

Pleasant Grove Middle School

A California Distinguished School



2540 Green Valley Road
Rescue, California 95672

(530) 672-4400
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www.pleasantgrovepumas.org
www.rescueusd.org



Student/Parent Handbook

We ask all parents/guardians to review this handbook with their student(s) to ensure they have an accurate and complete understanding of our programs, procedures, and expectations here at Pleasant Grove. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this handbook, we welcome you to contact our school office at (530) 672-4400.

This handbook belongs to: _____

RESCUE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Rescue Union School District, working cooperatively with parents and community, will educate all students to their highest potential, preparing them to understand and appreciate the past, adapt to the ever-changing present, and make responsible decisions for the future. As an AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) school, Pleasant Grove supports AVID's mission "to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college and career readiness and success in a global society."

PLEASANT GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Pleasant Grove Middle School will provide every student with a high standard of academic learning combined with personal and social development in a collaborative, healthy, inclusive, and positive environment.

PLEASANT GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL PUMA PRIDE

- **Positive Growth Mindset:** Positive Conversations, Appropriate Language
- **Responsible:** Respect personal Space and Belongings, Be Courteous to others
- **Inclusive:** Be Welcoming, Value opinions, Support Others, Build people up
- **Diligent:** Follow Directions, Go to Your Classes Promptly, Stay on Task
- **Engagement:** Listen, Make Eye Contact, Have Proper Supplies, Actively Listen

For the latest version of this handbook, in its entirety, please visit our website:
www.pleasantgrovepumas.org

ACADEMICS

We believe that academic honesty and personal integrity are fundamental components of every student's education and character development. The RUSD Board of Education expects that students will not cheat, lie, plagiarize or commit other acts of academic dishonesty. Students, parents/guardians, staff and administrators shall be responsible for creating and maintaining a positive school climate that encourages honesty and integrity. Students found to have committed an act of academic dishonesty shall be subject to district and school-site disciplinary consequences (BP 5131.9).

Grade Checks and Procedures

Parents may monitor student progress in classes through the Jupiter Grades website. A link to the Jupiter Grades website is located at pleasantgrovepumas.org. Directions and log-in information are sent home at the start of the school year. Report cards may be accessed using the Aeries parent portal.

Teachers will provide class requirements and grading procedures to their students. Progress Reports and Report Cards can be checked on Aeries. The trimesters end on the following dates:

Trimester	Trimester Ends	Report Card Available On-line
1	November 5	November 12
2	February 25	March 4
3	May 20	May 27

*A hard copy of progress reports or report cards may be obtained in the school office.

Academic Support (Tutorials)

Many teachers offer tutorials during the first 15 minutes of lunch. This allows students to access support while still having time to eat and visit with friends. A teacher tutorial schedule will be provided within the first couple weeks of school.

Student Success Team (S.S.T.)

The Student Success Team is available for students who are not experiencing academic success. There are prerequisites for a parent requesting an SST meeting. SST meetings are not substitutes for parent/teacher conferences. If you answer **"NO"** to any of the following questions, please contact your student's teacher(s) as a first step in supporting student success. All criteria below **MUST** be satisfied before an SST may be scheduled:

- o Has your child participated in teacher tutorials for at least 6-8 weeks?
- o Does your child have D's or F's on a progress or trimester report card?
- o Have you met with your child's teacher(s) to express your concerns?
- o Are you using Jupiter Grades to monitor your child's work and progress?
- o Does your child have a history of scoring Below Basic or Far Below Basic on standardized tests?

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

There are many activities that take place after school hours. Times and dates will be published in flyers home, emails, student bulletins, and on the school website. Prior to the event, all students are expected to make arrangements for transportation home at the conclusion of the event. If parents/guardians are not available to pick up their child, other arrangements must be made. Students who are waiting for their ride from an after school activity must wait in front of the Administration Building and are expected to act responsibly, showing respect for others and school property. It is not permissible for students to stay on campus for any length of time after the conclusion of a school event, even if waiting to participate in or watch a sporting event. **Students who have habitual problems being picked up in a timely manner will not be allowed to continue to participate in after school activities, including dances.**

Extracurricular Activities (RUSD BP 6145)

Extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to, after school sports, clubs, enrichment classes, dances and field trips. To be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, each student must maintain these standards:

1. Good citizenship and at least 80 merits/275 merits required for the end-of-the-year activities.
2. 2.0 GPA.
3. Financial obligations (payment for lost items, including books) must be met.
4. Attend school on the day of the activity.

If any of these standards are not maintained, the student will be subject to removal from all extracurricular activities until such time as the requirements are met. Eligibility will be determined and enforced at progress report and trimester grade reporting periods.

Sports

The school offers a full range of athletic opportunities after school. Students of all grade levels are eligible to participate in cross-country, basketball, track, volleyball, and wrestling. Students are not required to try out for cross-country, track or wrestling. Teams compete against other middle schools from within the Foothill Athletic League. In order to be eligible to participate in the sports program, a student must have:

- A minimum grade point average of 2.0 (C average) during the current and/or preceding grading period (progress report or trimester)
- 80 merits for the trimester
- A current physical exam on file

Members of sports teams at school are expected to act as exemplary citizens of the school and community. They are ambassadors of the school and are expected to act as such. They are also to be exemplary in their efforts in PE class by demonstrating good sportsmanship, a cooperative attitude with teachers, and always giving 100% effort in class activities. Students are not allowed to remain at school, unsupervised, while waiting for sporting events.

ARRIVAL

The Pleasant Grove campus has adult supervision at 7:45am. Students arriving before this time will not have designated adult supervision. In addition, students must be picked up after school by 2:25pm (Daily) and 1:25pm on Wednesdays.

ATTENDANCE

If a student is absent from school, the absence must be reported by calling the school office. The student's name, the day and date of the absence, the reason for the absence and relationship of the person reporting the absence (i.e., mom, dad, grandparent) should be stated. The student may also bring a note signed by the parent/guardian describing the reason for the absence to the office the day the student returns to school. **The attendance line is available 24 hours a day at (530) 672-4400 ext. 4004.**

The following are the **Only Legal** excuses that will be accepted by the office for absences and tardies as given in Education Code 48205.

1. Personal illness.
2. Quarantine under the direction of the county or city health officer.
3. Medical, dental, optometric or chiropractic appointments, court appearance.
4. Attendance at funeral services.
5. Participation in religious instruction or exercises in accordance with district policy.
6. The student must attend at least the minimum school day (3 hours) and shall not be excused for more than 4 school days per month.

Excessive absences due to illness (more than 14 days) must be verified by a physician (RUSD board policy 5113). Excessive excused and/or unexcused absences will result in a referral to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). Family vacations are unexcused absences.

Appointments/Early Checkouts

Please arrange for doctor and dentist appointments after school hours. Early checkouts from school cause a disruption to the instructional program. If you need to pick your student up early, please send a note with him/her in the morning stating the time he/she needs to come down to the office to meet you. Have your student bring the note into the front office before school and he/she will receive a pass to leave class at the appropriate time. If you need to pick your student up early, due to an appointment or situation that has arisen after he/she left for school, **please come to the office to have your student called out of class. Do not call/email the office and expect to have them waiting for you.** Students must be signed out at the office to leave campus early. Only a parent/guardian or a person listed on a student's emergency release card may sign a student out of school. Students will not be released to anyone not on the emergency card or anyone under 18 years of age. Upon return, the student must sign-in in the office. **PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO SCHEDULE ALL APPOINTMENTS BEFORE 8:00 AM OR AFTER 2:15 PM.**

Chronic Illness

A parent may elect to complete a Chronic Illness form if his/her child is diagnosed with a chronic illness by a physician. With this form on file, the parent may verify illnesses, by listing in writing to the school, the symptoms designated without bringing the child to the doctor's office for an examination. Chronic Illness forms are available in the school office.

Home Hospital Instruction (HHI) is a limited program available to students who are temporarily disabled (2-8 weeks) by a serious injury or illness that results in an absence from school for more than two consecutive weeks. Required authorization forms (Parent Authorization, Medical Verification and Authorization for Exchange of Information) must be on file before program eligibility can be determined and HHI may begin. In addition, a letter from the doctor is required stating that the student will be homebound for at least 2-8 weeks. When approved by school administration, a certificated teacher will be assigned.

Long Term Absences (3 or more days)

In the event of an illness, which causes a student to miss **3 or more days** of school, a request for homework should be made (preferably by email) by the parent/guardian to each of the student's teachers. Work may be picked up in the school office after 2:15 PM within 24 hours of request. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to check for assignments. Many assignments may be found on the Jupiter Grades website.

Independent Study (5 or more days)

Parents/guardians who foresee their student being absent for five or more days may request an Independent Study Contract in the office **at least 5 school days prior to the first day of the absence** and are subject to approval by the administration. Independent Study Contracts and assignments are given to the student the day before the scheduled absence. There is no substitute for classroom instruction. Parents/Guardians should make every effort to ensure students are present on each school day and plan family trips outside the school calendar. The teachers will make a reasonable effort to provide missed work; however, a student's grade may be adversely affected due to missed instruction. To receive full credit for missed assignments, the Independent Study Contract **must be completed and returned to the teacher the day the student returns to school. NO EXCEPTIONS.** No Independent Study Contracts are available for the first and last two weeks of the school year.

Make-up Work due to Absence

For an absence of 1-3 days, **it is the student's responsibility to request make-up work upon their return** from teachers for assignments or missed work due to the absence. Students receive 1 day per absence to make-up missed work. Example: If a student is absent for 2 days, they have 2 days upon their return to make up work. This policy does not extend to long term projects and tests. This includes absences from class due to a school-related field trip. Work may be assigned from all classes, including electives and P.E.

Tardies/Truancies

Students are expected to be seated in their classrooms and ready to work when the bell rings signaling the start of each period, including Period 1. Students who miss school work because of truancy or other deliberate actions should not expect to receive credit for the time missed, nor should they expect the opportunity to take any missed tests for credit. Students will face the following consequences for tardiness:

Tardy #1 & #2	Warning
Tardy #3 & Above	Loss of 5 Merits for each occurrence

A student arriving at school who will not be in their seat for instruction by 8:00 AM must obtain a tardy slip in the office before going to class. A note should accompany your student stating the reason for the tardy. Missing the bus, over-sleeping or heavy traffic are not valid excuses for tardiness. Any student who is tardy to school in excess of 30 minutes, on more than three days in one school year is considered truant. In El Dorado County, chronic truancy, and/or tardies may result in a referral to the El Dorado County School Attendance Board (SARB).

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

Pleasant Grove is an AVID school where we use many researched-based strategies to help our students become college and career ready. One important skill that has been shown to lead to future success is being organized and ready for the school day. Pleasant Grove uses a schoolwide AVID binder organization system to ensure students are prepared for their education. Our goal is to help students learn how to be more organized so that eventually it becomes a habit they keep throughout their educational careers. The AVID binder content can be found on our Pleasant Grove Website.

BICYCLES/SKATEBOARDS/SCOOTERS

All students riding bicycles, skateboards, or scooters to and from school **MUST** observe the following rules:

1. Obey all traffic laws, **including the wearing of a bicycle helmet.**
2. Students **MUST** walk their bikes/skateboards/scooters on campus at all times. This includes the parking lot.
3. Bicycles, skateboards and scooters must be placed in the racks provided near the administration office.
4. Skateboards, scooters, skates, roller blades, or any other footwear or device that has wheels and is ridden, are **not used on campus at any time.**

Students who violate any of the above rules may be subject to disciplinary consequences. **The school is NOT responsible for lost, stolen or vandalized items.**

BIRTHDAYS AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS

Please do not bring or deliver food (cakes, pizza, donuts, etc) to school to share with other students. This causes a tremendous disruption during the day, especially at lunch. Balloons and flowers are not allowed in the classroom or on the bus, so please save these for home.

CALIFORNIA JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP FEDERATION (CJSF)

The purpose of the California Junior Scholarship Federation, a state-wide organization of over 600 chapters, is to foster high standards of scholarship, service, and citizenship on the part of students of California's public and private junior high and middle school. Only 7th and 8th grade students are eligible for the CJSF program.

CELL PHONES

Students may possess cell phones and phone watches on campus for use **after school**. All electronic devices (including cell phones) must be **turned off** during the school day and put away in backpacks or bags. Phones are not to be kept on students. The school day begins when the student arrives on campus; however, if a student needs to check-in with a parent when he/she arrives at school, he/she may do so in the office. Cell phone use is permitted **ONLY** after the school day. Students using a cell phone during school hours for calls, texting, photography, video recording or playing, etc will result in having their cell phone kept in the office until claimed by a parent in addition to a 5 demerit referral. Please do not call or text your student during school hours. If you need to contact your student (in the event of an emergency), please go through the office in order to not disrupt class. **Repeated cell phone violations will result in progressive disciplinary action.**

No electronic listening or recording device may be used in a classroom without the teacher and administrator's permission (Board policy 1250 a). Electronic interactive games, cameras, and laser pointers are not allowed. Please leave all toys at home. All electronic devices that are found in use during the school day, without permission, will be taken to the office for parent pick-up in addition to a 5 demerit referral. **The school is NOT responsible for lost, stolen or damaged electronic devices.**

CLOSED CAMPUS

Pleasant Grove maintains a closed campus. This means that students are not allowed to leave school at any time during the day unless signed out in the office by a parent or guardian. This includes lunchtime. Students may not bring friends or relatives to school with them if they are not enrolled at Pleasant Grove School. Permission to leave the school grounds during the school day may be granted when the following criteria are met:

- A parent or guardian finds it necessary to sign their student out. (The signature of parent/guardian must be on file in the office on the student's emergency card.)
- Names of authorized adults must also be on file.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

We encourage the resolution of concerns and complaints early and informally whenever possible. **Parents should direct any concerns to their child's teacher(s).** If a problem remains unresolved, the individual should submit a formal written complaint as early as possible in accordance with the appropriate district procedures. District procedures and forms are found on the RUSD Parent Recourse page. <http://www.rescueusd.org//Resources/Parent-Resources/index.html>

CONFERENCES

Parent conferences will be held for those students in danger of not being successful during the afternoons of September 24th and 25th. These will be on an appointment basis. Parents are encouraged to contact their student's teachers whenever concerns arise.

SCHOOL COUNSELING

The school counselor is available to all students. The school counselor works with students, teachers, administrators, and local community agencies to help address barriers to student learning and help promote academic success. School counselors work with students on issues that may impede their ability to be successful in classrooms. The school counselor works with students to help them achieve their academic goals, explore the world of work/colleges and address social and emotional issues that get in the way of their learning. There are limits to what school counselors can do. The School counselor is not a therapist and does not

provide ongoing therapy. When ongoing therapy is needed, the school counselor will work collaboratively with parents/guardians to assist in locating outside resources. Requests for school counseling can be made by parents, students, and teachers either through email, phone call or paper forms outside of the school counseling office. To contact the counselor directly please, call (530) 672-4400 or e-mail ltodoroff@rescueusd.org

DELIVERIES TO YOUR STUDENT AT SCHOOL

Our staff recognizes the importance of providing students with sustained, uninterrupted instruction. Interruptions and distractions must be limited to ensure that teachers can dedicate classroom time to the instruction of students. Please make arrangements with your student before school to eliminate the need to have your student called out of class. Please do not call or text your student during school hours. If you need to deliver something to your student, please go through the office in order to not disrupt class. Students will be sent a notice from the office to come pick up their item(s) between classes. It is the student's responsibility to come to the office and check for such things at break, between classes, at lunch, or after school.

DISCIPLINE

Our goal is to provide a safe environment for all students that encourages learning.

The standard for behavior is: **Be respectful, be responsible, and be safe.**

Our goal is to help students make positive, healthy choices that include adherence to school rules. Positive behavior is recognized through our Student Recognition Program. A student who chooses not to adhere to the rules will be subject to disciplinary consequences. Behavior is considered appropriate when students are diligent in study, neat and clean, careful with school property, and courteous and respectful toward their teachers, other staff, other students, and volunteers. Our commitment is to provide a safe environment to encourage our students to learn.

Bullying/Harassment

Students have the right to be free from threats, intimidation, inappropriate teasing and name-calling that create an intimidating and/or hostile school environment. Bullying/Harassment can have significant effects on students and can lead to even more serious retaliatory behaviors. We are committed to maintaining a school environment that is free from bullying and harassment. Since harassment and bullying often occur when adults are not present, it is important for students who are victims OR bystanders to report these incidents to teachers, yard supervisors, administration, or other school personnel immediately. The school administration takes all reports of bullying, harassment and retaliation seriously and will respond with appropriate and significant disciplinary action (Ed Code 48900, BP 5131).

Bullying/Cyberbullying

Bullying is repeated exposure over time to negative aggressive actions and a power imbalance where victims do not feel that they can make the bully stop. Bullying can take many forms, including physical, verbal, psychological, relational, or cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying is bullying using electronic information or communications (text or images) to humiliate, harass, tease, intimidate, threaten, or slander one or more persons. If the act of cyberbullying has a negative impact on the victim's academic performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment, the offending student is subject to school discipline. Cyberbullying through the use of any school district owned, operated, and supervised technologies is prohibited. Administration or a designee may report allegations of cyberbullying to law enforcement authorities.

Harassment/Sexual Harassment

Harassment is one or more specific, unrelenting and unwanted acts that are related to race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, etc, and/or create a hostile educational environment. Harassment can occur even if the behavior is not directed at the individual who feels harassed. Harassment can have significant effects on students and can lead to even more serious retaliatory behaviors.

Sexual harassment of any student by another student, an employee or other person at school or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity is prohibited. Any student who engages in sexual harassment of anyone at school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity is in violation of this policy and shall be subject to disciplinary action (BP 5145.7). Sexually harassing behaviors that will not be tolerated include, but are not limited to unwelcome sexual flirtations, contact, rumors, jokes, stories, drawings, pictures, gestures, threats, verbal abuse, comments or sexually degrading descriptions. Students may not bring to school or have in possession any material depicting or describing indecency, obscenity or sexual behavior.

MERIT PROGRAM

Pleasant Grove utilizes a merit system to monitor behavior of students. The system provides record keeping for privileges. All students are given 100 Merits **at the beginning of each trimester**. Merits can be deducted for unacceptable behavior (eg dress code violations, class disruptions, tardiness, gum chewing, and all suspendable offenses). All students must have a minimum of **80 merits** per trimester to participate in extracurricular activities, including but not limited to sport tryouts, sports, dances, reward activities, student council, end of year activities, promotion ceremony, etc. **A minimum number of 275 total merits are**

required for all students to attend the end-of-the-year activities. For 8th grade students, this includes Sun Splash, 8th Grade Dance and Promotion Activities.

The Merit Program is only a record keeping system. Disciplinary action may be taken by an administrator and/or teacher in addition to the recording of demerits. Merit losses for referrals vary between 0 and 5. Administrative referrals and class suspensions may be accompanied by a loss of 10 to 20 merits. A suspension (including class suspensions) will result in a loss of between 10 and 20 merits, depending on the duration of the suspension. Any student suspended in the third trimester will not be permitted to participate in the end-of-the year activities. For 8th grade students this includes, but is not limited to, 8th grade trip, the 8th grade party, or the promotion activities, regardless of merits. **Students who lose 25 merits in a trimester may be required to attend a conference with their parent/guardian and an administrator.**

Merit Recovery

Students have the opportunity to earn back 5 lost merits each trimester through completion of 1 hour of community service. One time per school year students who lose 10 merits for a single offense may retrieve 10 merits by completing 3 hours of community service. Students may only complete 1 merit recovery in any trimester (5 merits or 10 merits). **Merits must be recovered in the same trimester during which they were lost.** All merit recovery is voluntary and must be completed in order to regain privileges. Merit Recovery forms are available through the school website and in the school office and must be completed/returned to the office by the due dates listed on the form.

Referrals

Students will be issued a Discipline Referral for inappropriate conduct resulting in a loss of a minimum of 5 merits. Students who receive more than 5 discipline referrals in a trimester will be subject to progressive disciplinary consequences that may include school suspension. After-school detention(s), class/in-house suspensions, and home suspensions are possible consequences for behavior infractions. If a student does not attend an assigned detention, two detentions will be assigned. If either of these two detentions is missed, in-school suspension is the consequence for the second offense. (Exceptions to a Detention “no-show” are if a student is absent on the day of the assigned detention or if a parent requests rescheduling prior to the assigned day of the detention. For these exceptions, students will simply be reassigned a make-up detention.) **Students who lose 25 merits in a trimester will be subject to a conference with their parent/guardian and an administrator to discuss subsequent alternative consequences.**

Alternative Consequences to Home Suspension:

- **Parent Attends School:** A parent may elect to attend school with their child for the entire school day with 24 hrs notice. Please sign in at the office by 7:45am and sign out at 2:05pm. Parents are expected to model the school rules and reinforce appropriate conduct at school. Student and parent must remain on campus the entire day, including lunch. Please note, at times, due to COVID parents may not be eligible to be a visitor on campus.

Serious discipline infractions including but not limited to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, cyber bullying, drugs, and weapons will be addressed in accordance with school and district policy, and may include immediate implementation of Home Suspension and/or Recommendation for Expulsion.

Diversity and Racism

Recognizing and valuing diversity creates a school environment that is welcoming and productive. The California Education Code states: “All pupils have the right to participate fully in the educational process, free from discrimination and harassment. Harassment on school grounds directed at an individual on the basis of personal characteristics or status creates a hostile environment and jeopardizes equal educational opportunity as guaranteed by the California Constitution and the United States Constitution (Ed Code 201).” Harassment based on personal characteristics or status will be viewed as significant and will be addressed with significant disciplinary action.

At Pleasant Grove, we appreciate diversity and make every effort to guarantee the rights, safety and learning opportunities of all students. In working to accomplish our goal of establishing a bias-free environment, the Pleasant Grove staff and administration will uphold the Education Code as it states: “There is an urgent need to prevent and respond to acts of hate violence and bias-related incidents that are occurring at an increasing rate in California's public schools. California's public schools have an affirmative obligation to combat racism, sexism, and other forms of bias, and a responsibility to provide equal educational opportunity (Ed Code 201).” Any act of racism or discrimination will be viewed as significant and will be addressed with significant disciplinary action.

Dress Code

(BP 5132): The appropriateness of clothing in question as per this dress code will be left to the discretion of the school administration. The school administration recognizes that fashion trends may pose challenges for students in finding appropriate clothing; however, it is important to maintain a proper learning environment. Parents/guardians and students are requested to take the proper steps to ensure their clothing meets the standards of the dress code. The appropriateness of clothing will be

determined by the way the clothes fit as the student participates in the regular activities of the school day (e.g. walking, sitting, standing, or moving). Inappropriately dressed students will be sent to the office with a discipline referral to change inappropriate clothing with their P.E. clothes. (Once a dress code violation has been identified, the student cannot “cover up” the violation with a sweatshirt, jacket, etc.; they must change the clothes in violation of dress code.) Violation of the dress code will result in a Discipline Referral and the loss of 5 merits for each offense. Repeated violations will result in further disciplinary action. The Dress Code is enforced at all school-sponsored activities, including dances and field trips.

The following dress code guidelines apply to all regular school activities:

1. Extreme or inappropriate make-up, hair color, or hair style resulting in a disruption of instructional activities is not acceptable. Hair that impairs vision or eye contact is not appropriate.
2. Shoes must be worn at all times.
3. Clothing, jewelry, and personal items shall be free of writing, pictures, or other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane, or sexually suggestive or which advocate racial, ethnic, or religious prejudice or promote the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons, or violence.
4. All clothing shall be appropriate for school. Garments shall conceal undergarments at all times.
 - The hem of all skirts and dresses shall not be more than a minimum length of 5 inches above the knee. (A 3X5 index card will be used for measurement). Tears in jeans may not expose skin higher than 5 inches above the knee.
 - All shorts must have a 5 inch or longer inseam.
 - Pants should be worn at or above the hip with no undergarments showing.
 - No revealing clothing may be worn including low-cut (no cleavage) tops, bare midriff tops, strapless tops, halter tops, and garments with excessive holes or fraying. **ALL** top straps must be at least 1” wide. Personal parts of the body must not be inappropriately exposed. See-through garments are not allowed without proper undergarments underneath. A bandeau is considered a “bra” and must not be visible.
 - No gang affiliated attire, including bandanas, may be worn.
 - Pajamas, sleepwear, slippers, blankets or other bedtime clothes are not allowed unless there is a special spirit day deeming this as acceptable.
 - Swim/beachwear may not be worn.
 - Chains, large earrings, and or jewelry with protrusions/sharp edges are not allowed.
 - No high heels taller than an inch. Students need to be able to quickly evacuate if there is an emergency.
5. Hats, caps, hoods, and other head covering shall not be worn indoors. California Public Schools are required to allow students and staff to wear hats or other protective sun-wear outdoors during the school day. “Hats or other protective sun wear” means hats and/or other clothing that protects the student’s skin from exposure to the sun. Included in this category are baseball caps and visors. Bandanas, beanies, stocking caps, or similar items are not included in the sun-wear category. Students may only wear hats when they are outside. If a P.E. activity is in the gym or classroom, students may not wear hats.

Drugs - “No Tolerance” Policy

Rescue District maintains a “No Tolerance” policy with regards to student use, possession, distribution, sale, or being under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, controlled substances, “look-alike” drugs, steroids, or possessing drug paraphernalia (including Vape Pens) on the school premise or at any school function (home or away). These are strictly prohibited and any student found in violation of the Education Code covering these prohibited substances will be immediately suspended, may be cited by law enforcement, and may be recommended for expulsion. This includes the unlawful possession, distribution, or sale of prescription medications.(Please see Grounds for Expulsion.)

Student Rights

At Pleasant Grove we respect students and the rights given to them by the constitution. In respecting those rights, students will always be given the opportunity to present their perspective in situations regarding misbehavior. In addition to this, many sources of information will be sought out and taken into consideration as situations may require.

Respect for Staff

It is the job of all staff on campus to ensure that all students are safe and have the opportunity to learn. In order to carry out the duties of their job, it is important for all staff members to be treated with respect. This means students must act and speak in a manner that recognizes the staff’s authority in the classroom, on the school campus and at school related events. All pupils shall comply with the regulations, pursue the required course of study, and submit to the authority of the teachers of the schools (Ed Code 48908). Students are to respond courteously to the direction of staff members even if they are in disagreement with the direction being given. If a student has questions or concerns about the direction(s) they are being given by staff, the student is still expected to comply with the directions, unless it is illegal or unethical. Then, at an appropriate time, the student should talk

individually with the staff member to explain his or her concerns regarding the direction given. Students who demonstrate disrespectful behavior toward staff members will be subject to appropriate discipline.

Suspension from Class by a Teacher

A teacher may suspend a student from class for any of the acts enumerated in the discipline guidelines. (Ed Codes 48900 and 48900.2). The teacher will inform the parent or guardian of the class suspension. Parental attendance may be required on the day the student returns to class or within one week thereafter. (Board Policy 5144.1b, Education Code 48900.1) Students who are repeatedly suspended from class may be subject to home suspension.

(CA Labor Code 230.7): “Current law enables parents/guardians to be absent from work without endangering their employment status in order to attend a portion of their child’s school day at a teacher’s request. Besides furthering improved classroom behavior, such attendance can promote positive parent-child interactions.”

Grounds for Suspension or Expulsion (Ed Code Sect. 48900)

If a student is suspended from school, he/she will lose the right to attend school and school activities. School suspension will result in the loss of merits. A student may be suspended or expelled for any of the acts listed below if the act is related to a school activity or school attendance occurring at any district school or within any other school district, including but not limited to the following circumstances:

1. While on school grounds.
2. While going to or coming from school.
3. During the lunch period, whether on or off the school campus.
4. During, going to, or coming from a school-sponsored activity.

Ed Code Sec. 48900

- a. Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
- b. Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive or other dangerous object. (Includes lighters, matches, BB guns, firecrackers, poppers.)
- c. Unlawfully possessed, used, sold or otherwise furnished, or been under the influence of any controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
- d. Unlawfully offered or arranged or negotiated to sell any controlled substance, and alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid, substance, or materials as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant, or “look alike” drug substances.
- e. Committed robbery or extortion.
- f. Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.
- g. Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property.
- h. Possessed or used tobacco.
- i. Committed an obscene or vulgar act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity. This includes “panting” oneself or others.
- j. Possessed, used, unlawfully offered, arranged or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia.
- k. Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, or any school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties. This includes the tampering of school documents or the forging of signatures.
- l. Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.
- m. Possession of an imitation firearm.
- n. Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code 261, 266c, Penal Code 286,288,288a or 289, or committed a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code 243.4.
- o. Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of either preventing that student from being a witness or retaliating against that student for being a witness, or both.
- p. Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug SOMA.
- q. Engaged in, attempted to engaged in, hazing as defined in EC 32050
- r. Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act, as defined in subdivisions (f) and (g) of section 32261, directed specifically toward a pupil or school personnel.
- s. Aids or abets the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person.

Ed Code Sec. 48900.2

Committed sexual harassment as defined in Education Code 212.5, provided that the conduct is considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the victim’s academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment in grades 4-12.

Ed Code Sec. 48900.3: Committed hate violence in grades 4-12.

Ed Code Sec. 48900.4: Committed harassment, threats, or intimidation in grades 4-12.
Ed Code Sec. 48900.7: Made terrorist threats against a school official or school property, or both.

During the suspension period the student may not be on any school campus in the district for any reason.

Expulsion (Ed Code Sect. 48900)

- A. Mandatory Suspension, Recommendation for Expulsion and Expulsions
1. Education Code Section 48915C requires a principal or superintendent to immediately suspend and recommend expulsion of a pupil that he or she determines has committed any of the five following acts at school or at a school activity off school grounds:
 - a. Possessing, selling, or otherwise furnishing a firearm.
 - b. Brandishing a knife at another person.
 - c. Unlawfully selling a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code Section 11053.
 - d. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery, as defined in Education Code Section 48900(n).
 - e. Possession of an explosive as defined in 18USC921.
 2. Under Section 48915(d), if the governing board or hearing panel finds that the student did in fact commit one of the five acts listed above, the governing board shall order a pupil expelled. No exceptions.
- B. Mandatory Recommendation for Expulsion; Permissive Expulsions.
1. Education Code Section 48915(a) identifies grounds on which a recommendation for expulsion must be made unless the expulsion is not appropriate because of particular described circumstances. These grounds are:
 - a. Causing serious physical injury to another person except in self-defense;
 - b. Possessing any knife, explosive, or other dangerous object of no reasonable use to the pupil;
 - c. Unlawful possession of any controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of...the Health and Safety Code, except for a first offense for the possession of not more than one avoirdupois ounce of marijuana, other than concentrated cannabis;
 - d. Robbery or extortion.
 - e. Assault or battery upon a school employee, as defined in Penal Code Sections 240 and 242.
- C. Permissive Recommendation for Expulsion and Permissive Expulsions.
1. A principal or superintendent may recommend expulsion and a governing board may order a pupil expelled upon a finding that the pupil violated Sections 48900(a) through (o), 48900.2, 48900.3, or 48900.4. However, there may be some overlap with 48915(a) and, which require mandatory recommendations or mandatory expulsions.

Appeal Process for Disciplinary Actions

This process applies to disciplinary actions other than suspension or exclusion. (Appeal for either suspension or expulsion is outlined in board policy). If a student chooses to appeal a disciplinary action, these are the procedures to follow. This process must begin within one week of receiving a disciplinary action.

1. Student discusses the action with the teacher or other staff member who issued the disciplinary action.
2. If the student's appeal is denied, the student may request a parent to discuss the disciplinary action with the teacher or staff member who issued it.
3. If the parent's appeal is denied, the parent may request a meeting with the teacher or staff member and an administrator.
4. If the parent's appeal is denied by an administrator the parent may request a meeting with the superintendent.

Enforcement of the Discipline Plan: When misconduct occurs, staff shall implement appropriate discipline and attempt to identify and address the causes of the student's behavior. Staff shall enforce disciplinary rules fairly, consistently and without discrimination (BP 5144a).

Terrorist Threats: In light of the tragic incidents that have happened in public schools across the country, we take very seriously threats to the safety of students, especially those involving weapons that can cause serious harm. Students must refrain from even joking about bringing weapons to school and harming other students. Terrorist threats will not be tolerated under any circumstance. Such threats create a hostile and fearful environment that seriously distracts from learning and threatens students' sense of security at school. Students who make or are conspirators in making terrorist threats will receive significant consequences and law enforcement will be contacted.

Violence: A safe environment is essential if students are to be focused and ready to take advantage of the learning experiences on campus. Part of a safe environment includes feeling unthreatened by the use of force or violence by others on campus. Students who are involved in the use of physical force or violence on another person on campus will be addressed with appropriate, significant disciplinary actions.

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments: The Governing Board desires students at school to be free from the fear and danger presented by firearms and other weapons. The Board therefore prohibits students from possessing weapons, replicas of weapons, or dangerous instruments of any kind in school buildings, on school grounds or buses, or at any school related or school-sponsored activity away from school.(Exception: Students who create historical replicas of a weapon for a classroom assignment; arrangements must be made to store item in the office or the classroom.)**Any school employee may confiscate any weapon, dangerous instrument, or replica from any person on school grounds under the power granted by the Board to maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect the safety of students, staff, and the public (BP5131.7a).**

DISTRICT POLICY ON DISCRIMINATION

The Rescue Union School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap (or disability), or age in any of its policies, procedures, or practices in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (pertaining to race, color, and national origin), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (pertaining to sex), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (pertaining to handicap) and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, the District's programs and activities, including vocational education. Inquiries regarding the equal opportunity policies, the filing of grievances, or to request a copy of the grievance procedures covering discrimination complaints may be directed to:

Rescue Union School District Superintendent Office
2390 Bass Lake Road
Rescue, CA 95672

The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to the admission and participation in the District's program.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Emergency cards are the school's most efficient method of contacting a student's parent/guardian in the event of an emergency. Parents must fill out information on the Aeries Parent Portal prior to receiving their schedule. Please inform the office of any changes. Students will not be allowed at school if their emergency card is not on file. Students may only be released to individuals listed in the emergency contacts.

EMERGENCIES ON CAMPUS

If there is an emergency on campus requiring the early release of students, parents will be notified and a checkout system will be put into place. Students will only be released to adults whose name appears on the student's emergency card. If students are evacuated to another area, the parents will be notified of the evacuation and where students are being moved. A checkout system will be in place at the evacuation site.

Emergency Anaphylaxis Treatment Annual Notification to Parents

California Education Code 49414 authorizes Rescue Union School District to provide epinephrine auto-injectors to trained personnel to use to provide emergency medical aid to persons suffering from an anaphylactic reaction.

Anaphylaxis is a rapid, severe allergic response triggered by insect stings, foods, medications, latex materials, exercise, or in rare cases by unknown causes. This is a life-threatening allergic condition, requiring immediate treatment. Administering epinephrine to students during a medical emergency may help to ensure the student's health and safety at school. Therefore, the Rescue Union School District has adopted a policy for standing orders or to provide life-saving epinephrine to students who are in need of such treatment.

This policy states that a credentialed, licensed school nurse or trained, unlicensed school staff under the direct or indirect supervision of the credential school nurse (or supervisor of health), may administer epinephrine in the form of an epinephrine auto-injector during a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction. The epinephrine auto-injector delivers a pre-measured, sterile, single dose of epinephrine by direct injection through the skin.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE

District Office (530) 677-4461
Transportation (530) 672-4310

In the event of school closure, due to weather condition (i.e., snow, ice), information will be transmitted and/or available on the following radio stations and television channel.

RADIO: KHYL FM 101.1
KAHI AM 950
KFBK AM 1530
KRAK FM 98.5

TELEVISION: Channel 3 KCRA
Channel 10 KCTV
Channel 13 KOVR

In addition, you may expect a telephone message regarding any unexpected closure. If school closure is necessary during school hours, the RUSD will follow these procedures:

1. Activate radio/television information network
2. Activate site telephone trees and “All-Call” system
3. Alert transportation department regarding any necessary transportation modifications.

PARENT NOTE: Please discuss with your children any procedures they should follow once they arrive home if school closure is necessary and children return home early.

LIBRARY / TEXTBOOKS (A copy of this policy is given to students when textbooks are checked out at the beginning of the year. Full version of this policy can be found on the on-line version of the handbook at www.myplesantgrove.com.)

LUNCH

Yard duty supervisors monitor the lunch area to ensure students’ safety and well being. Their instructions are to be followed just the same as any other staff member. Students who do not follow the lunch area rules or the instructions of the yard duty supervisors will receive appropriate discipline. The lunch area is expected to be clean and orderly for the sake of all students. Reduced meal applications are available in the office for those who are eligible. It is advisable to store funds on your student’s lunch account in case your student forgets or loses his/her lunch. You may make a payment on-line through the <https://family.titank12.com/income-form/new?identifier=7Q4S3M> website (Payments take 24 hours to post). A link to the website can be found at www.plesantgrovepumas.org or www.rescueusd.org.

Lunchtime Expectations

- WALK to the lunch area using a quiet appropriate voice.
- Take your place in line. No place holding or cutting.
- Treat EVERYONE including lunch supervisors, servers, and your peers with respect. Use “please” and “thank you.”
- When you are finished eating, wait to be excused by the table group (All trash needs to be thrown away before the table group will be excused).
- Students who are not eating lunch may be allowed to go outside to the green tables and sit.
- Students must stay off the bleachers, stage, and mats at all times unless instructed otherwise.
- Students must have a **Hall Pass** to leave the lunch area. Passes may be obtained by any staff member.
- Students are to **clean up after themselves** when they are finished eating and follow recycling guidelines (See Recycling Program).
- Food and drinks are to be consumed only in the designated eating areas.
- Sodas and caffeinated beverages, including energy drinks, are not allowed at school.
- No glass containers of any kind are allowed during lunch or any other time during the school day.
- Students are to comply with all directions given by lunch duty supervisors.
- Students are not to sit on the tops of the picnic tables or railings.
- Students are to stay within the designated boundaries of the lunch areas.
- Running and athletic play should only take place on the courts or fields.
- Students participating in games must show good sportsmanship and work cooperatively with other students. Students who habitually argue during an activity will be removed from the game and possibly from future games.
- If a student checks out equipment, he/she must return the item at the end of the lunch period.

Recycling Program

The Rescue District is committed to promoting environmentally responsible practices at all schools. School sites maintain ongoing recycling and energy conservation programs that help students to develop knowledge and habits in support of these efforts. Paper recycling bins are located in every classroom. Lunchtime recycling programs include student participation in separating liquids, recyclables, and trash into appropriate designated receptacles. Students will learn about the lunchtime recycling procedures at the beginning of each school year.

LOST AND FOUND

Students who find clothing or items that don’t belong to them should place them in the “Lost and Found” located in a large box outside the office. If smaller items or something of greater value (e.g. watch, wallet, glasses, or jewelry) are found, they should be turned in to the office. Students who have lost or misplaced items should periodically check the “Lost and Found” or the office.

MEDICATION (E.C. 49423, 11753.1)

If it is necessary to give a student medication during school hours, we will assist you as needed. The Health Aide/Nurse is not available during all school hours; therefore, a secretary or administrator may administer medication to your student in her absence.

Pleasant Grove Middle School Student/Parent Handbook
Rescue Union School District

In compliance with California Education Code Section 49423 or 11753.1, when an employee of the school district gives medication to a student, the employee must be acting in accordance with the **written directions of a physician and with the written permission of the student's parent or legal guardian.** These authorizations must be renewed whenever the prescription changes and at the beginning of each school year. Additional requirements may be necessary for field trips.

The prescription label on a medicine container will not be accepted as a statement from the physician. Over-the-counter medications will be given only if prescribed by a medical doctor and a Parent/Guardian must authorize both. Over-the-counter includes but is not limited to non-aspirin pain relievers, cough drops, creams and ointments.

District policy requires all medications (including "over-the-counter" medicines) to be stored in the nurse's office and be administered only when the physician's and parent's signed permission is on file. **Students are not allowed to have medication in their possession at school, walking to and from school, or on the school bus.** This practice provides for the safety of all students on campus. The only exception to this policy is if the student's well being is in jeopardy unless he/she carries the medication (i.e. inhalers). Such cases will be determined with a written statement from a physician.

Medication must be provided to the school in the original container in which it was purchased, with the prescription label attached, and must be prescribed to the student to whom it will be administered. An adult must bring the medication to school along with the completed authorization forms. Forms are available in the school office. Parents are responsible to pick up any remaining medications at the end of the school year or they will be discarded.

PASSES

Students will be issued passes when it is necessary to leave the classroom or to enter the classroom late. Students must have a pass if they are out of class for any reason. Lunch tutorials and Library use at lunchtime also require a pass. In order to go to the office at any time, including lunch, a student must have a pass noting time, date and reason, signed by the teacher or designated lunchtime supervisor. Office personnel will not excuse a student who comes to the office between or during classes without a pass.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

The school is not responsible for the loss or damage, through acts of vandalism or theft, of student property. Prohibited items or anything causing a disruption will be confiscated. **Never bring large sums of money to school. Do not leave your backpack, purse or wallet out of your sight or unattended.**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The physical education program is structured to meet the needs and interests of all students. It is our desire that students have a positive and enjoyable physical education experience.

- **Dress/PE Clothing/Participation:** Students are expected to dress and participate everyday. Uniforms may be purchased in the office. During inclement weather sweatshirts and sweatpants may be worn.
- **Excuses:** Parent written excuses are only valid for three days. Students with health conditions lasting longer than three days may be excused only upon the recommendation of a physician. The physician's written instructions are to be given directly to the office and the student's physical education teacher. Students unable to participate in the regular PE or will be assigned a modified program by the teacher to accommodate the illness or injury described in the parent's/guardian's or physician's note. A PE make-up run schedule is posted in the PE locker rooms and on our website.

Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS)

Pleasant Grove is a PBIS school. PBIS is a proactive approach that schools use to improve school safety and promote positive behavior. The focus of PBIS is prevention, not punishment. Pleasant Grove offers multiple opportunities for students to receive positive recognition. Several positive recognition programs at Pleasant Grove are listed below

Honor Roll: Each trimester, students who achieve a 3.5 – 4.0 GPA in all subjects will be recognized as Honor Roll students.

Student of the Trimester: Staff members select a student to be recognized for achievement in academic work, citizenship, extracurricular activities or other special efforts. Students are recognized in a ceremony each trimester. Letters are sent home inviting parents/guardians.

Merit Program: Students who have not lost merits all three years at Pleasant Grove will receive a seal of recognition on the promotion certificate.

Perfect Attendance: Awards are given to 8th grade students with perfect attendance for all three years during the promotion ceremony.

Puma Pride Cards: Students receive Puma Pride cards when they are caught doing something good on campus. Students can turn in the cards in the office and monthly drawing are done for prizes

Puma Pride Matrix: The Puma Pride Matrix outlines positive behaviors that should be displayed by students on our campus.

PRIDE MATRIX

Location	Positive	Respectful	Inclusive	Diligent	Engaged
Before School	-Use appropriate school language.	-Respect others' personal space, keeping hands to self. -Leave Gum at Home.	-Be welcoming to others.	-Phone is off while on campus. -Calmly stay in the designated areas.	-Be prepared for school, dressed appropriately, cell phone off, and proper school supplies.
In the Classroom	-Make constructive contributions. -Use a growth mindset.	-Speak to others in a respectful tone. -Be quiet at appropriate times. -Respect personal and school property.	-Value opinions and Inviting feedback.	Getting to work when the class starts and stay on task. -Be prepared every day.	-Making eye contact. -On topic conversations -Focus on the lessons. -Respond appropriately when the teacher asks class for answers.
Between Classes	-Use appropriate school language. -Model professional Behavior.	-Respect others' personal space. -Use appropriate language.	-Be aware of others. -Hold doors for others.	-Walk with a purpose. -Want to be on time. -Begin going to class when the bell rings.	-Engage in friendly conversation. -Pick up trash.
Break	-Use appropriate school language. -Contribute to positive conversations.	-Respect others' personal space, -Keep hands to self. -Respect school facilities. -Use appropriate physical contact.	-Have constructive conversations without gossip. -Build people up not tear them down.	-Keep the school grounds clean: Place trash in proper receptacles even if it is not your trash. -Follow the rules: Stay in designated areas.	-Listen to your classmates. -Promptly go to your next class when the bell rings.
Lunch	-Use positive language at your table and during activities.	-Listen to the directions of lunchtime staff. -Respect others' personal space. -Respect others' lunches. -Clean your table area during lunch.	-Welcome others to games and activities.	-Place trash in proper receptacle: put time and effort into cleaning up after yourself and encourage others to do the same.	-Practice good table manners and engage in appropriate back and forth conversations.
Restroom	-Use facilities correctly.	-Respect others' privacy and personal space.	Be efficient to allow others to use the restroom facilities.	-Take care of your personal business.	-Use restrooms quickly and quietly.

		-Leave restrooms clean.			
Evacuations	-Stay calm and quiet.	-Follow all directions.	-Work together to follow emergency procedures.	-Follow directions. -Line up in order on the blacktop.	-Actively listening for directions.
Library	-Use indoor voice/whisper.	-Respect others and the books.	-Everyone belongs in the Library.	-Have a task to accomplish when visiting the library.	-Read, complete work, check out books, return books.
Locker Room	-Use appropriate language and keep comments positive.	-Respect the personal space of others and keep hands to self.	-Be cooperative with limited space around you.	-Get dressed quickly and exit the locker room as soon as possible.	-Pay attention to surroundings and make sure your belongings are protected.
Extra-Curricular Activities	-Show sportsmanship during athletic events/practices.	-Show good sportsmanship and be respectful of opponents and teammates.	-Support each other in learning new skills.	-Get to your activity on time. -Try your best.	-Stay in the activity area.
After School	-Polite and demonstrate appropriate goodbyes.	-Respect others' personal space, keep your hands to yourself.	-Be polite to others when leaving.	-Go to your destination.	-Leave campus with what you need to succeed the next day.
Bus	-Keep conversations friendly.	-Keep your voice at a low volume.	-Invite others to sit with you. Hold your belongings on your lap to provide room for others to sit next to you.	-Follow directions from the bus driver and encourage others to do the same.	-Greet your bus driver each day and wish your driver a good day.

PROMOTION ACTIVITIES (Board policy 6146.5)

“To receive a promotion certificate, a student must have completed the prescribed course of study and meet district promotion criteria and have passing grades in all 8th grade classes with no more than one "F" or No Credit (excluding progress report grades) during the 8th grade year. In order to participate in the promotion ceremony, the student must meet the above criteria, and satisfy the school's citizenship requirements as stated in the student handbook.” **To participate in the promotion activities (including promotion ceremony) students must meet the promotion requirements and have at least 275 merits. Additionally, students may not have been suspended in the third trimester.**

In addition to merit requirements, all debts, book loss, equipment damage, etc. must be cleared prior to the promotion activities in order to participate and to receive a promotion certificate. Students with serious disciplinary concerns may not be eligible to participate in the ceremony. Students with more than one “F” in the 8th grade are not eligible to participate in the promotion ceremony.

If a student chooses not to participate in the promotion ceremony, he/she may pick up the promotion certificate in the school office the week after the school year ends.

Distinguished Scholars: Students who earn a 4.0 GPA for all nine trimesters of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade will be recognized as Distinguished Scholars. From those students qualifying, a panel of staff members may select 2-3 representatives to present class speeches at the promotion activity.

PROMOTION/RETENTION CRITERIA (Board policy 5123)

Students shall be identified for retention on the basis of multiple measures. The following indicators of academic achievement shall be used:

1. **Scores below Proficient on California state testing results**
2. **District and State Writing Assessment results**
3. **Number of failing grades**
4. **Classroom evidence, student work, and teacher input**
5. **Performance on curriculum embedded assessments and teacher developed assessments**
6. **The student's social and emotional growth, and chronological age**

When a student is recommended for retention or is identified as being at risk for retention, opportunities for intervention will be recommended to assist the student in overcoming his/her academic deficiencies. Such opportunities include tutorial programs, organization and time management coaching, and before and after-school programs.

PROMOTION/RETENTION POLICY (Board Policy 6146.5 (a))

In order to promote to the following grade, a student may not have more than one F per year in any of the following courses:

1. Mathematics
2. English
3. Social Science
4. Science
5. Physical Education
6. Any elective in which the student is enrolled

In addition, a student must have a satisfactory citizenship grade.

Criteria for Retention (Board Policy 5123 (a)(b)(c))

In addition to the above requirements, a combination of the following factors may be considered in making a retention decision regarding a student:

1. District and California State writing assessment below 6 (proficient).
2. Standardized test (consistently scoring below the 25th percentile, Below Basic, or Far Below Basic).
3. Grade point average consistently below 2.0.
4. Individual progress reviewed as not acceptable.
5. Classroom evidence below standards
6. Social/emotional development of the student.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Student I.D. cards are provided to all students. Cards are required to attend dances and to check out library materials, sports equipment, and for computer/internet use. A copy of the student's data sheet can be obtained from the office free of charge and used as identification for dances.

TELEPHONE USE

(Also see – Cell Phones)

If a student asks to use the office phone, office personnel will inquire about the reason for the call. Students will be allowed to use the office phone for the following reasons only:

1. **Illness** requiring the student to leave school.
2. **Emergencies** (students must state the nature of the emergency). Forgotten items and social planning are not considered emergencies.
3. **School business** such as Student Council activities, teacher requested calls, or changes in after school activities announced during the day.

VACCINATIONS

Each student entering the 7th grade must meet the immunization requirements listed below:

POLIO: 3 doses (Last dose given on or after 4th birthday)

Tdap/DTP/DTaP: 3 doses (at least one dose given on or after 7th birthday)

MMR: 2 doses (both given on or after 1st birthday)

Varicella: 2 doses

Documentation of 7th grade students having received these vaccines must be presented to the school office staff prior to the student starting school.

Please Note: As of January 2016 Personal Belief Exemptions are no longer valid for students entering 7th grade If immunizations cannot be given due to a medical concern, a physician (MD or DO) must document each immunization that the child cannot receive, the reason, and indicate if it is a temporary medical exemption (along with an expiration date) or a permanent medical exemption.

Immunization information can be found on the shotsforschool.org website.

VISITORS

All visitors to the school campus must sign in at the office. It is not appropriate to ask to deliver items to the classroom unless it has been pre-arranged with your student's teacher. Visitors will be given a visitor's badge to wear while on campus. We encourage families to visit the school and see their student in our learning environment. Visits during school hours must be first arranged with the teacher, Principal, or Assistant Principal 24 hours prior to the visit. If a conference is desired, an appointment must be set with the teacher during non-instructional time (Board policy 1250a). Students are not allowed to bring friends or relatives to school. Parent concerns about school-related matters involving other students should be addressed through the school office, not through direct communication or confrontation with other students (or parents) on school grounds. Private (non-school) concerns should be addressed through appropriate private communication with other families.

WITHDRAWALS/TRANSFERS

If it is necessary for a student to withdraw from the school, the withdrawal request must be made at the school office by the parent/guardian at least one day prior to the student's last day of school. A withdrawal slip will be given to the student, which needs to be signed, by all of his/her teachers. All books must be returned and any fines paid. The student I.D. card must be turned in. The student must then return to the school office for completion of the transfer and an administrator's signature.