

## To and From School

### Absences

If a child is absent from school, **PLEASE REMEMBER: A note from a parent or guardian is needed to excuse the absence. A doctor's note is needed to excuse an absence of more than 3 days in a row.**

If your child is to be excused from P.E. for more than three days for any medical reason, the office must receive a doctor's statement. To resume P.E. a doctor's statement must again be sent to the office.

### Attendance

The Truancy Intervention Program monitors the attendance of our children. If a child misses 5 days without a legitimate excuse, the State Attorney's office may take action. **Please be aware that 3 tardies OR 3 early releases equal 1 absence.**

Students who routinely arrive late or are picked-up early will be referred to the school Social Worker and monitored by the TIPS program. Learning is taken seriously at Blanton, so **please help us make every instructional minute count!**

### Arrival at School

School hours are 8:35-2:35. School gates will be opened at 8:05 a.m. **For the safety of your child, unless he or she is enrolled in the R-Club Program, the child should not arrive at school or be on campus before 8:05 a.m.**

If your child is enrolled in R-Club, you may bring him or her to the front cafeteria door.

### Breakfast

The Dolphin Café provides a nourishing, well-balanced meal each day and is **FREE for all students.** Children who choose to eat breakfast at school should report directly to the cafeteria when they arrive and **prior to 8:25 AM.**

### Bicycles

All bicycles must be parked in our bike compound, which is locked during the school day. Individual locks are still highly recommended, since the school is not responsible for loss or damage to bikes. **For the safety of each rider, as outlined in state law, ALL students must wear helmets while riding bicycles.**

### Bus Transportation

**Bus transportation is a privilege!** Children are responsible for knowing and following the rules of good behavior and safe riding while on the school bus. Such rules include remaining seated with a seat belt buckled at all times, maintaining a quiet speaking voice, etc. The bus driver and/or assistant (if one is assigned) are responsible for the safety and conduct of all children on the bus. Any child who persists in inappropriate conduct on the bus is to be reported to Administration and may receive a referral. This may result in the child being suspended from the bus. **Good bus behavior is recognized as a part of the positive discipline plan of Blanton.** Based on availability, bus assistants are assigned to buses. The bus driver and/or assistant may take necessary steps to ensure the safety and well-being of the children during an emergency.

### Appointments

On occasion, it may be necessary for your child to be released from school early for a scheduled appointment. Students must bring a note from home with the time, date, and parent's signature on it, which will be sent to the office. Early dismissal is granted through the principal's office only. **Students may be released ONLY to parents, guardians, or emergency contacts listed on the clinic card.** **These adults must have proper ID, and the child must leave from the office area.**

## Dismissal

School is dismissed at 2:35 p.m. **Once dismissed, students should go directly home using planned safety routes.** Crossing guards are on duty for 20 minutes after the dismissal bell.

**Only officially registered bus students may ride the school bus.** Insurance laws do not allow us to honor requests for children to ride the bus occasionally.

**Parents who transport their child by car are asked to use the traffic lane in front of the school. Please do not leave cars unattended since this will disrupt the flow of traffic and presents a safety hazard.**

**Students MUST be aware of how they will go home BEFORE coming to school each day.** If an unforeseen emergency arises and change in your child's regular dismissal routine becomes necessary, please **write a note in your child's planner AND notify the school office ASAP: (727) 547-7820.**

## Insurance

Accident insurance is available to all students at a nominal fee. The school serves only as an agent and all claims are made to the company. All accidents should be reported immediately to the principal. This will allow for the signing of claims made to the company for any injuries received traveling to and from school, or during the school day.

## During the School Day

### Clinic

Any child who becomes ill or injured at school will be sent to the school clinic. He or she will remain in the clinic until he or she is well enough to return to class, or until he or she is picked up by the parent, guardian or designee.

It is extremely important that your child has a clinic card with the correct working phone number and address on file. **If such information as your phone number or address changes, please notify us immediately. If your child comes to the clinic or office due to an accident or illness, First Aid will be given by one of our trained, authorized personnel.**

Should it be serious, we will make every effort to notify you and Emergency Medical Services may be summoned.

**Children's medications, needed during the school day, are to be delivered in the original container and with a signed authorization form. Over the counter medications are NOT allowed at school and CANNOT be dispensed without a doctor's authorization.**

### Head Lice

Since head lice are contagious, the School Board has adopted a policy to reduce the spread of lice in schools. **When students are found to have lice, parents are notified and the students involved are sent home. Students are not allowed to return until they have been treated and are no longer contagious.** If a student with live lice does return to school he / she will again be sent home. A child should be able to return to school within 3 days if immediate attention is given to the problem.

**NOTE: Please check your child/children weekly for evidence of nits or lice.** Contact the office if you would like help in the identification of the problem.

### Commitment to Character

Our school is committed to teaching four core character values: **Responsibility, Respect, Self-Motivation, and Honesty.** These core values will be evident throughout Blanton and will be reflected in our expectations of all students and adults.

### Conduct

All students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is in the best interest and safety of all. Each student has the right and deserves to be able learn in the best possible and most conducive environment. Therefore, disruptive behaviors that take away from the safety and learning of others will not be tolerated. The PCS Code of Student Conduct will be enforced at Blanton and students may be subject to disciplinary actions according to the guidelines of due process.

Some of the behaviors that may be subject to disciplinary action include:

- Fighting or inciting a fight;
- Striking another student and/or adult
- Intimidating other students;
- Open defiance of a teacher, school authorities or other school employees.
- Verbal and/or physical stance or expressed attitude of defiance, threat, profanity, bullying or other verbally / physically threatening actions;
- Use or possession of tobacco or tobacco-related (e-cigs) products or controlled substances at school
- Bringing guns, knives, sharp instruments or other dangerous objects to school. (These include toy replicas or objects associated with or may be used as weapons). School Security will be called and a police report will be made.
- ❖ Bullying is against the law and will not be tolerated. In accordance with district policy, the incident will be investigated, a written analysis conducted and a report filed by administration.

**NOTE:** Any student apprehended with a loaded or unloaded gun which could be capable of discharging a projectile, including but not limited to pellet guns and B.B. guns, will be recommended to the Superintendent for expulsion. This prohibition against firearms on campus includes the possession of a gun or the storing of a gun in a school facility or on school grounds and at school sponsored functions. Any student apprehended with a facsimile of a weapon (toy, replica, etc.) or using the same in a threatening manner shall be subject to a major suspension and / or expulsion. A mandatory conference is also required with the appropriate Director of School Operations.

School is your child's first job and school hours should be spent with school activities. Therefore, please note that children are NOT permitted to bring gum, toys, candy, radios, CD players, or any other play items to school or on field trips. **Cell phones are to be used strictly for emergencies going to and**

**from school.** Therefore, per the Code of Student Conduct, **they are only permitted if they remain off and are stored in back packs. Students may NOT text, email, and/or receive cell phone calls during the academic day.** Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the cell phone, which will only be released / returned to the parent / guardian.

## Care of School Property

We take pride in our school campus and instill respect for the property of others. **Please encourage your child to care for ALL materials, furnishings, equipment and grounds we share.** In accordance with the Code of Student Conduct, parents/guardians must "be prepared to pay for any lost or damage done to School Board property by their child." If payment is not made and the amount is substantial, the matter will be sent to the Superintendent.

## Discipline

Blanton provides each student with the opportunity to acquire an education. Children who are well-behaved will love school and learn skills for life! Blanton recognizes that **no child has the right to interfere with the learning of others by inappropriate actions or a lack of consideration for others.** Blanton's school rules apply at all times – on school grounds, going to and from school, and at any event where our school is recognized, regardless of location. Blanton has many positive discipline programs and awards for students. **Pink "Dynamic Dolphin" Pride Notes, Blue "SPLASH! Salutes", Citizen of the Month and Terrific Kid of the Week** are just a few.

## Principal's Discretion

In instances where the teacher or other school personnel have used school guidelines to promote discipline in the school setting without success, the problem will be referred to an Administrator. Administration has the authority and responsibility to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning

through a fair and consistent application of district policies and procedures. When a problem occurs, the Principal or the designee will:

**Identify the problem by interviewing the student and referring staff member and determine an appropriate consequence. When disciplinary action is necessary, the Principal or designee may: Confer with the student; refer the problem back to the teacher; refer the problem to the counselor; refer the student to an alternative learning setting; or confer with the parents by phone or in person. Parents are educational partners with the school and as such will be notified of any behavioral concerns or disciplinary actions taken. As always, your support is appreciated.**

## Teacher's Discretion

The teacher has the authority and responsibility to maintain discipline in the classroom, consistent with the school's policy. Letters, explaining the schoolwide and classroom discipline plan, will be sent home during the first few weeks of school.

When a problem occurs, a teacher may conference with the student; conference with the parent (and student); conference with the counselor, student, and/or parent; or conference with the student, parent, and an administrator.

## Field Trips

All field trips are an extension of what is being studied in the classroom and must be approved by the school principal and the school district. A Pinellas County School approved Permission Slip **must be signed in advance** by a legal parent or guardian, before a student can be permitted to attend a field trip. **Telephone permission is not acceptable. A child who has not submitted this signed slip in advance of the field trip will not be allowed to attend the field trip.** If a parent is asked to drive on a field trip, parents must complete the appropriate paperwork which verifies proof of insurance in order to transport our students in a district approved vehicle. Children not registered at school may not accompany volunteers on school

field trips. **Volunteers must be registered a minimum of 3 weeks in advance of trips.**

## Homework

Homework is work assigned by the teacher for additional practice of the skills taught during the week. The student is expected to complete this work and return it to school by the deadline given. Parents are encouraged to monitor the completion of these assignments and assist children with this work when appropriate.

## HOMEWORK HELP LINE

The Homework Help line will begin operating in early September. CHILDREN are encouraged to call for assistance with their homework between the hours of 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM, Monday through Thursday. The phone number is 547-7223.

## Planners

Each child will be given an Agenda / Planner which will go home daily. Important information will be posted in this planner. **Please check and sign the planner daily.** In addition to students using it to record daily assignments, important school information may be attached. Parents and teachers are encouraged to use the planner as a way to communicate with one another to ensure the success of each child. **If the planner is lost or damaged there will be a \$5.00 replacement charge assessed to you.**

## Parent-Teacher Conferences

Teachers are available for conferences either in person or by phone. Conferences may be scheduled by calling the teacher directly, reaching them by district e-mail, or by writing a note in the agenda planner. **Conferences must be scheduled in advance and teachers will not be interrupted during instruction.** **For the safety of all, please report to the school office, present an appropriate picture ID to be "Badge Passed" and obtain a visitor pass before entering the campus or any classroom.**

## Concerns

If you have a concern about something at school, we urge you to follow the proper chain of command in resolving your concern:

- 1.) **Call or use district email to communicate / discuss your concern with the teacher.**
- 2.) **If further assistance is needed, contact an Administrator.**

We feel that all of your concerns and questions can be answered here at school. Our commitment is to assist you and your child in every way possible.

**PLEASE NOTE: If you bypass this procedure and call the Superintendent's office, your concern will be routed back to the school principal. Therefore, it is always best to start at the school level.**

## Emergency Drills

Fire and tornado drills are required by law.

Directions for the drills are posted in each classroom.

**Each drill is held and treated as if it were a real emergency.** Getting children out of the building quickly and safely is certainly the primary goal of these drills. The children must remain quiet and orderly for these drills. The school also holds regularly scheduled lock down drills. **These drills are necessary for helping students to react quickly and responsibly in the event of an emergency.**

## Visitors

Our school is family-oriented. Parents and other interested parties are welcome and encouraged to visit Blanton, as long as they do not interrupt the regular classroom routine in any way. **If you wish to visit the school or a specific classroom, please contact the Office at least 2 days in advance to schedule an appointment, sharing the purpose of your visit, so that adequate arrangements may be made.** Upon your arrival you are required to sign in at the office. This is our opportunity to greet you, give you our visitor's badge, and explain our policies and procedures. **Visitors' badges are a district mandate and a driver's license must be screened through our Raptor Clearance System in the school**

**office. These badges must be worn at all times while on campus.**

## Uniform Policy

Blanton Elementary is a mandatory uniform policy school.

**Boys MUST wear navy blue slacks or shorts (No Jeans or Cargo Pants), and powder blue or white polo shirts, buttoned-down collared shirts, or turtlenecks.** If the pants or shorts have belt-loops, a belt must be worn. The belt may be navy blue, brown, or black. Boys may wear navy blue or white socks ONLY that cover the student's ankle. Closed-toe shoes must be worn. Sneakers are preferred. Boots are not acceptable.

**Girls MUST wear navy blue pants (No Jeans or Cargo Pants) or navy blue shorts, navy blue jumpers, or navy blue skirts with powder blue or white polo shirts, buttoned-down collared shirts, or turtlenecks.** If the shorts, pants, or skirts have belt-loops, a belt must be worn. The belt must be navy blue, brown, or black. Girls may wear white or navy blue socks or tights ONLY. **Leggings are NOT acceptable.** The matching socks must cover the student's ankle. Closed-toe shoes, such as sneakers (NO boots or high-tops) must be worn every day. **It is a schoolwide expectation for both boys and girls, that shirts / blouses are worn tucked in at all times.** If a student is out of uniform, their parent will be called to bring a change of clothing. **If a change in clothing cannot be brought, the student will receive a Uniform Infraction / Referral. Four referrals require a mandatory parent conference. Students can be transferred to a non-uniform school for further failure to adhere to the uniform policy.**

## Swap Shop

A uniform "swap shop" is available to those who wish to trade uniform sizes. **Parents are encouraged to donate clean, gently used uniforms to the swap shop** if your child outgrows the uniform or leaves Blanton.

## Sweaters and Jackets

Parents may select whatever type of sweater or jacket they wish their child to wear to school.

## Hair/Hats/Sunglasses

Students are encouraged to wear hair styles that are not distracting. **Jell-O colored spray hair dyes are NOT permitted at Blanton. NO Mohawk styled haircuts or hairstyles are permitted.** Hats are never allowed in the classrooms. Sunglasses are not permitted in the classroom or at PE without a doctor's note prescribing the use of sunglasses.

## Library/Media Center

The library/media center is an extension of the classroom. The resources and enrichment activities are housed for the benefit of students and staff. The book collection contains many fine books and reference materials. **Parents are invited to visit the library/media center.**

## Lost and Found

Students should check in the lost and found area in the school office for lost articles. Articles found should be brought to the office to be claimed.

**We suggest that you label all items, such as coats, sweaters, raincoats, hats, umbrellas, backpacks, and lunch boxes.** At the end of each semester, unclaimed clothing articles are sent to a nonprofit, charitable organization for distribution.

## Principal's List

Students in Grades 3-5 may earn the Principal's List if he or she earns all A's in academic areas along with earning nothing less than E's, V's, and/or S's in Conduct, Work Habits, PE, Art, and Music.

## Honor Roll

In grades 3, 4, and 5, a student may earn the Honor Roll if he or she earns all B's or a combination of A's and B's in academic areas and nothing less than E's,

V's, and/or S's in Conduct, Work Habits, PE, Art, and Music.

- ❖ Report Card Assemblies are scheduled and held each grading period to honor those students who have earned these achievements in Grades 3-5.

## Textbooks

All textbooks are loaned to students free of charge and will be available to students for overnight study. However, **students are responsible for lost or damaged books and will be expected to pay for them.** Students are urged to take good care of their books and return them in good condition at the end of the school year.

## Telephone

The school phone is a business phone and should not be used by students to make arrangements to go home with a friend, etc. **The telephone is always available for emergencies.**

## Transferring

It may become necessary for some students to leave our school during the year. If this becomes necessary for your child, please let us know two weeks in advance. We will be able to help you make the transfer smoothly and efficiently. **ALL library books and textbooks must be returned and outstanding debts must be paid prior to leaving.**

## Volunteer Program

Working as a school volunteer can be exciting and fun. Volunteers help to meet the needs of children in many different ways. You could help with any of the following activities:

- Drive on field trips
- Chaperone on field trips
- Volunteer in a classroom (as little as 1 hour a week OR as much as you are able)
- Work with small groups of children in reading or math

- Work with 1 student at a time to give extra help
- Help make materials for the students to use (cut, color, etc.)
- Help to set up learning centers in the classroom
- Help to create bulletin boards for the classroom
- Assist with filing and collating papers
- Volunteer at home (whenever the teacher needs help or by scheduling a certain night)
- Help to find educational guest speakers, magazine articles, books, etc. for the units that students are studying in school.

**NOTE: Volunteers/chaperones for field trips MUST apply / be registered 3 weeks in advance.** Register to become one of our valuable volunteers by calling our Volunteer Coordinator today! We look forward to working together as a partner in your child's education.

## Items of Interest

### Money Sent to School

Students are discouraged from bringing money or other valuables to school. **Neither the teacher nor the school can be held responsible when money or personal items are lost.** If a child must bring money to school, be sure it is in a sealed envelope, labeled with the child's name, the teacher's name, and its intended purpose.

### Parties

In compliance with the district Wellness Policy, parties are limited each school year. All food and drinks must comply with the district's nutritional standards, must be store-bought and remain in its original packaging. **Candy, chewing gum, and soda are not permitted at school.**

### Suggested Snacks include:

#### Fresh Fruits & Vegetables

Fresh vegetables  
Raisins or other dried fruits

#### Grains (1.5 oz. or less)

Unsweetened cereals	Crackers
Unbuttered popcorn	Pretzels
Baked tortilla chips	Baked chips

Unsweetened cereal, pretzel and nut mix  
Graham or animal crackers  
Goldfish crackers

#### Cereal Bars (2 oz. or less)

Multigrain bars	Quaker Oatmeal bars
Rice Krispies Treats	

#### Bakery Items (3 oz. or less)

Whole grain breads    Bagels    Mini Muffins

#### Beverages (12 oz. or less)

Bottled water  
Flavored water (0 calories)  
100% fruit / vegetable juice  
Low-fat milk, flavored or unflavored

#### Miscellaneous

Low-fat cheese  
Salsa  
Yogurt

### PTA

Blanton is a member of the Pinellas County Council of PTA. **You are encouraged to join PTA and participate in the monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of the month.**

### S.A.C.

The School Advisory Council is composed of parents, school staff, and citizens from the community.

**S.A.C. works together for the improvement of our school and meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month.**

## No Smoking

Schools are smoke free. By law, **NO SMOKING is allowed anywhere on Blanton's campus.**

Consequences for possession or use of vapor type / e-cigarettes will be treated in accordance with the policy and restrictions related to the use of Tobacco and Nicotine products outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.

## PORTAL

The PCS Portal (<https://portal.pcsb.org>) is a secure website that provides a way for you to obtain specific information about your child privately.

Parents can view their child's: attendance, schedule, assignments, grades, discipline issues, demographic information, medical information, school messages, school calendar, teacher email links, and alerts concerning your child. **How do you know if you have a Parent Portal (ParentCONNECT) account already?**

**You have a previous ParentCONNECT account if you have done one of the following:**

Ever used ParentCONNECT to view your child's grades or attendance.

Ever used SRS (Student Reservation System) to change any of your child's information, reserved a seat in a school, or applied for a PCS magnet or fundamental school.

If you have forgotten your ParentCONNECT username and/or password, visit any school for assistance.

**How does a parent obtain an account if they have never previously had a ParentCONNECT account?**

Visit any school to apply and bring a valid ID (one of the following): Driver's License; State ID card; Visa (not the credit card); Military ID; Passport; or Green Card

The school will use our new program, UMRA, to provide a username and password.

**Login:** If a new user, a login will be provided by the school.

If a previous ParentCONNECT user, your login will be p. (the letter p and a period) followed by your ParentCONNECT username.

**Password:** If you are a new user, your password (a

combination of upper and lower case letters and numbers) will be given to you along with your new login.

If you are a previous ParentCONNECT user, your password must now be at least six (6) all capital letters and/or numbers. If your previous ParentCONNECT password was less than six characters, add to the end enough Z's to equal six characters.

## IMPORTANT Telephone Numbers

Blanton Elementary School.....547-7820  
ALPHA Program.....547-7508  
R-Club.....541-3738

## Websites:

### Blanton Elementary

<http://www.blanton-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us>

### Pinellas County School Board

[www.pcsb.org](http://www.pcsb.org)

- Bully Report Form: [www.bullying.pcsb.org](http://www.bullying.pcsb.org)
- PCSB "Beyond the Classroom" for Ticket to Read, ST Math, Think Central and other learning links, etc.
- VMathLive: [www.vmathlive.com](http://www.vmathlive.com)

### Florida Department of Education

<http://www.fldoe.org>

