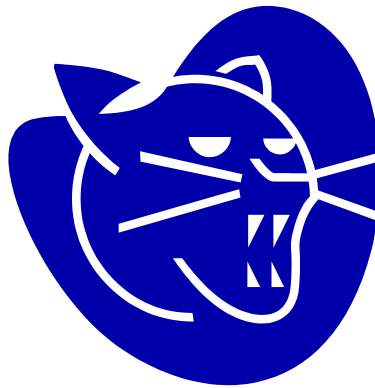


FRUITVALE ELEMENTARY

FRUITVALE MISSION STATEMENT:

Fruitvale Elementary will promote individual student success and a joy of learning through a safe, supportive, and positive environment with high academic and social standards.



"Teaching Effectively - Learning Successfully"

**585 30 Road
Grand Junction, CO
81504
(970) 254-5930
Fax (970) 245-9143**

Mesa County Valley School District #51

WELCOME TO FRUITVALE

This handbook is a supplement to the Mesa County Valley School District #51 handbook. Please take time to read the handbook as well as this supplement. Both are designed to familiarize you with the goals of our school and some of the procedures and policies that we use to implement the goals. If you have any questions regarding the school program in general or your child's experience here specifically, please contact the staff at Fruitvale Elementary School at 254-5930.

SCHOOL HOURS

School is in session for grades one through five from 8:50 a.m. - 3:50 p.m. The Kindergarten hours are morning: 8:50 a.m. – 11:50 a.m., and afternoon: 12:50 p.m. - 3:50 p.m. The school office operates between 8:00 a.m. and 4:15 p.m.

Wednesday is our District Wide Early Release day for elementary schools. First through fifth grade students will be released at 1:50 P.M. on Wednesdays. Staff will use this time for professional development. Kindergarten hours on Wednesdays are 8:50 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. for morning kindergarten and 11:50 a.m. – 1:50 p.m. for afternoon kindergarten.

STUDENT SUPERVISION

The playground is supervised every morning from 8:30 a.m. – 8:50 a.m. Please do not send your child(ren) to school earlier than 8:30 a.m. since there is no adult supervision present on the grounds. The playground is also supervised during lunch recess and other recess periods. There is also supervision after school from 3:50 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

If students are not picked up by 4:15 p.m., they will be placed in the Extended Hours program that provides before and after school daycare for Fruitvale students for a fee. For more information please call Extended Hours at 241-3603.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Fruitvale has a breakfast program available to all Fruitvale students. Breakfast is served each morning from 8:25 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. The cost is \$1.25 for students, and no cost for students who qualify for free or reduced lunches. Parents and staff may purchase a breakfast for \$1.75.

EARLY DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL

If a child must leave school during school hours, the child's parent must come to the office to sign the child out of school. Parents may not pick up students directly from the classroom. The child must check back in to the office when returning to school on the same day. Please try to schedule routine medical and dental check-ups before or after school.

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

A child can never make up a day missed at school even though some assignments may be made up at a later date. Students should only be absent from school in the case of an illness, unusual family difficulties, or emergency. Other absences should be avoided and, in fact, may constitute truancy. If your child is absent for more than one day, please make arrangements to have his/her homework picked up.

When your child is absent, a parent must call the school office before 9:00 a.m. to inform the school as to the nature of the absence. If no contact is made, the child will receive an unexcused absence. Below are sections of the Compulsory School Attendance Act.

For a complete, full text, version of the following statutes please visit the Colorado General Assembly web page at - <http://www.leg.state.co.us/>

C.R.S. 22-33-107 Enforcement of Compulsory School Attendance... (a) As used in this subsection (3), a child who is "habitually truant" means a child who has attained the age of **six years** on or before August 1 of the year in question and is under the age of seventeen years having **four unexcused absences** from public school in any **one month** or **ten unexcused absences** from public school during any school year.

FRUITVALE P.T.A. – 3rd Monday of each month

All parents are encouraged to become involved in the Fruitvale P.T.A. We realize that each parent will be able to commit different amounts of time and resources, but our goal is to have all parents involved even if their commitment is minimal. Let's make our school the best in the valley. We need your help.

FRUITVALE ACCOUNTABILITY

The Fruitvale Accountability Committee will focus on advising administration on academic focuses such as school goals and mission. The FAC will meet quarterly. All community members are welcome to attend. Meetings will be posted in monthly Fruitvale newsletters.

SCHOOL HEALTH ASSISTANT

Fruitvale has a part-time health assistant. If a child becomes ill or injured at school, he/she will be cared for and the parent will be notified. Simple first-aid will be administered, but no medication will be given unless the medication and written permission is on file with the office. The responsibility for further care rests with the parent or family physician. If your child contracts strep throat, chicken pox, or any other contagious disease, please inform the school health assistant or office staff at once.

MEDICATION

The form, "Request for Medication to Be Given at School," must be completed, signed by the physician and parent, and be on file in the school before prescription medication can be administered by the school nurse assistant or trained staff. The school is required by the state to have a doctor's signed order, the parent's signature and a properly labeled container in order to give prescription medication at school. Please check with your physician regarding the necessity of giving medication during school hours.

Prescription medication must be in the original container labeled by the pharmacist.

Over the counter (non-prescription) medication supplied by the parent in the original container may be given only with a parent's signature on the permission form. This includes cough drops. Forms are available in the school office and at most physician's offices. New forms must be completed each school year or when the prescription has been changed by the doctor.

If it is necessary to send liquid medication to school, please send a dosage spoon with the medication. A parent must bring the medication to school and medications which are not completely used, or picked up by the parent, will be discarded at school.

Students may not carry medication of any type to class.

TRANSPORTATION

Bus transportation is provided for children in the Fruitvale attendance area who live more than one mile from school. Where students are ineligible for school district transportation, the parent may contract privately with First Student Contract Services if seating space is available and it will not cause deviation from the existing routes. You may contact First Student at 241-1570 if you have any questions.

It is our hope that you stress to your child the importance of proper conduct at the bus stop and on the bus so that we may be sure that every child at Fruitvale has a safe ride to and from school.

BICYCLES, ETC.

Children may ride bicycles to school. However, bicycles must be walked on the school grounds. Bicycles should be locked to the bicycle rack. Please remember that the school cannot be responsible for bicycles brought to school. Students may not ride skateboards or rollerblades on school grounds. "Heeleys" must be removed while a student is on school grounds.

PARKING AND PICK-UP

Safety is an important concern for all of us. Before and after school there are many students being dropped off or picked up. It is very important for everyone to be patient so our children are safe.

Families of kindergarten students can drop off and pick up their student in the north parking area.

Families with children in grades 1-5 should drop off and pick up their children in the east (front) parking area. There are parking spaces so you can park and take your child inside, if needed, – otherwise, please use the drop off/drive-through lane.

Thank you for your cooperation in making student safety our number one priority.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT SCHOOL

The following applies to all electronic devices, portable music players (MP3, CD players, Walkmans), Ipods, DVD players, and hand held game players (Game Boys, PSPs, etc.): (1) using these devices during class time interferes with learning and (2) recess use has resulted in some altercations and broken items. **Students are NOT allowed to bring these items to school.**

We do recognize that there are family situations that require students to have cell phones. Cell phones may be on **ONLY** before and after school. They must be turned off during school hours. They are not to be brought out to recess. Students who need to make phone calls during the school day may do so in the office. Students who do not follow the policy may receive a verbal reminder of the policy and/or have the device confiscated and be allowed to pick it up at the end of the day. Parents will be required to pick up cell phones from the office should students repeatedly violate the policy.

Other electronic devices **should not be brought to school.** We will follow the same policy as outlined for cell phones should a student bring these devices to school.

CAFETERIA

Students may purchase hot lunch or may bring a lunch prepared at home. Children bringing a lunch from home may purchase white or chocolate milk. If a student has any food allergies or is allergic to milk, we will need a note from their physician stating the problem. Juice substitutions will not be made without such a note.

Food Service staff will take lunch money in the cafeteria in the morning from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. It is helpful if lunches are purchased by the week or by the month, although students may purchase them daily. We encourage students to purchase their lunches before school to keep the lunch line moving smoothly. Parents can also purchase lunches online. For more information contact the school office. If students forget their lunch money, they may charge a lunch one day only. A phone call home will occur if the student fails to bring lunch money the following day. To avoid the loss of sack lunches and lunch boxes, please put your child's name on them.

Free and reduced lunch applications will be mailed to each family, and are available at the office. The form must be filled out each year for qualification.

VISITING THE SCHOOL

Parents and guardians are encouraged to visit their children's classrooms or any of the District's other instructional facilities. This is one of the best ways to know what is going on at school.

Visitors **MUST** check in at the office before visiting a classroom and wear a visitor badge at all times while in the building. Adults not wearing visitor badges will be directed to the office.

Please be sensitive to the learning environment when allowing younger siblings to visit the classroom. It is often best to have younger siblings visit their brother or sister at lunch time with the parent.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Panther Paw Awards are given to students who have been recognized by a Fruitvale staff member for displaying a Panther trait. Students receiving a Panther Paw Award are sent to the office to place their Panther Paw into the envelope for the monthly drawing. At the end of each month, there will be an Awards Assembly where student's names will randomly be drawn to receive a new book. That month's character trait awards are also given. Parents are encouraged to attend the assembly.

EMERGENCY SCHEDULE

Inclement weather or other factors may result in closing schools, delayed opening, or early dismissal. School closings will be announced over local radio stations and posted on the District 51 homepage. Our district maintains communication with the transportation office, bus company, highway department, weather bureau, and news media. Closing decisions are made as early as possible. On a questionable day, please listen to the radio rather than calling the district. Please supply the school with accurate information, including home phone, cell phone and work phone numbers. It is very important to notify the school promptly if there is a change of address or phone number.

TELEPHONE MESSAGES

We are happy to deliver emergency / urgent messages to your child. **If at all possible, arrangements for any changes in your child's routine should be made before they come to school in the morning.** Students will not be allowed to use the telephone for permission to go home with a friend.

PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES

The Fruitvale staff is committed to communication between students, teachers, and parents. Pupil progress is reported through formal parent-teacher conferences twice a year and progress report cards are sent home four times a year. Fall parent-teacher conferences are scheduled in late October, and spring conferences will be in May. Report cards will be sent home at the end of each quarter. Additional conferences may be initiated as needed by the parents or teachers throughout the year.

TITLE I INFORMATION

As a parent of a student at Fruitvale, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teacher who instructs your child. This is a requirement for all districts that receive Title I funds. Federal law allows you to request certain information about your child's classroom teacher. The law also requires the district to give you this information in a timely manner upon request. Listed below is the information about which you have the right to ask for regarding each of your child's classroom teachers.

- Whether the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) has licensed or endorsed your child's teacher for the grades and subjects taught.
- Whether CDE has decided that your child's teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees, and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether any teachers' aides or similar para-educators provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

DRESS CODE

School is your child's "workplace" and consequently we ask that they dress appropriately. Children should dress according to the weather. If it is cold, please send your child to school with warm clothing. **Any dress which is deemed inappropriate or distracting by administrators will not be allowed to be worn at school.** This includes hair of unnatural colors (pink, blue, purple, etc.), piercings (other than ear), or distracting accessories, including "heelies" (tennis shoe roller skates). Please help your child make choices that will be conducive to a positive learning environment. Students are not to wear tank tops and other abbreviated wear, i.e. half shirts, crop tops, etc., short shorts (shorts should be near end of fingertips/mid-thigh or longer), bike shorts, slogans promoting alcohol, tobacco, drugs, sex, or violence, or sagging pants. Please make sure all coats, hats, and gloves, are labeled, with your child's name. Let's keep our focus on the main thing, student learning. Our school policy is that NO HATS be worn in the school building.

BEHAVIOR AT SCHOOL

We are dedicated to providing a safe and nurturing environment for the students at Fruitvale. Our staff has adopted the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) system for consistent school-wide expectations. The Panther Paws school-wide expectations are:

- **Be Safe**
- **Be a Learner**
- **Be Respectful of Self, Others, and the Environment**

All of our student recognition is tied to the Panther Paws expectations. Our goal is to ensure that students have a safe and positive experience at school. Consequently, we will not tolerate fighting or disrespect for people or property. Any student fighting (regardless of "who" started it) will result in school punishment.

PLAYGROUND

Children are allowed to bring their own playground equipment, with the exception of hard bats and balls, to play with on the playground. All items brought from home must be clearly marked with the child's name. The school cannot be responsible for items lost, stolen, or damaged. Safety is of prime concern, and we reserve the right to exclude any items we deem unsafe or inappropriate.

Toys brought from home should never become a distraction to education. If this becomes an issue the office may prohibit students from bringing them.

VISION

***Teaching Effectively -
Learning Successfully***

MISSION STATEMENT

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individual student success and
a joy of learning through
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