school buses, and at school-sponsored events. Bullying may include severe or pervasive physical or verbal acts, written or electronic communications, threats, intimidation, isolation, rumor spreading, physical aggression, or online conduct that causes fear of harm, substantially affects physical or mental health, interferes with academic performance, or interferes with participation in school services or activities.

Cyberbullying includes harmful or harassing messages, threats, images, impersonation, or other digital conduct that disrupts school operations or affects student or employee health, safety, or welfare. Students should report bullying to a trusted adult, teacher, or administrator immediately. Families are encouraged to document concerns and maintain communication with the school.

For families: Encourage your child to talk about concerns, maintain communication with teachers and school staff, document reported bullying incidents and school contacts, help your child build healthy peer relationships, and encourage participation in positive school or community activities.

For students: If you are being bullied or see bullying, tell a trusted adult such as a parent/guardian, teacher, counselor, or administrator. Seek help promptly rather than trying to handle repeated or serious behavior alone. Reports should describe what happened as accurately as possible.

California Healthy Kids Survey (Grades 3-6 Only)

Students are invited to participate in the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS), sponsored by the California Department of Education. The survey gathers information about school connectedness, supports, barriers to learning, health behaviors, substance use, and school safety. Participation is voluntary, requires applicable parent/guardian permission, and is anonymous.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices



WALNUT GROVE

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PERSONAL ELECTRONICS POLICY FOR K-6 STUDENTS

FOCUSED LEARNING. RESPECTFUL CAMPUS. WILDCAT PRIDE.
California Education Code 48901.7

A focused learning environment helps every Wildcat succeed.
During instructional minutes, students are expected to be actively engaged in learning.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES INCLUDE:

EARBUDS &
HEADPHONES

SMARTWATCHES

SMART GLASSES

OTHER PERSONAL
WIRELESS DEVICES

OUR POLICY

- ✓ Personal electronic devices, including cell phones, earbuds, smartwatches, smart glasses, and other wireless devices, are not allowed to be used or visible during instructional minutes.
- ✓ Devices must be powered off and stored in backpacks.
- ✓ Teachers and staff have the right to confiscate devices.
- ✓ The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

**PERMITTED EXCEPTIONS
DURING INSTRUCTIONAL TIME**

Emergency or perceived threat of danger.

Documented medical need verified by a licensed physician.

Required by an IEP, Section 504 Plan, health plan, or other approved accommodation.

These are the only exceptions to the Personal Electronics Policy during instructional minutes.

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE

STEP 1 REMINDER / REDIRECTION

STEP 2 TEACHER-MANAGED OR STAFF-MANAGED INTERVENTION

STEP 3 DEVICE HELD IN OFFICE UNTIL END OF DAY

STEP 4 PARENT/GUARDIAN PICKUP REQUIRED

STEP 5 BEHAVIOR CONTRACT / RESTRICTED DEVICE PRIVILEGE

STEP 6 OFFICE REFERRAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DISCIPLINE

IMMEDIATE OFFICE REFERRAL / SERIOUS MISUSE

The following may result in immediate confiscation, office referral, parent/guardian contact, suspension, or other administrative action:

- Recording, photographing, or videoing students, staff, or visitors without permission.
- Cyberbullying, harassment, threats, intimidation, or distribution of inappropriate content.
- Using a device to coordinate disruption, fighting, or unsafe behavior.

- Refusing to surrender a device when directed by staff.
- Using a device for academic dishonesty.
- Repeated violations after prior interventions.
- Any device use that creates a safety concern or substantially disrupts the school environment.

WHEN EVERY CLASSROOM FOLLOWS THE SAME EXPECTATIONS, EVERY STUDENT BENEFITS. THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR WILDCATS.

WHY THIS POLICY MATTERS

During instructional minutes, students are expected to be actively engaged in the learning process. Keeping personal electronic devices put away minimizes distractions, supports academic achievement, promotes respectful learning environments, and helps ensure the safety of all students.

Let's Have a Great Year!

Classroom Assignments

Classrooms are balanced to provide the best educational setting for students and to respond to enrollment, program needs, and student learning needs. Requests for specific teachers will not be honored.

Classroom Visitations

Parents/guardians should provide at least 24-hour notice before a classroom visit. All visitors must check in at the office, present identification, and wear an approved visitor pass. Classroom visits should minimize disruption to instruction and follow school limits and procedures.

Closed Campus / Locked Gates

Walnut Grove is a closed campus. Gates are secured after the morning bell (8:00am). Parents/guardians and visitors may not enter campus without authorization and must check in at the office before going to a classroom or meeting. Arrival and dismissal access follows Walnut Grove's designated gates and traffic procedures.

Confiscated Items

Depending on the item and circumstances, a confiscated item may be returned to the student at the end of the day. Repeated violations may require parent/guardian pickup. After repeated offenses, an item may be held until the end of the school year. Unclaimed items may be disposed of consistent with school procedures.

Daily Schedule

Time	Regular Day	Wednesday / Minimum Day
7:15	Campus opens	Campus opens
7:30	Breakfast	Breakfast
7:55	First/Welcome bell	First/Welcome bell
8:00	Tardy bell	Tardy bell
2:40	Dismissal	-
12:30	-	Dismissal

School office hours: 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Discipline

Observe Behavior			
Is the behavior a minor or major offense?			
	Minor Offense	Major Offense	
1. Redirect/Reteach	- Disrespect - Defiance - Inappropriate language - Physical contact - Technology violation - Property misuse - Inappropriate bathroom behavior - Inappropriate playground behavior - Disruptive behavior	- Fighting/ assault - Stealing - Harassment - Weapons - Bullying - Threats - Vandalism - Disrespect/ Insubordination - Inappropriate/ abusive language - Continual minor behavior	1. Office referral
2. Redirect/Reteach Time out in classroom (take a break/reset)			2. Conference with Administrator
3. Time out in a buddy room/loss of privilege and contact parent			3. Alternative consequences and parent contact
4. SWIS citation/loss of privilege & contact parent, reteach expectations			4. Consequences will be given with progressive discipline
5. If behavior continues and student receives at least 3 minor citations for the same offense-office referral			5. Offense will be recorded
6. If behavior is not improving refer to team-fill out request for assistance document			

Please note...

All major and minor offenses should be reported to the student's classroom teacher
 Everyday starts with a clean slate
 If you are giving a consequence, you need to log it as a minor

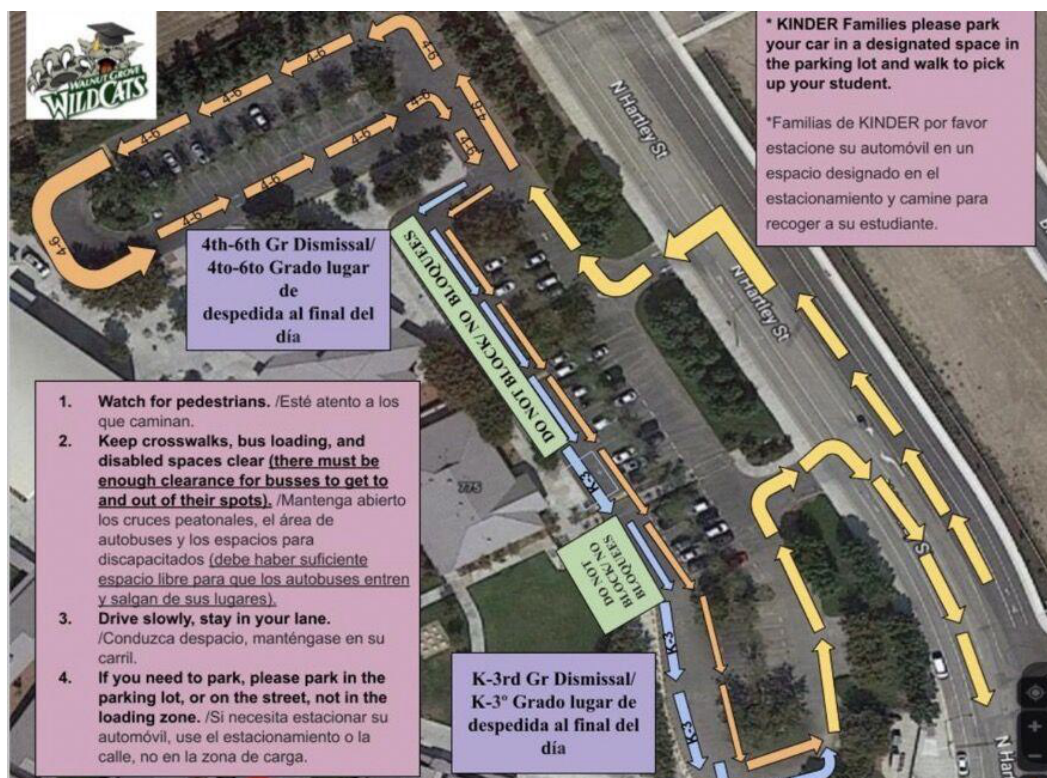
Walnut Grove follows progressive discipline consistent with Education Code, Patterson Unified School District policy, and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). ROAR remains the foundation of Walnut Grove behavior expectations.

The student may be referred to the principal or assistant principal if the regular classroom interventions have not changed the disruptive behavior.

District Consequences and Interventions Matrix

Families should also review the Patterson Unified School District Consequences and Interventions Matrix together with the District Parent Handbook. The district matrix provides district-wide guidance regarding behavioral interventions and consequences.

Drop-Off, Pick-Up, and Parking Lot Procedures



Walnut Grove traffic procedures are designed first for student safety and second to maintain traffic flow. All drivers and authorized pickup adults must follow staff directions, posted signs, crosswalks, bus-loading restrictions, and designated loading/unloading areas.

ELAC / SSC / PTO

Walnut Grove encourages family participation through parent organizations and committees, including PTO activities, English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC), and School Site Council (SSC). Meeting information is shared through ParentSquare.

Emergency Drills and Preparedness

Students and staff practice emergency procedures during the school year. These include fire drills and may include earthquake, emergency evacuation, lockdown, and other safety drills. Evacuation routes and emergency directions are maintained in instructional areas. Students are expected to follow staff directions promptly, remain with their class or assigned group, and use safe, orderly behavior during every drill or emergency.

Field Trips / Class Trips

Field and class trips extend classroom learning, build community, and support academic experiences. Participation is a privilege and requires responsible behavior. Families will be notified in advance if a student is in danger of losing the opportunity to participate because of behavior or safety concerns. Students who do not attend a field trip are expected to attend school. If you are interested in being a chaperone, stop by the office for the appropriate paperwork.

Food / Drink Policy

Lunch/Snack drop-off is not permitted after school begins. Any birthday item must be a non-food item, brought in the morning by the student, and comply with school/classroom expectations. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles.

Head Lice

Suspected head-lice cases should be reported to the school nurse or designee. Students found with active adult head lice may be excluded from attendance and may return after treatment, subject to recheck by the nurse/designee. The school will provide families with treatment information and may conduct additional checks or parent notification when multiple cases are identified, consistent with district policy.

Health / Medication and Medical Forms

Under Education Code section 49423, medication will not be accepted or administered at school without completed physician and parent/guardian authorization and detailed instructions. Medication must be in the original pharmacy-labeled container or injectable medication kit. Non-prescription medication such as aspirin or Tylenol will not be administered at school merely at parent request; a parent/guardian may come to school to administer medication. Students may not carry medication in backpacks or pockets unless specifically authorized under applicable procedures.

Medical forms for medication, special meals, or limited PE participation are available through the Health Office and should be completed before services are needed. Required immunizations and school-entry health requirements must be current.

Home-School Communication / Contacting a Teacher

Teachers welcome communication via ParentSquare. The office will take messages, and teachers will respond as soon as practicable. ParentSquare is the primary communication tool; information may also be shared through the school website, Facebook page, and materials sent home with students. Families should regularly check backpacks and ParentSquare.

Classroom concerns should first be discussed with the classroom teacher. If the concern is not resolved, families may make an appointment with an administrator and, when appropriate, the teacher.

Homework

Homework provides students an opportunity to practice skills, strengthen reading fluency, and reinforce classroom learning. Grade-level and classroom homework expectations will be communicated by teachers through ParentSquare, Back-to-School Night, or other regular school communication channels.

Instructional Calendar

Families should review the current Patterson Joint Unified School District instructional calendar and make every effort to schedule family trips and non-emergency appointments during school vacations or non-school days. Regular attendance supports academic progress and school success.

Items from Home and Student Sales

Students should not bring toys, playground equipment, collectibles, or other non-instructional items from home unless a staff member has given permission. Students may not sell, trade, or distribute items to other students on campus unless the activity is specifically authorized by the school. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal items.

Lunches

All students are eligible to receive school meals at no charge under current program rules. Families should still complete any annual meal or household information requested by the district because it supports school funding.

In an effort to lessen the distractions to the classroom, office staff does not accept lunch drop-offs after school begins. Students who do not bring lunch may obtain a free school meal.

Outdoor Education - Grade 6

Sixth-grade students may have the opportunity to attend Outdoor Education through Foothill Horizons. The program supports personal and social growth, science learning, and connection to nature in a safe, nurturing environment. Walnut Grove encourages eligible students to participate consistent with annual program arrangements.

Parent Volunteers - Classroom and Field Trips

Parent involvement is encouraged. Volunteers must follow current district and school clearance requirements before volunteering. These may include a completed volunteer form, TB clearance, office background check, fingerprints, and identification. Forms and clearance must be completed before volunteering; field-trip volunteers should complete clearance at least two weeks before the trip.

- All volunteers must sign in and out through the office.
- Volunteers may not bring siblings or other children to volunteer on campus or on field trips.
- Chaperones must be at least 21 years old.
- Students ride district-provided transportation to and from field trips; alternate transportation requires advance administrator approval under exceptional circumstances.
- Student and staff confidentiality must be protected at all times.

- Volunteers may not accompany students during recess/lunch.

Prevention and Crisis Resources

- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: Call or text 988
- Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741
- The Trevor Project: 1-866-488-7386 or text START to 678678
- California Youth Crisis Line: Call or text 1-800-843-5200

Walnut Grove also provides school-based student supports and may connect students and families with counseling, mental health, mentoring, Check-In/Check-Out, or other intervention services.

Prevention and Student Support Information

Walnut Grove provides school-based student supports and may refer students to counseling, mental health, mentoring, Check-In/Check-Out, or other intervention services as appropriate. Current crisis and prevention resources are also available through the district and school office.

Printed Materials in Office

Families may request printed copies of school materials, forms, notices, handbook resources, or other available school information from the Walnut Grove school office. Please contact or visit the office when a printed copy is needed.

School Accountability Report Card (SARC)

Families may review Walnut Grove's School Accountability Report Card (SARC) through the school or district website. A hard copy may be requested from the Walnut Grove school office.

School Telephone Use

Transportation and after-school arrangements should be made before school. Students requesting a school phone after dismissal may be asked to wait approximately 15 minutes after the final bell.

School Webpage and Social Media

Visit walnutgrove.patterson.k12.ca.us for school updates and follow the Walnut Grove school Facebook page (WGLearns) for school information.

Student Events / Ceremonies

Teachers will notify families when students are being recognized. Students are not permitted to leave class to attend a sibling's on-campus event, function, or ceremony during the school day. Balloons/Noise Makers may not be brought to school events/ceremonies; you will be asked to return them to your car.

Student Pick Up / Early Check-Out

Anyone picking up a student before regular dismissal must first report to the office and sign the student out. The office will contact the classroom. The pickup person must be at least 18 years old, be listed as an authorized emergency contact, and provide identification.

Surveillance Cameras

To support a safe environment, Walnut Grove uses campus surveillance cameras.

Teacher Qualifications

Parents/guardians of students attending a Title I school may request information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers and paraprofessionals, including state licensure/qualification status, teaching assignments under special circumstances, college major/advanced degrees, and paraprofessional qualifications. Contact the Walnut Grove school office to request this information.

Technology Expectations

Students are responsible for the care and appropriate use of assigned Chromebooks. Devices are for educational use and may be monitored consistent with district policy. Damage or loss may result in repair/replacement charges as allowed by district procedures. Students should protect passwords and follow all district acceptable-use expectations.

Student email must be academic in nature. Email or social-media activity that causes negative interactions, instigation, harassment, or disruption to learning may result in disciplinary action.

Textbooks, Curriculum, and Library Books

Students are responsible for textbooks, workbooks, library books, Chromebooks, and other instructional materials issued to them. Lost or damaged materials may result in full or partial replacement charges. Students in grade 3 and above may have access to digital textbook materials through Google Classroom and assigned devices.

Transportation

Transportation services are provided according to district eligibility, including services for students with disabilities as applicable. Students riding a school bus must follow driver directions and district bus expectations.

- Be courteous and use appropriate language.
- Remain seated and keep head, hands, and feet inside the bus.
- Keep the bus clean; do not eat or drink unless permitted.
- Do not fight, push, shove, damage equipment, or tamper with bus equipment.
- Do not bring prohibited, dangerous, flammable, or unauthorized items or animals.
- The bus driver may assign seats.

Travel Study / Short-Term Independent Study

A parent/guardian may request short-term independent study when a student will be absent for an emergency, vacation, illness, or other qualifying reason. Northmead's handbook states that non-emergency requests should be submitted at least five school days in advance, require administrator/designee approval and a written agreement, and require assigned work to be returned promptly after the student returns. It also states a 15-day annual limit. Walnut Grove families should contact the school office before travel to confirm the current district requirements, deadlines, eligibility, and maximum duration before relying on these timelines.

Walnut Grove K-6 School Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Walnut Grove develops its written Title I parent and family engagement policy with input from parents and family members. Input is gathered through School Site Council, ELAC, parent meetings, surveys, and other school engagement opportunities. The policy is distributed annually through the Parent/Student Handbook and updated during the year when needed.

Involvement of Parents and Families in the Title I Program

- Convene an annual Title I meeting at a convenient time to explain the school's Title I participation, program requirements, school programs and progress, and parents' rights to be involved.
- Offer meetings and engagement opportunities at varied and convenient times and communicate them through ParentSquare, the school website, and other school channels.
- Involve parents and family members in planning, reviewing, and improving Title I programs and the parent and family engagement policy.
- Provide timely information about curriculum, academic assessments, student progress, and opportunities for families to support learning at home.
- Provide families with information and learning opportunities to understand grade-level standards, assessments, and ways to support.
- Ensure school information is provided in understandable formats and, to the extent practicable, in languages families can understand.

Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement

Walnut Grove, families, and students share responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The school-parent compact describes how the school and families will work together to support standards-based learning, attendance, communication, positive behavior, and college/career readiness. For Dual Language Immersion students, this partnership also supports bilingualism, biliteracy, academic achievement in both languages, and sociocultural competence.

Acknowledgment

I have reviewed the Walnut Grove Parent/Student Handbook and discussed school expectations, including ROAR behavior expectations, attendance, arrival/dismissal, technology/device expectations, and school safety procedures with my child.

Student Name: _____

Teacher/Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____