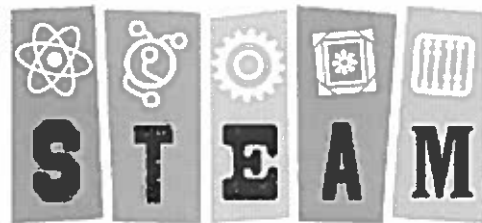


Val Verde Unified School District
MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
25390 Krameria Street, Moreno Valley, CA 92551
Phone: 951-490-0380 Fax: 951-490-0385 Website: bethune.valverde.edu
(Revised 6/17)



PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK



SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY
ENGINEERING • ART • MATHEMATICS






**“Innovation is the Gateway
in the 21st Century”**

Katrina Piché, Principal

Download the Free Val Verde USD App

- View news stories
- View sports scores
- Receive important alerts
- View calendar info
- Access school and staff info



Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School – Home of the Wildcats! As principal, I look forward to meeting and working with you and your children to provide a variety of stimulating school experiences and educational growth opportunities. On behalf of the staff at Bethune, I offer a warm welcome to our new and returning Wildcat students and parents.

Parents, please take time to read and review the guidelines in this handbook with your children. Following these guidelines will not only help our campus to run smoothly and safely, but will also help your child to experience success in school. Please keep this handbook in your home to use as a reference to our school program. I invite you to visit your school, get involved with your child's classroom, join the PTO, and call or visit when you have questions or concerns. **Welcome to the home of the Wildcats!**
Sincerely,

Katrina Piché

Katrina Piché
Principal

Bethune Vision Statement

Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School is committed to equipping students to live and thrive in the global economy and the 21st Century. We believe our charge is to create innovative problem-solvers who are knowledgeable, creative, strategic and adaptable. We believe that we must attend to and develop the whole-child, that is, their thinking patterns, their academic knowledge, and their social and emotional interactions. Our intention is to develop students who are college and career ready and we believe that innovation is the gateway to living a life full of passion, play and purpose in the 21st Century.

SAFE AND SECURE CAMPUS POLICY

Because student safety is our highest priority, all schools in the Val Verde Unified School District follow safe and secure campus procedures. During the first day of school **ONLY**, parents will be permitted to come on campus during the morning to assist their students with finding their class lines. We will extend the first three days to kindergarten parents ONLY.

Parents will not be allowed in the classrooms or on campus after school starts without proper clearance from the office. For volunteer information, please visit our front office.

To be permitted on campus after the 1st day of school:

1. All visitations must be scheduled with a teacher 24 hours in advance.
2. Visitor check-in will begin after 8:15 a.m.
3. All visitors must check in with the front office and submit a photo I.D., sign in and wear a visitor's badge at all times.

Civility Policy

The Val Verde Unified School District is committed to maintaining orderly educational and administrative processes, in keeping schools and administrative offices free from disruptions and preventing unauthorized persons from entering school district grounds.



In the interest of presenting positive role models to the students at Bethune, the Val Verde Unified School District encourages positive communication, discourages behavior that may appear rude, uncaring, abrupt, or insensitive, and will not tolerate volatile, hostile, or aggressive actions. Visitors on campus who display prohibited actions could be subject to withdraw of consent to be on school property.

For more information regarding the Val Verde Unified School District's Civility Policy, please refer to Board Policy 1313.

Dismissal

Students who are picked-up in a vehicle will wait with their class near the drop-off/pick-up lane. Students are not permitted to enter vehicles unless they are in the designated drop off/ pick-up lane. No student is to move through lanes and enter vehicles in the "through traffic" lane. There are two designated crosswalks that walking students must use. Those crossing the street will need to do so at the crosswalks. Parents/family members **must** wait outside of the gates for dismissal. Teachers walk students to the gates and wait there with their student. Please see bell schedule for dismissal times.

Dismissal Locations:

Kindergarten- 5th - main parking lot side of campus
Bus and handicap access in front of school ONLY.
NO parking allowed in bus access zones!

PARKING AND TRAFFIC

We are a large school servicing approx.. 600 students. Traffic is heavy during our peak drop off/pick-up times. The first few weeks of school can be especially difficult. Although we have multiple gates on campus, we allow traffic in and out of only one entry/exit point. This is to create a safe traffic flow and alleviate congestion from other entrances and exits. We have two designated crosswalks for parents and students to use.

Drop Off/Pick-up: Parents who deliver or pick-up their children by vehicle must park in designated parking spaces and escort their children to and from the vehicle, or use the drop-off/pick-up lane. **The right lane is for drop off/pick-up. This is NOT for parking and parents are to remain in their cars if they are waiting for students to be released.** The left lane is for "through traffic" only. Please drive carefully and use courtesy, caution and patience while driving. It is illegal (*and expensive*) to park in the red Fire Lanes. **Please DO NOT leave your vehicle while waiting for your student!** Please move your car forward to alleviate traffic and provide a safe exit/entry for all.



**PLEASE BE ON TIME WHEN DROPPING OFF
AND PICKING UP STUDENTS**

GOING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Students who walk are to go directly to and from school. No one is to stop at stores, restaurants, a friend's home, etc. without parent supervision. Students are not to enter the school grounds before designated times and must leave promptly when school is out. **Do not drop off students prior to 7:15am as this is an unsupervised time.** Students who do not walk home are to be picked-up promptly by parents or individuals designated on emergency cards.

Late pick-ups

Parents/guardians who pick students up late will need to sign the students out in order to document late pick-ups. Please note that it is very important that your student is picked **IMMEDIATELY** after school every day. We cannot "babysit" children in the office. The office is a place of business that is very busy and has set business hours. Please note will call the police and/or Child Protective Services (CPS) for students who are not picked-up 35 minutes after school dismissal. We will attempt to reach available emergency contacts for pick-up but if no one is available to pick-up your child within a 15 minute time frame the authorities would have to be contacted to ensure your child's safety. **It is our right by law to contact the police department and/or CPS when your child has not been picked-up on time. Habitual late pick-ups will not be tolerated. Please note that our staff reserves the right to contact the authorities without reaching out to emergency contacts for students who are picked-up late habitually.**

PETS / ANIMALS



Pets/animals are not allowed on school grounds. **Parents may not bring pets on campus when dropping off or picking-up children from school.**

BICYCLES/SCOOTERS- 4-5th Gr Only

Students who ride their bicycles or scooters to school must wear a helmet and must bring a lock to secure their bike or scooter in the bike rack during the day (No skateboards/skates/rollerblades will be permitted on school grounds). Students who fail to wear bicycle helmets and bring locks will have their bikes/scooters confiscated for parent pick-up and may lose privileges. **In addition, the student must have a permission slip signed by his or her parent or guardian.** Students may not ride bicycles, skateboards, scooters, or wear roller blades/skates on the school campus during the day or after school. Please see the front office or school website for a permission slip.



BREAKFAST

Breakfast is available each day before the campus opens and is FREE for ALL students. Breakfast is served from 7:30am – 8:00am. **Only students who are eating**



breakfast are permitted to enter the campus during breakfast times. Students who are not eating breakfast must wait outside of the gates until the campus opens at 7:50am. Students must be in line by the breakfast ending time; they will not be served after the ending time. Supervision is provided for breakfast students ONLY in the Multi-Purpose Room or outside eating area.

LUNCH

Lunch is available at school each day; monthly menus are provided. Parents may apply for free or reduced price lunch each year. Please complete meal applications on our school website at bethune.valverde.edu or at the front office. All children in the family may be included on one form. Students who prefer to do so may bring their lunch from home. Milk may be purchased separately.

Please make arrangements for lunch (buying or bringing) before your child comes to school each day. We discourage parents from routinely bringing fast-food lunches at lunchtime. It is disruptive to have students called to come to the office to pick-up their lunch. Also, at times we may need to adjust lunch times and students may be eating at a time other than scheduled. Please do not send soda or other caffeinated beverages with your child to school. It is our goal to encourage healthy eating by following the USDA Nutritional Standards.

LUNCH AREA RULES

1. Follow directions the first time they are given.
2. Remain seated at assigned table until given permission to leave.
3. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
4. Do not trade or share food.
5. Only low-level talking is permitted.
6. Staff and students only in food service areas.
7. If lunch must be delivered to a student, it must be delivered through the office.



ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual school attendance is important to student success and in limiting disruptions to the classroom. Students with excessive absences and tardiness will be referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB).

Absences: Please send a note when your child is absent from school. All absences should be cleared within 48 hours. Students with five or more consecutive unexcused absences may be dropped.

Tardies: Tardies are cumulative throughout the year. Habitual Tardies may be referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB).

Late Arrival Tardy: Students must report to the office and sign in if they arrive after school begins. Students must be in class by the school start time or be marked tardy. Students not in their assigned classrooms or activity area ready to start working are considered tardy. The tardy policy is designed to help students develop a lifelong work ethic in getting to work on time. The tardy program is a progressive program providing communication by mail and phone between the home and school throughout the process.

Early Dismissal Tardy: Please note that leaving school early is counted the same as late arrival (tardy). Although we prefer that appointments be scheduled after school hours, we realize that this can be difficult, and that it may sometimes be necessary for students to leave school early. You must sign your student out at the office and wait there; an office staff person will call your child's classroom to have him/her come. For your child's protection, you will be asked to provide identification. Your child will only be released to persons listed on the Emergency card.
Please Note – Students WILL NOT be released the last 20 minutes of the instructional day.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

If you know you are going out of town for five or more days, you can avoid unexcused absences by contacting the school office at least five school days in advance to arrange for an Independent Study Contract for your child, if your child is in good academic standing. Administration will decide if student is eligible. Students who complete their Independent Study Contracts will receive full credit for attendance. Failure to complete the contract will result in unexcused absences and/or truancy.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE RECOGNITION

Because attendance is so important for student success, Bethune Elementary School rewards students who come to school every day, all day, on time. These students receive a special certificate of perfect attendance, and will have the opportunity to participate in special activities, which may include one or more of the following: Principal's recess or party, treats, entertainment, drawings, other prizes and rewards. **Students with perfect attendance for the entire school year may receive all of the above, as well as special recognition for yearly perfect attendance.**

Remember! "Perfect means Perfect"

Students who do NOT miss any days of school and who have no tardies (this includes late arrivals and early dismissals) will be awarded with a "Perfect Attendance Award" at the end of each trimester.



STUDENT CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to follow school and class rules at all times. Our universal expectations are...

Universal Expectations		
Be Respectful!	Be Responsible!	Be Safe!

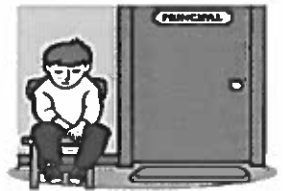
Playground safety rules and class rules are provided to students through classroom and assembly instruction. Bethune students learn about six pillars of character (trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship) during classroom instruction which also includes our bullying awareness program.

No students are allowed to chew gum or bring sucker or lollipop type candy on campus.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Procedural steps regarding referrals and consequences:

1. Teacher will instruct students on what school-wide rules and consequences mean for their class, plus give verbal warning for violation of class rules.
2. Teacher/Student conference
Teacher/Parent conference (phone or person)
Teacher directed consequence
3. Administrative Referral
Parent Notification
After-School Detention
In-School Interventions
Out of school suspension



Exception:

Deviant, dangerous and illegal behavior will not be part of the Progressive Discipline Plan. Discipline could lead to suspension, involuntary transfer to an alternative site or expulsion. Law enforcement agencies may be contacted.

Altercation/Fighting/Pre-Fight Behavior:

Altercations, either physical or verbal, are disruptive to the educational process. All students involved are subject to disciplinary actions. Students involved in physical altercations may be suspended. **THERE IS NO SELF-DEFENSE POLICY! SOLVE DIFFERENCES WITHOUT VIOLENCE!** (Ed. Code 48900, P.C. 242, 245, 415.1)

Sexual Harassment Definition:

California and federal laws define sexual harassment as unwanted sexual advances, or unwanted visual, verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Such offensive behavior includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Unwanted sexual advances, including propositioning and requests for sexual favors, or repeatedly asking someone out for a date after it is clear that the person is not interested;
2. Explicitly or implicitly offering employment or academic benefits in exchange for sexual favors;
3. Making or threatening reprisals after a negative response to sexual advances;
4. Visual conduct: leering, making sexual gestures; displaying sexually suggestive objects, pictures, cartoons or posters;
5. Verbal conduct: Making or using derogatory comments, epithets, slurs, or jokes; making sexually based remarks about another's or one's own body;
6. Verbal abuse of a sexual nature, graphic verbal commentaries about an individual's body, sexually degrading words used to describe an individual, suggestive or obscene letters, notes or invitation;
7. Physical conduct: Touching, assaulting, impeding or blocking movement;
8. Basing employment or academic benefit on whether or not a person submits to behavior such as described in items (a) through (g) above;
9. Unwelcome behavior as set forth in items (a) through (g) above which has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual's work or academic performance, or of creating an intimidating hostile, or offensive work or educational environment.

This sexual harassment policy is intended to protect against sexual harassment before it becomes actionable sexual harassment. The term "sexual harassment" is intended to be meant in the broadest meaning of that term in current popular as well as legal usage.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones, video games, and MP3 players

MUST be left at home! Please remember that the school is not responsible for these items and they are safer at your home than at school! **Electronic devices will be confiscated by school personnel if they are seen, heard, or used.** Repeated confiscations will result in additional consequences. Items are held in the office until a parent or guardian can pick them up.



DRESS CODE

The following describes attire inappropriate for the school setting. A student may not remain in the classroom dressed in a manner which:

- Creates a safety hazard
- Constitutes a distraction to the learning process
- Tends to disrupt the campus order



- Conflicts with the district's goals and philosophy of the prevention of substance abuse and gang activity
- Hair styles which jeopardize the health and safety of the wearer or others or which substantially disrupt, interfere with or distract from the orderly conduct of the educational process or the learning atmosphere of the school or classroom are not allowed. Hair shall be clean and neatly groomed. Hair may not be sprayed by any coloring that would drip when wet.

School personnel have the sole discretion of determining whether this clothing is inappropriate. The following are examples of inappropriate clothing for Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School:

- Clothing that is deemed gang-related by the Riverside County Sheriff or Moreno Valley Police, which includes but is not limited to, some sports jackets, oversized and/or sagging pants (pants need to stay up without a belt), hanging belts, suspenders off the shoulders, initials on belt buckles.
- Clothing with pictures or words that advocate or advertise any kind of alcohol or drugs, pictures of acts which are illegal or hazardous to one's health, pictures of weapons or violence, or obscene or promiscuous pictures.
- Proper footwear must be worn at all times for safety reasons. Backless and/or open toe shoes, thongs, flip-flops and shoes with high heels are not permitted. We suggest no more than 2" as an appropriate heel height.

BETHUNE REWARDS PROGRAM

Our school recognizes students through a variety of weekly, monthly, and trimester awards including perfect attendance, Bethune Bucks, and Trimester Awards for Honor Roll (3.0-3.99), Principal's Honor Roll (4.0), Academic Excellence, Most Improved Student, and Outstanding Citizenship.



HOMEWORK / READING

The Board of Education recognizes that a reasonable amount of homework and preparation is necessary for the scholastic growth of students. Homework provides an important link between home and school. Through homework assignments, parents become familiar with schoolwork and are able to monitor their child's progress. At Bethune Elementary, we feel that the most important homework is reading! We encourage all students in all grades to read or be read to at least twenty (20) minutes each day. Some teachers may require a Reading Log for students to keep track of their daily reading.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION (P.E.)

Teachers for students in all grades TK-5 provide Physical Education (P.E.). Students in grade 5 participate in the President's Physical Fitness Program. Students are encouraged to dress appropriately for physical education activities; most importantly, they should wear tennis shoes on PE days.



VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS

We welcome and encourage parents, guardians and other adult family members as well as community members to share their time and talents with our students as classroom volunteers. Volunteers are required to complete an online application (applications can be found on the Quick Links of our school website). Volunteers are also required to show appropriate identification, sign in on the Volunteer Log at the school office, wear a "Visitor" tag or button while on campus, and have a current TB skin test registered at the school Health Office. To minimize interruptions to learning visits during classroom time need to be scheduled with the teacher 24 hours in advance. Older students coming to see their former teachers are to arrange visits for after school.

Volunteers are not permitted to bring younger, non-school age children with them when coming to assist in the classroom. With the exception of students attending a Val Verde High School and involved in approved community service projects, volunteers must be at least eighteen (18) years old.



FIELD TRIPS: A limited number of parents/guardians may be invited to assist as chaperones, when needed. **Siblings or other family members may not join field trips.** Chaperones must have completed the volunteer application process and have fingerprint clearance from the district office.

Permission Slips

The deadline for **ALL** permission slips is 2 days prior to the event. **No late permission slips will be accepted.** This includes off-site trips and afterschool events.

LOST PROPERTY

Lost property is kept in Lost and Found bins in the Multi-Purpose Room. The bins are cleaned out periodically and labeled property is returned. After a period of time, unclaimed items are donated to local charities. **Please label all items your child brings to school:** backpack, lunch pail/bag, sweaters, jackets, etc.

USE OF SCHOOL GROUNDS

The Val Verde Unified School District maintains closed campuses at all of their schools. **Students are not permitted to use playgrounds, basketball courts, or fields** after school hours without school district permission. Persons wishing to use the school and/or school grounds must complete a VVUSD Facilities Use Request.

HEALTH

We have a full-time LVN on staff to provide for the health and welfare of our students. A District Nurse is at our school one day per week, and is always available for emergencies.



Illness / Accidents - If your child becomes ill or injured at school, we will make him/her comfortable and then call you or the emergency contact you have listed.

Medication - All medication, including inhalers, cough syrup/drops, etc. must be left in the Health Office. Students who need to take any kind of medication must have a form signed by a physician before the medication can be brought to school.

Head Lice - Please check your child's head periodically for lice and nits. An early sign of head lice is excessive itching. If active adult lice is discovered at school, you will be contacted by the school to pick-up your child. Treatment of head lice should be completed within 1 day of being sent home. After proper treatment of head lice, students must report to school's Health Office and be cleared prior to re-admission to classes.

Bethune Elementary School is a smoke-free, drug-free campus. Val Verde Unified School District does not tolerate sexual harassment or discrimination in regards to gender, race, ethnicity, or religion.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

The school maintains current information for each student. Please complete and return all emergency forms as soon as possible. **Notify the office immediately if there are changes to the information you provide on the form.**

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

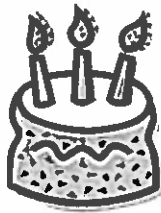
In the event of a major disaster, Bethune Elementary School students and staff have prepared and practiced emergency procedures. In an emergency situation, the school will use an established checkout procedure for releasing students. Students will only be released to parents, legal guardians, and other persons designated on the student's registration card as being able to remove the students from school. The school has emergency water, medical supplies and shelter to house our students. Registration cards should be updated as necessary to be certain all information and emergency numbers are correct.

ASSEMBLIES

No balloons or noise makers are allowed at any school assembly or activity. Please park your vehicle in designated parking areas only. Parking illegally may result in fines being issued by police department.

STUDENT BIRTHDAY GUIDELINES

Some parents and students like to find ways to celebrate student items birthdays at school by sharing items during part of the school day. **We DO NOT allow birthday celebrations to interrupt any part of the school day or violate food/health guidelines for schools.**



Therefore, we have established guidelines at Bethune for parents and/or guardians and students who wish to share birthdays items with others at school. Please read and follow these guidelines, as there will be NO EXCEPTIONS.

1. **NO FOOD ITEMS ARE ALLOWED.** Food items are not allowed due to calorie restrictions and food allergies.
2. **No balloons or decorations of any kind are permitted.**
3. Student birthday parties or gift bag distribution will not be held at school during any part of the school day.
4. Birthday students may share a small souvenir at the very end of a school day.
5. Parents must have prior teacher approval before they can bring items for distribution.
6. Appropriate souvenirs might include items such as pencils, erasers, dry-erase markers, coupons, or other age-appropriate souvenirs. Students may hand out invitations to parties they are hosting off campus.

GET INVOLVED!

We have many opportunities for parents and the community to get involved with their student and our school! If you have any questions or would like more information please come in or call – we look forward to building a partnership with you!

PTO – Parent Teacher Organization

ELAC – English Language Advisory Committee

AAAC – African American Advisory Committee

SSC – School Site Council

Classroom volunteers are required to obtain district approval before being permitted to volunteer on campus.

PTO-PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

We welcome all parents to please join the Bethune PTO. For a small membership fee you can help our school provide wonderful learning opportunities for our students through extra-curricular activities and assemblies.

TECHNOLOGY

Students have access to technology in the classroom such as iPads, and Chromebooks. Students are expected to use digital citizenship when working with technology. Students will need to have the Technology Agreement authorized by parents in order to have full access to all of our programs.



Parents are asked to download the Val Verde Parent Portal App by visiting the Quick Links on our school website or <https://aeriesweb.valverde.edu/parentportal/LoginParent.aspx?page=default.aspx>. The app gives you access to

your student's information including grades and attendance. Parents will also receive all notifications and social media feeds from the school site and the district on their electronic devices.

**Advancement
Via
Individual
Determination**



Decades of College Dreams

AVID – “Advancement via Individual Determination”

Mary McLeod Bethune is an AVID elementary school. AVID Elementary is a foundational component of the **AVID College Readiness System** and supports AVID's mission to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. Based on the same learning foundation that underlies AVID Secondary, AVID Elementary is designed to be embedded into the daily instruction of all elementary classrooms across entire grade levels to maintain school wide structures. AVID Elementary's implementation resources, trainings, and philosophy are all grounded in the idea that the growth mindset can be taught to students, and it is through the growth mindset that AVID students succeed in following their dreams and fulfilling their aspirations. AVID Elementary takes a systemic approach through the use of WICOR and an explicit focus on high expectations, rigor, and developing a college readiness culture.

Title I School-Level Parental Involvement Policy Bethune Elementary

Bethune has developed a written Title I parental involvement policy with input from Title I parents through School Site Council, our English Language Advisory, and our African American Advisory Council. The policy is available to the community on the school website and summarized in the Parent/Student Handbook. The policy describes the means for carrying out the following Title I parental involvement requirements [20 USC 6318 Section 1118(a)-(f) inclusive].

Involvement of Parents in the Title I Program

To involve parents in the Title I program at Bethune, the following practices have been established:

The school convenes an annual meeting during our Back to School Night event to inform parents of Title I students about Title I requirements and about the right of parents to be involved in the Title I program. This includes a video message from the principal that is shown in classrooms and on our school website. The school involves parents of Title I students in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I programs and the Title I parental involvement policy. The plan is reviewed and reapproved annually through the parent advisory councils and School Site Council.

The school provides parents of Title I students with timely information about Title I programs through principal reports at parent meetings and groups, through our Parent Link system, Val Verde app notifications, flyers and letters posted on Peach Jar or sent home, and postings in our administration office.

The school provides parents of Title I students with an explanation of the curriculum used at the school, the assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet via principal reports at parent meetings and groups, through our Parent Link system, Val Verde app notifications, flyers and letters posted on Peach Jar or sent home, and postings in our administration office.

If requested by parents of Title I students, the school provides opportunities for regular meetings that allow the parents to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children. Scheduled meetings occur through our parent advisory councils and School Site Council

The policy is reviewed and updated periodically to meet changing needs of parents and the school. If the school has a process in place for involving parents in planning and designing the school's programs, the school may use that process if it includes adequate representation of parents of Title I children. [20 USC 6318 Section 1118(c)(3)] . Here at Bethune, our process includes School Site Council and parent advisory groups.

School-Parent Compact

Bethune distributes to parents of Title I students a school-parent compact. The compact, which has been jointly developed with parents, outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. It describes specific ways the school and families will partner to help children achieve the State's high academic standards. It addresses the following legally required items, as well as other items suggested by parents of Title I students.

The school's responsibility is to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction. The ways parents will be responsible for supporting their children's learning. The importance of ongoing communication between parents and teachers through, at a minimum, annual parent-teacher conferences; frequent reports on student progress; access to staff; opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in their child's class; and opportunities to observe classroom activities.

The compact was created through the School Site Council Members consisting of parents, community members and school staff. Students in our Associated Student Body participated in creating the student agreements that were presented to the council.

Building Capacity for Involvement

Bethune engages Title I parents in meaningful interactions with the school. It supports a partnership among staff, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. To help reach these goals, the school has established the following practices. To accomplish the following: providing parent workshops and parent engagement days, 21st, Family STEAM nights, access to our site Instructional Coach, information provided on our website and information sent home in English and Spanish. We also provide services through our English Language Advisory Council and African American Advisory

Council. Bethune collaborates with our district in providing services and sends representatives to district level parent group meetings.

The school provides Title I parents with assistance in understanding the State's academic content standards, assessments, and how to monitor and improve the achievement of their children.

The school provides Title I parents with materials and training to help them work with their children to improve their children's achievement.

With the assistance of Title I parents, the school educates staff members about the value of parent contributions, and in how to work with parents as equal partners.

The school coordinates and integrates the Title I parental involvement program with other programs, and conducts other activities, such as parent resource centers, to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

The school distributes Information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to Title I parents in a format and language that the parents understand.

The school provides support for parental involvement activities requested by Title I parents.

Accessibility

Bethune provides opportunities for the participation of all Title I parents, including parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students. Information and school reports are provided in a format and language that parents understand. Parent information is provided in English and Spanish. Parent groups, such as our English Language Advisory Council serves as a vehicle to engage parents with limited English proficiency in the schools program. This group meets monthly and provides opportunities for parent leadership, parent involvement with decision making for our Single Plan for Student Achievement, as well as opportunities to be engaged in important information regarding their students and 21st century learning. Parents also have the opportunity to request and receive additional classes or informational sessions provided at the site through the district's Parent Engagement Center.

PARENT PORTAL INFORMATION

To get started and create a Parent Portal account visit the Bethune website and under Quick Links click "Welcome to Aeries Parent Portal" or for instructions click on "Creating a Parent Portal Account Instructions Manual".

In order to create a Parent Portal account you will need 4 pieces of information:

1. Student Permanent ID number: _____
2. Passcode: _____
3. Primary Phone Number (Must be the same one that is on file): _____
4. An email address

VAL VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mary McLeod Bethune
Elementary School
Katrina Piché, Principal
kpiche@valverde.edu



25390 Krameria St.
Moreno Valley, California 92551
(951)490-0380
FAX (951) 490-0385

Dear Families:

Welcome to a new academic year here at Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School.

As many of our families may know, we are now an AVID Elementary site. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. The vision of AVID Elementary is to establish an enriching, motivating, empowering environment in which all students believe learning can be achieved through dedication and hard work. The purpose of AVID Elementary is to provide all students with fundamental skills to promote academic success, confidence in the ability to control one's motivation and behavior, and the ability to communicate when their learning needs are not being met as they begin their educational journey. The mission of AVID is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. Currently, AVID Secondary is available at all of our middle and high schools.

We are both excited and optimistic about the future of our students as we enter into our second year of implementation. The focus for the second year of implementation will be organization and culture. Students will use a binder/learning folder and an agenda/planner. One of the expectations of our AVID Elementary program is daily parent/guardian's signatures to ensure accountability of our students.

In order to promote a smooth transition from summer break to the new academic year we would like to invite you and your family to our Back to School Night on August 30th. Please join us to meet up with old and new friends, as well as to explore and learn about the exciting things we have in store for you and your student this year.

We look forward to seeing you all!

Mrs. Piché

Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary
Attendance Incentive Program
“Every day counts. Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow”



When it comes to school, students who miss school...miss out. Good attendance boosts student achievement, raises self-esteem, and improves the quality of your child’s educational experience. It also prepares them for college, a good career, and successful adulthood. At Bethune Elementary your child’s educational success is very important to us. If your child has excessive absences or tardies, this will affect his/her success. The goal of this incentive program is to instill a sense of priority in each child and family member to attend school **every day, all day and on time**. Improving attendance requires the engaging of students, parents, educators and community members.

This incentive program will begin September 5, 2017 and will continue for the entire 2017-2018 school year.

Incentives:

➤ **Weekly**

- Spike (the school stuffed animal mascot) and a cool school banner will be displayed on the classroom door of the top 2 classrooms with the highest attendance for the week.
- A principal’s shout out during morning announcements to the top 2 classrooms that achieved 98% attendance.

➤ **Monthly**

- The classroom with the overall highest attendance for the month will receive an extra recess and a PE equipment bag filled with goodies.

➤ **Trimester**

- Every trimester, the top 2 classes and individual students with the highest attendance percentage will receive a very special assembly or event with many surprises and goodies.
- Students will be recognized at the Trimester Awards Assembly.

➤ **Yearly**

- Students with perfect attendance for the whole year will receive recognition during morning announcements, a certificate during 3rd trimester assembly, and attend a special event with the principal.

Daily Notice: A mobile white board will be displayed everyday near the parking lot with attendance information.

Bethune's Student Safety Plan (Pick-up and Drop-off)

Purpose: The purpose of this plan is to ensure that all of our students can enter and leave our campus safely.

Procedure

Please enter the Kitching-side parking lot (refer the map on the back). For morning drop off students can exit from their vehicles once next to the curb for safety reasons. Students will be required to use the sidewalk and crosswalk. Once students have left the vehicle, parents can exit the school parking lot, by turning right onto the Kitching Street.

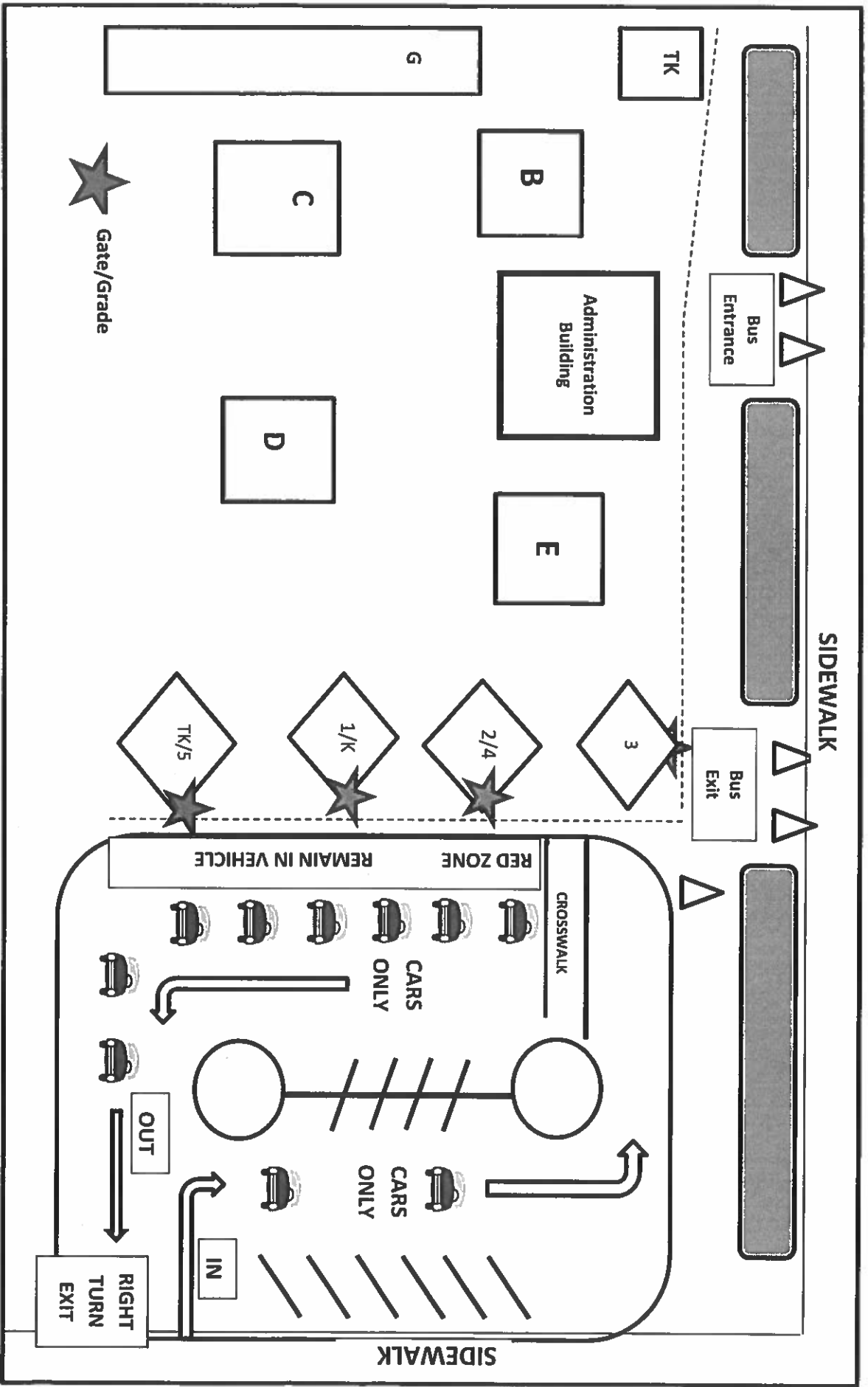
For afterschool pickup, ***please do not leave your vehicle if you are waiting for your student at the red curb zone.*** Please remember we have only 2 lanes. Do not wait in the middle of the lanes as this causes a safety issue. If you need to leave your vehicle, please plan accordingly and park in the appropriate parking stall. We have signs posted that direct all Bethune families to not leave your vehicle unattended while in the red zone. For safety reasons and to keep the flow of traffic moving we ask that you comply with these procedures.

Notes

- Supervision of students begins at 7:15 am and no students are allowed on campus until 7:50 unless they are eating a school supplied breakfast.
- Please refer to the map on the back to find the appropriate gate to pick up your student after school.
- If drivers need to park, they may use the parking stalls. The red curbs cannot be used for parking any longer. This area is for loading and unloading passengers only.

Tips and Suggestions

- Please expect some delays, arrive early and find a parking spot, and be patient with others and us. Sometimes coming later helps with traffic congestion.
- If your children are older, you may wish to have them meet you at neighboring Bethune Park as an alternative.



Kitching

VAL VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Revised 2017-2018 District Attendance Calendar

Board Approved 04/04/17 (Revised 04/21/17)

JULY					AUGUST					SEPTEMBER					OCTOBER					NOVEMBER					DECEMBER														
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F					
	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31									
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31									

Important Dates

- Aug 10 All Teachers Report
- Aug 10-15 Teacher Staff Development
- Aug 16 School Year Begins
- Aug 29 6-8 Back to School Night
- Aug 30 TK-5 Back to School Night
- Sept 6 9-12 Back to School Night
- Oct 5 Parent Conference Day (6-8)
- Oct 9 Non-Teacher/Non-Student Day
- Nov 3 End of 1st Trimester (TK-5)
- Nov 14-17 Parent Conference Day (TK-5)
- Nov 20-24 Thanksgiving Break
- Dec 22 End of 1st Semester
- Dec 25-Jan 5 Winter Recess
- Jan 8 Staff Development Day/Non-Student Day
- Feb-May Physical Fitness Testing (5, 7, 9)
- Feb-May SB Testing (3-8)
- Mar 1 Parent Conference Day (6-8)
- Mar 2 End of 2nd Trimester (TK-5)
- Mar 14-16 Parent Conference Day (TK-5)
- Apr-May SB Testing (11)
- Apr 2-6 Spring Break
- Apr 9 Non-Teacher/Non-Student Day
- June 5 Last Day of School (TK-12)
- June 5 Teacher Check-out Day

Holidays

- July 4 Independence Day
- Sept 4 Labor Day
- Nov 10 Veterans Day Observed
- Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day
- Nov 24 Local Holiday
- Dec 25 Winter Holiday
- Dec 26 New Year's Day
- Jan 1 Local Holiday
- Jan 2 Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 15 Lincoln Day
- Feb 12 Presidents' Day
- Feb 19 Local Holiday
- Mar 30 Memorial Day
- May 28

Attendance Days

- 08/16-09/08 17 days
- 09/11-10/06 20 days
- 10/10-11/03 19 days
- 11/06-12/01 14 days
- 12/04-12/22 15 days
- 01/09-01/26 13 days
- 01/29-02/23 18 days
- 02/26-03/23 20 days
- 03/26-04/20 13 days
- 04/23-05/18 20 days
- 05/21-06/05 11 days
- Total 180 days

Minimum Days

TK-5	6-8	9-12
Aug 16, 23, 30	Aug 16, 23, 30	Aug 23, 30
Sept 6, 13, 20, 27	Sept 6, 13, 20, 27	Sept 6, 13, 20, 27
Oct 4, 11, 18, 25	Oct 4, 5, 6, 11, 18, 25	Oct 4, 11, 18, 25
Nov 1, 8, 14, 15, 16, 17, 29	Nov 1, 8, 15, 29	Nov 1, 2, 3, 8, 15, 29
Dec 6, 13, 20, 22	Dec 6, 13, 20, 22	Dec 6, 13, 20, 21, 22
Jan 10, 17, 24, 31	Jan 10, 17, 24, 31	Jan 17, 24, 31
Feb 7, 14, 21, 28	Feb 7, 14, 21, 28	Feb 7, 14, 21, 28
Mar 7, 14, 15, 16, 21, 28	Mar 1, 2, 7, 14, 21, 28	Mar 7, 14, 21, 28, 29
Apr 11, 18, 25	Apr 11, 18, 25	Apr 11, 18, 19, 25, 26
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 31	May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 31	May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 31
June 1, 4, 5	June 1, 4, 5	June 1, 4, 5

Legend

- △ School Year Begins/Ends
- Legal Holiday
- ◇ Local Holiday
- Parent Conference Days (TK-5)
- Parent Conference Days (6-8)
- Grading Period Ends 6-12
- Trimester Ends TK-5
- Fall/Winter/Spring Break
- Staff Development Days
- Non-Student Days
- Teacher Contract Days
- Non-Teacher Work Days

*6th Graders at Val Verde Elementary School and Sierra Vista Elementary School will follow 6-8 Minimum Day Schedule.

6-12 Benchmark Grading Period Ends
 September 22, 2017, November 3, 2017,
 December 22, 2017, February 16, 2018,
 March 29, 2018, June 5, 2018

TK-5 Trimester Grading Period Ends
 September 29, 2017/November 3, 2017
 January 26, 2018/March 2, 2018
 April 20, 2018/June 5, 2018

Val Verde Unified School District

Code of Civility

In the interest of presenting positive role models to the students in this District, the Val Verde Unified School District encourages positive communication, discourages behavior that may appear rude, uncaring, abrupt, or insensitive, and will not tolerate volatile, hostile or aggressive actions. The District thanks you for your cooperation with this endeavor.



Those unable or unwilling to abide by this code may be directed to leave. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the person that he/she may be subject to arrest and may be charged with a crime in accordance with California Education Code 44811.

Legal Reference:

California Education Code
32210 Disturbing School
44014 Assault on Personnel
44810 Person on School Grounds
44811 Insults and Abuses

California Penal Code
243.5 Arrest on School Grounds
415.5 Fighting on School Grounds
626.8 Entry of School by Person Not on Lawful Business
627.7 Refusal to Leave School Grounds

Bethune Elementary School

School/Parent Organizations

Meetings 2017-2018

SSC: School Site Council

SSC meetings will start at 2:30p.m. in Rm D-14 on the following dates:

Monday, September 25th
Monday, October 23rd
Monday, November 27th
Monday, December 18th
Monday, January 29th
Monday, February 26th
Monday, March 26th
Monday, April 16th
Monday, May 14th

ELAC: English Learners Advisory Committee

ELAC meetings will start at 8:15a.m. in Rm D-14 on the following dates:

Tuesday, September 12th
Tuesday, October 10th
Tuesday, November 7th
Tuesday, December 12th
Tuesday, January 9th
Tuesday, February 13th
Tuesday, March 20th
Tuesday, April 10th
Tuesday, May 22nd

PTO: Parent/Teacher Organization

PTO meetings will start at 8:15a.m. in Rm D-14. The meeting dates will be determined at a later time.

For information regarding any of these meetings, contact Maira Guerrero, Principal's Secretary at (951) 490-0380, ext. 15101. These dates are tentative and subject to change.

Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School

Daily Bell Schedule 2017-2018

Regular Day Bell Schedule, 8am to 2:20pm

Breakfast only	7:30-7:50
Campus Opens	7:50
Assemble	7:55
Tardy Bell - TK/K (EB) - 5 th grade	8:05
K-5 Learning Begins! (EB Kinder/LG Kinder)	8:00/9:45
TK/K (LG) Tardy Bell	9:50

Guided Recess

Kindergarten (Early Bird, Later Gator)	9:30-9:40 (EB) & 12:15-12:25 (LG)
Grades 3	9:50 - 10:05
Grades 4 & 5	10:05-10:20
Grades 1 & 2	12:55 -1:10

Lunch

1 st Grade	10:20-10:55
2 nd Grade LS - K-5	10:40-11:15
3 rd Grade	11:00-11:35
4 th Grade & Looper	11:20-11:55
Kindergarten	11:40-12:15
5 th Grade	12:15-12:50

Dismissal

Kindergarten EB/LG	12:15 & 2:00
1 st - 3 rd	2:15
4 th and 5 th Grade	2:20

Minimum Day Bell Schedule, Wednesdays, 8am to 12:40pm

Breakfast Only	7:30
Campus Opens	7:50
All Grades Line-up Bell	7:55
K-5 Learning Begins! (Showtime!)	8:00
Tardy Bell	8:05

Minimum Day Lunch

1 st Grade	10:00-10:30
2 nd Grade LS-K-5	10:20-10:50
3 rd Grade	10:40-11:10
4 th Grade	11:00-11:30
5 th Grade	11:20-11:50
Kindergarten	11:50-12:20

Minimum Day Dismissal

K-3 rd	12:30
4 th and 5 th Grade	12:40