



HOME OF THE PANTHERS

WELCOME TO FRUITVALE ELEMENTARY

2019 - 2020 Parent-Student Handbook

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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 970-254-5930.

SCHOOL HOURS

School is in session for all Kindergarten through fifth grade from 8:50 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The first bell rings at 8:50 a.m. and tardy bell rings at 8:55 a.m. ALL students are expected to be in the classroom and ready to learn by 8:55 a.m. The school office operates between 8:00 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. Friday is our District Wide Early Release day for elementary schools. Kindergarten through fifth grade students will be released at 2:00 P.M. on Fridays. Staff will use this time for professional development.

STUDENT SUPERVISION

Please do not send your child (ren) to school earlier than 8:50 a.m. unless they are eating breakfast at school beginning at 8:30 a.m. There is NO adult supervision until 8:30. Morning meetings for all students will start at 8:55 in the classroom. The playground is supervised during lunch recess and other recess periods. There is also supervision after school from 4:00 p.m. 4:10 p.m.

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.

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 you reach the attendance line recording please leave a message. 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.

TELEPHONE MESSAGES

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

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.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT SCHOOL

The following applies to all electronic devices, portable music players, IPod, DVD players, and hand held game players: (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 a cell phone. Cell phones, Smart watches or Gizmos 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.

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. Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled in October, January and 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.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROGRAM

Fruitvale has a free breakfast program available to all Fruitvale students. Breakfast is served each morning from 8:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. in the cafeteria. Breakfast after the bell “Grab and Go” is available between 8:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Lunch prices are set annually in accordance with the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. Please see the “Meal Price” page at www.d51schools.org (select parent tab, then select meal tab). Menu and pricing information are updated annually in July. Meal payments can be made at the school cafeteria or online through www.mypaymentsplus.com.

Free or reduced-price for lunches are available to children from families qualifying under Federal guidelines. Applications for free and reduced price meals will be available ONLINE four weeks before the first day of school each year at www.d51schools.org (simply hit the “Apply for Lunch” button on the District’s home page). Parents without internet access can pick-up the paper application at school or the Nutrition offices at 2280 E. Main Street, Grand Junction, Colorado.

VISITING THE SCHOOL

ALL Parents/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 visiting the classroom. If you have questions, concerns, homework requests, please schedule a meeting with your teacher or call the office. Our teachers’ top priority is student safety and providing undivided attention to your children during school hours 8:50-4:00

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 pick up their

student in the north parking area, drop off will be in the front 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. Pull all the way forward to help with the flow of traffic. Thank you for your cooperation in making student safety our number one priority.

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 piercings (other than ear), or distracting accessories, including glue on nails, "heelies" (tennis shoe roller skates). Heels/wedges should be no higher than two inches. Please help your child make choices that will be conducive to a positive learning environment. Students are not to wear tank tops whose straps are less than two adult fingers, including spaghetti straps and other abbreviated wear, i.e. half shirts, crop tops, etc., short shorts (shorts should be near end of fingertips/mid-thigh or longer), slogans promoting alcohol, tobacco, drugs, sex, or violence, or sagging pants. If students cannot bend over, sit down or lift their arms without exposing themselves, their clothes are not appropriate. We are very active during the school day! Please make certain that clothing adequately covers, with no gaps. We ask that all coats, hats, and gloves, be labeled, with your child's name. Twice a year lost and found will be donated to the Goodwill. Our school policy is that NO HATS be worn in the school building. Let's keep our focus on the main thing, student learning.

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. Do not bring toys to school; this includes Pokémon cards, Hot Wheels, Dolls, etc. They become a distraction to education. If this becomes an issue, parents will be notified.

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 doctor has changed the prescription. 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



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. Student Transportation phone # 970-697-1050

Current Items Not Authorized for Transport on School Buses

STA is dedicated to the safe operation and transport of children for all Mesa County School District 51 students and faculty. Below is a list of items that are not allowed for transport per Colorado Department of Education and STA of Colorado policies. **CDE Code 223.01** School transportation vehicles shall not transport any items, materials, or equipment which in any way would endanger the lives, health, or safety of the students and school transportation vehicle operator. In addition, any item or items, which could break or produce injury if tossed about inside of the school transportation vehicle shall be properly stored or secured to reduce the danger to a minimum. In addition, the school transportation vehicle operator shall make a reasonable and prudent determination that all carry-on items are properly handled in order to minimize the danger

to all others. **CDE Code 223.02** All aisles and exits shall be clear of luggage and /or equipment when transporting students.

Below is a list of items that do not meet transportation standards:

- Any Band/Orchestra instrument that cannot be safely secure on the students lap (Baritone, Tuba, Drums) and may only be transported in an under storage bin
- School projects that have a reasonable ability to create harm to other passengers (items made that can cause a distraction to students)
- No Skateboards, Roller Blades or Scooters
- Any sports equipment that cannot be securely stored on the students lap
- Glass or heavy metal objects (lunch boxes are acceptable)
- Animals, birds or reptiles
- Hazardous chemicals or materials

Understand that this is not an all-inclusive list. Overall, any item that may create a hazard for the safe transportation of students may be dealt with on a case- by- case instance.