

2024-2025 Dry Creek Parent/Student Handbook

Dry Creek's Vision, Mission and Goals

Dry Creek Vision Statement

The Dry Creek staff, working in partnership with the community, will provide a quality education enabling each student to become a successful lifelong learner.

Dry Creek Mission Statement

The mission of Dry Creek Elementary is to ensure that each student achieves at high academic and social levels.

Dry Creek Goals

In the Area of Student Achievement

- Each student will read and comprehend a variety of materials, locate and apply information to meet or exceed grade level expectations.
- Each student will write, speak, listen, and utilize technology to meet or exceed grade level expectations.
- Each student will apply mathematical skills to analyze and solve problems to meet or exceed grade level expectations.
- Each student will analyze tasks in solving problems to meet or exceed grade level expectations.
- Each student will develop and demonstrate personal responsibility for learning and self-management.

In the Area of Safe Learning Environment

- The school and community will work together to provide a safe learning environment.
- Students will demonstrate respect and responsibility for the learning environment.
- Students exhibit through their actions an understanding of the pillars of Character Counts; Trustworthiness, Respect, Caring, Fairness, Responsibility and Citizenship.

How Dry Creek Accomplishes Its Goals

Continuous improvement through comprehensive planning, thoughtful implementation, and ongoing evaluation of all programs

Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)

Professional Learning Communities

Positive Behavior Interventions and Support

Valuing all students, parents, and staff

Building relationships based on trust and common goals of improved student achievement

AUXILIARY STUDENT SERVICES

School Nurse: A nurse or health services assistant is on campus at all times. In addition to hearing and vision screening, the nurse plays an important role in: (1) maintaining all health records for children; (2) contacting parents regarding illness, health problems and excessive absences; and (3) advising the staff regarding health-related conditions and/or hazards.

Speech & Language Specialist: The speech & language specialists work with children who are in need of specialized remedial and developmental instruction in language proficiency.

School Psychologist: The school psychologist is available to provide testing and psychological information beyond the scope of the classroom teacher. She plays a counseling role to parents and students and provides assistance to teachers in the implementation of effective teaching strategies for individual students exhibiting learning and/or behavioral difficulties. All psychological testing requires signed parental consent.

Resource Specialists: All resource specialists are trained as classroom teachers with special certification in special education and learning disabilities. They provide specific prescriptive instruction in academic areas to students who have been certified as requiring such instruction.

Student Study Team (SST): The Student Study Team is provided as a service to teachers and parents. Students with behavior, emotional, and/or academic struggles that interfere with school performance are referred to the team for suggestions and/or modifications of the child's learning environment. All children that may be considered for a formal psycho-educational assessment are required to be reviewed by the SST prior to evaluation by the School Assessment Team (SAT).

School Assessment Team (SAT): Children who show signs of abnormally low achievement, learning disabilities, or emotional difficulties, may be referred by the teacher through the Student Study Team process. The team will focus the expertise of its members on testing and studying the child to determine the nature of the learning difficulty. A meeting is held with the parent at which time all of the results of the diagnostic work are discussed and explained, as well as recommendations to be implemented to improve the child's progress and success in school.

School Attendance Review Board (SARB): The School Attendance Review Board operates at the district level and at the local site. Students are referred for being habitually truant or tardy, having irregular attendance, are in danger of becoming irregular in attendance, or habitually truant.

Gifted and Talented Education (GATE): The formal GATE program involves students in grades 4-6. Students are certified as "gifted" on the basis of criteria involving standardized achievement test scores, group and/or individual intelligence test scores, and academic performance in the classroom. For further

information, please contact Dry Creek's GATE Coordinator, Mrs. Stephanie Ballecer (StephanieBallecer@cusd.com).

Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP): ELOP (formerly known as Campus Club) provides quality childcare for school-age children before and after school. All day care is also offered during regular school vacations. The program is staffed with qualified instructors who work closely with the school age child. Questions regarding fees, procedures for enrollment, or specific site information should be directed to the Child Development Department at 327-9160.

Categorical Funding: On an annual basis, Clovis Unified School District (CUSD) submits our funding Application through the Consolidated Application and Reporting System commonly called the ConApp. The application is submitted in two (2) parts: Part I, which contains program and demographic information and Part II, which contains budget information and program data. The categorical programs included in the application are Title I, Part A - Improving Academic Achievement; Title II, Part A - Supporting Effective Instruction; Title III - English Learner (EL), and Immigrant Programs; and Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment. Essentially, these funds are designed to assist students in mastering state standards.

CUSD Schools are committed to establishing a true partnership with all facets of the Clovis Learning Community and values the input of our educational partners. Because of this, we are pleased and proud to offer a variety of parent involvement opportunities that improve our overall program. Depending on the type of categorical funding a site may receive, district or school parent councils and committees are required under certain requirements and guidelines. Such advisory committees in CUSD include, but are not limited to:

- School Site Council (SSC)**
- English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)**
- Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)**
- School Advisory Committee (SAC)**
- District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC)**
- District Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee (IPAC)**
- School/District School Assessment Review Team (SART)**
- Intercultural Diversity Advisory Council (IDAC)**
- Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Public Forums**

We encourage all parents and guardians to become involved with their child's education at the classroom level, the school-wide level, as well as the district level. Each site's School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) describes the school's basic educational program and the categorical supplementary programs/services that are designed to support student achievement. Parental involvement is a necessary and vital part of developing the SPSA as well as our overall program. At the district level, parent committees provide input into our LCAP. If you would like additional information on any of the District Parent Councils or Committees, please call your child's school. The Principal, Learning Director, or Guidance Instructional Specialist (GIS) would be happy to assist you.

Listed below are several parent committees that assist with categorical programs and funding.

School Site Council (SSC): All schools that operate a categorical program funded through the consolidated application (ConApp) shall establish a school site council (SSC). The SSC shall develop the content of the SPSA. The SPSA shall be reviewed annually and updated, including proposed expenditure of funds allocated to the school through the ConApp and the local control and accountability plan (LCAP), if any, by the SSC. The SSC is composed of parents, students at the secondary level, and school personnel. It is responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating the site's School Plan for Student Achievement programs.

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) & School Advisory Committee (SAC): The entirety of the SSC acts as the SAC. The SAC serves as an advisory committee for the purpose of advising schools regarding supplemental education programs and acting as a liaison for their school community. They serve to share information and comments both at the district and site level. These education programs are supplemental education opportunities that provide services to students who are disadvantaged, English learners, foster youth and/or at-risk. Pursuant to California Education Code (EC) Section 52852 the SSC has been approved to function as the School Advisory Committee. The PAC is composed of at least one member of each school site's SSC. These individuals attend regular meetings at the district level to provide valuable input as a representative of their school, and act as a liaison between their SSC and the district.

English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC): All schools enrolling 21 or more English learners are required to form an ELAC. The ELAC is composed of parents and school personnel. The ELAC advises the principal, staff, and SSC regarding services for English learners and assists in the development of the annual survey. Each ELAC shall have the opportunity to elect at least one member to the District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC).

District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC): Whenever there are 51 or more EL students in the district, there shall be a functioning District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC). It is important that each school site ELAC elect a DELAC representative and arrange to have that representative attend every DELAC meeting as they act as a liaison between the school site and the district to share important information that impacts our students.

District Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee (IPAC): The CUSD Native American Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee meets throughout the year to discuss program issues, services provided, and other needs related to the student achievement of our students, community agencies, and outreach programs. The CUSD Indian Education Program addresses the needs of American Indian and Alaskan Native students in grades TK - 12. The program assists eligible students to achieve at the same challenging state performance standards expected of all students in grades TK -12.

Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Forums: CUSD develops an LCAP annually that works to better align the academic plan with the district expenditure plan that is approved by our CUSD Governing Board each June. Parents and other stakeholder groups are invited to participate in the development of the LCAP through participation of school and district committee meetings and community forums. LCAP School, District Meetings, and Community Forums are exciting opportunities for all stakeholders and school committees to engage with the District and share their ideas on how CUSD can provide quality opportunities and support for CUSD youth and schools. Community participation and feedback in the forums will inform the District's LCAP's funding priorities over the next several years.

These forums are designed to provide an opportunity for school communities to hear about CUSD's current efforts to support youth and families and to provide input and feedback on future plans and opportunities. Sites also have an opportunity to work together in teams to share new ideas to support identified groups and to plan for site engagement and implementation.

The following is an overview of the categorical funding and programs in CUSD. These funds are further discussed and outlined in each school's SPSA and at the committee meetings.

Rationale

General District funds provide support for the District's base/core curriculum program. Some children have special characteristics, not reflective of the general school population, that affect their success in the base/core programs. Some come from economically disadvantaged homes; some are educationally disadvantaged or lack English language proficiency because they have a primary language other than English. Children, such as those described above, require supplemental services and materials not generally provided through the base/core curriculum program. The needs of our children are identified, and supplemental services and materials are planned and targeted to meet their special needs. Categorical funds are to be used to provide the financial support to meet these special needs.

Philosophy

All CUSD schools offer students with individual needs the same kinds of high-quality learning opportunities and access to the core curriculum in all curricular areas. Categorical funds are designed to support additional assistance to help students succeed in the regular classroom program (base/core curriculum) and address any learning gaps. The focus is on the effective utilization of supplementary materials, personnel, and staff development. Staff development activities are used to improve instructional practices and strategies to increase the ability of teachers and other staff to challenge and assist all students to reach their fullest potential.

Categorical Program Descriptions

1.Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP): The Expanded Learning Opportunities Program fund is an ongoing funding source from the state. Funding allocation is determined by the district's enrollment of Unduplicated Pupils (UPP). Unduplicated Pupils are students classified as English Learners, Foster/Homeless Youth, or eligible for Free/Reduced meals. The

purpose of ELOP is to complement existing programs by providing students with more access to expanded learning programs which occur before school, after school, or during intersessions (summer/winter/spring breaks). ELOP focuses on developing the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs and interests of students through hands-on, engaging learning experiences.

2. Title I, Part A (Improving Academic Achievement): A federal-funded program to provide high-quality opportunities for students in high-poverty schools to meet district and state content and performance standards.

3. Title I, Part A, Title X, Part C, Education for Homeless Children and Youths: Title I, Part A funds provide comparable services to homeless children that assist them to effectively take advantage of educational opportunities as provided to children in schools funded under Title I, Part A. These comparable services shall be provided to homeless children in public and private schools, shelters and other locations where children may live, institutions for neglected children and, where appropriate, local institutions such as local community day school programs

4. Title II, Part A (Preparing, Training and Recruiting High Quality Teachers and Principals): A federal-funded program focused on teacher and principal training and recruitment programs.

5. Title III (Language Instruction for English Learners (EL) and Immigrants): A federal-funded program focused on assisting school districts in teaching English to limited English proficient students (English learners) and immigrants and helping these students meet the same challenging State standards required of all other students.

6. Title IV, Part A (Student Support & Academic Enrichment): A federal-funded program focused on providing students with a well-rounded education, improving school conditions for student learning, and enhancing technology.

7. Title VI (Indian Education Formula Grant): A federal-funded program focused on helping Native American/Alaskan Native students meet the same challenging state standards required of all other students.

The goal of the CUSD staff is to create and maintain the best educational environment possible. This cannot be accomplished without your support and input. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to become more involved in the educational process at your school, please contact your school principal or watch for communication from your site.

At the district level, we encourage you to become involved in one of our many parent committees or to join us for one of our parent nights.

Additional information about district committees and events can be found here: <https://www.cusd.com/SupplementalServices.aspx>

The Dry Creek Athletic Program

Student participation and involvement in athletics teaches cooperation, responsibility, teamwork, and how to win and lose. Students who are involved tend to perform better in school and have fewer problems socially. All students who participate in sports must meet the criteria outlined in the Code of Ethics to participate.

ATHLETIC CODE OF ETHICS AND BEHAVIOR

Participation as a member of a team is a privilege. Those on teams serve as a model for all the children at school. To ensure that student athletes conduct themselves appropriately, we are setting the following standards that must be met if a student is to play:

1. Team members do not get in fights.
2. Team members must have a "C" average with no "F"s on their report card.
3. Team members must display good sportsmanship, citizenship, and maturity at all times.
4. All uniforms and equipment must be returned in the same condition as they were received.
5. Team members attend practice.

Team Selections

Every effort will be made to place all students on a team. Unfortunately, participation limits must be set because of limited facilities and safety factors. The following process will be used to make team selections:

1. Sign-ups will be announced at least 2 school days prior to the first practice.
2. Players will have at least 2 days of practice before the first selection date.
3. **Practice times are 2:45 P.M. - 3:45 P.M.**
4. Those students who are selected for the team will have their names posted outside a teacher's classroom for all to see.
5. Students shall practice in at least half of available practices in each week in order to be eligible for that week's competition.
6. Coaches may elect to have a second selection date to further reduce team size.

*Players registering after the beginning of the season may try out for a team - but no player may be "bumped" because of the selection of a late-enrolling student.

***Coaches' decisions on player selections are final.
All questions regarding player selection are to be referred to the head coach of the team.***

Insurance Requirement

All participants are required to have verification of health insurance coverage prior to any participation in any sport and throughout the season.

Playing Time

"A" teams are competitive teams. Students that are selected to play on the "A" or Varsity team are guaranteed to make an appearance and play in half of the games. Students who desire guaranteed play in every game should elect to play on "B" and "C" teams. These teams are designed to teach students basic skills.

Uniforms

All players are responsible for all equipment issued to them. **Uniforms are to be worn on game days only.** Uniforms must be returned in a timely manner after the season and are not for sale.

Transportation to Games and after Practice

Clovis Unified buses shall transport students to all games that occur during school hours. Parent permission for participation on a team allows for permission to transport students to all team functions during the season. Transportation will be provided for bus riders after practice. Parents who wish to pick their children up at away games must sign their child out with the coach prior to leaving. **Students will only be released to individuals that are listed on the RELEASE OF STUDENT TO PARENT/GUARDIAN AFTER FIELD TRIP OR ACTIVITY FORM 3204-2.**

PE Excuses and Team Participation

A child will not be allowed to participate in any after-school sports programs or intramurals if they are not participating in PE due to a PE excuse. Additionally, a student must be present in school to participate in same-day practices, games, or any co-curricular activity on or off campus. No exceptions.

Pep & Cheer Squad: The Dry Creek cheerleading program is established to focus on two primary purposes. First, the members of the cheerleading squad are to provide positive leadership for the student body in developing school spirit and pride at all athletic and student activities. Secondly, the teams are to provide the members with an outlet for developing personal poise, physical strength, stamina, coordination, and showmanship. The number of positions on each squad is limited; selection is based on a competitive tryout process in late spring of the preceding school year.

Spectator Code of Conduct - Athletic Events: Spectators are an important part of athletic events. At all times they should reflect high standards of support and good sportsmanship.

1. Spectators should respect officials, coaches, and participants.
2. Booing, disrespectful remarks and/or cheers or yells which refer to or "put-down" the other team are totally unacceptable.
3. Bells, whistles, or noisemakers are acceptable for outdoor athletic events, but not for indoor athletic events.
4. Noisemakers must not interfere with the various activities.

Profanity of any type will not be tolerated and will result in the removal of the spectator from the school grounds.

Season	Sport	Number of Teams	Eligibility
Fall-Spring	Pep & Cheer	Spirit Squad (4 th Grade) Game Squad (5 th & 6 th) Comp. Pep Comp. Cheer	4 th -6 th graders (Comp. Squad selections based on tryout)
Fall	Football (tackle)	A and B	5 th -6 th graders Weight limit of 144 lbs. (with uniform and without helmet). Minimum is 60 lbs.
	Cross Country	Boys and girls 4 th & 5 th /6 th grade teams	
	Girls Volleyball	A, B and C	5 th -6 th graders
Winter	Wrestling	A and B	4 th -6 th graders weight divisions
	Boys Basketball	A, B, and C	5 th -6 th graders
	Girls Basketball	A, B, and C	5 th -6 th graders
Spring	Baseball	A and B	5 th -6 th graders
	Softball	A, B and C	5 th -6 th graders
	Boys Volleyball	A, B, and C	5 th -6 th graders
	Track	Boys and girls 4 th -6 th grade teams.	<i>Please note that participation will drop dramatically prior to the Area Qualifying Meet because of league and district rules governing the number of qualifiers per school.</i>

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

According to Education Code section 51210(a)(7), the District is required to provide, in the elementary setting, not less than 200 minutes each 10 school days, exclusive of recesses and the lunch period. Any complaints related to the failure of the District to adhere to this requirement may be filed under the District Uniform Complaint Procedures, BP/AR 9208, which is included in this handbook.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Activity	Description	Restrictions
Band / Orchestra	Band is offered to students in grades 5 and 6. The instrumental music instructor is at school two days each week.	5 th -6 th graders.
Choir	The 5/6 choir performs for student assemblies at Dry Creek and at several parent functions during the school year. The choir also participates in two District choral festivals and performs at one community service function each spring.	5 th -6 th graders 4 th grade (1 semester)
Upper Grade Drama Production	Students perform at school assemblies and put on a play for students and parents. Tryout dates/times will be posted in the Panther Express.	4 th -6 th graders- backstage crew 5 th -6 th performers
Robotics Team	An exciting after-school technology, building & learning activity. Parent volunteers are needed to sponsor teams.	4 th -6 th graders (FLL) K-3 graders (Jr. FLL)
History Day	Students research and develop a History Day project to be presented at the Fresno County History Day.	4 th -6 th graders
Science Fair	Students explore science by conducting their own experiment utilizing steps in the scientific process.	4 th -6 th graders
Chess Club	Dry Creek students are able to meet weekly and compete in the annual CUSD Elementary Chess Tournament, held each spring.	4 th -6 th graders, open to lower grade students if space is available

Student Council: The students at Dry Creek learn the fundamentals of student government through the student council. Any upper grade student may participate in Student Council. Students interested in holding an office position will be elected by those students that participate in Student Council meetings. Each semester the students elect the following officers:

Officers	Description
President	Leads the student council. Organizes school service project. Must be a 6 th grader in good standing.
Vice-President	Works on student council activities. Coordinates lost and found. Must be a 5 th or 6 th grader in good standing.
Secretary	Responsible for recording all meetings and attendance. Maintains Student Council calendar, list of activities, events, and responsibilities. Serves as liaison with school office staff. Must be a 5 th or 6 th grader in good standing.
Commissioner for School Safety	Helps plan and monitor fire drills, assists with clean campus inspections, reviews campus for safety hazards, and assists Safety Patrol. Must be a 6 th grader in good standing.
Commissioner of Lines	Organize, monitor and judge lines throughout the school year. Must be a 5 th or 6 th grader in good standing.
Commissioner of Activities	Helps plan and put on student body activities, rallies, and lunch time activities. Must be a 6 th grader in good standing.

Commissioner for School Spirit	Helps design activities and events to improve school spirit. Puts up signs and decorations on campus. Must be a 5 th grader in good standing.
Commissioner of Athletics	Assists the school's Athletic Director in various ways to enhance the experiences of Dry Creek student-athletes. Monitors playground equipment. Must be a 5 th or 6 th grader in good standing.
Commissioner of Recycling	Helps the school to be environmentally conscious by recycling cans and bottles from the cafeteria and staff recycling receptacles.
Member	Serves on the Student Council committees and events.

Students wishing to participate in Student Council must complete an application and secure teacher and parent approval.

STUDENT GRADING POLICIES

Grade Level	1 st /2 nd Quarters Grading Criteria and Marks	3 rd /4 th Quarters Grading Criteria and Marks
First Grade	Grades given quarterly O=Outstanding work/effort S=Satisfactory work/effort N=Needs Improvement in work/effort	Grades given quarterly O=Outstanding work/effort S=Satisfactory work/effort N=Needs Improvement in work/effort
Second through Sixth Grades	Grades given quarterly 100% - 90% = A Range 89% - 80% = B Range 79% - 70% = C Range 69% - 60% = D Range 59% - 0% = F Range	

Assigning or Changing a Grade: State Education Code states clearly that the only person who can assign a grade for a student is that student's teacher. Grades cannot be altered or changed by anyone other than the teacher. Parents wishing information regarding their child's grades should meet with their child's teacher.

STUDENT RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

Primary Awards – Bimonthly (one student per award per month)

Upper Grade Awards – Quarterly (two students per award per quarter)

Parents will be notified when their son/daughter has been selected so that they may attend the awards assembly. Assemblies are scheduled in the afternoon so as to not interrupt morning instructional time.

Award	Explanation of Award
Student of the Month	Students of the Month have demonstrated good behavior, worked hard, and have been a good example for others to follow.
Panther Pride Award	A student who demonstrates Panther Pride and exemplifies Respect, Responsibility, Safety, or all three.
Reader Award	Selected by the classroom teacher and awarded to a student who has shown the greatest progress in reading.
Writer Award	Selected by the classroom teacher and awarded to a student who has shown the greatest progress in writing.
Math Award	Selected by the classroom teacher and awarded to a student who has shown the greatest progress in math.
Principal’s Honor Roll Grades 4, 5, 6	This award is given at the end of the 6 th grade year and requires that students receive all A’s on report cards for all four quarters in grades 4-5-6 earned <u>at a Clovis Unified school</u> .
Quarterly Awards: Principal’s Honor Roll High Honor Roll Honor Roll	The Honor Roll recognizes students who achieve at a high level. The requirements reflect a student’s academic achievement and his/her effort and citizenship. The criteria for the Honor Roll include no “N” effort grades on the report card and the following grades: Honor Roll: All A’s and 2 B’s or All A’s and 1 C High Honor Roll: All A’s and 1 B Principal’s Honor Roll: All A’s Students earning the Honor Roll will be recognized in their classrooms with a certificate.

Block DC Award: The Block DC Award is the highest award a student may earn at Dry Creek and should be difficult to achieve. The Block DC is available to fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students, and is awarded at the end of school year.

This award is designed to recognize students who exemplify the qualities that Dry Creek hopes to foster in all of its students, namely: (1) the desire for self-improvement; (2) dedication and commitment in reaching for goals; (3) concern for and service to others; and (4) the willingness to be a positive role model to others. Individuals earning this prestigious award will receive a Block “DC” plaque. Block DC criteria forms will be passed out to all upper grade students during the first week of each semester (and are available as a downloadable file from the school’s web page).

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR

In order for any organization to operate effectively, it is important that all concerned parties be aware of what the rules are and why they exist. The rules governing the behavior of students and the operation of the school reflect three guiding principles: (1) the school exists as a place to learn; (2) teachers have a right to teach and all students have a right to learn; and (3) self-discipline is the key to school discipline. Our expectations for student conduct, therefore, boil down to common sense, good manners, and respect for one another. With this in mind, we have provided the following for your guidance and information.

Our school-wide motto: **Panther Pride – Be Respectful, Responsible, Safe** sums up our expectations for all parties on the Dry Creek campus. We believe in setting clear expectations for behavior and then following up with clear communication between all staff members regarding our students. In the event a student receives a “Minor Slip” for not being respectful, responsible, or safe, we stress to parents that the slip is a communication tool to inform the home of what the school did to respond to the behavior concern or challenge. We thank you in advance for being active partners in our student’s education.

General Rules of Student Conduct: These rules of conduct are discussed with all Dry Creek students.

1. All students should display courteous behavior at all times.
2. Personal items such as balls, toys, knives, bean shooters, cameras, personal electronic devices, etc., are not to be brought to school unless so directed by the teacher.
3. Gum and seeds are not allowed at school. Candy brought from home with lunch must be eaten in the cafeteria. Glass containers are not allowed at school. Microwaves are not available to heat student food.
4. Students are not to enter another student's desk unless directed by the teacher.
5. Students should not leave valuables or money in desks or restrooms. The school is not responsible for the loss of these items.
6. Students should return all lost and found articles to the office or to their teacher.
7. Students are not to use the telephone without specific permission from the teacher or other school staff member.
8. Students are not to run in corridors, or in any room.
9. Play stops immediately when the bell rings. Students are to "freeze" and then quickly and quietly line-up in straight class lines when directed.
10. Students must play at recess in the designated play areas only. Other areas, buildings, and corridors are OFF LIMITS during recess.
11. During recess, students must not go into the hallways, classrooms or office without teacher or supervisor permission.
12. All students must check through the office if tardy to school or if leaving during the school day.
13. Students are not allowed to sell any item on school premises to other students.

Section 48900 of the California Education Code and the Governing Board Policies of the Clovis Unified School District indicate the following as inappropriate student behaviors which constitute cause for suspension/expulsion or other disciplinary measures.

1. Verbal abuse and/or defiance of a supervisor, teacher, or administrator.
2. Disruptive behavior on campus, in the classroom, at a student body activity, on a school bus or at a bus stop, or at a club or other supervised activity.
3. Gambling.
4. Hazing.
5. Immoral behavior, possession and/or possession for sale of pornographic materials.
6. Leaving school without permission of school.
7. Truancy (second offense).
8. Knowingly received stolen property or private property.
9. Violation of Clovis Unified School District Governing Board policies and/or regulations.
10. Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.
11. Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause, physical injury to another person.

12. Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive, or been under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined in Section 11007 of the Health and Safety Code, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.

Five Day Non-Privilege Status Following Suspension:

Any student suspended from Dry Creek will be placed on non-privilege status for five school days beginning on the first day of their return to school from their suspension. Non-privilege status requires that the student not participate in or attend any school activities or functions for these five school days.

"No Love" At Dry Creek: Boyfriend/girlfriend relationships that involve holding hands, kissing, or other visible signs of overt affection should not occur at school. There is plenty of time for these types of relationships when students grow older. The emphasis at Dry Creek will be on learning and developing good social relationships with all students.

BUS SAFETY TO AND FROM SCHOOL

The state law provides that the bus driver has complete responsibility for student safety and conduct on the bus. Student misbehavior constitutes a serious safety hazard on the bus. Students not conducting themselves properly will be issued a citation by the bus driver that must be signed by the parent before the student may be readmitted to the bus. Continued misconduct will result in suspension or denial of transportation privileges.

Transportation is furnished for students who live in excess of:

Grades K-6	1 mile from the school
Grades 7-12	2.5 miles from the school

The distance is measured "as the crow flies" from the school property to the student's home.

All school and CUSD regulations apply while students are on the school bus or charter bus and at all bus stops.

Conduct on the Bus:

1. Follow the directions of the driver.
2. Walk to the assigned seat and stay there. Do not stand or move around while the bus is moving.
3. Students must face forward with both feet on or toward the floor.
4. Do not talk to the driver unless it is an emergency. (Drivers need to keep their minds on driving and their eyes on the road.)
5. Talk quietly so that the driver can hear traffic sounds.
6. Fighting and scuffling are forbidden.
7. Keep arms, feet, and schoolbooks out of the aisle.
8. Do not open or close windows without permission.
9. Keep hands and head inside the bus.
10. Spitting or throwing objects on the bus or out of the windows is forbidden.
11. Loud yelling or profane language is not permitted.
12. Eating, drinking, gum chewing, smoking, and candy sales are prohibited.

13. Do not deface or litter the bus. Each person will be held financially responsible for any property which he/she defaces or damages.
14. Do not tamper with any safety device or any other equipment.
15. No glass objects, balloons, skateboards, rollerblades, radios, or tape recorders may be taken on the bus unless kept in their backpack.
16. Animals (dead or alive) and weapons (real or simulated) are forbidden on buses.
17. A STUDENT MAY BOARD OR LEAVE HIS/HER ASSIGNED SCHOOL BUS ONLY AT HIS/HER AUTHORIZED BUS STOP. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS REGULATION WILL BE PERMITTED ONLY WHEN THE STUDENT HAS A WRITTEN STATEMENT BEARING THE PARENT'S SIGNATURE AND SIGNED BY A SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR. (Administrator's signature should include his/her title, and the time and date signed. If there are any questions, administrators will contact parents.)

If the student is over 15 minutes later than their normal time to arrive home, parents may call transportation at **327-9700** for the latest information regarding the bus route.

Bus Citation Policy: If a student receives a warning, parents should work with their child to assure that further action need not be taken. If a suspension has been written, the school of attendance will contact the student's parent or guardian, giving the number of days of the suspension, the effective date and the date when the student can return to riding the school bus. The third violation will result in an automatic suspension of bus riding privileges, with the length of the suspension to be determined on an individual basis.

Foggy Day Bus Procedure: During the winter months, dense morning fog may interfere with normal bus schedules. It is important to know the procedure used by the Clovis Unified School District to alter bus times and to communicate changes to parents. We have found in the past very few problems when the following procedure is understood and properly implemented:

1. A decision will be made no later than 6:00 a.m. as to whether or not the departure time of buses must be delayed.
2. If departure times of school buses must be delayed, an announcement will be made on **KVPT-TV Channel 18, KMPH 107.5 FM Radio, and KMJ 580 AM Radio** starting no later than **6:15 a.m.** There will be continuous broadcasting on these channels.
3. If buses within the District are delayed, the word "**Schedule A**" or "**Schedule B**" will appear after the name of the district.
4. "**Schedule A**" means that buses will be **delayed two (2) hours**. "**Schedule B**" means that buses will be **delayed four (4) hours**. If fog conditions require that "**Schedule B**" is necessary, **all transportation for morning Kindergarten classes will be canceled.**
5. **ALL CLASSES IN THE DISTRICT WILL OPERATE AS PER THE REGULAR SCHEDULE. FOGGY DAY INSTRUCTIONS APPLY ONLY TO**

BUS TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULES AND RIDERS.

Students who walk or have their own transportation to school should arrive at the normal time. However, parents are advised to exercise discretion relative to conditions in and around their respective school attendance areas. Unless an additional announcement is made, afternoon bus runs and athletic runs will operate on a regular schedule.

Please realize that foggy days are called on a districtwide basis and, due to the size of the district (190 square miles), not all areas in the district have the same fog density. Therefore, while it may or may not be foggy in your area, the decision to delay school is made in the best interest of the students districtwide.

GENERAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Arrival and Dismissal: Supervision is provided only during the school day, starting 25 minutes prior to the start of the school day. **Therefore, students who do not ride the bus should not arrive at school prior to 7:25 a.m.** Those students arriving to participate in the breakfast program may report to the cafeteria no more than 30 minutes prior to the start of school.

Parents who wish to have a student excused early must come to the office and sign out and the child will be called from the classroom.

Absences: Regular school attendance is important to your child's progress. When it is necessary for your child to be absent from school, he/she must have a note from the parent or guardian explaining the reason(s) for the absence. The parent or guardian may also utilize the online Report an Absence link on the Dry Creek website/app or telephone the school office in the morning verifying the absence.

Attendance—Some Additional Information: The following information concerning student attendance may be useful. It is well established, of course, that faithful and regular attendance in school is related to improved student progress and achievement. There are times, however, when it is necessary for a child to miss school. Therefore, we (and the state) make the distinction between "excused" and "unexcused" absences.

Excused Absences are classified as the following:

- ☑ Absences due to illness.
- ☑ Absences due to professional medical appointments related to student needs.
- ☑ Absences due to attendance at a funeral for a member of one's immediate family.
 - o 1 day for local funerals.
 - o 3 days out of state.
- ☑ Absences due to the exclusion of students failing to meet immunization requirements.

Student absences for any reason other than the four specified are counted as "unexcused."

Obviously, missing school is undesirable both from an educational and a financial point of view. Excused absences, of course, are unavoidable; we certainly do not recommend that a child come to school if he/she is ill or could spread his/her illness to others. Unexcused absences, however, are another matter.

Independent Study:

- a. If a student is going to be absent from school for **three or more** consecutive days (other than illness), the student should be placed on an Independent Study Contract.
- b. This contract is to be signed by the student and parents. All assignments are written on the contract and provided to the student one school day prior to the contract start date. All assignments must be returned and completed on the first day the student is back at school.
- c. Independent Study contracts are not available if the return date is within 7 school days prior to the last day of school.

Informing the Office of Upcoming Vacation: We ask that you let your child's teacher know well in advance if your child is going to miss a day, or days, of school due to a vacation or a trip, etc. This gives the teacher time to prepare schoolwork or an Independent Study contract to be done so the student will not fall behind in class.

Leaving the Country: If a student should leave the country for more than two weeks they will be dropped from our rolls and reinstated back to Dry Creek on a space-available basis upon their return. There are no guarantees for placement back into the class from which the child left. If no space is available at Dry Creek the child will be sent to the closest school with space available.

Tardy Policy: Students are expected to arrive at school on time much the same as adults are expected to arrive at their jobs on time. It is very disruptive to a teacher and students in the classroom when other students arrive late. In the event students do arrive late, the Dry Creek Tardy Policy is implemented.

Excused tardies will be issued in the office for a doctor or dentist appointment with note. *All other tardies are unexcused and may involve disciplinary consequences.* One (1) unexcused tardy disqualifies a student from receiving the perfect attendance award.

Withdrawal from School: If you should decide to move from the District or to another school attendance area within the District, please notify the office that you are withdrawing your child. Not only does this aid us in record-keeping, but it also allows us to give you the information you will need to enroll your child in his/her new school.

Failure to Pick-Up Children After School: It is parents' responsibility to know dismissal times and to pick-up their

children from school in a timely manner. Students are not allowed to remain on campus after the regular instructional day without being involved in a co-curricular program or enrolled in ELOP. Parents who regularly fail to pick up their children in a timely manner may be referred to the proper authority.

Lost and Found: Many articles become lost or are left unclaimed during the year. It helps if personal belongings are marked so that your child can identify his/her articles easily. Lost and found articles are temporarily located outside the snack bar area or the old cafeteria. Periodically, unclaimed items are given to a charitable organization.

Transportation of Students on Field Trips: Students are required to ride the bus or district transportation to and from school sponsored events.

Breakfast/Lunch Program: Breakfast is served daily 30 minutes prior to the start of the school day. Breakfast is available to all students from TK - 6.

All students will be eligible for free lunch during the **2024-25** school year as part of the Federal Cares Act Funding for public schools.

In a regular year, school lunch costs will be publicized in a letter prior to the start of school. Milk may be purchased separately. Students purchase lunches using their lunch account that holds money to purchase the lunch. All payments for lunches are made at the cafeteria or through ParentConnect, not the office.

Students Without Money for Hot Lunches*: Please ensure your child has adequate funds on their lunch account and ensure all accounts are up to date. Students will be served lunch if they enter the hot lunch line. *The **2024-25** school year will offer all students one (1) free breakfast and one (1) free lunch

Providing Food to Share With Others: Please do not provide food for anyone other than your student. Parents should not bring food to share with other students (ex. Pizza or other fast-food). Although this is a nice gesture, students are not permitted to share food or drinks.

Parent Visitations: Parents are welcome and encouraged to visit the school. Visits must be scheduled with the teacher in advance. In the interest of safety, **ALL VISITORS MUST CHECK IN AT THE OFFICE UPON ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL AND PRIOR TO VISITING A CLASSROOM—NO EXCEPTIONS.** To avoid distraction and ensure campus safety, parents should refrain from loitering outside the school fence or inside a parking lot while students move about the campus. Parents should also refrain from walking on to campus until the final bell rings.

There is no adult or parent supervised visitation at school.

Birthday Parties: Birthday parties are not appropriate for school. In lieu of birthday "goodies," may we suggest the donation of a book to the school's library or the classroom library? A special bookplate with the student's name will be

affixed to the donated book and the student will receive a certificate acknowledging the donation. Please consult the classroom teacher or the librarian for suggestions of appropriate books.

Birthday Balloons or Flowers: Student deliveries of gifts, flowers or balloons will not be sent to the classroom. Students will not be allowed to leave these items in their classroom during the school day. A parent may consider recognizing their child's special day by purchasing a special birthday announcement on the school's marquee. Refer to the Panther Express how to pre-order and schedule the special day's announcement through the PTC.

School Vandalism: As our area grows and our facilities are used more and more during non-school hours, there is an increasing need for all of us to be observant in an effort to protect our beautiful school. We ask you to join us in this effort. If you are using the facilities after school hours, on weekends, or just passing by and you notice something of a suspicious nature, please call the school, or if after hours, contact Clovis PD (324-2800 or 911).

Students Staying After School: Only those students who are involved in regular after-school activities, supervised by members of our staff, may remain after school. A teacher may request that a student remain after school for additional tutoring or for other reasons. This will be with parent knowledge and permission. On game and practice days, all students who regularly go home at the end of the regular school day must do so. We have no means of providing supervision for students (including siblings of athletes) remaining after school as spectators. Non-participating students may remain after school (or return to school) to watch the game, only if they are under adult supervision.

If, by chance, a student should miss the recreation bus after a practice or game, he/she must go to the office. The office is open until 4:30 p.m.

On rainy or bad air quality days, outdoor after-school activities will be canceled. Obviously, this decision in many instances will not be made until the afternoon. We recommend that you check the school's text messages. As soon as a decision has been made, school administration will send out updated information on the day's activities. Students will be permitted to call parents from the classroom once practices or games are canceled so that after-school pick-up arrangements can be made.

Student Use of the Office Telephone: Each classroom is equipped with a phone with an outside line. A student's first request for phone use should be to their classroom teacher. If a parent determines that it is necessary for their child to carry a cell phone, it must be turned "OFF" during the school day, including recess and lunch. Students are not permitted to text a parent without permission.

Supplies & Textbooks: All essential student supplies are provided at school. However, often teachers will suggest a few items that are helpful and an added convenience to the student but are never mandatory. Students are responsible for the care of

textbooks and other non-consumable items issued to them. Any lost, missing, or stolen textbooks are the responsibility of each student and shall be returned at the end of the school year.

Animals on Campus: Animals or pets of any kind are not to be brought onto the school campus during or after school hours. Service animals are permitted.

DRESS CODE

We believe that consistent dress and grooming is necessary in order to maintain order, provide a safe school environment and promote discipline. Dress or grooming that draws undue attention detracts from the educational process and is therefore unacceptable. We also believe that attention to appearance, and a student's attitude toward him/herself and his/her school, are related. Good taste, good grooming and appropriateness of attire are a part of learning for all students.

The CUSD Governing Board shall authorize school regulations which prohibit student dress or grooming practices which:

1. Present a hazard to the health or safety of the student or to others in the school
2. Materially interfere with schoolwork, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program
3. Cause excessive wear or damage to school property
4. Prevent the student from achieving educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement

These regulations specify standards of dress and grooming promoting a safe school setting conducive to a positive learning environment consistent with the Board's policy governing acceptable and appropriate apparel and appearance for students.

A. Apparel

All clothing shall be neat, clean and acceptable in repair and appearance and shall be worn within the bounds of decency and good taste as appropriate for school.

1. Articles of clothing which display gang symbols, profanity or products or slogans which promote tobacco, alcohol, drugs or sex; materially interfere with schoolwork; create disorder or disrupt the educational process are not allowed.
2. Any clothing or apparel that a student or group of students wear to identify themselves for the purpose of harassing, threatening, or intimidating others will not be allowed.
3. Extreme fashion that draws undue attention to the student will not be allowed. This includes any clothing and extreme make-up that disrupts the learning environment.
4. Jackets and other apparel depicting professional sports teams shall not be worn. Jackets or other apparel depicting college or university teams are acceptable unless such team designations are associated with gangs or otherwise conflict with the standards for acceptable apparel.
5. Underwear-type sleeveless shirts, athletic tank tops, beach wear, swimwear, halter-tops, tube tops, spaghetti straps, bare midriffs or chests, see-through or fishnet outfits, or off the shoulder and low-cut tops are not appropriate or

acceptable. Clothing that exposes bare midriff or cleavage is prohibited at any time during school or school-sponsored activities or events. Shoulder straps on tops and other clothing must be a minimum of two inches (2") wide.

6. Dresses and skirts are to be worn no shorter than five inches (5") above the top of the kneecap, but no shorter than mid-thigh.
7. Shorts are to have an inseam of at least five inches (5"). Shorts are to be stitched evenly around and if frayed, must be stitched to avoid further fraying. Holes revealing skin or undergarments are not allowed. Spandex or Lycra shorts are not permissible. Shorts worn during physical education may not be worn during regular class time at secondary sites.
8. Straps on shoes and clothing must be fastened at all times.
9. Leggings and jeggings are permitted but cannot be see-through or have mesh or ruching above the knee. Tops worn with leggings and jeggings must not expose bare midriffs at any time during school or school-sponsored activities or events.
10. Shoes must be worn by all students. No hard-toed or steel-toed shoes/boots will be allowed. No high top, laced up, combat, or military style boots will be allowed. Shoes, or sandals without heel straps that do not present a safety concern may be worn by students in grades 7 through 12, except during physical education classes, recess, while participating in school-related athletic competitions, events or activities, or while participating in other activities where safety is a concern. Backless shoes commonly known as "flip-flops," "beach shoes," "soccer sandals," "zories" and/or thongs are inappropriate and will not be allowed. See Exhibit No. 5132(2).
11. For safety reasons, students in grades preschool through 6 are not allowed to wear flip flops, shoes or sandals without a heel strap. See Exhibit No. 5132(2).
12. No slippers will be allowed.
13. Excessively baggy pants, including sweatpants, are not allowed. Pants cannot exceed five inches (5") when measured at the kneecap of the straightened leg. Pants must fit and be worn at the natural waist. The bottom of the pant leg may not drag on the ground. Pant hems must not be stapled or pinned.
14. Sleepwear is not permissible.
15. Oversized shirts that present a safety concern or reflect gang style are not acceptable.
16. If hats (including visors) are worn, students are only permitted to wear their specific school or high school area related hats. All hats must be worn facing forward at all times. All other hats are unacceptable. Hats and/or caps and/or sunglasses must be removed in the classrooms or offices. Specific clothing and hats determined by the District or school site to be gang-related or inappropriate apparel are not acceptable. Articles of sun-protective clothing, including, but not limited to, hats and sunglasses, may be used outdoors. Subject to these provisions, sun-protective clothing, headwear, other than caps or hats, will not be allowed at school. School sites may add other restrictions on the type of hats to be worn.

17. Frayed clothing is permissible so long as frays are stitched to prohibit further fraying.
18. Distressing is allowable. Holes on clothing must be patched from behind so that undergarments or bare skin are not exposed.
19. Clothes shall be worn as intended and be sufficient to conceal undergarments, which shall be worn and covered at all times.
20. Clothing, jewelry, and personal items shall be free of writing, pictures, or any other insignia which are crude, profane, or sexually suggestive; shall not bear drug, alcohol, or tobacco company advertising, promotions, or likenesses; shall not promote violence, illegal activity, or relate to gang affiliation or activity; and shall not advocate discrimination or harassment of race, religion, or sexual orientation.
21. Pro logos on school materials of any kind are not acceptable (binders, folders, backpacks, pens, pencils, etc.)

B. Grooming

1. Hair shall be clean and neatly groomed.
2. Hair, beard, or mustache styles which disrupt the learning environment are not acceptable; e.g., unusual designs, colors, symbols, messages, mohawks, Faux-Hawks, or unusual razor cuts. Complete razor shaving of the head is allowed.
3. Bangs or other hairstyles must not obstruct or interfere with vision.
4. For those courses where long hair may pose a safety risk, such as where mechanical equipment with moving parts are used or where there is an open flame, long hair must be in a protective head covering, such as a hair net or cap, or hair must be securely bound behind the head, consistent with rules established by the instructor.
5. Tattoos, permanent or temporary, must be covered at all times.

C. Jewelry

Piercing jewelry is acceptable in the ears only. Piercing jewelry that is intended to alter the natural shape of the ear is prohibited. Other body piercing jewelry (e.g., that for piercings in the eyebrows, nose, lips, tongue) is not acceptable. Jewelry, including piercing jewelry that disrupts the learning environment, is not allowed.

D. Exemptions

1. Religious beliefs, bona fide medical reasons, or other good cause based on legal requirements, when verified, may be grounds for an exemption to a specific portion of the Board Policy No. 5132.
2. A petition for an exemption from enforcement of a specified portion of Board Policy No. 5132 (see Exhibit No. 5132(1) - Petition for Waiver of Dress and Grooming Compliance) may be submitted to the Student Services and School Attendance office. An appeal of a denial of any exemption shall be submitted in writing to the Associate Superintendent of School Leadership within 30 calendar days of the denial.

- a. In the event that an appeal does not raise allegations within the District’s uniform complaint procedures (UCP) in Board Policy No 1312.3, then, within 30 calendar days of receipt of the appeal, the Associate Superintendent of School Leadership or designee shall gather facts and make a written determination, which shall be provided to the complainant. Gathering of facts shall include but may not be limited to meeting with the complainant, if deemed appropriate to do so. Any decision of the Associate Superintendent of School Leadership shall be final.
- b. In the event that the allegations raised in the appeal are determined to fall within the District’s UCP in Board Policy No. 1312.3, the District will use the District’s UCP process to investigate and respond to the appeal rather than the above appeal process. Consistent with law and Board Policy and Administrative Regulation No. 1312.3, any appeal of that decision may be appealed to the California Department of Education.

E. School Uniform Policy

1. The decision to pursue a school uniform policy must be initiated by parents and approved by the school SART committee and the site principal.
2. A school uniform committee will develop a survey to be sent to all parents regarding their position on a school uniform policy by January 15 of the school year prior to the implementation of a school uniform policy. Prior to the distribution of the survey, the committee must sponsor at least one parent forum or meeting open to all parents for the purpose of information and input.
3. For a school site to further consider a school uniform, at least a majority of the surveys distributed must be returned and a majority of the surveys returned must support a uniform policy. These majorities are considered minimums and school sites have the discretion to establish more stringent standards of returns and support.
4. The Board must be notified by February 1 of the school year prior to the implementation of a school uniform policy.
5. The school site shall notify all parents or guardians no less than six (6) months prior to the time the uniform policy is implemented.
6. Should a school adopt a uniform policy, resources shall be available to assist economically disadvantaged students, and a procedure for parents/guardians to opt out of the policy shall be in place.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is an extension of the classroom, giving students reinforcement in using what has been taught in the classroom. It allows students to develop self-discipline and self-confidence. Homework encourages students to work independently, use time wisely, and develop a sense of responsibility. Homework fosters good study habits that will be useful throughout the individual student’s school career.

Homework Procedures

Kindergarten - Our kindergarten teachers ask that parents read to their child 10 to 15 minutes in the evening three times a week. Our kindergarten teachers will work with parents to establish this program at the beginning of school each year.

Primary (Grades 1-2-3) – Each primary student should have approximately 20-40 minutes of homework each evening Monday through Thursday. Homework assignments will be in an academic area, reinforcing a skill or concept previously taught.

Upper Grades (Grades 4-5-6) – Please refer to the “Policies and Procedures for Grades 4-5-6”.

Parents should consider the following factors that build good study habits:

- ☐ Provide a Study Area - good lighting, proper seating at a table or a desk, adequate materials, sufficient space. Distractions such as radio, T.V., family conversation and phone should be eliminated.
- ☐ Provide a specific time period - same time period daily.
- ☐ Give encouragement - encourage your child to understand the value of homework. Give your child assistance but remember that homework is your child’s responsibility.
- ☐ Help the homework habit. If your child doesn’t bring home homework, determine whether he/she is completing it in school, forgetting it, or failing to bring it home.

Whenever you have concerns or questions about homework, please contact the teacher.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF GRADES 4-5-6

Upper Grade is a wonderful time at Dry Creek. Students have many opportunities for school involvement and academic success. Along with choices and more school involvement, there is a greater need for responsibility, accountability, and character as we develop habits that will ensure success in the years to come.

The upper grade teachers at Dry Creek are excited to work with your children and want to help make the transition from primary grades as smooth as possible. We have developed some “UPPER GRADE” policies and procedures to provide consistency among the upper grade classrooms. These policies and procedures will be effective from the first week of 4th grade through the end of your child’s 6th grade year.

Homework: Homework will be assigned daily, not weekly. Students are expected to follow classroom routine and write down their homework in their Daily Planner (provided) each day to ensure home to school communication for assignments.

Homework Time

Grade 4.....25-35 minutes daily, not including AR reading time
 Grade 5.....35-45 minutes daily, not including AR reading time
 Grade 6.....45-60 minutes daily, not including AR reading time
 – *Weekend homework included in this grade level.*

Homework Consequences

Homework completed and turned in on time	Late, incomplete, or missing homework consequences
1. Student comes to school prepared and ready to learn California State Standards. There is a lot to cover and we can go farther if everyone has done his/her homework.	1. Minor Slip notifying parent of late, incomplete, or missing homework * <i>ONE parent note per quarter may be used for any reason.</i>
2. Student receives full credit on homework assignment.	2. Detention is assigned at recess, lunch, and/or after school by teacher/parent arrangement.
3. Student is eligible for Block DC recognition.	3. Students may receive partial or no credit on assignments.
4. Students will gain independence, responsibility, and organizational practices that will enable him/her to be a more successful student.	

Homework Planner: Planners are given to each student on the first day of school. Students are expected to have their planners daily.

Excused Absences: To receive full credit, students who miss school (and the absences are “excused” for school attendance reporting requirements) will be allowed **one day for every day missed** from the day of their return to school to turn in all missed work. *It is helpful to email the teacher and get assigned work to help keep students current with classroom assignments.*

Unexcused Absences: Students will not be allowed to make up work or tests for unexcused absences. A score of a ‘0’ will be placed in the grade book.

Extra Credit: Extra Credit may be offered at the teacher’s discretion. Extra Credit assignments are not given to make up work missed as a result of unexcused absences.

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Panther Express: *Panther Express* is a weekly calendar that is available online every Friday. This communication contains a weekly calendar and lists events that will be occurring during the next week. The *Panther Express* is available on the Dry Creek webpage and emailed/texted to all parents at the end of each week.

IDAC (Intercultural Diversity Advisory Committee): The primary purpose of the Intercultural Diversity Advisory Council, originally formed in 1988 as the Intercultural Advisory Council, is to assist in the formation and review of policies that

assure non-discriminatory practices in all operational areas of the Clovis Unified School District. Its further mission is to assist in improving the cultural environment of the District. Dry Creek’s IDAC meetings are open to all DC parents and other interested community members. Meeting notices will be published in the *Panther Express*.

SART (School Assessment and Review Team): School programs and the basic objectives of a school must reflect the needs of the community it serves. In order to accomplish this, however, two conditions are necessary: (1) the school must be able to identify and interpret the needs of its community; and (2) parents must be knowledgeable about the objectives and programs of the school in order to judge whether those needs are being met.

A committee of interested parents meets quarterly to study and evaluate the various components that comprise our school and to offer input for ways of improving these components. This committee is called the **School Assessment and Review Team** or SART.

The objectives of the SART Committee are the following:

1. To study and become knowledgeable about the various programs and components that make up the total operation of the school.
2. To discuss (as representatives of the community) the effectiveness and appropriateness of these programs and components relative to the goals of the school.
3. To aid in assessing school community attitudes about the total school program.
4. To act as a communication liaison between the community and the school.
5. To provide a representative for the District SART Committee.

NURSING SERVICES

A Credentialed School Nurse (CSN)/Registered Nurse (RN)/Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) or health services assistant (HSA - an unlicensed personnel) will be in the health office 5 days a week. The CSN/RN/LVN/HSA will contact parent(s)/guardian(s) regarding illnesses and injuries that occur during the school day. All RNs/LVNs/HSAs provide student health care under the supervision and direction of the Credentialed School Nurse. RNs/LVNs/HSAs follow the Emergency First Aid Guidelines for Schools when providing first-aid care to students and are CPR/First Aid certified.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

Ed Code 49408

The health office or school administrator will contact parent(s)/guardian(s) in an emergency situation due to illness or injury. It is very important that the health office has current

parent/guardian contact information. If there is a change in your child's emergency contact information, please log into Parent Connect and update your information as soon as possible.

FIRST GRADE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT:

California State Law (California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 432 (2) (B) requires that each student have a complete Child Health and Disability (CHDP) physical examination within 18 months before entering first grade or 90 days after entering first grade (Health & Safety Code 124040, 124085).

The purpose of this examination is for the health and safety of your child and can help identify any health problems that may keep your child from doing well in school. Early detection is the best prevention.

A waiver signed by the child's parent/guardian indicating that they do not want or are unable to obtain the health screening and evaluation services for their children shall be accepted by the school in lieu of the CHDP form. If the waiver indicates that the parent/guardian was unable to obtain the services for the child, then the reasons why should be included in the waiver.

The CHDP form is available on the CUSD website under the "Parents" tab. Click "Health Forms" or a hard copy can be requested from your child's health office.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Board Policy 5141.31; A.R. 5141.31; Health and Safety Code 120325-120375; CCR Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4

To be admitted to school, California law requires that all children be fully immunized. There are required immunizations to attend public elementary and secondary schools, childcare centers and developmental centers. Schools, and pre-kindergarten facilities are required to enforce immunization requirements, maintain accurate/complete immunization records of all enrolled children and submit reports. Children shall be excluded from school or exempted from immunization requirements only as allowed by California law.

At the time of registration, the school site is required to have proof that your child has received all currently due immunizations to complete the enrollment process. If required immunizations are not provided by the first day of school, your child will not be able to attend.

As of January 1, 2016, California law SB277 no longer allows for a personal beliefs exemption including religious belief exemptions as of July 2016. Any student entering school for the

first time in California after July 1, 2016 will need to be fully immunized or have a medical exemption from a California physician.

Medical Exemptions:

Starting January 1, 2021, the only immunization accepted is a medical exemption written by a California physician for students through CAIR-ME. Any medical exemptions issued in CAIR-ME shall expire when the student enrolls in the next grade span or the medical exemption issued was temporary with an expiration date.

Refer to cair-me.cdph.ca.go/home on how to obtain a medical exemption or contact your school site health office with questions or needing additional information.

Immunization Exclusion:

Ed Code 48216 (a), (b), & (c); A.R. 5141.31

Students who are not in compliance with their immunizations, parent/guardian will be contacted by the health office informing them of their child's missing immunizations. An immunization letter will be sent home indicating the immunizations needed to be in compliance. Parent/guardian have two (2) weeks or ten (10) school days to supply evidence either their child has been properly immunized, or their child will be exempted from school due to not meeting immunization requirements. Your child will remain excluded from school until a current immunization record is provided to the health office.

HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

Vision, Hearing and Dental Health Screening

CA Ed Code 49454; Ed Code 49455; Ed Code 49452; Board Policy 5141.3; A.R. 5141.6

California Education Code allows qualified district employees (sections 49452, 49454) to conduct routine vision, color vision and hearing screenings to each student enrolled in the District. The State of California vision and hearing screening is to be completed in Kindergarten, 2nd grade, 5th grade, 8th grade and 10th grade, as well as upon a written referral from parent/guardian or teacher at any grade level (California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Section 2952 (1)).

A written statement must be filed with the Credentialed School Nurse by a parent/guardian requesting exemption of their child from the routine health screenings for vision and hearing.

Oral Health Assessment Requirement

CA Ed Code 49452.8

A pupil, while enrolled in kindergarten in a public school, or while enrolled in first grade in a public school if the pupil was not previously enrolled in kindergarten in a public school, no later than May 31 of the school year, shall present proof of having received an oral health assessment by a licensed dentist, or other licensed or registered dental health professional operating within his or her scope of practice, that was performed no earlier than 12 months before the date of the initial enrollment of the pupil.

The parent/guardian of a pupil may be excused from complying by indicating on a waiver form that the oral health assessment could not be completed.

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) RISK ASSESSMENT

Board Policy 5141.26; A.R. 5141.26

New or Returning Students

Each student seeking admission into a District school, whether for the first time, or if returning to the District school after being enrolled in another school in California, another state, or, spent 30 or more days in a high risk TB country, shall comply with submitting to a TB Risk Assessment by a school nurse/RN/LVN or provide documentation of a negative TB blood test (IGRA-QuantIFERON or T-SPOT) or TB skin test (TST).

1. All students moving from out of the country and/or residing in a high TB risk country will be required to be cleared through the Children’s Health Center prior to enrollment at their school site.
2. If any blood or skin test is positive, proof of a negative chest x-ray indicating the student is free from communicable TB must be submitted to the health office.
3. A student who is assessed of being at risk of having TB shall: get a TB blood test (IGRA-QuantIFERON or T-SPOT) or a TB skin test unless proof of documentation is provided to the health office showing treatment for current or prior positive IGRA or TST performed in the United States, have a negative chest x-ray or no new risk factors since last documented negative TGRA or TST.

TYPE 1 DIABETES INFORMATION

Reference:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/type1diabetes.asp>

In accordance with Education Code 49452.6, information regarding Type 1 diabetes, including risk factors is required to be

provided to every incoming family. For questions or concerns related to Type 1 diabetes, please contact your health care provider or school nurse.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), cases of type 1 diabetes in youth increased nationally from 187,000 in 2018 to 244,000 in 2019, representing an increase of 25 per 10,000 youths to 35 per 10,000 youths, respectively. The peak age of diagnosis of type 1 diabetes is 13-14 years, but diagnosis can also occur much earlier or later in life.

Contact your child’s health care provider or school nurse if you have questions regarding Type 1 diabetes.

Type 1 Diabetic Student

1. Diabetic orders and Health Related Action Plan (HRAP) must be reviewed by the school nurse and parent/guardian prior to starting/returning to school.
2. Diabetic orders MUST be renewed every school year (A.R. 5141.21). Your child may not be on campus without current diabetic orders and supplies, including emergency medication. This is for the health and safety of your child.
3. All supplies, including snacks and/or emergency medication must be on-site daily. This can be stored in the health office or on-person.

TYPE 2 DIABETES INFORMATION-REQUIRED FOR INCOMING 7TH GRADE STUDENTS

Reference:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/type2diabetes.asp>

Pursuant to California Ed Code Section 49452.7, local education agencies are required to provide parents/guardians information on Type 2 diabetes to all incoming 7th grade students.

This information is provided to parents/guardians during the annual enrollment process. The California Department of Education developed this Type 2 diabetes information in collaboration with the California Department of Public Health, American Diabetes Association, California School Nurses Organization, and Children’s Hospital of Orange County.

Parents/guardians may contact the school nurse at their child’s school site for any questions they may have regarding the information provided about Type 2 diabetes.

FIRST AID, ILLNESSES AND INJURIES

If a student is injured or ill at school, he/she/they will receive care and consideration by the health office staff. The health office follows the Emergency First Aid Guidelines for Schools when providing first-aid care to students. Parents/guardians will be contacted for any serious injury or if the student is too ill to remain at school. Students will be released through the health office. The credentialed school nurse is available to consult with parents/guardians regarding health problems upon request, however, any injuries which occur at home should be cared for at home. Parents/guardians should follow-up with the credentialed school nurse regarding any extended illness or injuries that require needed care or accommodations while at school.

Assistive Devices

Crutches, wheelchairs, walking boots/shoes, walkers, scooters and casts require a medical note or CUSD School Participation Following Injury/Illness form and physical/academic restrictions in order for students to attend school. Refer to Ed Code 48213.

Brace, elastic bandage, sling and splint require a medical note or CUSD School Participation Following Injury/Illness form if the parent is requesting a PE excuse beyond three (3) days.

When to keep your child home due to illness:

1. Temperature 100.0 F or greater within 24 hours
2. Illness affecting child's ability to learn
3. Vomiting/Diarrhea
4. Sore throat-difficulty breathing or swallowing, or continuous drooling
5. Cold symptoms-continuous cough, difficulty breathing, uncontrolled wheezing, excessive nasal drainage (excludes seasonal allergies)
6. Ear/Eye irritation-redness with drainage, difficulty seeing or hearing, injury, intolerable pain
7. Suspected pink eye-notify healthcare provider for evaluation and provide medical documentation to health office.
8. Rash-worsening, painful, drainage, not healing
9. Starting antibiotics within 24 hours for an illness

When your child may return to school due to illness:

1. Fever free for 24 hours without the use of a fever reducing medication(s) (Ex. Tylenol or Motrin).
2. Vomiting/Diarrhea-student is able to tolerate liquids and food and/or stools have improved.
3. Pink eye-medical note clearing student of disease or two doses of antibiotics to be given before returning to school.
4. Rashes, such as but not limited to impetigo, ringworm, scabies and pinworms-medical note required clearing your student of possible communicable disease or a

medical note stating the diagnosis and that appropriate treatment was initiated. Notify the health office.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

- Parent Note: Students will be limited to 3 days per quarter for handwritten parental note excusals from PE. A medical note from a healthcare provider will be required after 3 days.
- Medical Note: This note should include a diagnosis and specific date for returning to PE, as well as any limitations that might apply. If your child has an injury that requires them to remain out of PE, they will also be held out of recess and sports.

CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

If your child is suspected of having a concussion or has been diagnosed with a concussion, the CUSD Return to Learn-Concussion School Care Plan form needs to be completed by a physician indicating no evidence of a concussion or provide specific academic accommodations, if diagnosed.

If your child's concussion has resolved, a new medical note or the CUSD Return to Learn-Concussion School Care Plan form needs to indicate your student is cleared for full academic participation.

COMMUNICABLE/INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Board Policy 5141.22; A.R. 5141.22

The health office refers to the California School Nurses Organization, Guidelines for Communicable Diseases and Common Conditions in the Educational Setting, along with guidance and direction from the Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH). When necessary, communicable disease cases are reported to the FCDPH. When two or more cases of a communicable disease are reported in a classroom within 14 days of each other, a notification letter may be sent home from the health office.

HEAD LICE:

Clovis Unified School District operates on NO LIVE LICE guidelines. Students will be sent home if evidence of live lice is found. Students must be treated within 48 hours and hair/scalp are free from live lice. Students must be seen in the health office and be cleared to return to class. After 48 hours, absences will be unexcused. Classroom checks are no longer a part of our guidelines.

Head Lice Guidelines can be found on the CUSD Nursing Services website.

<https://www.cusd.com/NursingServices.aspx>.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL:

Ed Code 49423, 49480; Board Policy 5141.21; A.R. 5141.21

All medications, even over-the-counter medication(s) (including Tylenol, Advil, cough drops, eye drops, essential oils, etc.) require a physician order and are reviewed by the credentialed school nurse. Medication orders must be updated at the [beginning of each school year](#). The Medication at School form is available in the school health office or on the CUSD website. <https://cusd.com/HealthForms.aspx>

CA Education Code Section 49423 requires that any medications to be taken at school must be presented with:

- A written statement from the physician detailing the name of the medication, amount, method, and time medication is to be taken.
- A written statement from the parent/guardian indicating their consent for the school to assist the student in the matters set forth in the physician’s statement
- Medication must be clearly labeled and sent to school in the original container from the pharmacy

Please note: Medication(s) brought to the health office without following the above guidelines will NOT be accepted or given at school. The Health Office does not keep medication for general use.

EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION OF NALOXONE (NARCAN) NASAL SPRAY

California Education Code (EC) Section 49414.3 authorizes school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to provide emergency naloxone or another opioid antagonist to school nurses or trained personnel who have volunteered, and to use naloxone or another opioid antagonist to provide emergency medical aid to persons suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering, from an opioid overdose.

AIR QUALITY PRECAUTIONS:

Please refer to CUSD School Board Policy 3514 for more information about Air Quality Precautions. CUSD Board Policies can be found at the following website: <https://boardpolicies.cusd.com/ClovisUnifiedBoardPolicies.aspx>

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Penal Code Section 11166 requires any Mandated Reporter who reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect must report it to Child Protective Services (CPS).

All school personnel are mandated reporters.

INTERNET & ELECTRONIC MAIL USE AT SCHOOL

Internet and E-Mail Rules

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply while using any school computer.

The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Parent permission is required. Access is a privilege – not a right. Access carries with it a responsibility.

Individual users of the district computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. It is presumed that users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond the clarification of such standards, Dry Creek Elementary and the Clovis Unified School District are not responsible for restricting, monitoring or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network.

Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers/desks. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity. Users should not expect that files stored on district servers will always be private.

During school, teachers will guide students toward appropriate materials. Outside of school, families bear the same responsibility for such guidance as they would other information sources such as television, telephones, movies, radio and other potentially offensive media.

Copies of the District’s approved *Acceptable Use of Information Resources* are available through the CUSD web page. Briefly stated, the following are not permitted:

- Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures
- Using obscene language or intentionally getting access to obscene or pornographic material
- Harassing, insulting, or attacking others
- Posting information that is designed to ridicule or embarrass students or staff
- Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks
- Violating copyright laws
- Using another person’s password
- Trespassing in another person’s folders, work, or files
- Intentionally wasting limited resources
- Using the network for commercial purposes

Violations may result in disciplinary or legal action as well as a loss of access to the computer network.

Staff Directory

Aaron Cook -----Principal
 Caleb Hatfield ----- Guidance Instructional Specialist
 Misty Sedehi-----Sr. Guidance Instructional Specialist
 Tiffany Masten-----School Psychologist
 Kathy Dotson-----Office Manager
 Denise Keith -----Registrar/Attendance
 Jennifer Barker-----Librarian
 Megan Fuller -----School Nurse
 Stacy Henderson-----Health Aide
 XXXXXXXX -----Preschool
 Rhonda Dolin-----Transitional Kindergarten
 Ashley Thomas-----Transitional Kindergarten
 Taylor Motta -----AM Kindergarten
 Kaitlyn Vidmar-----AM Kindergarten
 Alexandra Kaminsky-----PM Kindergarten
 Jackie Tobin -----PM Kindergarten
 Morgan Bitter -----First Grade
 Jessica Green-----First Grade
 Jennifer Koop -----First Grade
 Yvonne Strong -----First Grade
 Arianna Durbano-----First/Second Combo
 Stephanie Ballecer -----Second Grade
 Madison Coelho-----Second Grade
 Larae DiFuria-----Second Grade
 Alyanna Quisado-----Second Grade
 Brett Dose-----Third Grade
 Terri Franz -----Third Grade
 Stephanie Henderson -----Third Grade
 Molly Keeslar-----Third Grade
 Breanna Olsen-----Third Grade
 Amanda Bruno -----Fourth Grade
 Amanda McDowell-----Fourth Grade
 Jarod Piccolo-----Fourth Grade
 Allison Platt -----Fourth Grade
 Makalya Fleming-----Fifth Grade
 Christa Raymer-----Fifth Grade
 Chester Stoeckle -----Fifth Grade
 Katie Weimer -----Fifth Grade
 Christy Bernhardt-----Sixth Grade
 Michelle Brown-----Sixth Grade
 Trevor Gray-----Sixth Grade
 Tony Mauro -----Sixth Grade
 Ella Shasky-----RSP Teacher
 Kalen Waltz -----RSP Teacher
 Claudia Graves-----SDC K-3 Teacher
 Clarie Zante-----SDC 4-6 Teacher
 Tori Cox -----Speech/Language Specialist
 Jennifer Brown-----Speech/Language Specialist
 TBA -----Technology
 Jason Kuyper -----Orchestra Music Teacher
 Cynthia Salomonson-----Choral Music Teacher

John Withrow -----Instrumental Music Teacher
 Mario Rosalesmedina -----Food Services
 Michael Sandoval -----Plant Supervisor
 Joseph Martizano-----Night Custodian
 Long Her-----Night Custodian
 Kevin Kerney -----Buchanan Area Asst. Superintendent
 Loree Sisterson-----Buchanan Area Admin. Assistant
 Dr. Corrine Folmer----- CUSD Superintendent

2024-2025 BELL SCHEDULE

Kindergarten Regular Schedule
 AM Session 7:40-11:10
 PM Session 11:10-2:40

Wednesday Early Release
 AM Session 7:40-10:25
 PM Session 10:25-1:10

Grades 1-6 Regular Schedule
 School Starts 7:50
 School Ends 2:40

Wednesday Early Release
 School Starts 7:50
 School Ends 1:10

