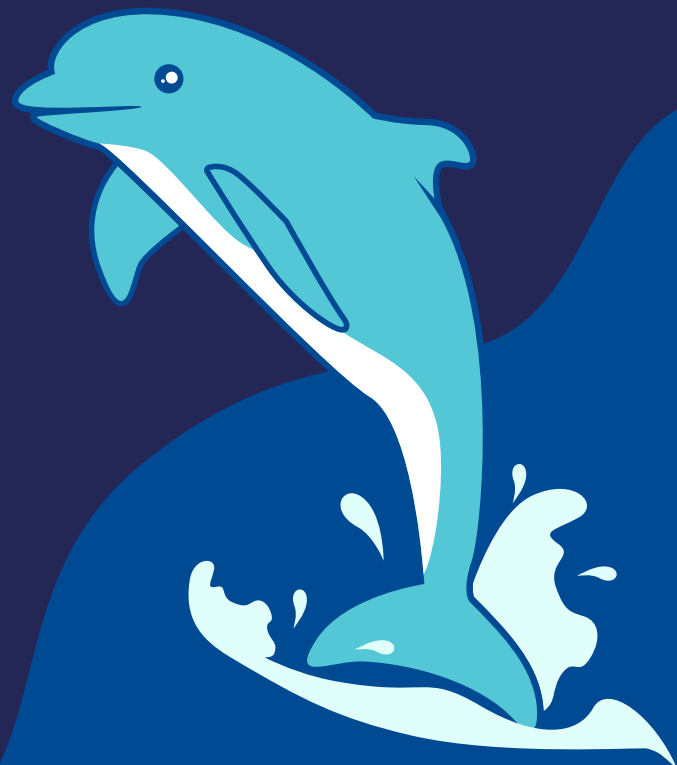


Student Handbook

2022 - 2023

**Blanton
Elementary
School**



To and From School

Absences

If a child is absent from school, communication from a parent or guardian is required. A doctor's note is needed to excuse an absence for a period of more than 3 consecutive days. This includes excusal from Physical Education class.

Appointments

Early pick-up is highly discouraged. The office will not call for a student to be dismissed with less than 20 minutes until dismissal. Students will only be released to contacts listed on the student's white office card. Any adult picking up a child early must show ID and the child must leave from the office area.

Arrival at School

School hours are 8:45 AM – 2:55 PM.

School gates open at 8:15 AM.

For the safety of your child, unless he or she is enrolled in R' Club, they should not arrive at school or be on campus before 8:15 AM.

Attendance

The Truancy Intervention Program closely monitors the attendance of our children. If a child misses 5 days without a legitimate excuse, the State Attorney's office may take action. 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!

Bicycles/Scooters

All bicycles and scooters must be walked while on campus and parked in our bike compound. The compound is locked during the school day. Individual locks are recommended, as the school is not responsible for loss or damage to bikes/scooters. For the safety of each rider, as outlined in state law, ALL students must wear helmets while riding.

Breakfast

The Dolphin Café provides a nourishing, well-balanced breakfast each day and is FREE for all students. Children who choose to eat breakfast at school should report to a Breakfast Cart when they arrive. Breakfast is served from 8:15 – 8:40 AM.

Bus Transportation

Bus transportation is a privilege. Children are responsible for knowing and following the rules while on the school bus. Such rules include remaining seated and buckled, maintaining a quiet speaking voice, etc. The bus driver and assistant are responsible for the safety and conduct of all children on the bus. Any child who persists in inappropriate conduct on the bus will be reported to Administration and may receive a referral. This may result in the child being suspended from the bus.

Dismissal

School is dismissed at 2:55 p.m. It is the parent or guardian's responsibility to ensure transportation or afterschool care is arranged in advance for timely pick-up by 3:10 PM. Once students are 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. Parents who transport their child by car are to use the Car Line. Students MUST be aware of how they will go home BEFORE coming to school each day. Therefore, please arrange your "rainy day plans" in advance. If an unforeseen emergency arises and a change in your child's regular dismissal routine becomes necessary, please write a note in your child's planner and notify the school office prior to 2:00 PM.

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. Any accidents must be reported immediately to an Administrator.

During the School Day

Clinic

Any child who becomes ill or injured at school will be seen by the School Nurse. If the Nurse is unavailable, they will be seen by a staff member in the office. First Aid will be administered by trained, authorized personnel. If the illness or injury is severe, parent contact will be made and the child will remain in the clinic until he or she is picked up by the parent, guardian or designee. Your child MUST have a clinic card with correct, working phone numbers and address on file. If we are unable to reach you, Emergency Medical Services may be summoned.

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

Head Lice

Head lice are contagious. When a student is found to have lice or nits, parents are notified and the student is sent home. The student is not allowed to return until they have been treated and are no longer contagious. Students seeking return to school must be transported and accompanied by the parent or guardian to the front office, be checked, and then be cleared for release back to class. If a student is still found to have live lice or nits during the re-checking process, he/she will again be sent home. A child should be able to return to school within 3 days if immediate attention and proper treatment is given to the problem. It is strongly suggested that you check your child/children weekly for evidence of nits or lice.

Conduct

All students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is in the best interest, safety and learning of all. 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.

Behaviors that may be subject to disciplinary action include, but are not limited to:

- Fighting
- Striking another student and/or adult
- Defiance
- Bullying/Harassment
 - Reports are investigated within 10 school days
- Use or possession of tobacco or tobacco-related (e-cigs) products or controlled substances
- Possession of guns, knives, sharp instruments or other dangerous objects/implements

School is your child's first job and students will spend their time engaging in standards-based learning activities. Children are NOT permitted to bring candy/gum, toys, or electronic devices to school or

on field trips. Cell phones are only permitted if they remain off and are stored in backpacks. Students may NOT text, make, 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 to the parent/guardian. Repeated confiscation will result in the cell phone being permanently banned from school or stored in the front office during school hours.

Care of School Property

We take pride in our school campus and instill respect for the property of others. Please teach and encourage your child to care for ALL materials, furnishings, equipment, and grounds we share.

Principal's Discretion

In instances where the teacher or other school personnel have used school guidelines to promote positive behavior in the classroom setting without success, the problem will be referred to an Administrator. Administration has the authority and responsibility to maintain a school wide atmosphere conducive to learning through a fair and consistent application of district policies and procedures. When a problem occurs, the Principal, Assistant Principal, or designee will identify the problem by interviewing the student and referring staff member to determine an appropriate consequence. Parents are each child's first teacher and are educational partners with the school. As such, parents 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. Teachers will communicate their classroom discipline plans with parents/guardians. When a problem occurs, a teacher may conference with the student, document the incident, and contact or conference with the parent, conference with a student services staff member, or conference with the student, parent, and an administrator. Parents will be notified of any behavior concerns or disciplinary actions.

Field Trips

All field trips are an extension of what is being studied in the classroom and must be approved in advance by the school principal and the school district. A permission slip will be sent home and must be signed in advance by the legal parent or guardian, before a student can be permitted to attend a field trip. 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 or chaperone 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 Blanton may not accompany volunteers on school field trips. For the safety of your child, ALL volunteers must be registered a minimum of 3 weeks in advance of any trips and MUST be approved by the PCSB District Office as a registered volunteer. This also applies to those who volunteer to attend and support classroom and/or schoolwide activities.

Homework

Homework is work assigned by the teacher for additional practice of the skills taught during the week. Parents are encouraged to monitor the quality completion of these assignments and assist children with this work when appropriate. Teachers may also assign homework to be completed online via an app in Clever.

Homework Help Line

Children are encouraged to call the Homework Help Line for assistance with their homework assignments between the hours of 4:00 and 8:00 PM.

Phone Number: 727-547-7223

Days: Monday through Thursday

Agendas

Each child will be given an agenda which will go home daily. Students will use it to record their daily assignments, homework, calendar special events, etc. Parents and teachers are encouraged to use the agenda as a way to communicate with one another to ensure the success of each child. Read and sign your child's agenda, daily.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Teachers are available for conferences in person, by phone, or virtually via Microsoft Teams. It is in your

child's best interest to meet a minimum of one time per semester. Conferences may be scheduled by calling the teacher directly, reaching them by district e-mail, Dojo messaging, or by writing a note in the agenda. Conferences must be scheduled in advance and teachers will not be interrupted during instruction to meet with a parent. For the safety of all, parents must report to the front office, present an ID, and obtain a visitor pass before entering the campus.

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.) Communicate/discuss your concern with the teacher first.
- 2.) If further assistance is needed, contact an Administrator to join you in a conference.

Concerns and questions will be addressed/answered here at school. Our commitment is to assist you and your child in every way possible.

Emergency Drills

Fire, Severe Weather, and Safety Drills are required by law. Information for each drill is available in classrooms. Drills are implemented and treated as if there were a real emergency. Getting children out of the building, or into a safe area quickly and safely is the primary goal of these drills. The children must remain quiet and orderly for these drills. These drills are necessary for helping students to react quickly and responsibly in the event of an emergency.

Visitors

Our school is a safe, family-oriented learning community. Parents and other interested parties are welcome and encouraged to visit Blanton, if they do not interrupt instruction and regular classroom routines 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. Share the purpose of your visit so that adequate arrangements may be made. Upon your arrival you are required to sign in at the office, using your photo ID. Visitor badges must always be worn while on campus and be surrendered upon leaving campus. In accordance with state law, visitors who are not Level II cleared must be escorted at all times while on campus.

Uniform Policy

Blanton Elementary is a uniform school. Parents will be notified in advance of any events/incentives that will permit students to dress out of uniform.

Boys

Shorts/Pants: Navy Blue or Khaki

Shirts: Polo or button down style in navy blue, light blue or white.

Socks: Navy Blue or White

Shoes: Closed-toe. Sneakers preferred. Boots, sandals, and crocs are NOT permitted.

Girls

Shorts/Skorts/Skirts/Jumpers/Pants: Navy Blue or Khaki

Shirts: Polo or button down style in navy blue, light blue or white.

Socks/Leggings: Navy Blue or White

Shoes: Closed-toe. Sneakers preferred. Boots, sandals, and crocs are NOT permitted.

Note: Underwear may not be visible to the eye at any time, so wearing pants at the waist is required. Parents may send a sweater or jacket to school with their child. Items white, light blue or navy blue in color are preferred.

If a student is out of uniform, their parent will be called to bring a change of clothing.

Hair/Hats/Sunglasses

Students are encouraged to wear hair styles that are not distracting. Colorful hair dyes are not permitted. Mohawk haircuts are not permitted. Hats or the wearing of hoods are never allowed in the classrooms, Cafeteria or hallways, but may be worn for outdoor PE. 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. Various resources, technology, and enrichment activities are housed there for the benefit of students, staff, and families. The book collection contains many fine books and reference materials. Students are responsible for any lost and/or damaged books and will be expected to pay for them. Parents and families are invited to visit the library/media center, as well as our Blanton Website to access available resources. We also engage in PCS Connects, which allows students in grades one

through five to be assigned a laptop for individual, academic use.

Lost and Found

Students should check in the lost and found areas in the school office and Cafeteria for lost articles. Articles found should be brought directly to the office to be claimed. It is strongly suggested that you label all items, such as coats, sweaters, raincoats, hats, umbrellas, backpacks, and lunch boxes with your child's name. At the end of each semester, unclaimed clothing articles are sent to a nonprofit, charitable organization for distribution.

Principal's List/Honor Roll – Grades 3, 4, 5

A student earns 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. A student earns Honor Roll if he or she earns all B's or a combination of A's and B's in all academic areas and nothing less than E's, V's, and/or S's in Conduct, Work Habits, PE, Art, and Music.

Textbooks

All textbooks are loaned to students free of charge. 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. However, should a student need to speak with their parent, it will be made available.

Transferring

It may become necessary for some students to leave our school during the year. If this becomes necessary for your child, let us know two weeks in advance. We will be able to help you make the transfer smoothly and efficiently. All library books, textbooks, and PCS technology 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 meet the needs of children in many ways. You could assist with any of the following:

- Field Trips
- Classroom activities
- Schoolwide activities
- Library/Media support
- Student mentoring
- Guest speaker

Note: Volunteers/chaperones for field trips MUST register a minimum of 3 weeks in advance in order to obtain district approval. Register to become one of our valuable volunteers by calling our Family and Community Liaison. 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. Per school board policy, personal items may not be bought, traded, or sold during school hours, or on school board property.

Parties

In compliance with the district Wellness Policy, classroom 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 the original packaging. Candy, chewing gum, and soda are not permitted at school. Parents wishing to send in treats for their child's birthday must communicate with the classroom teacher. The teacher will ensure that the food items are shared with classmates during their regular lunch time.

Examples of acceptable snacks include:

Fresh fruits and vegetables, crackers, pretzels, popcorn, cereal bars, and low-fat cheese or yogurt.

PTA

Blanton is a member of the Pinellas County Council of PTAs. PTA meets monthly. You are encouraged to join.

SAC

The **School Advisory Council** is composed of parents, school staff, and citizens from the community. SAC works together for the improvement of our school and meets monthly.

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.

Parent Portal

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

If you do not have a login or you have forgotten it, visit any Pinellas County School for assistance.

Keep up to date with information about Blanton:

- Join ClassDojo
- Like us on Facebook: @blantonelempta
- Visit our website: www.pcsb.org/blanton-es

