

Dry Creek Elementary's
BLOCK DC HANDBOOK
2023-2024

Rev 2/13/24

A Message from Mr. Cook

The Block DC Award is the highest award offered to upper grade students at Dry Creek Elementary School. It presents a worthy challenge and is attainable through hard work, dedication, and forethought. It will require most, if not all students, to work outside of their comfort zone and complete activities that they would not have likely attempted if it were not for the Block DC award. The recipients of this award truly exemplify the concept of the Clovis Sparthenian...to “be the best you can be in Mind, Body, and Spirit.”

Goals serve as our “guidance system” as we travel through life. They are often determined by our desires, dreams, aspirations, abilities, resources, and values. They provide direction and meaning and act as “check points” to gauge our accomplishments and progress. For this reason, goals play a significant role in the achievement of the Block DC Award.

Successful students are well-rounded and when presented with a variety of experiences, we certainly hope they will choose to become involved. We anticipate participation in the Block DC program will inspire students to try a wide variety of available Dry Creek school activities, recognize important opportunities for service, and discover new interests and hidden talents.

Go Panthers!

Mr. Cook

Please note that there may be occasional updates to the Block DC during the school year. Any update applied to the application or handbook will not result in making the award more difficult to receive. Revision dates are posted in the top right corner of the handbook.

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Overview

The Block DC is a prestigious award designed to honor students who have demonstrated excellence in mind, body and spirit. Students in grades 4, 5 and 6 are eligible to apply for this award at the end of each semester. To earn this recognition, students must accumulate the required amount of points for their current grade level, with at least 1 point in each category:

- MIND – Scholarship/Curricular & Athletics
- BODY - Activity
- SPIRIT - School Service/Spirit

We highly suggest that students, along with their parents and teacher, discuss and plan for this award at the beginning of each semester.

Yearly Point Requirements

4th Grade: 30 Points

5th Grade: 35 Points

6th Grade: 35 Points

Special Note: We recognize that many Dry Creek students are involved in activities not sponsored or supported by our school programs. While we acknowledge the value of such activities, participation points will NOT be awarded for Block DC purposes. ***Block DC points will only be awarded for participation in the Dry Creek activities described in this handbook.*** Students are expected to fully participate in the activity requirements and maintain appropriate behavior during practices and performances. ***Student misconduct (any suspension or 3 Major office referrals) and absenteeism (5 unexcused tardies or 3 unexcused absences) are grounds for disqualification of this award. Students shall behave themselves, arrive at school on time, and be present.***

MIND

Scholarship/Curricular

Principal's Honor Roll – 3

Students earning all A's on their report card earn 3 points for that quarter.

High Honor Roll – 2

Students earning all A's and 1 B on their report card earn 2 points for that quarter.

Honor Roll – 1

Students earning all A's and two B's or all A's and one C on their report card earn 1 point for that quarter.

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Math Facts (BIG 4) – I

Completing four 100 fact sheets in addition, subtraction, and multiplication; and four 90 fact sheets in division will earn 1 point. Each math facts page must be timed by the classroom teacher and completed in 3 minutes or less. Students are eligible to earn points in this category one time during the school year.

Accelerated Reader Certificate – 2

Earning the Accelerated Reader Certificate will earn 2 points. Students must read books, pass AR tests and accumulate the required amount of points for his or her grade level during the first semester. To reach the AR Certificate level, **4th grade students must earn 35 AR points, 5th grade students must earn 40 AR points, and 6th grade students must earn 45 AR points** in the semester. [max 2 points]

DC Robotics – 3 (4)

Active participation on a Dry Creek Robotics team will earn 3 points. If your team qualifies for the regional championship, 4 points will be awarded during the first semester. An additional 1 point may be earned when a team qualifies for the national tournament and the team continues to practice into the spring semester.

Essay Contest – I (2)

Participation in each Dry Creek sponsored essay contest is valued at 1 point. Special recognition and/or winning the contest will earn a 2nd point for that contest.

History Day – 2 (3)

Submission of a quality project will earn 2 points. Projects selected for regional competition or qualifying for additional rounds of competition will earn an additional 1 point. [max 3 points]

Spelling Bee – I (2)

Participation and regular attendance at Spelling Bee practices will earn 1 point. Dry Creek qualifiers will earn a 2nd point. Qualifying for the state or national competitions will earn an additional point for each award earned.

Chess Club – 2 (3)

Students who participate in at least 10 chess club sessions and one tournament are eligible to earn 2 points. Team placement at a Central Valley Chess tournament or State Championship tournament will earn 3 points in that semester.

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i-Ready Math Typical Growth – I

Earning a minimum of 100% of the “typical growth” target after the winter diagnostic assessment will earn 1 point per semester.

i-Ready Math Stretch Growth – I

Earning a minimum of 66% of the “stretch growth” target after the winter diagnostic assessment will earn 1 point per semester.

i-Ready Reading Typical Growth – I

Earning a minimum of 100% of the “typical growth” target after the winter diagnostic assessment will earn 1 point per semester.

i-Ready Reading Stretch Growth – I

Earning a minimum of 66% of the “stretch growth” target after the winter diagnostic assessment will earn an additional 1 point in each semester.

MIND
Scholarship/Curricular

Instrumental Music – I (2)

5th and 6th grade students who actively participate in orchestra or band and earn Outstanding (O) grades on both quarter report cards will receive one point for that semester. Performance participation in Arts in the Park Spring Concert increases the points earned to 2 points in the second semester.

Festival Choir – I (2)

5th and 6th grade students who actively participate in choir and earn Outstanding (O) grades on both quarter report cards will receive one point for that semester. Performance participation in Arts in the Park Spring Concert increases the points earned to 2 points in the second semester.

4th Grade Music – I

4th grade students who perform in Dry Creek's Arts in the Park event in the spring will earn 1 point for the second semester.

Oral Interpretation – 2

Participation in Oral Interpretation rehearsals and performances earns 2 points during the 2nd semester.

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DC Drama Production – 3

5th and 6th grade actors, actresses, and backstage crew members earn 3 points for their involvement in the Dry Creek Drama production.

GATE – 1

Students who qualify and participate in GATE activities earn 1 point per semester.

Art/Poster Contest – 1 (2)

Participation in a Dry Creek sponsored art or poster contest is valued at 1 point. Special recognition and/or winning the contest will earn 2 points.

Book Club –1

Students who attend a minimum of 7 Book Club meetings per quarter earn 1 point.

BODY

PFA Healthy Fitness Zone – 1/2 (3)

In the 1st semester, students may earn 1 point for passing the PFA mile run pretest. During the 2nd semester, all students scoring in the Healthy Fitness Zone during PFA testing earn 2 points. Students who perform above the 85th percentile/Superintendent's Award earn 3 points.

Fall Season – 2 (3, 4)

Athletes who attend practices and games/meets on Dry Creek's cross-country, football, or girls volleyball team earn 2 points in the 1st semester. A Buchanan Area championship increases the value to 3 points for all students participating in that sport (A, B, C teams). Individuals that competed and earned a District Championship are eligible for an additional point for up to a maximum of 4 points.

Winter Season – 2 (3, 4)

Athletes who attend practices and games/tournaments on Dry Creek's girls or boys basketball, or wrestling team earn 2 points in the 1st semester. A Buchanan Area championship increases the value to 3 points for all students participating in that sport (A, B, C teams). Individuals that competed and earned a District Championship are eligible for an additional point for up to a maximum of 4 points.

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Spring Season – 2 (3, 4)

5th and 6th grade athletes who attend practices and games on Dry Creek's softball, baseball, or boys volleyball team earn 2 points in the 2nd semester. A Buchanan Area championship increases the value to 3 points for all students participating in that sport (A, B, C teams). Individuals that competed and earned a District Championship are eligible for an additional point for up to a maximum of 4 points.

Track – I (2)

4th, 5th and 6th grade athletes who attend practices and meets on Dry Creek's track team earn 1 point in the 2nd semester. Individuals who qualify for the Buchanan Area Championship earn 2 points.

Game Cheer – 4

Athletes who participate on Dry Creek's 5th/6th Game Cheer Squad will earn 4 points for attending weekly practices, performing in rallies, and attending the football carnival and other special events.

Competition Pep or Cheer – 2

Athletes who participate on Dry Creek's Competition teams will earn 2 points for attending weekly practices, performing in rallies, and attending special events. An additional one (1) point may be added in the second semester if their team earned a first place at each local, state, or national competition.

4th Grade Spirit Squad – 2

4th grade athletes who participate on Dry Creek's Spirit Squad earn 2 points for attending monthly practices, performing in rallies, and attending the football carnival and other special events.

Intramurals – I

Students who participate in at least 6 lunchtime intramural games will earn 1 point for the semester.

SPIRIT/Athletics

Citizenship – I

Students earning an "O" for outstanding citizenship on their report card earn 1 point for that quarter.

Student Council – 2 (3)

All students are welcome to participate in the Student Council. Those students who regularly attend student council meetings and participate in a minimum of five leadership activities will earn 1 point. Student Council elected officers, as decided by those in Student Council, have additional responsibilities and may earn an additional 1 point per semester. [max 3 points]

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Panther Pals – I

Students who apply, are selected and regularly participate in Pantherz Club will earn 1 point per semester.
[max 1 point]

Athlete of Character – I

Students who are identified as an “Athlete of Character” by an opposing team at away games will be awarded a maximum of 1 point during the season and semester it was received.

School Service contract – I

Students may earn school service points by pre arranging activities to support Dry Creek staff members and Dry Creek school activities. Students must complete 7.5 hours of school service. Examples include helping in the library, cafeteria, office, previous year’s teacher, and management of athletic teams, etc. Students may not earn school service hours from their current teacher. Scan and attach the Block DC School Service Form to the application for verification.

Heritage Event(s) – 2 (3)

Students who participate in the Dry Creek Panther Heritage Event will earn 2 points for participating in the event each semester. A student that participates in the second semester Fashion Show will earn an additional point for a maximum of 3 points.

Video Announcement Team – 2

Students who participate in the Dry Creek Panther Video Announcement will earn 1 point for participating in the Video Announcement team. Participating students will be assigned to a team that is responsible for all elements of telling the life of the campus through videos displayed during daily morning announcements. Students will earn 1 point in either the first or second semester.