

Patterson Road School Parent/Student Handbook 2026- 2027



Patterson Road School
400 Patterson Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
(805) 938-8750

Patterson Road Elementary Home of the Panthers And Panther P.R.I.D.E.

Letter from the Principal

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year at Patterson Road Elementary! We are paws-itively excited to welcome you and your child to the Orcutt Union School District and the Panther Family.

This year promises to be an incredible journey of discovery. Our devoted team of educators and staff is entirely focused on helping every single student shine and roar with success. We want our students to not only excel academically but to build lasting friendships, develop unshakable confidence, and feel a deep sense of belonging here on campus.

Being a Patterson Road Panther is all about showing spirit, taking pride in our daily work, and leading with a kind heart. Together, we are building a claw-some campus culture rooted in strong character, where inclusivity is the norm and every individual feels truly valued.

Of course, the magic of our school comes from the strong bond we share with you—our families and community. Your partnership makes a world of difference. We have a fantastic lineup of programs and events planned this year, and we invite you to leap right in, stay engaged, and collaborate with us every step of the way.

To help us kick off the year smoothly, please take a moment to paws and read through this handbook together. It is packed with the essential guidelines, policies, and expectations that keep our school running safely and successfully. When we share a common understanding, we set our students up for their most purr-fect year yet.

Here is to a roaring good year packed with breakthrough moments, personal growth, and outstanding achievements. Let's make it unforgettable!

With Panther Pride,

Matthew Boger
Principal

Behavior Expectations

Students at Patterson Road Elementary School are expected to show courtesy, respect, and concern for adults, fellow students, and their campus. Rules must be followed for the safety and welfare of all students.

With input from all students, staff, and families, Patterson Road Elementary School has adopted school-wide behavioral expectations to help provide instruction and learning opportunities regarding positive behavior while at school and within the world around them. The student expectations center on the acronym of “PRIDE” (**P**unctual and Prepared, **R**espectful, **I**nspire Kindness, **D**emonstrate Responsibility, **E**veryone’s Safe) behavior in all areas of the school. The following are the behavior expectations and the matrix that will be used in teaching these behaviors in all school areas.

Panther Pride

	All Settings	Classroom	Hallways	Cafeteria	Playground	Bathroom	Bus
	Voice Level 4-0	Voice Level 3-0	Voice Level 1-0	Voice Level 2-0	Voice Level 4-0	Voice Level 2-0	Voice Level 2-0
Punctual & Prepared	Be ready to learn everyday	-Arrive on time -Bring materials -Ask for help -Participate -Be organized	-Return to class promptly	-Bring lunch -Memorize lunch number	-Use restroom and get a drink before the final bell -FREEZE at bell, WALK to line at whistle.	-Return to class quickly and quietly	-Be ready for your stop -Get to bus on time
Respectful	Consider the learning & feelings of others	-Raise hand -Take care of school equipment -Listen to teacher and classmates	-Walk quietly so others can continue learning -Keep hallways clean -Hands and feet to self	-Clean up -Use good table manners -Indoor voices	-Be a problem solver -Take turns -Respect equipment	-Clean-up after yourself -Allow for privacy of each person -Keep eyes forward	-Follow directions from driver -Use a quiet voice
Inspire Kindness	Inspire Kindness	-Be kind -Respect differences -Work well with other students -Use positive words -Be helpful to others	-Smile and make eye contact -Be courteous to people you meet in the hallway	-Greet adults in cafeteria -Say "please" and "thank you" -Kindly share space	-Play with everyone -Use positive appropriate language -Show good sportsmanship	-Take turns	-Use positive appropriate language -Share your seat with the first person who asks -Greet bus driver
Demonstrate Responsibility	Do the right thing even when it is hard	-Give your best effort -Stay on task -Follow directions -Use good digital citizenship -Turn in assignments in on time -Cell phones off and away	-Go to assigned destination -Move quietly -Accept place in line -Listen to adult directions -Cell phones off and away	-Make healthy choices -Cell phones off and away	-Agree on rules before game -Line-up at bell -Put equipment away -Take care of belongings: jackets, lunchbox, playground equipment -Cell phones off and away SNACK in snack area	-Clean-up after yourself -Use water and supplies wisely -Flush toilet -No cell phones	-Leave electronics in backpack -Keep belongings in bag -Be a good example to others -Cell phones off and away
Everyone's Safe	Maintain personal space *** Walk	-Maintain personal space -Stay seated -Walk -Work together to keep classroom clean and organized	-Maintain personal space -Always walk -Walk facing forward	-Maintain personal space -Place all trash in trashcan -Stay seated until dismissed -Eat your own food	-Maintain personal space -Stay in approved areas -Use equipment appropriately -Stay on playground	-Maintain personal space -Wash hands with soap and water	-Load/unload single file -Stay seated -Keep belongings out of the aisle

School Rules

Student safety is the first consideration for everyone. Students at Patterson Road are expected to always show respect and consideration for fellow students and adults. They must also respect property, buildings and school grounds. (Rules are subject to change as needed.)



1. Once on the school grounds, children may not leave campus without authorization from the office.
2. Students may not be on the school playground until after 7:45 a.m. Students may arrive at 7:25 if they are going to purchase breakfast in the cafeteria. Students not eating breakfast may arrive at 7:45 a.m. At that time, the bell rings and the playground is supervised. Students attending our Campus Connection Child Care Program may go to the cafeteria beginning at 6:30 a.m.
3. At dismissal, students should not loiter on campus. Bus students should go to the bus, Campus Connection Child Care Program students should proceed directly to their facility, and participants in after-school programs should go to the appropriate location. Students who walk home with parents are to meet parents at the front of the school. Parents are asked to wait for their children at the front of school. Students who are driven to and from school are to be picked up no later than 15 minutes after dismissal.
4. Crosswalks must be used to cross streets adjacent to the school.
5. Students may not cross the drive-through lanes of the parking lot unless accompanied by an adult. Students and parents may not walk between buses in the bus loading zone. Crosswalks need to be used to cross safely.
6. Students are not allowed in classrooms without adult supervision.
7. Students should always walk in the corridors on campus.
8. Students should dress appropriately for school.
9. Gum is not allowed at school.
10. Written invitations for non-school events (such as birthday parties) are not to be distributed at school unless the entire class is invited.
11. The following are not permissible at Patterson Road School:

Bad language Verbal or physical harassment Fighting Wrestling or rough play Spitting and/or biting Throwing rocks, dirt, or other objects Tackle Football	Playing in the restrooms Weapons or other dangerous objects Climbing on trees, roofs, fences, etc. Skates, shoe skates, skateboards, waveboards Make-up including lip gloss (Lip balm such as clear Chapstick is allowed for chapped lips.) Temporary/spray-on hair dye
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13. Cell phones, Smart Watches and other electronic devices/toys may not be used on campus during the school day. Any device brought to school must be turned off and placed out of view (backpack) during the school day. Students may not use a cell phone camera (or any camera) at school.

The only exceptions are for students who are using them with permission from their teacher and/or during child care under Campus Connection guidelines. If students need to call home, they are asked to go to the office to use the school phone or ask permission to use their own cell phone.

Students who bring such devices to school are doing so at their own risk. We will not be investigating missing electronic items or be held liable for electronics or any other valuable item that is lost, stolen or damaged. Inappropriate use of electronic devices will result in the student not being allowed to bring the devices to school.

14. Students are expected to follow school rules on school buses and field trips. Students transported to and/or from school on a school bus will be under the authority of, and responsible directly to, the driver of the bus. Continued disorderly conduct or persistent refusal to submit to the authority of the driver will be sufficient reason to be denied transportation.

15. Except when caused by accident, students are to be held liable for damage or loss to school property. Parents are liable for willful damage and for property loaned to students as set forth in California Education Code Section 10606.

Article 5, Section 44, Title 5 of the California Education Code allows for the governing board of each school district to prescribe and enforce rules for the care of textbooks, library books, and the collection of money in payment of “willful or negligent damage to or loss of state textbooks.”

OUSD Student Dress Guidelines **Effective for 2026-2027 School Year**

Traducción al español a seguir (Spanish translation to follow)

Students attending school must be clean and presentable. All clothing must fit; shall be neat, clean, and acceptable in repair and appearance; and shall be worn within the bounds of decency and good taste as appropriate for school. Clothes shall be sufficient to conceal undergarments at all times. Each school principal reserves the right to determine and enforce appropriate dress at school and at school sponsored events. School principals or designees may prohibit any apparel, accessory, hairstyle, or cosmetics, even if not specifically mentioned below, that:

1. Creates a safety concern
2. Draws undue attention to the wearer
3. Detracts from the learning process
4. Causes disturbances among other students
5. Is considered gang-related
6. Includes hate speech or vulgarity
7. Promotes illegal activity including drug, alcohol, and tobacco use

The dress guidelines may be modified as appropriate to accommodate a student's religious or cultural observance, health conditions, or other circumstances deemed necessary by the school administrator. In addition, the school principal may impose dress requirements to accommodate the needs of special school activities, physical education classes, athletic activities , and other extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

Bona fide religious objections or medical reasons, when verified, may be grounds for an exemption to a specific portion of the dress guidelines. A written request for an exemption from enforcement of a specified portion of the district's dress guidelines must be submitted to the school principal. Please note: The State of California has determined that "A pupil who goes to school without proper attention having been given to personal cleanliness or neatness of dress, may be sent home to be properly prepared for school, or shall be required to prepare himself/herself for the classroom before entering." (California Administrative Code, Title V, Section 302, 1994.)

Specific Dress Guidelines

Clothing:

- Students must wear appropriately sized clothing that protects and covers personal body parts including midriff
- Sleeveless shirts are permitted provided that they have straps of at least 1 inch
- Students' lower garment (pants, shorts, skirts, dress) must be worn at the waist and extend to mid-thigh
- Lower garment should feature no rips above mid-thigh area
- Pajamas are not permitted (grades TK-8)

Shoes/footwear:

- Students should wear closed-toe footwear with closed heel or strap and a hard sole that covers the entire foot (grades TK-8); so-soled shoes (such as Crocs) are not permitted (grades TK-8); and slippers are not permitted
- For physical educational activities , students must wear appropriate shoes for their safety and comfort

Hats/headwear:

- Students may wear hats, including religious headwear
- Helmets, hoods or other headgear that obscures a student's identity (except as a religious observance) may not be worn; hoods that obscure a student's ears may not be worn in class
- For identification purposes, a student's face must be clearly visible, including when taking school photos; this may require removal of a hood and/or hat

Hair:

- Hair must be clean and show evidence of having been neatly groomed for school
- Hair may not be sprayed by any temporary hair dye or coloring that would drip when wet

Borrador de las Pautas de Vestimenta de los Estudiantes de OUSD Efectivo para el Año Escolar 2026-2027

Los estudiantes que asisten a la escuela deben estar limpios y presentables. Toda la ropa debe quedar bien; deberán estar prolijos, limpios y aceptables en reparación y apariencia; y se usará dentro de los límites de la decencia y el buen gusto según corresponda para la escuela. La ropa deberá ser suficiente para ocultar la ropa interior en todo momento. Cada director de escuela se reserva el derecho de determinar y hacer cumplir la vestimenta apropiada en la escuela y en los eventos patrocinados por la escuela. Los directores de escuela o las personas designadas pueden prohibir cualquier prenda, accesorio, peinado o cosmético, incluso si no se menciona específicamente a continuación, que:

1. Crea un problema de seguridad
2. Llama indebidamente la atención del usuario
3. Detrás del proceso de aprendizaje.
4. Provoca disturbios entre otros estudiantes.
5. Se considera relacionado con pandillas
6. Incluye discurso de odio o vulgaridad
7. Promueve actividades ilegales, incluido el uso de drogas, alcohol y tabaco.

Las pautas de vestimenta pueden modificarse según corresponda para adaptarse a la observancia religiosa o cultural, la condición de salud u otra circunstancia que el administrador de la escuela considere necesaria. Además, el director de la escuela puede imponer requisitos de vestimenta para adaptarse a las necesidades de actividades escolares especiales, clases de educación física, actividades deportivas y otras actividades extracurriculares y cocurriculares.

Las objeciones religiosas de buena fe o las razones médicas, cuando se verifiquen, pueden ser motivo para una exención a una parte específica de las pautas de vestimenta. Se debe presentar al director de la escuela una solicitud por escrito para una exención de la aplicación de una parte específica de las pautas de vestimenta del distrito.

Tenga en cuenta: El Estado de California ha determinado que "Un alumno que asiste a la escuela sin prestar la debida atención a la limpieza personal o la pulcritud de la vestimenta, puede ser enviado a casa para estar debidamente preparado para la escuela, o se le pedirá que se prepare por sí mismo/a". ella misma para el salón de clases antes de entrar". (Código Administrativo de California, Título V, Sección 302, 1994.)

Directrices de Vestimenta Específicas

Ropa:

- Los estudiantes deben usar ropa de tamaño apropiado que proteja y cubra las partes personales del cuerpo, incluido el estómago
- Se permiten camisas sin mangas siempre que tengan tirantes de al menos 1 pulgada
- La prenda inferior de los estudiantes (pantalones, shorts, faldas, vestido) debe usarse en la cintura y extenderse hasta la mitad del muslo
- La parte inferior de la prenda no debe tener rasgaduras por encima de la mitad del muslo

Zapatos/calzado:

- Los estudiantes deben usar calzado cerrado con talón cerrado o correa (grados TK-8); no se permiten pantuflas
- Para las actividades de educación física, los estudiantes deben usar zapatos apropiados para su seguridad y comodidad

Sombreros/tocados:

- Los estudiantes pueden usar sombreros, incluidos sombreros religiosos
- No se pueden usar cascos, capuchas u otros artículos para la cabeza que oscurezcan la identidad de un estudiante (excepto como práctica religiosa); las capuchas que ocultan los oídos de un estudiante no se pueden usar en clase
- Para fines de identificación, la cara de un estudiante debe ser claramente visible, incluso cuando se toman fotos escolares; esto puede requerir quitarse una capucha y/o un sombrero

Pelo:

- El cabello debe estar limpio y mostrar evidencia de haber sido arreglado cuidadosamente para la escuela
- El cabello no puede rociarse con ningún tinte o coloración temporal para el cabello que gotee cuando está mojado.

Student Safety

Parents often ask about various issues concerning student safety. Here are some often-discussed topics:

Bullying and Threats

Bullying and harassment will not be tolerated. Patterson Road staff members are firm and direct in handling bullying, threats, intimidation, and/or verbal harassment, and are very careful to involve parents and apply consequences as appropriate. We often remind students of the importance of letting parents, teachers, the principal, and/or other trusted adults know about any ongoing problems with threats or harassment. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers and/or the principal if students let them know of a problem. If adults are unaware of problems, they are powerless to stop them!

See Something? Say Something! [LINK](#)

Emergency Drills

Each month, the school conducts a fire drill. Additionally, we conduct regular disaster drills. A disaster drill is a duck-and-cover drill that prepares students for earthquakes, explosions, or other potential disasters. The school also conducts drills designed to prepare for a dangerous intruder on campus (lock-down/shelter-in-place drill).

Adults on Campus

All visitors, including parents, must check in at the office and receive a visitors' badge. Visitors, including parents, are not allowed to go directly to classrooms without checking in at the office.

The Orcutt School District has implemented a Volunteer Screening Program. Any adult who will be working with students at school is required to register in the office as a school volunteer. This includes any parent who is volunteering to attend field trips off campus with our students.

Animals on School Grounds

For the safety of children and adults, dogs and other family pets may not be brought onto the school grounds or into the school office. Parents may not walk or bring their dogs or pets to school when picking up their children. Students who wish to "share" their pets with their class must seek special permission from their classroom teacher.

Closed Campus

During school hours, from approximately 8 a.m. to approximately 2:15 p.m., gates on the perimeter of the school will be locked. All visitors need to enter the campus through the front office, where they must check in with the office staff(see policy on "Visitation"). Gates are locked to protect the campus from unauthorized visitors or intruders.

Transportation to/from School

By Car

Parents who drive their children to/from school are asked to drop off and pick up their children using the school parking lot. For safety reasons, students may not walk through the parking lot without being accompanied by an adult. There are designated loading zones in each parking lot.

Parents are reminded to obey the rules of the road, and not block the flow of traffic, the intersection, or driveways.

We have many, many families driving into our front parking lot each day, and it takes nothing less than a team effort by both parents and staff to maintain the parking lot as a safe, orderly place for dropping off and picking up students. In the past several years, the staff has developed some guidelines for parents that have promoted both safety and a good flow of traffic:

- Students are not allowed on campus before 7:45 unless they are eating breakfast (beginning at 7:30) or participating in Campus Connection.

- All parents of first through sixth grade students are asked to say their “good-byes” before school and wait for students after school at the front of the school. It is distracting for students if they can see parents waiting outside their classrooms. Kindergarten parents are asked to wait for children outside the kindergarten playground gate in the grass area.
- If you do choose to use the Patterson Road loading zone, please pull as far forward as possible in the loading zone. This allows others to pull in behind you. Do not leave your car unattended in the loading zone, even for a few minutes.
- Students should never be asked to cross Patterson Road by themselves. If you must park across the street, you will need to walk across to meet your child and escort them across the street.
- Students are not to cross the parking lot outside of the crosswalk by themselves.
- After school, all students should be picked up no later than 15 minutes after dismissal. After 15 minutes, school personnel no longer supervise the parking lot. Students will be asked to go to the office and call family contacts for a ride.
- Only those drivers with valid certification by the Department of Motor Vehicles may park in the marked handicapped parking spaces.
- For the safety of all Patterson Road Families, the parking lot and county streets are cell phone free zones.

The California Highway Patrol would like to emphasize the following rules:

1. Drivers should not drop off or pick up students while in the roadway – even in heavy traffic.
2. Drivers must pull over to the side of the road to let out or collect their children.
3. Drivers may not park in the middle of a crosswalk to drop off or pick up students.
4. Drivers may not let out or pick up students at a stop sign.
5. Drivers may not stop – even momentarily – in any red zones.
6. As per state law, drivers may not use handheld cellphone devices while operating a motor vehicle.

By Bus

Orcutt Union School District Transportation Department sets the bus routes, stops, and estimated times at the beginning of each school year.

As of the writing of this handbook, bus stops will be provided at the following locations:

Patterson Road:

- 7:08 -- Solomon Rd. @ West Trails Entrance
- 7:11 -- Old Mill & Edenbury empty lot on south side of Old Mill
- 7:15 -- California @ water basin
- 7:20 -- Foxenwood Lane @ Stansbury Drive (South corner)
- 7:27 -- Woodmere Rd and Ridgecrest St @ empty lot
- 7:32 -- Village Dr @ Village Dr (after the roundabout)

NOTE: Bus stops and times are subject to change.

Parents with any questions regarding bus transportation may phone the Orcutt Union School District Transportation Department at (805) 938-8978.

By Foot

If parents approve, children are invited to walk to campus.

For safety, we emphasize the following rules:

1. When walking to/from school, students should stay on sidewalks.
2. When crossing streets, students should use crosswalks.
3. It is best for students to walk to/from school with at least one other student.

By Bicycle or Scooter

Students in grades 3-6 who wish to ride a bicycle or scooter to school are permitted to do so. Younger students may ride a bicycle or scooter to school with an older sibling.

For your child's safety, please be sure that your child understands and can follow these bicycle/scooter rules:

1. All students must wear helmets.
2. Bicycles/scooters must be walked on the school campus.
3. Bicycles/scooters must be kept off the playground.
4. Bicycles/scooters must be parked in the racks and must be locked.
5. Every bike/scooter must have its own individual lock.

An area is provided for the parking of student bicycles and scooters. *The school is not responsible for damage or theft of any bicycle or scooter brought to school.*

Skateboards and Skates

For your child's safety, students are not allowed to ride hoverboards, skateboards, skates, "shoe skates" ("heelies"), or electric bikes/scooters on school grounds.

Ebikes

To maintain safety during busy arrival and dismissal times, Orcutt Union School District (OUSD) strictly prohibits students from possessing or operating e-bikes, e-motos, and powered mobility devices (such as e-scooters and e-boards) on school property. Instead, students are highly encouraged to ride traditional bicycles, which must be parked in designated areas and always ridden with a helmet. Riding any motorized device on school grounds is completely forbidden for everyone, and site administrators will regularly monitor campuses for compliance. Finally, please note that OUSD is not liable for the security of personal property or for student safety once off school grounds.

School-Home Communication

Communication to Parents

At Patterson Road, we work hard to be as communicative as possible with parents. Staff use ParentSquare, Google Classroom, Seesaw, district e-mail, printed communication, and phone calls to inform parents about school/classroom news and other important student information.

Communication from Parents

We also invite communication from parents. Parents should feel free to contact your child's teacher or the principal with any questions, ideas, or concerns that they have. Parents are encouraged to use ParentSquare to communicate with the school. ParentSquare can be used to send messages to any of our teachers, the school office and the attendance office. Our phone system has been set up to include classroom phone numbers with voicemail for teachers, and our teachers have their own e-mail addresses, all of which helps greatly with parent-teacher communication.

ParentSquare is our primary communication tool to keep parents informed and involved in their children's learning and school activities. ParentSquare may be set-up in your preferred language.

Through ParentSquare parents may:

- Receive all school, classroom and group communication via email, text or app notification
- See important calendar events and RSVP
- See photos, links and attachments
- Sign up to volunteer or bring items
- Send private messages to teachers or staff
- Appreciate those who post messages (please give them generously!)

Please register for ParentSquare.

Report Cards

Kindergarten through sixth grade teachers use district, standards-based report cards to inform parents about their child's progress. These report cards are sent home three times a year – at the end of each trimester. Parents who have any questions about how their child is doing should contact the teacher to request a conference.

School Website

A variety of information about our school is available on our school website. The site can be accessed by going to the Orcutt Union School District web site, www.orcutt-schools.net, and clicking on "Schools."

School Attendance

Consistent school attendance is absolutely essential for your child's success at school. Attendance problems hinder your child's progress and teach him/her that school is not important. The following are guidelines and information regarding attendance.

- It is the parent's responsibility to call the school and state the reason for a student's absence each day that your child is not at school. The school attendance phone number is (805)938-8797.
- Walking into class late interrupts teachers and students. Teachers use the first few minutes of every day to complete necessary routines (attendance, lunch count, homework collection, and announcements) and to go over the day's schedule. Missing this time can leave your child uninformed, confused, or out-of-step with classmates. Make sure students are on campus before 8:00a.m. to avoid tardiness.
- Tardy students must check into the office for a pass before going to class.
- Excused absences include: personal illness, medical appointments, dental appointments, optometric appointments, chiropractic appointments, religious holidays, religious retreat attendance, court appearances, quarantine, or funerals.
- All other absences, including tardiness in excess of 30 minutes, are considered unexcused unless the student has signed an independent study agreement.
- An absence without parent permission is classified as truancy.
- Failure to notify the school within (3) three days about any absence will result in your child being marked as unexcused on the date(s) in question. Three unexcused absences will result in truancy, triggering truancy letters and other protocols related to truancy. Continued truancy will be reported to the District Superintendent and District Attorney's Office.
- Students absent from school may not participate in extracurricular activities outside of regular school hours occurring on the day of the absence.
- For one or two day absences, students and/or parents may request missed work from their teachers upon return.
- If a student plans to be away from school for three or more days, parents may request an Independent Study Agreement (ISA). Parents are requested to come to school at least one week in advance of the absence to request the ISA. The work will be assigned to the student before the anticipated absence. All work is due the day the student returns to school.

Food, Snacks, and Celebrations

At Patterson Road, we prioritize the health and safety of all students. Because we have many students with food allergies, diabetes, and other dietary restrictions, we follow specific guidelines regarding food on campus.

Daily Snacks

Students are encouraged to bring a nutritious, healthy snack (e.g., fruit, yogurt, raw vegetables) to eat during mid-morning recess. To help us keep the campus clean, snacks must be eaten in designated outdoor eating areas, and students should not play games while eating.

Classroom Celebrations & Birthdays

To align with our District Wellness Policy and ensure the safety of all students, Patterson Road Elementary promotes non-food items for honoring birthdays and other classroom celebrations. Please coordinate with your child's teacher before planning any classroom recognition.

Note: If a specific event requires food to be shared, it must meet federal "smart snack" requirements, be store-packaged with ingredient labels, and be approved by the teacher in advance. We cannot accept homemade goods.

Lunch from Home

If your child brings a lunch from home:

- Please avoid dropping off fast-food lunches, as this is a distraction to the instructional program.
- Parents may only provide food for their own children.
- We ask that you do not share or trade food items with other students.

Release of Students

Students must be released by the office prior to leaving campus. When parents need to take a student from school for part of the day, the parents must sign the student out in the office. The child must check-in at the office upon returning to campus. During the school day, we will only release students to adults who are on the child's release list. It is very important that parents notify our office personnel when changes need to be made on student emergency cards. We request that parents not interrupt the school day by removing students unless it is absolutely essential.

Parent Involvement

Volunteering

PTA, your child's teacher, and the office regularly seek assistance. Please contact them if you wish to volunteer. The scheduling of volunteers (time and length) is determined by need and at the discretion of the teacher and principal. A valid ID must be submitted to the office before you volunteer in a classroom or go on a field trip.

Volunteer Log

There is a Volunteer Log in the front office. Please sign in when you arrive and when you leave, and record the time that you spent volunteering.

Through volunteering time as well as participating in special events and fundraisers, the PTA greatly enriches Patterson Road students' education, and all parents are invited to help! If you would like to be involved with our PTA, please contact our school office at 805-938-8750.

Another very important group is the School Site Council, an elected group of parents and school staff that meets several times during the school year to discuss and review school programs. Information about becoming a School Site Council member can be found in upcoming Patterson Road School Parent Square communication.

Parents are very important members of the educational team. Your support of your child's education is extremely valuable. You are encouraged to work closely with your child's teacher. Understanding the curriculum, monitoring homework, and reading classroom notes and progress reports can be very beneficial for your child. If your child knows that education is important to you, it will be important for him/her as well. It is also very rewarding to be a part of the success your child will experience.

Teachers and children enjoy and value the help parents provide as they volunteer in classrooms. If you would like to help in this way, just let your child's teacher know. You will need to complete volunteer paperwork in the school office before spending time in the classroom or volunteering for school events.

Working in the Classroom

BE PROMPT AND DEPENDABLE: The teachers count on you, and appreciate your promptness and reliability. If you know in advance that you will not be able to make it during your designated volunteer time, please try to make arrangements to have another parent cover for you. If it is at the last minute and you can't arrange coverage, please leave a voicemail for the teacher so he/she can make necessary accommodations.

BE FLEXIBLE: Be willing to do what the teacher asks of you. There may be times that you will not directly work with the children, but instead the teacher needs you to staple papers for an hour. Sometimes, a job that seems tedious to you is a big timesaver for the teacher. Please be open and flexible about whatever the teacher asks you to do.

HOLD OFF ON CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER PARENTS: Please do not socialize with other parents in the classroom during your volunteer time. There may be other parents present or volunteering in the classroom during your time; it would be disruptive to the class if the parents socialize during class time.

BE CONFIDENTIAL AND RESPECTFUL: Confidentiality is crucial and is the cornerstone of a successful classroom volunteer program. Information about every child is confidential. All conversations with teachers and staff, test scores, behavior, etc. must remain within the classroom. Due to this confidentiality, please do not videotape or record during school. Comments about children's progress (or lack of) and behavior in class should be addressed by the teacher. Please give each child the same respect you would want shown to your child by others.

NO CELL INTERRUPTIONS: Turn off your cell phone. It would be inappropriate and disruptive to make or receive phone calls or texts during your classroom volunteer time. Due to student confidentiality, please do not videotape or record during school.

BE POSITIVE: Make specific, positive comments about the children ("Johnny, you worked really hard on that math problem!"). Catch the child doing something good and then praise it. Student discipline is the responsibility of the teacher. It can put a volunteer in an uncomfortable position to become involved in disciplining a child in any fashion. If you observe student behavior that concerns you, please inform the teacher. Do not confront students (e.g. talk with a student about how they are treating your own child, etc.) or attempt to discipline.

DRESS APPROPRIATELY: The classroom isn't the place for skimpy or distracting clothing, or outfits that draw the children's attention to you rather than to the teacher.

Visiting Guidelines

To ensure the safety of students and staff and minimize interruption of the instructional program, the following procedures facilitate visits/observations during regular school days. These procedures do

not apply to parent volunteers in classrooms where the volunteer has been invited by the teacher to assist within the classroom.

- A. All classroom visits will be arranged with the teacher and principal/designee
- B. Time and date of the visit will be mutually agreed to by the parties involved in advance of the visit
- C. A classroom visitation requires a minimum 24-hour notice to the office
- D. Classroom visits are to be no longer than 30 minutes unless mutually agreed to by all parties involved
- E. There will be no more than two classroom visits per year
- F. Visitors must register in the office prior to any visit and wear a visitor's badge and sign-out in the office when departing the campus
- G. The principal/designee may refuse to register any outsider or ask a visitor to leave (BP/AR 3515.2 – Disruptions)
- H. Principal/designee will accompany the visitor to the classroom and stay during the visit
- I. No electric listening or recording device may be used by students or visitors in a classroom without the teacher and principal/designee's permission
- J. Student visitors are not allowed on campus during school hours
- K. Visitors for K-8 schools are not permitted at school events restricted to current eligible students (i.e. school dances)
- L. Visitors for high school events restricted to current eligible students must submit a completed School Dance Authorization Form and receive approval by the principal/designee
- M. Visitors are asked not to interact with students and to refrain from the use of cell phones, tablets, computers, or any other electronic device while in the classroom as it can disrupt the instructional program
- N. Visitors are asked not to bring small children to the classroom as they can disrupt the instructional program

School Programs

Educational Programs

Academic Standards

Students at Patterson Road are expected to master the academic standards for their respective grade levels. The California Department of Education and the State Board of Education have adopted the Common Core standards. The District provides continuous training for teachers in the required standards.

Art and Music Programs

The arts are a vital part of Patterson Road's educational program. Students will receive music and art instruction from credentialed teachers. The Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation supports the Arts Attack visual arts curriculum/program of lessons to be taught in grades K-6th by a trained adult.

Band

Students in grades 5 and 6 have the opportunity to participate in the Orcutt Union School District's Band Program. In band, students can learn a musical instrument in the brass, percussion, or woodwind families.

Technology Devices

Orcutt Union School District is a one-to-one district; each student is issued a district-provided technology device (iPad or Chromebook) to be used during the school year. The district will offer parents the opportunity to purchase an optional insurance policy to cover device damages or loss.

Internet Use

The internet is an educational resource that is used by teachers to support the curriculum. Before students access the internet at school, students and parents need to sign a district Acceptable Use Agreement. Teachers closely supervise all student internet use.

Field Trips

Field trips are an important part of a child's educational program. Teachers schedule field trips in support of the classroom curriculum. As needed, parents may be asked to provide a donation to help defray transportation costs or the cost of the trip. No student will be turned away due to financial need. Also, parents who choose to transport their children home from field trips must fill out a Field Trip Responsibility Waiver form beforehand. This form is available from the school office. Siblings are not allowed to attend field trips.

Outdoor School

Sixth graders participate in Outdoor School, a four-day curriculum-based camping experience hosted at a local camp facility. Parents pay the cost. Parents of fifth graders are encouraged to begin to make payments for camp. Fund-raising opportunities are available to fifth and sixth graders. A limited number of scholarships are available to families with financial need.

Student Testing

The California Department of Education's Smarter Balanced assessment is administered annually at Patterson Road. Students in grades 3-6 will participate in the online test during the spring in the areas of English/language arts, mathematics, as well as science for fifth grade students. Parents are asked to do whatever they can to avoid medical appointments, dental appointments, or any other engagements during school hours during the testing window. Additionally, we administer NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) assessments to document student achievement of standards on report cards. We employ other tests throughout the year as diagnostic tools and as indicators of overall progress. For more information on tests that are used in your child's classroom, please ask your child's teacher.

Student Support Programs

Student Success Team

The Student Success Team is available to help students with any kind of issue or challenge: academic, behavioral, emotional, social, physical, or medical. Parents and/or teachers may refer a student to the team for discussion after interventions have already been utilized without

success or desired growth. Team members including the principal, the district psychologist, resource specialist, and classroom teachers – examine each student’s situation, brainstorm ideas, and recommend next steps. Parents of referred students are invited to attend.

Psychological Services

Our psychologist is available on campus multiple days during the week to provide consultation and/or direct service as required. They attend Student Success Team meetings and are available to talk with parents about situations regarding their children.

Counseling Services

The School Counselor is on our campus during the week. Students are referred for counseling through the Student Success Team or through the principal.

Speech Therapy

A speech therapist is on campus during the week. The speech therapist works closely with staff and students to provide consultation and/or direct services as required. Parents and/or teachers may request an SST to discuss the possibility of the student receiving a speech assessment.

Special Education

The California Education Code (Section 56031) defines special education as:

1. Specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of individuals with exceptional needs, whose educational needs cannot be met with modification of the general instruction program.
2. Related services that help individuals with special needs to benefit from specially designed instruction. Special education is an integral part of the total public education system.
3. Other features of special education are:
 - a. It is provided in a way that promotes maximum interaction between students with and without disabilities in a manner which is appropriate to the needs of both.
 - b. Services are provided at no cost to parents.
4. It provides a full range of program options to meet the educational and service requirements of individuals with exceptional needs in the least restrictive environment (LRE). The LRE is generally the setting that is most similar to those attended by general education.

Retention/Promotion Policy

During the 1999 California legislative session, Assembly Bills 1626 and 1639 were passed into law. These companion bills require school districts to implement retention and promotion guidelines for students transitioning from grades 2-8. The Orcutt Union School District has a Retention/Promotion program that meets the guidelines established by the legislation. Students are identified as “at risk of being retained” in grades 2 and 3 for academic deficits in reading. Students transitioning from grades 4-8 can be considered as “at risk of being retained” for academic deficits in reading, language arts, and/or math. The school will attempt to provide intervention support and services to identified students.

At the conclusion of the school year, teachers and parents will review the progress of identified students. Classroom teachers may recommend students for retention if they do not meet promotion requirements.

Students who have Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and/or Section 504 accommodation plans will be evaluated based upon the goals/guidelines in their plans. English learners will be evaluated based upon their overall progress, not solely upon English proficiency.

English Learners' Program

English Language Development resources are available to help students who are English learners. These resources include specialized English Language Development instruction in reading and language arts. Patterson Road has a Community Liaison that is available for English-Spanish translation.

District Nurse

The district nurse is on call for emergencies during the school day. The nurse maintains all school health records and oversees health screenings. All students in grades K, 2, and 5 are tested for vision, and all students in grades K, 2, and 5 are tested for hearing. Parents are notified when a possible vision or hearing problem is detected. Parents and teachers may also request vision and hearing tests for students.

Student Involvement

Student Council

Students in grades 4-6 are invited to participate in Student Council. Elections are held in the fall and spring. Students serve for a semester. Only 6th graders are eligible to serve as president.

Extra Curriculars

The Orcutt Union School District has recently partnered with Santa Maria to allow students in 5th and 6th grade to try-out for Flag Football in the Fall. Students can also participate in Track and Field in the Spring. Patterson Road students have the opportunity to participate in Robotics.

Extracurricular Expectations

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege. To remain in good standing, students are expected to:

- **Maintain Academic Standards:** Students must continue to meet grade-level academic requirements.
- **Uphold Panther P.R.I.D.E.:** Our school-wide behavior expectations apply on and off the field or stage. Students must demonstrate respect, responsibility, and kindness toward coaches, teammates, and opponents at all times.
- **Consistent Attendance:** Students must be present in class during the school day to participate in any extracurricular activities scheduled for that same afternoon or evening.

Failure to uphold these expectations or maintain good standing may result in temporary suspension or removal from extracurricular programs.

The teacher/coach of any sports/extracurricular activity may impose more stringent rules and/or regulations in the form of a contract that the student and parent will sign. Administration reserves the right, in consultation with the teacher/coach, to make final determinations regarding ineligibility or removal from an activity.

Student Recognition

Positive Referrals

Students in all grades are recognized for doing positive, good deeds in their classrooms and on our campus. These students receive a Positive Referral and meet with the principal.

PAW Tickets

Students in all grades are recognized for following the PRIDE behavior expectations by earning PAW Tickets. The PAW Tickets are collected in the front office for a monthly raffle with prizes. Patterson Road also has a big end of the year raffle with bigger prizes and more recognitions.

Attendance Awards

Students are recognized monthly in the classroom for achieving perfect attendance. Students are also recognized at the end of the school year for having perfect attendance during the big end of year PAW assembly.

Other Programs

Campus Connection Childcare Program

On-campus childcare is offered before school from 6:30-7:45 a.m. and after school from dismissal-6 p.m. Campus Connection also offers “camp” programs during Winter Break, Spring Break, and summer. For more information, phone the Campus Connection main office at (805) 938-8950.

Expanded Learning Opportunity (ELOP)

Orcutt Union School District is pleased to announce opportunities for **no cost** child care and expanded learning for TK-6th grade students! New state funding (ELOP) will allow families that qualify to participate in the Campus Connection Program at no cost. This funding will also allow OUSD to enhance the experience for ALL students enrolled in the child care program. The program is provided by our Campus Connection Staff and will be offered at all OUSD elementary school sites. A healthy meal(s), education, literacy, physical activities, and enrichment elements are all part of the program.

The primary goal of the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program in OUSD is academic support, enrichment, and connections for students beyond the regular school day. To see if you qualify, please fill out the application that is located on the OUSD website.

School Site Council

The School Site Council is a committee of elected staff members and parents that provides leadership and input regarding all school programs and initiatives. Its chief duty is to provide input for the School Plan for Student Achievement and Safe Schools Plan. Meeting agendas and minutes are sent home to parents serving on the council, however, all parents are invited to attend.

School Donations

The Patterson Road staff is very appreciative of parents and community members who donate items to either individual classrooms or the school as a whole. For questions about how and what to donate, contact the school office.

Yearbooks

Patterson Road publishes a school yearbook each spring. Our yearbook sales are primarily online. Watch ParentSquare for details on when and how to order. The yearbook is distributed during the last week of school. Additional yearbooks might be available for sale in the school office during the last week of school.

Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation

Parents are invited to join the Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation, which supports the arts at Patterson Road and in the Orcutt Union School District. Annual membership fees* are as follows: \$5 for students, \$10 for individuals, \$20 for families, \$100 for community groups, and \$500 for corporate memberships. You can join online by going to the district website (www.orcutt-schools.net) and clicking on OCAF. (*subject to change)

Special Events

Back to School Night

Hosted early in the school year, this evening gives parents the opportunity to visit classrooms, meet their children's teachers, and hear firsthand the teachers' emphasis and priorities for the year. This night is for parents only.

Book Fair

In partnership with Scholastic Books, the PTA and School Librarian organizes book fairs in the fall and spring as a service to students and families.

Family Nights

Occurring throughout the year and sponsored by the PTA, these evenings include activities such as Movie Night and Bingo with the intent of bringing our families together, and strengthening our sense of community.

Open House

Hosted one evening in the spring, students have an opportunity to share their class activities with parents. Open House is a fun and pride-filled night for all family members.

Red Ribbon Week

This community-wide celebration of a drug-free lifestyle comes to campus with in-class discussions and symbolic red ribbons.

Spirit Days

On Fridays, students are encouraged to wear panther t-shirts or sweaters or blue, the school color. On Thursdays, students are encouraged to wear college t-shirts or sweaters. Student Council schedules additional themed days throughout the school year.

Health Office

Medication (prescription or over-the-counter*) is given at school only upon receiving (1) the written authorization of the parent/guardian and (2) a statement from the child's physician detailing the method, consent, and time schedules by which medication is to be taken. Medication is administered in the office (except in doctor specified cases of specific medications). Come to the office to get appropriate paperwork for written permission. *Please understand that all over-the-counter medication, even including cough drops, is subject to the procedure above.

If your child has a fever or is vomiting, do not send your child to school until they have been fever free or the child has not vomited for a minimum of 24 hours. If your child goes home from school with a fever or vomiting, they cannot return the next day.

When a child becomes ill at school or is involved in an accident, he/she is sent to the office for minor first aid. If the injury or illness warrants, the parent is called and requested to take the child home for further care.

Child Nutrition Program

Breakfast and lunch are available to students every school day. Breakfast is served in the cafeteria from 7:30-7:55 a.m.

In 2021, The California Universal Meals Program was implemented in all public schools throughout the entire state. Therefore, all breakfast and lunch meals are now offered at "no cost" (*free*) for all Orcutt Union School District students. Each student can receive one free breakfast and one free lunch daily, when school is in session. All parents/guardians are encouraged to still complete a school meal application, as this does provide for more funding in a variety of areas for all students.

All school menus are posted on the district's website. <https://www.orcuttschools.net/>

If you have any questions or need assistance, you can contact The Child Nutrition Department at 805-938-8926.

Breakfast & Lunch Program

Nutritious breakfasts (before school breakfast or second-chance breakfast at morning recess) and lunches are served in the cafeteria each day. In addition to a main entrée, each lunch features a salad and fruit bar. Students preferring to bring a sack lunch from home may purchase milk.

Snacks

Students are invited to bring a nutritious snack, which may be eaten at the mid-morning recess. To encourage students to control litter, snacks are to be eaten at the outside eating areas. Students may not play or participate in games while eating a snack.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Communication between parents and teachers is valuable. One of the most significant means of communication between teachers and parents is the parent-teacher conference.

At the first parent-teacher conference, held early in the school year, teachers and parents will go over the academic standards for the grade level, review assessment data for each child, and collaborate on goals for each child for the upcoming school year.

At a subsequent parent-teacher conference, held later in the year, either in person or by phone, teachers and parents can review students' progress with the goals that were established in the fall. If the need arises, teachers or parents can ask for a conference anytime during the school year.

Lost and Found

Each year, many coats, jackets, sweatshirts, and other clothing items are lost or misplaced at school. Writing your child's name on his/her clothing – on an inside tag or label, or elsewhere – makes it much easier for all of us to locate a missing clothing item and return it to your child. Lost clothing is stored in the cafeteria. Unclaimed clothing is regularly donated to a local charity. Donation times are announced on Parent Square.