



The Blazer Post

Jennifer Randel, Principal

Jim Curtis, Assistant Principal



August 2017



School Office Hours

Mon - Fri
7:45am - 3:45 pm

Useful Links

[School Website](#)

[School Calendar](#)

[Lunch Menus](#)

[School Handbook](#)

[Peach Jar Flyers](#)

**Upcoming
Friday Spirit
Assemblies
August 18
Sept 1
at 8:30am
in the
amphitheater**



School Notes

Buchanan Families,

On behalf of our faculty and staff, we would like to welcome our returning families and new families to the 2017-2018 school year! Our staff has been diligently working in preparing for the beginning of the school year. We are excited about our new Wonders ELA curriculum for K and first grade and Benchmark for grades 2 - 5. We are looking forward to a year where students are challenged academically, are provided with opportunities to explore an array of performing arts and continue to develop a strong social skills foundation to support them as they grow and mature into adulthood.

We continue the belief that the most overwhelming key to a child's success is a positive involvement of parents and encourage that connection both in and outside classroom. We also value the mindset that if parents want to give their children a gift, the best thing they can do is to teach their children to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort, and keep on learning. We will continue our relentless focus on student achievement and continue to foster a positive growth mindset in our educational pursuit of supporting all student learning. We are committed to providing appropriate programs that support "first best instruction," intervention/prevention and acceleration.

We are excited about the various performing arts experiences our students will be exposed to this year. Our annual school musical will be James and the Giant Peach. More information on this wonderful production will be sent out next month. Horizon Unlimited, our district based VAPA (Visual and Performing Arts Program) will be offering numerous programs such as band in 5th grade, recorders in 4th, before school choir for our 3rd - 5th graders, ballroom dancing for 2nd grade to name a few.

PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) has become a mainstay at Buchanan. Our students will continue to follow the mantra of Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful and KAHFOOTY (Keep All Hands, Feet and Other Objects To Yourself) here on campus.

The month of August is a very busy month for Buchanan, with four Back to School Nights and PTA's Back to School Kick Off Event. We hope you will join us on these nights to meet your child's teacher and learn more about the school year.

Good things are happening at Buchanan Elementary!

Jennifer Randel and Jim Curtis

Did you know...

- Raptor—new visitor/volunteer sign in system implemented this year
- New family orientation tours on Friday, August 11th at 11:00am
- Be sure to experience the solar eclipse on August 21st
- Check our website to sign up for Kaleidoscope Chorus for 3rd-5th grade & 5th Gr Band

Growth Mindset Quote

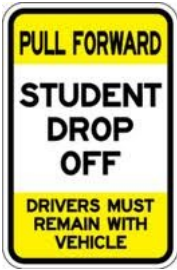
"Great works are performed, not by strength, but by perseverance." —Samuel Johnson

Military Families

Military Kids Friendship Club meets on campus every last Thursday of the month from 1:30-2:30 to discuss military life with other military kids. We discuss deployment, transitions, make crafts, and have fun! Military Family Nights will take place throughout the school year. Previous family nights included pizza meet and greet night, movie night, as well as an ice cream social! Come meet other military families and make lifelong friendships. Everything is provided for free thanks to our generous P.T.A. and donations from Bahama Bucks.



We Need Your Help in the Parking Lot



Student safety is our number one concern. It is extremely important that parents and students use the crosswalk when walking to and from the parking lot.

If you are picking up your children in your car please ask them to wait for you in front of the Multi Purpose Room and not by the kindergarten gate area. Remember to keep moving forward so we can get as many cars as possible into the loop. Your help keeps the students safe. Please take your time when entering and exiting the parking lot and remember the loop is a NO cell phone use area. Safety is our top priority.

First Day of School
Wednesday, August 16, 2017



Early Out Schedule - Mondays

Early Bird TK and Kindergarten	8:20am - 11:40am
Late Bird TK and Kindergarten	8:20am—11:40am
1st - 3rd Grade	8:25am - 1:40pm
4th - 5th Grade	8:25am - 1:45pm

Student Lunches and Cafeteria Meals

Due to parent concerns and health/food allergies, students and parents should not share lunches with other students. Parents who join their student during lunch time will eat with their student at the tables under the blue canvas cover.

Student Meal Prices:	Breakfast - Full Pay \$1.50	Reduced price \$.30
	Lunch - Full Pay \$2.50	Reduced price \$.40
	Milk or Juice - \$.50	Bottled Water - \$.75



Free and reduced lunch applications are to be completed online at www.fma.murrieta.k12.ca.us or you can pick up an application in the school office

Parents can make payments to lunch accounts at www.myschoolbucks.com

Visitors and Volunteers

All visitors and volunteers must register with the district **BEFORE** they may visit or volunteer in a classroom. Please see the office with your government issued ID so it can be scanned into the new district Raptor program. Thank-you for taking the time to volunteer!



A Message from the Health Office



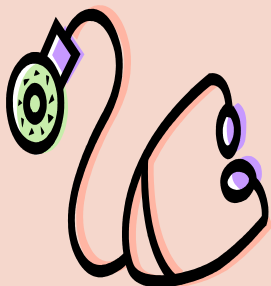
Health Alert-Food Allergies/Sensitivities

We have several students in our school that may have food allergies, food sensitivities or dietary restrictions. Food allergies can trigger reactions that range from very mild to life threatening (anaphylaxis). Generally, an individual must ingest a food allergen to have a reaction, but for some, even being exposed to it or ingesting a very small amount can cause a life threatening reaction. As a result, there are several procedures that will help to prevent exposure and reduce the risk of anaphylaxis and help keep all of our students safe:

1. Students should be encouraged to wash their hands upon arrival to the classroom and again before and after lunch. This not only is good for food allergies, but helps reduce disease transmission.
2. The classrooms should be peanut/tree nut/food allergy *aware* spaces. Classroom projects or assignments should NOT include the use of peanut butter/nuts or other food items. Any exception to this rule would require pre-approval and prior notification to parents.
3. Any food or snack that may be provided/shared must have pre-approval and prior notification must be provided to all parents prior so they can make alternate choices. Additionally, all food items provided should be pre-packaged and food ingredients must be known or labeled. ***Suggestions for class sharing (birthday parties, etc.) may be providing or donating a book for the classroom or other non-food items.***

If your student has a food allergy, please make sure you contact/inform the Health Office. You may want to speak to the School Nurse if the allergy requires medication or other interventions. Students with food allergies may be entitled to accommodations or plans to address their needs. We look forward to working collaboratively with you to provide all of our students with a safe learning environment. We appreciate your care and support of our students and school.

A Note from the Health Office Regarding Medications



Just a reminder—Students may not have any medication (prescription or over the counter) in their possession. If your student needs to take any medication during the day, contact the health office for proper procedure and forms.



Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports Moment

The Blazer Way

“Make a good first impression.” This is advice that is given to anyone starting something new. Whether it be a new job, moving to a new town, or, as our kiddos are about to do, start a new school year; getting off to a good start sets a positive tone to a new endeavor. In the case of starting a school year, we want our Buchanan Blazers to start strong both behaviorally and academically.

As we start the 2017/18 school year Buchanan students will focus on being **Safe, Responsible, Respectful**, and following **KAHFOOTY**. These are Buchanan’s universal expectations of behavior, or what we call, **The Blazer Way**.

The question is, what do these expectations mean for our students? We can tell a student to be responsible or respectful repeatedly and they may even nod their heads acknowledging they understand, but do they really? At Buchanan we feel it is important to intentionally teach these expectations.

To start the year students will attend brief trainings where our expectations are explained in detail. Then they will be reviewed in the classrooms by the teachers throughout the year. You can help at home by reviewing the below expectations:

Be Safe

1. Look at your activity, task, or assignment.
2. Follow the teacher’s or adult’s instructions.
3. Think whether or not this is a safe activity.
4. Check with teacher or adult whether the activity is safe.

Be Responsible

1. Look at your activity, task, or assignment.
2. Follow the teacher’s or adult’s instructions.
3. Think about the steps needed to complete the task.
4. Focus all of your attention on the task.
5. Ignore distractions and interruptions from others.
6. Check with teacher or adult to make sure everything is done correctly.

Be Respectful

1. Make eye contact with the teacher or adult talking with you.
2. Show you understand by saying “okay” or nodding your head.
3. Do what you have been asked right away.
4. Check back after you are done.

Follow KAHFOOTY

Keep All Hands, Feet, and Other Objects To Yourself

By following **KAHFOOTY**, and being **Respectful, Responsible, and Safe**; together, we can create a positive school community that makes us all proud to be a Blazer.



Important Safety Reminders

Drop-off is 8:00-8:25am for grades 1-5.
Morning TK/K begins promptly at 8:20 am,
Afternoon TK/K begins promptly at 11:00am.

Each morning when the **8:25am TARDY BELL rings**, staff members will be at each entry gate to give out tardy slips and teachers will send any student not in class or on their line to the office for a tardy slip.

Pick-up is 2:35 pm for grades 1-3.
Grades 4-5 is 2:40 pm. Afternoon K is 2:35 pm. **No staff** is available to watch students **before** 8:00am and **after** 3:00pm.

Students need to be picked up by 3:00pm.

If you need supervision after 3pm, child care is available on campus for a fee. Please call our Family Services at 951-304-1623 for more information if you are interested



in

Celebration Policy



Per MVUSD policy regarding food allergies, any food brought on campus to be shared with other students needs to have prior approval from school personnel.

As an alternative suggestion to food for student celebrations (i.e. birthdays), you may donate a book to the classroom or school library honoring your student. Another idea is to bring in a goody bag (**with no food items**) or a **non-food treat** for each student in the class.

Fall Pictures



Friday, September 1,
2017

Bring your best smile!

No money needed—proofs will be sent home at a later date with an order form.

Announcing the NEW MVUSD mobile app!

Murrieta Valley Unified's new FREE MOBILE APP is coming soon! The new mobile app will be available for both iPhone and Android smartphones and it is designed specifically to keep our families better informed and connected to what's going on in our schools. The app will deliver real time school news to smartphones for fast, up-to-date access to:

- The latest district and school news
- Push notifications about breaking news, school events and more
- Photos from school events
- Links to schools' social media content
- Calendar events from multiple schools on one calendar
- Maps with school locations, phone numbers, and staff information
- Student information from Aeries so parents can follow grades, assignments, attendance and more
- Tip Line for reporting safety threats, bullying, harassment or intimidation at school

Be watching for an email with info on how and when you can download this FREE app.

Karen Parris
Public Information Officer
Murrieta Valley Unified School District 951 696-1600



Dear Elementary Families,

After undergoing a comprehensive pilot and review process during the 2016 – 2017 school year, the Murrieta Valley Unified School District is excited to begin implementing our new elementary English Language Arts Curriculum this school year. Our process led us to adopt the following rich and robust programs:

K – 1 McGraw-Hills *Wonders*

2 – 5 Benchmark *Advance*

During the 2017 – 2018 school year, our teachers will receive professional development and take part in collaboration as they start working with the new materials. While there will be a transition period, I can assure you that our teachers are very happy to have a new English Language Arts curriculum after many years, and it should be a rewarding journey ahead!

Our new K-1 curriculum, *Wonders*, is designed to help students meet high academic standards and prepare them for future success. Teachers will use *Wonders* to help your child:

- Master foundational skills of phonics, vocabulary, spelling, and word study
- Engage in close reading of complex text and find text evidence
- Become proficient in academic writing
- Take part in daily conversations with peers

Our new 2 – 5 curriculum, Benchmark, provides a cohesive framework for the development of content knowledge over time. Some key components of the program include:

- High-quality literary and informational texts to build knowledge
- Whole group and small group opportunities to focus on grade level and differentiated texts
- Interactive texts that promote close reading and annotation
- An integrated approach to speaking, listening, reading and writing

Both of these programs have online components, and teachers will communicate how to access these pieces once the school year gets started.

We are confident that our new programs will provide our teachers and students with current and effective materials to support and enhance literacy in our classrooms. If you have any questions, please see your site administrators or feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Faythe Mutchnick-Jayx
Executive Director of Elementary Education
(951) 696-1600 x1209

fmutchnick-jayx@murrieta.k12.ca.us



MICHAEL A. HESTRIN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

OFFICE OF
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
3960 ORANGE STREET
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92501-3643

August 1, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to the new school year! As you know, providing your child with the opportunity to receive the best education possible is one of the greatest and most significant gifts a parent can give. A strong educational foundation enables a child to grow into a successful, fulfilled, and productive adult. To ensure that all children within our community benefit fully from their educational opportunities, educators have placed a particular emphasis on school attendance. In recognition of the importance of school attendance, the month of September marks **Attendance Awareness Month**, a nationwide movement focused on raising awareness of the connection between school attendance and academic achievement.

As a father, the first to graduate from college in my family, and your District Attorney, I know that often children who do not attend school run the very real risk of either committing crimes or becoming victims of crime. Research has shown that students who do not graduate high school will face more challenges in finding meaningful work and succeeding in life. In addition to the educational benefits that your student will receive from consistent attendance, I would like to share with you some important information regarding state law which requires school attendance.

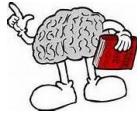
All parents or legal guardians of school-aged children should know that compulsory education is the law in the State of California. Education Code section 48200, requires all children between the ages of 6 and 18 to attend a full-time education program as designated by the governing board of the school district in which the parent or legal guardian resides. The law also provides that students who fail to attend school are truant and may be detained or arrested during school hours. Education Code section 48260(a), defines a "truant" as a student who, three times during the school year, either misses more than 30 minutes of instruction or is absent from school for three full days, without a valid excuse. (Education Code section 48205 defines when a student may be validly excused from school.) Finally, in an effort to control truancy, the law provides that parents of school age students are responsible for ensuring school attendance and can be held accountable with legal sanctions amounting to an infraction or a misdemeanor when the case is aggravated.

The school district is aware that truancy can result from many causes and your school district stands ready to assist you in fulfilling your obligations to your child's educational success. Should the issue of truancy arise, your school district is available to help you obtain assistance from government and community-based organizations that aid parents in addressing issues associated with truancy. With support and encouragement, your child can thrive and will reap the rewards of their education by developing successful organizational skills, engaging in the arts, sports, and sciences, solidifying strong school-oriented friendships, and appreciating the value of academics, hard work, and studying.

Your school district and I are committed to supporting the children of Riverside County by ensuring that they remain in school and receive an education full of individual achievement that will prepare them for a bright future. I wish you and your child a safe and productive school year.

Very truly yours,

MICHAEL A. HESTRIN
District Attorney



Tips for a successful school year

When students, teachers, and parents possess the belief that intelligence and skills can be developed, they are exhibiting a "Growth Mindset." We improve, learn, and achieve excellence through outlook, hard work and effort. Challenges are stepping-stones to improvement not road-blocks to avoid. Approaching work with this mindset encourages our school community to focus on continuous improvement regardless of where we begin on the learning spectrum. At Buchanan, it is not about how smart we are. It is about the attitude we bring to learning and how hard we work.

Students:

- Have a Growth Mindset attitude toward school.
- Use your BRAIN on all class work and homework: **B**reak it down, **R**epetition, **A**ctive learning, **I**nformation search, and **N**ever give up!
- Reflect on your learning and accept challenge and struggle as part of the learning process. Learn from your mistakes!
- Set goals and high standards for yourself. You can do it!
- Persevere! Ask for help when you are stuck and share your thinking process.
- Use positive self-talk. When you hear yourself saying that you *can't* do something, replace the negative thoughts with positive ones. "I can't do this **YET**, but I am working hard to improve."


Parents:

- Help your child instill a growth mindset by praising them for their effort rather than for talent.
- Get your child to school on time, all the time. Students with regular attendance perform at a higher level than students with chronic absences.
- Stay connected to your child's progress; academically, behaviorally, and socially. Attend Back to School Night and Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- Sign up to volunteer in your child's classroom. Research shows that the more you are involved in your child's education, the better your student does in school.
- Support school activities and our fantastic PTA! Be a part of what's happening! Know what's going on with our Monthly Blazer Post and school web page.

Take risks and challenge yourself! Celebrate your effort and enjoy the new school year!



Buchanan Elementary

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
July 31st—August 14th School Office Hours 9:00am-3:00pm						
6	7	8 Teacher Assignment Notification Days 9am-12pm	9 Teacher Assignment Notification Days 9am-12pm	10 Teacher Assignment Notification Days 9am-12pm	11 11:00am New Student Orientation and Tour	12
13	14 5:30pm TK/Kinder Back To School Night	15	16 	17	18 Spirit Assembly	19
20	21 Early Release	22 5pm—1st Grade Back to School 6pm—3rd Grade Back to School 7pm— 5th Gr Band Info Nite at Mesa HS (option 1)	23 5pm—5th Grade Back to School 7pm— 5th Gr Band Info Nite at Mesa HS (option 2)	24 5pm—2nd Grade Back to School 6pm—4th Grade Back to School	25 PTA Back to School Kick off Event	26
27	28 Early Release	29 Choir Starts for 3rd—5th Grade	30 5th Gr Band Lessons	31		