# GARDEN GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BRYANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2025-2026 PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK



# **BRYANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

8371 ORANGEWOOD AVENUE GARDEN GROVE, CA 92840 PHONE: (714) 663-6346

# **GGUSD STRATEGIC PLAN**

# "The Garden Grove Way"

#### **Our Shared Vision:**

We are committed to preparing all student to be successful and responsible citizens who contribute and thrive in a diverse society.

#### **Our Shared Mission:**

To ensure student success, we will provide a rigorous and supportive academic experience that motivates all learners to meet high expectations.

#### **GOAL 1: ACADEMIC SKILLS**

All learners will develop the academic skills necessary for continual individual growth towards mastery of standards.

Goal 1A – Academic Content

Goal 1B – Academic English

Goal 1C - Scholarly Habits



#### **GOAL 2: PERSONAL SKILLS**

All learners will develop the personal skills necessary to achieve academic and social goals.

Goal 2A – Motivation

Goal 2B – Socio-Emotional Well-Being

Goal 2C – Climate (Classroom, School, and District)



#### **GOAL 3: LIFELONG SUCCESS**

All learners will be prepared for lifelong success in their intended career plans.

Goal 3A – College & Career Readiness

Goal 3B – College & Career Success

#### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Bryant Elementary School, Home of the Bears. At Bryant, we strive to provide a safe and positive learning environment for our students. We firmly believe that all children are special and have dignity and worth, and ALL children can learn.

We follow an educational program that is consistent with current research and effective practice and is aligned with the GGUSD Strategic Plan "The Garden Grove Way." We emphasize AVID strategies, student-teacher interaction, order and purpose, student-centered decisions, an attitude of optimism, enthusiasm, high expectations and teamwork.

The following information in this handbook will answer many questions about our school. Please feel free to contact us if you have any additional questions and check ParentSquare daily for more information.

# **OFFICE HOURS**

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

# **BREAKFAST SCHEDULE**

7:20 – 7:45 a.m. in the MPR

### **BELL SCHEDULES**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 7:50 a.m. – 2:10 p.m.

*Wednesdays:* 7:50 a.m. – 1:20 p.m.

*Minimum Days:* 7:50 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

#### **2025-2026 CALENDAR**

July 28 School Office Opens

August 11 First Day of School

September 1 Labor Day Holiday (no school)

November 10 Non-Student Day

November 11 Veteran's Day Holiday (no school)

November 24-28 Thanksgiving Break (no school)

Dec. 22 – Jan. 2 Winter Break

January 5 Non-Student Day

January 6 Students return from Winter Break

January 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (no school)

February 13 Lincoln's Day Holiday (no school)

February 16 Presidents' Day Holiday (no school)

March 9-13 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Camp

March 16-20 Spring Break (No school)

May 25 Memorial Day Holiday (no school)

May 27 Last Day of School

#### **GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION**

#### **PARENT PORTAL**

All Bryant students must have a Parent Portal account. Please contact our office if you need assistance creating an account. Once you have established your account, you must update your information in Parent Portal every school year; this process is called Data Confirmation. We would be happy to assist you with this process.

#### **PARENT SQUARE**

Our primary form of communication with families is ParentSquare (voicemail, email and text message). Downloading the ParentSquare app on your mobile phone allows you to view ParentSquare posts and alerts (from Bryant and the district) directly on your mobile phone. Download the ParentSquare from the app store on IOS or Android. Check your email or text for the activation link. Please visit https://www.ggusd.us/parentsquare or call our office if you need additional assistance with ParentSquare.

#### **BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT**

Back-to-School Night is an important, informational event for parents/guardians. The teachers will present their information in two identical sessions, and parents are highly encouraged to attend one of those sessions.

PTA Association Meeting: 5:15 – 5:30 p.m., MPR

Session II: 5:30 – 5:55 p.m. Session II: 6:05 – 6:30 p.m.

The classroom presentations are for adults only. FREE child care is available in the MPR from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. The Book Fair will be open in the library. Please note that all playgrounds are closed during Back to School Night.

#### **START TIME**

School begins at 7:50 a.m., and students may come onto campus no earlier than 7:35 a.m. (Students who eat breakfast at school can arrive as early at 7:20 a.m. and should report directly to the MPR.) On the first day of school, all parents are welcome and encouraged to walk with their student onto campus. After the first day, only students will be allowed through the gates or into the MPR. Parents who have specific business on campus in the morning (such as a scheduled meeting, etc.) must check in at the front office.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Students are expected to come to school every day and be on time every day. Good attendance is an important life skill and critical to a student's success at school. Students who are tardy to school miss valuable class instruction and create a disruption to the learning of others with a late entrance to class. Please make every effort to schedule appointments after school.

#### **REPORTING ABSENCES**

When a student is absent, parents must call the school office by 9:00 a.m. on the day of the absence. If the absence is not verified by telephone, the student must bring a note, signed and dated by a parent or legal guardian, which includes the child's name and reason for the absence.

#### **BREAKFAST AND LUNCH**

Breakfast and lunch are **free of charge for** <u>all</u> **students**. Breakfast is served in the MPR from 7:20–7:45 a.m., and lunches are served during the school day. Students can also bring their own packed lunch from home. *Please note, the front office will not accept lunches or outside food; if a student forgets their packed lunch, a free lunch will be provided for them.* 

#### (GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION continued)

#### **STUDENT CHECK-OUT**

Students who need to leave school before dismissal must be signed out through the office by a parent, legal guardian, or other adult designated on the "Contacts" page in their Parent Portal account. (Please make sure the information on your "Contacts" page is current.) For safety and security purposes, all adults must provide valid photo identification, such as a driver's license, California Identification Card, or other government issued I.D. when checking out a student. Minors may not check out a student.

#### STUDENT AGENDAS AND FOLDERS

All students will receive a blue folder. This folder is for flyers, monthly calendars, letters, permission slips, and other important information that you will need. Parents are encouraged and expected to check their child's backpack and folder every night. In addition, students in 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade are given a student planner. Parents should review the student planner nightly for homework assignments and notes or comments from the teacher.

#### **HOMEWORK**

The goal of homework is to develop student self-discipline, responsibility, and to help our students develop good study habits. Homework is designed to reinforce concepts and standards taught in class. Nightly reading is encouraged. We recommend a daily and consistent study time and study place at home.

#### PARENT COMMUNICATION

Bryant strives to keeps parents informed of events and other important information through ParentSquare, flyers and letters, the school marquee located on the front of the MPR, "Pastries with the Principal" parent meetings, and parent-teacher conferences in the fall and spring. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram! Please check the red folder in your child's backpack every night for the calendar, flyers, letters, and other important information.

The teachers will also communicate with parents about student progress in a variety of ways, including ParentSquare, telephone calls, e-mails, notes, comments in student agendas, and progress reports. If you would like to meet with your child's teacher, please call to schedule a time before or after school. If you have any classroom concerns, please share it with your child's teacher as soon as possible. If you have other questions or concern, please contact the Principal so that we can work together to resolve it.

#### **TEXTBOOKS AND SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Students are expected to treat textbooks, furniture, technology, library books, materials, and all school property with respect. Students are responsible to pay for replacement of damaged or lost textbooks, library books, and school property. Parents may be liable for their child's willful damage to any school property.

#### **CLASSROOM CHANGES**

Due to changes in enrollment and class size reduction guidelines, it sometimes becomes necessary to move students into different classes and/or create combination classes. While this typically occurs during the first few weeks of the school year, it can happen at any time throughout the year. We do find that children adapt quickly, and the quality of teaching that exists at Bryant will make any change a smooth one for your child. Your supportive attitude about any change will also make the adjustment easier for your child. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding if we have to restructure classes.

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

Cupcakes, cookies, candy, balloons, flower, etc. are not permitted at school. If you want to send goodie bags with non-food items (stickers, pencils, erasers etc.) please contact your child's teacher two days prior to your child's birthday to discuss and make arrangements.

#### (GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION continued)

#### **CELL PHONES & SMART WATCHES**

Students may bring cell phones, smart watches, etc to school. However, they must be turned off and may not be visible or used in any way during school hours. Devices used for texting, calling, taking photos, etc during school hours will be stored in the Principal's office and released to a parent/guardian. Please note that messages and pictures may be subject to review by the administration during the investigation of discipline incidents. Parents, please do not call or text your child during instructional hours. If you need to get in touch with them, please contact the office. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen devices.

#### **LOST AND FOUND**

Each student should write his/her name on all personal belongings. Valuable items and large sums of cash should never be brought to school. Please contact the office if you need to check the lost and found bin. All unclaimed items will be donated or discarded in December, March, and June. The school is not responsible for the replacement of personal items.

#### **STUDENTS WHO WALK TO SCHOOL**

Students must use crosswalks and follow all traffic laws when walking to and from school. Students are expected to report directly home after school. If your child encounters any problems when walking to and from school, please immediately report it to the office. Please routinely review the following tips with your child:

- Students should never walk home alone.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel you are being followed or something is not right, seek help immediately.
- If a stranger approaches you or asks for help, do not speak to him or her. Just keep walking.
- Never approach a stranger in a motor vehicle.
- Do not accept candy or any other items from a stranger.
- Never walk off with a stranger no matter what he or she tells you.
- If someone is following you, seek help immediately. Find an adult to help you.
- If a stranger grabs you, do everything you can to stop him or her from pulling you away or dragging you into his or her car. Do whatever it takes to attract the attention of others who can help you.

#### **BICYCLES, ETC.**

Students may ride a bike, skateboard, or scooter to and from school with parental permission. Helmets are required, and students must follow all traffic laws while traveling to and from school. It is the student's responsibility to lock or secure their bike in the bike rack or to make arrangements with the teacher to store a skateboard in the classroom. Students may not ride their bike, skateboard, scoorter on school grounds at any time. The school is not responsible for damage to or theft of any bicycle or skateboard.

#### **SCHOOL MASCOT**

We are Bryant Elementary, Home of the Bears. Our mascot is Buddy the Be



#### **HEALTH OFFICE**

#### **MEDICATION**

Please notify the Health Office if your child is taking medication. Students are not permitted to carry or administer medication (prescription or over-the-counter) at school. Medication may be taken at school only under the supervision of school personnel, and only when the appropriate forms have been completed by the parent and the physician. These forms are available in our Health Office. Please note the following:

- The form must be signed by the parent and the doctor.
- The form must be stamped by the medical office in which they were treated. The stamp must include the name and address of the facility.
- If the student is taking more than one type of medication at school, a separate form is required for each medication.

#### **INJURIES AND ILLNESS**

If a student is injured or becomes ill while participating in any school activity, he/she must notify the teacher immediately. If your child has had any type of treatment, procedure, surgery, etc, and/or is wearing or using any type of medical aid or device please notify the office immediately; a doctor's note with specific instructions and restrictions is required before the child may return to class. This includes but is not limited to:

- Casts, slings, braces, boots
- Crutches, walkers, canes
- Wheelchairs, knee scooters
- Stitches, staples, or sutures
- Splints, wraps, or any type of bandaging (applied by parent/guardian or by a doctor/medical professional)
- Any other medical aids or devices

For safety and liability reasons, students with medical restrictions cannot be on playground during recess or P.E. An alternative recess location will be provided.

#### **HEAD LICE**

Students with active lice and/or excessive nits must begin treatment immediately. Parent/guardian must meet with health assistant or nurse to show proof of treatment.

#### **PINK EYE**

Students with pink eye will be sent home until they provide a note from their doctor clearing them to return.

Please contact our Health Office for details or clarification on any of this information.

#### **SAFETY**

The safety and well-being of all students is our top priority. We strive to maintain a safe and secure campus that focuses on the personal safety of each student. We encourage parents to regularly review safe and appropriate behaviors with their children.

#### **PARKING LOT RULES & PROCEDURES**

You will always encounter delays when dropping off in the morning and picking up students at dismissal time. For the safety of all of our children and the staff members duty, please adhere to the following rules when dropping off and picking up your student:

- Drive slowly, merge cautiously, and use your signal.
- Follow the directions of the staff members on duty.
- Students should unload at the sidewalk using the door on the *right side* of the vehicle.
- **Drivers, please stay in your vehicles!** When you get out of your car, you could get hit by another car and it holds up traffic. Staff members on duty will help unload the students.
- When exiting, make a right turn only out of the parking lot.
- Use the crosswalks and follow the directions of the city crossing guard.
- Please do not unload passengers from your vehicle while you are in the two driving lanes on Orangewood Ave.
- Follow all traffic laws on Orangewood Avenue, e.g. no parking in any red zones, no illegal U-turns, etc. GGPD monitors the area and will issue citations to drivers who violate these laws.

Please share this information with any relative, friend, or any other person that may drop off/pick up your child or that may have to come into the office or on campus (e.g. day care provider, etc.) Your full cooperation and support in our parking lot is greatly appreciated. Thank you for working together to keep our school as safe as possible.

#### **CLOSED CAMPUS**

All persons entering campus between the hours of 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. must register at the school office prior to entering the campus and must wear a visitor's badge. On the first day of school, all parents are welcome and encouraged to walk with their student onto campus. After the first day, as an additional safety measure, only students will be allowed through the gate or into the cafeteria. Parents who have specific business on campus in the morning (such as a scheduled meeting with a teacher or the Principal, etc.) must check in at the front office. For safety reasons, dogs and other pets (except for service animals) are not allowed on campus.

#### **EMERGENCY PLANS**

The school has a plan to ensure the safety of students during an emergency or disaster. This plan is available in the school office. Safety drills are conducted monthly. Emergency equipment, supplies, and communication devices are kept on site. Parents must keep their child's emergency contact information on Parent Portal current. Students will be taught our site safety and emergency procedures and are required to cooperate during all emergency drills.

#### **PROHIBITED ITEMS**

Alcohol, tobacco products, drugs, drug paraphernalia, knives, guns, weapons, and laser pointers are strictly prohibited from the campus and the bus at all times. *This includes look-a-like or toy guns, knives, or weapons*. If you or your child sees or is aware of any of these types of items on campus, please immediately report it to the office or any school employee. For safety reasons, motorized vehicles, model aircraft, golfing, rollerblades, roller skates, heelies, scooters, fidget spinners, toys, and electronics/gaming devices are not permitted on campus. Students bringing and/or using any of these items may have them confiscated and must be picked up by a parent/guardian. The school is not responsible if they are lost or stolen. Parents are encouraged to check their child's backpack every morning to ensure that toys or inappropriate items are not brought to school.

#### **EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT ATTIRE AND GROOMING (DRESS CODE)**

All students are expected to dress appropriately, modestly, and safely for all school activities. Clothing should be neat, clean and the appropriate size without excessive sagging or exposing of undergarments. Pajamas are not allowed. No inappropriate logos on any clothing items, including references to drugs, tobacco, alcohol, violence, death, gang affiliation, or sexual/vulgar/inappropriate language. Parents are expected to monitor what their child wears to school. Parents will be notified if their child violates the dress code. Students who come to school dressed inappropriately will be required to change their clothing.

#### **SHIRTS AND BLOUSES**

Shirts and blouses should cover the entire torso, including the shoulders, midriff, back, and chest. Crop tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, sheer tops, or tank tops are not allowed.

#### **SHORTS, SKIRTS, AND PANTS**

No "short shorts" or miniskirts. Bryant follows the "hands to the side" rule for shorts and skirts. The "hands to the side" rule means that when you hold your hands straight down by your side, your shorts or skirt must be as long as where your middle/longest finger is. Anything shorter than that may not be worn on campus.

Jeans, pants, or trousers should be modest and appropriate for elementary school. Excessive ripping or holes in jeans or pants is not allowed, i.e. the holes/rips in a student's jeans should not expose the upper thigh area. Clothing and pants should not be excessively baggy or sagging. Please note that students are not permitted to wear Pro Club attire on campus, which is consistent with the dress codes at our feeder schools, Alamitos Intermediate and Rancho Alamitos High School.

#### **SHOES**

For safety reasons, students must wear shoes at all times when on campus. Shoes must cover the entire foot and be appropriate for recess or P.E. activities. Tennis shoes with socks are recommended. No Crocs, open-toed shoes, backless shoes, flip flops, high heels, sandals, heelies, or house slippers.

#### **HATS AND SUNGLASSES**

Hats and sunglasses may be worn outdoors for sun protection, with the brim of the hat facing forward. Hats and sunglasses may not be worn indoors unless it is for documented medical condition.

#### JEWELRY, HAIR, AND MAKE UP

Jewelry must be simple and safe. Dangling earrings and necklaces, spikes, ear spacers, and other distractive items are not permitted.

Hair must be natural, with no distracting styles or colors.

Make up is not allowed. Nails must be short and safe. For safety reasons, acrylic nails, press-on nails, or excessively long nails (real or fake) are not allowed.

Due to allergies, perfumes, body sprays, etc should not be brought to school or used at school.

#### **EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

Bryant is proud to be a PBIS school. PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) is a school-wide approach to help students learn and behave well, focusing on creating a positive and safe learning environment for everyone.

- It's about teaching and reinforcing positive behaviors, rather than just reacting to problems.
- It helps create a positive and predictable environment where students know what is expected of them and are taught how to behave appropriately.
- It emphasizes using positive strategies to address challenging behaviors, such as providing encouragement, praise, and rewards.
- Bryant's PBIS motto is GROWL Give and Earn Respect, Remain Safe, Own Your Actions, Work with Pride, Love to Learn.

#### **GENERAL SCHOOL RULES**

- "GROWL" like a bear
- Come to school prepared and ready to learn every day.
- Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself all times.
- Treat all individuals, our campus, and our books, materials with respect.
- Immediately report bullying to your teacher or any other staff member.
- Immediately report any dangerous object or activity to your teacher or any other staff member.
- No chewing gum on campus.
- Always try your best.

#### **RECESS AND PLAYGROUND RULES**

- Be safe and play fairly at all times.
- Treat playground supervisors with courtesy and respect at all times
- Use playground equipment and swings appropriately and safely.
- Stay in supervised areas no students in the hallways, sidewalks, or behind building
- Keep 20 feet away from all fences and gates.
- No fighting, play-fighting, wrestling, rough-housing,
- No teasing, swearing, threats, or bullying.
- No picking up or throwing rocks, sticks, sand, grass, dirt, etc.
- No playing or loitering in the restrooms, e.g. climbing on toilets, playing in stalls.
- No climbing on tables, ramps, railings, drinking fountains, or fences.
- Students are expected to use the restroom and get a drink of water BEFORE the beli rings.
- When recess is over and the bell rings, all students on the playground must immediately "freeze" and wait
  quietly for instruction from the person on duty.

#### **CAFETERIA RULES**

- Treat cafeteria personnel with courtesy and respect at all times
- Listen and follow directions.
- Use your "indoor voice" in the cafeteria no yelling, screaming, or loud noises.
- Stay seated at your assigned table until excused.
- Raise your hand if you need assistance.
- Keep your area clean and pick up your trash before you leave.
- No throwing of food or utensils.
- Students may **not** share food with one another (due to allergies)

#### **CONSEQUENCES**

At Bryant we focus on prevention not punishment. Consequences for negative or unsafe behaviors may include reminders, redirection, restorative practices, counseling, warnings, interventions, mediations, time outs, and parent meetings. For serious violations, a student might be suspended and/or referred to the District Discipline Committee (DDC).



#### **STUDENT AWARDS**

Achievement, both academic and behavioral is very important and is recognized in all grade levels.

#### **TRIMESTER AWARDS ASSEMBLIES**

These assemblies are typically held at the end of each trimester for recognition and celebration of academic achievement in the areas of Reading, Writing, Math, Effort and Attendance. *Parents will receive an invitation to the awards assembly if their child is receiving an award.* 

#### **HONOR ROLL**

An Honor Roll certificate is presented each trimester to students in 4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> grades for achievement in the three core academic areas – Reading, Writing, and Math. Honor Roll has three levels:

- **Teacher's Honor Roll**: The student has earned a "3" in the three core academic areas listed above and has no "U's" and less than three "N's".
- **Principal's Honor Roll**: The student has earned one "3" and two "4's" in the three core academic areas listed above and has no "U's" and less than three "N's".
- **Superintendent's Honor Roll**: The student has earned three "4's" in the three core academic areas listed above and has no "U's" and less than three "N's".

#### **GROWL ASSEMBLIES**

Our PBIS motto is "GROWL" which stands for:

- Give and Earn Respect
- Remain Safe, Own Your Actions
- Work with Pride
- Love to Learn.

All students are encouraged and expected to GROWL in class and everywhere on campus. We have monthly GROWL assemblies in which a student from each class is recognized or positive, safe and respectful behavior. *Parents will be notified by the officeif their child is chosen for a GROWL award.* 



#### **BULLYING**

Bullying is overt or covert *repeated* acts or gestures, including verbal or written/electronic communications transmitted; physical acts committed; or any other behaviors committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm another student. Bullying can take many forms including slurs, rumors, jokes, innuendos, demeaning comments, drawing cartoons, pranks, gestures, physical attacks, threats, written messages, text messages, e-mails, social media, and physical actions.

#### **BRYANT SCHOOL RULES ABOUT BULLYING**

- We will not bully others.
- We will help others when they are being bullied.
- When we know someone is being bullied, we will immediately tell an adult.

#### WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD IS BEING BULLIED

#### DO...

- Allow your child to talk about his or her bullying experiences. Write down what is shared.
- Empathize with your child.
- Contact your child's teacher immediately.
- Work closely and collaboratively with school personnel to help solve the problem.
- Encourage your child to make contact with friendly students in his or her class.
- Teach your child safety strategies, such as how to seek help from an adult.

#### DO NOT...

- Tell your child to ignore the bullying.
- Blame your child or assume your child did something to provoke being bullied.
- Encourage physical retaliation.

#### WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD WITNESSES BULLYING

- Teach your child how to get help without being hurt.
- Encourage your child to verbally intervene (if it is safe to do so) by saying things as "Stop it!"
- Tell your child not to cheer on or even quietly watch bullying. This only encourages the bully.
- Help your child support others that tend to be bullied.
- Teach your child to include everyone in activities.
- Praise and reward "quiet acts of courage" where your child tried to do the right thing to stop bullying, even if he or she was not successful.

#### PREVENTING CYBER-BULLYING

- Talk to your child about appropriate ways to interact online. Be kind online.
- Set family guidelines for computer use.
- Keep the computer in a common area of the home.
- Routinely monitor your child's internet use, and let them know you intend to do so.
- Educate your child about their cyber footprints what you post on line stays online for all to see.
- Tell your child to let you know if they are being bullied or threatened online.
- Tell your child to think clearly before they write do not send messages when angry.
- Tell your child not to react to a cyber-bully. The reaction could fuel more attacks.

#### **INTERNET SAFETY**

We encourage parents to become "web aware," know what your child is doing online, and with whom he or she is speaking and sharing information. Parents are strongly encouraged to routinely monitor their child's use of the internet on the computer, laptop, tablet, or smart phone. For safety reasons, children should never post videos and photos of themselves or give out any personal information (such as their name, phone number, address) on the internet or any social media sites. Below are some guiding thoughts for parents:

- Learn about the Internet and what your child does on it.
- Create a family agreement on Internet use.
- Accompany your child online as they learn to navigate.
- Teach your child not to share personal information.
- Encourage an open dialogue regarding Internet conduct.
- Put your computer in a well-used area of your home.
- Explore tools that filter content and control access.
- Know how to view history and content that your child accesses.



#### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

The minimum age to use most social media platforms is 13 years old – including TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Discord. This is due to data protection laws that prohibit the collection of children's personal information without parental consent.

#### **EXPLANATION**

- The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) sets the minimum age of 13 for social media.
- Many social media platforms' terms of service reflect COPPA regulations.
- Age restrictions are in place to protect children from inappropriate content.

#### **CHALLENGES**

- Age verification is often based on self-reporting, which can be easily falsified.
- Age restrictions are not always enforced, enabling pre-teens to use the apps.

#### **RISKS**

- *Cyberbullying*: Social media can expose children to harmful online interactions that can cause long-term emotional and psychological damage.
- Harmful content: Children may be exposed to explicit content or misinformation.
- Online predators: Children may be exposed to online predators.
- Mental health: Frequent social media use may be linked to depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation.
- Brain development: Frequent social media use may affect parts of the brain related to emotions, learning, and impulse control.
- Sleep: Social media may make it harder for children to fall asleep.
- Privacy: Children's personal information may be collected and shared with third-party advertisers.
- Identity development: Social media makes it difficult for children to develop a sense of identity and self-worth.

Thank you for regularly monitoring your child's devices, browser history, the apps they're using, and who they're communicating with online. It's also a good idea for parents to collect all cell phones, tablets, etc. at bedtime to ensure that your child is getting quality sleep and not scrolling on their device all night!

#### PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parent organizations and committees provide valuable suggestions and support to improve our school and enhance educational programs. School effectiveness is positively impacted by frequent parent participation. All parents are strongly encouraged to attend Back-to School Night in the fall, Open House in the spring, and to join and participate in our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). Parents also have opportunities to participate as an elected representative on our School Site Council (SSC) and English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC).

#### **BRYANT PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)**

The Bryant PTA focuses on creating the best possible educational, social, and enrichment experiences for our children. We plan and execute events; we manage a budget and cash flow. We encourage creative ideas, we collaborate, cook, decorate, and create. PTA funds and helps run almost all of the fun "extras" for our school, such as study trips, book fairs, assemblies, movie nights, the Trunk or Treat and much more. This work is very rewarding. There are many ways you can participate in the PTA, and any level of participation is greatly appreciated. A few hours a year really makes a difference! Please join the Bryant PTA today!

#### **CLASSROOM VOLUNTEERS**

If you are interested in volunteering in your child's class, please contact our school secretary. Volunteers must be over the age of 18 and are required to complete a GGUSD Volunteer Packet, a Bryant Volunteer Form, and have current TB testing prior to volunteering. You may pick up these forms at the front office. The Principal has final approval on all volunteer assignments, activities, dates, and times.



# BRYANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2025-2026 TITLE I PARENT-STUDENT-SCHOOL COMPACT

#### **STAFF PLEDGE**

I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

- Endeavor to motivate my students to learn.
- Have high expectations and help every child to develop a love of learning.
- Communicate regularly with families about student progress.
- Provide a warm, safe, and caring learning environment.
- Provide meaningful, daily homework assignments to reinforce and extend learning (Kinder & 1<sup>st</sup> for 20 minutes; 30 minutes for grades 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>; and 60 minutes for grades 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>).
- Participate in professional development opportunities that improve teaching and learning and support the formation of partnerships with families and the community.
- Actively participate in collaborative decision making and consistently work with families and my school
  colleagues to make schools accessible and welcoming places for families which help each student achieve high
  academic standards.
- Respect the school, students, staff and families.

#### **FAMILY/PARENT PLEDGE**

I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

- Provide a quiet time and place for homework and monitor completion.
- Read to my child or encourage my child to read every day (20 min. TK-3<sup>rd</sup>; 30 min. for grades 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>).
- Ensure that my child attends school every day and on time, gets adequate sleep, regular medical attention and proper nutrition.
- Regularly monitor my child's progress in school and communicate with my child's teacher when necessary.
- Participate at school in activities such as school decision making, volunteering and/or attending Parent-Teacher Conferences, Back to School Night, Open House, etc.
- Communicate the importance of education and learning to my child.
- Respect the school, staff, students, and families.
- Respect the safety of our students and staff by being a cautious, courteous driver and following the parking lot rules and procedures.

#### **STUDENT PLEDGE**

I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

- Come to school on time, ready to learn, and try my best.
- Bring necessary materials, completed assignments and homework.
- Follow all school and classroom rules.
- Use appropriate language at school.
- Communicate regularly with my parents and teachers about school experiences so that they can help me to be successful.
- Limit my screen time and use of electronic devices (such as tablets and cell phones) and increase studying and reading every day after school.
- Respect classmates, staff, families, school and school property.
- Immediately report bullying to a teacher, the principal or other staff member.
- Strive at all times to **GROWL** like a Bear!

# THANK YOU FOR MAKING BRYANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SUCH A SPECIAL PLACE FOR CHILDREN TO LEARN AND GROW!

