

NEDERLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR

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NEDERLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL VISION

NES builds students with high academic competence and strong character, in an environment of caring teachers and staff, involved parents, and an active community.

SCHOOL GOALS

School goals are being updated based on student achievement data from last school year. Updated goals will be sent home in October.

School Hours and Attendance Requirements

School Hours

Preschool	8:25am – 11:15am/12:20pm – 3:05pm, Tuesday through Friday
Kindergarten AM	8:25am – 11:15 am, Monday through Friday
Kindergarten PM	12:20am – 3:05pm, Monday through Friday
First through 5 th	8:25am – 3:05pm, Monday through Friday

Arrival Time and Drop Off/Pick Up

There is no supervision before 8:15am; children should not be dropped off at school before 8:15am. For your child's safety and the safety of others, drop students off on the curbside of the **LOWER** parking lot to avoid bus traffic. Use the designated one way drop off and pick up flow lane only. If you wish to walk your child in or out during the hours of 8:15 to 8:25 a.m. and 2:50 to 3:10 p.m., you must park along the north side of N. Sundown Trail.

Attendance and Reporting of Absences

Developing good attendance habits is extremely important. Research tells us that student achievement and good attendance are directly related. Missing instruction cannot be made up and puts a stress on students. Please make all attempts to schedule vacations and medical appointments during regularly scheduled days off. We understand that this may not be possible at all times and that emergencies do occur. Please follow the procedures below when reporting absences.

When students are absent from school, parents are asked to notify the office prior to 9:00 am to excuse the absence (303/258-7092). If no call is received about an absent student by 9:00 am, office personnel will attempt to contact the parent at home and at work. If a parent cannot be contacted, the absence will be recorded as unexcused after 48 hours.

Parents who know in advance that their child will be absent are asked to fill out a Prearranged Absence Form. ***This form must be completed two weeks prior to the scheduled absence.*** Absences may be considered unexcused if this form is not completed two weeks in advance. Exceptions will be made for family emergencies. Please contact the school as soon as possible to report the absence. Students will be expected to make up work missed during periods of absence. We strongly discourage extended family trips during regularly scheduled school days.

Parents will be notified of their child's absences at the end of the first and second trimester according to the schedule below:

- First Trimester if absences are greater than 3.5 and/or tardies are greater than 7
- Second Trimester if absences are greater than 7 and/or tardies are greater than 10

If a student accumulates more than 10 absences, the principal may request an attendance contract be written.

Calendar

The complete Nederland Elementary School calendar is provided in the appendix. It can also be found on the back of your student's Friday Folder.

School Cancellations and Closures (Snow and other emergencies)

Under all but the most extreme conditions, school officials have a responsibility to keep school in session. When the weather is bad, but school is open, parents must make a family decision regarding attendance or late arrival for their children. A personal contact by the parent or a written note to school officials will excuse a student's late arrival or absence during these conditions.

To find out if your child's school is closed, check BVSD's website at www.bvsd.org or tune into one of the following radio or television stations:

Television

KCNC Channel 4
KMGH Channel 7
Channel 8 in Boulder
KUSA Channel 9

Radio

KBCO 97.3 FM
KGNU 88.5 FM
KOA 850 AM
KOSI 101.1 FM
KCFC 1490 AM
KLMO 1060 AM
KJMN 92.5 FM
KBNO 1280 AM

Notification is given prior to 6:30 am, or as soon as the decision is made to close during the day. Typically the media will release information only if school is closed. In most cases, no announcement will mean that schools are open.

When the weather is severe enough that it is necessary to close schools in all or part of the district, it is extremely important that working parents have pre-arranged child care available to them; arrangements with a friend or neighbor; provisions at a child care center; child care leave from work (if available); arrangements with a neighborhood teenager who also would be out of school; etc. It is very important that parents make these arrangements before the event, since Colorado weather is unpredictable, and it's not unusual to be hit by a severe storm very early in the school year.

In the case of partial closings (where only certain schools or areas in the district are closed) the principal of each affected school will determine whether activities such as parent meetings, programs, athletic events and building-use contracts will be held, cancelled or postponed. Please check with school administration for this information. In the event of a district-wide closure, under most circumstances all events will be cancelled.

After School Care

When School is not in session, Wild Bear Center for Nature Discovery offers a unique opportunity to NES students and their families. Based out of the Discovery Lab at NES, Wild Bear provides youth with hands on experiential programs after school, during school holidays and during the summer.

After School: M-F 3pm-6pm, children meet at the Discovery Lab, but often they are found exploring the forest surrounding the school or on a field trip to Mud Lake or Barker Reservoir. The children enjoy snack and social time, choices of hands on discovery or are guided in a scientific exploration of the plants and animals of the area. Arts and crafts are integrated and participants often enjoy special guests.

Full Days: 8am-4pm, children are dropped off and picked up at NES, but engage in field trips and experiences with the surrounding areas. This is a great way to engage your child in productive experiences on days off from school.

Wild Bear staff come with a strong background in childhood education, natural science backgrounds and all are CPR and First Aid trained. Wild Bear strives to maintain an 8:1 child:adult ratio. Wild Bear provides CCAP and scholarships are available to qualified free and reduced lunch participants.

For more information, contact Wild Bear at 303-258-7092 X242 or check the website at www.wildbear.org

School/Home Communication

Newsletters

The school newsletter, *Timberline Times*, will keep parents informed about the school calendar, lunch menus and information about all school programs. The newsletter is sent home with the oldest child from each family the last Friday of each month. In addition, most teachers send home classroom newsletters.

Parents are encouraged to send notes to the teachers about any concerns they have either with school or at home.

Conferences and Report Cards

Students at NES spend most of their school time in their regular classroom and with specialists in P.E., Music, and Art.

Parents are encouraged to come to parent-teacher conferences. These conferences will be held to set goals, review work and respond to concerns, twice a year, in the fall and spring.

Standards-based report cards are issued to all students three times per year, at the end of each trimester. In addition, parents may request to conference with teachers and staff at any time and are always welcome to visit the school. By spacing our conferences and report cards, we have ensured that you will receive a report of your child's progress every 6 weeks.

Procedures for Visitor Check-in

In order to assure the safety of our staff and students, all visitors including parents, volunteers, non-district vendors, contractors, etc. are required to sign in at the school office upon arrival and receive a badge to be worn during their stay at the school. The badge must be turned into the office when signing out at the end of their visit.

If the badge is not returned and the office staff suspect it was wrongfully taken, the person will be contacted to return the badge and the office staff will notify Security, if necessary.

Enforcement of these procedures is critical to assure the system meets its intended purpose. As staff encounters someone in the building or on site that requires a badge, they will question them and direct them back to the office to check-in.

Academics

Mission of Boulder Valley Schools

The Boulder Valley School District challenges students to achieve their academic, creative and physical potential in order to become responsible, contributing citizens.

Strategic Plan Priorities

- Maximize Student Learning and Achievement
- Foster Collaboration and Partnerships
- Value Diversity and Promote Understanding
- Manage Assets Responsibly
- Hire a High Quality, Committed Staff

Early Assessment

As a part of our Instructional Intervention Model and as an effort to better meet our students needs we will be conducting Fall literacy assessments prior to the start of school. You will be contacted to schedule a time to test with one of your child's grade level teachers. The information obtained allows us to provide appropriate instruction right away.

Cumulative Records

Cumulative records are kept in the school office and are available only to professional members of the school staff, the student him/herself, and parents or other legal guardian of the student. The records contain the student's history of grades accumulated during the school year, standardized test data and other records of academic achievement. The parent, individual student, or legal guardian of a student may request an appointment to review the records with a professional staff member. Requests must be made 24 hours in advance. Copies of contents of cumulative records folders will be provided upon request.

Field Trips

Field trips extend classroom walls into our community and beyond and are considered an essential component of curriculum and learning. Each grade level takes one or more field trips per year to a location of educational value in the surrounding mountains, Boulder or Denver areas. In addition, various walking trips may be taken in the Nederland area. These trips may last a half day or a whole day. Teachers send home notes describing the trip ahead of time and requesting parent permission to participate. The cost of some field trips may be offset by fees charged to students. A student is never eliminated from participating based on financial reasons. Frequently parents are invited to attend the trip as volunteer helpers. When packing a lunch for a field trip, no glass bottles should be included, for safety reasons

Nederland Elementary has developed a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile trail on Forest Service land adjacent to our school property. Teachers may take walking trips on the trail to nature study areas periodically throughout the school year.

Parents will be asked to sign a permission slip to allow students to participate on these walking trips. This permission slip was attached to your registration packet.

Friday Folders

Every student will be given an NES “Friday Folder” at the beginning of each year. These will be used to carry home school and classroom newsletters, progress reports, notes from the teacher, student work, announcements, etc. Please review the contents and return the Friday Folder on Monday. This folder will be used all year. Replacement folders are available for .50 cents in the office.

Homework

Homework will be given that is appropriate to the grade level of the student. Homework may be assigned as a result of students not completing the classroom assignments during the school day, being absent from school, or the need for practicing concepts learned in school. All students will be expected to spend some time either reading or doing homework every night. Specific grade level expectations are included in the appendix at the end of this handbook. It is important that a student is responsible for this work and that the parents encourage and support the student. Please contact your child’s teacher if issues about homework arise.

Outdoor Education

Each year some classes spend one or more days and nights at an outdoor education experience in the surrounding mountain area. Learning experiences are integrated into outdoor activities as the children experience several days away from home. These trips are considered an essential component of curriculum and learning and also help with team development and cooperative learning experiences. Such experiences vary from grade level to grade level. Parent organization fundraising will help support these trips. Parents will be asked to help with expenses as needed. Scholarships are available. Transportation is provided by school buses.

If your child needs to take prescription and/or over the counter medications during the outdoor education trip, a special written release form must be signed by the doctor and the parent. The original prescription container is necessary for all medications.

Talented and Gifted Program (TAG)

A variety of talent development activities are offered to students with strong interests in specific subjects. Students who demonstrate gifted abilities in academic areas are identified and appropriate learning activities are developed for them within their regular classrooms or for short sessions in other classrooms. Students may be nominated by parents, classroom teachers or specialists. An assessment process will take place to determine the academic needs and strengths of the student. The TAG coordinator oversees the program. Parent volunteers also help out with special programs.

Kindergarten Care

The objective of Kindergarten Care is to provide a safe and enriching environment for kindergarten age children needing a full day experience. Scholarships are available and will be granted at the CSP office (Community School Program) or through your county’s Colorado Childcare Assistance Program (CCAP). Social Services qualification requirements are used in hiring Kindergarten Care teachers.

Preschool Program

NES, in cooperation with the Colorado Preschool Project and Early Childhood Special Education, houses a preschool for up to 22 three and four year old students. Students attend from 8:25-11:15am or 12:20-3:05pm Tuesday through Friday or all day. Special Education services are provided for select students in this class. For information about enrollment in the program, please call 303-447-5075.

Specialists

Art

Each classroom has one art class per week with the art specialist. Art offers a wide variety of opportunities for artistic expression. In addition to heightening individual student's specific artistic skills, the program helps develop aesthetic awareness, self discipline and personal fulfillment. Classroom teachers also incorporate art into many of their learning activities.

Computer Lab

All students have scheduled computer lab time as part of their classroom curriculum. They come to our lab for instruction and practice with their teacher. The curriculum includes, but is not limited to: graphic art, word processing, data bases, spreadsheets, interactive programming, touch typing, desktop publishing and research. When schedules permit, students may come to the lab for additional computer work under the supervision of the media paraeducator. The Boulder Valley School District can now offer World Wide Web Internet access to children at Nederland Elementary School. This access offers diverse and unique resources and is provided to students and school personnel.

All parents and students must read and sign the Appropriate Use of Technology Resources form found in the new Student Rights and Responsibilities Guide before they may use technology in our school. This publication is available in the office.

General Music

All students have two or three music classes per week, depending on the grade. They have opportunities to learn music concepts through singing, playing instruments, moving and listening. Reading notation and composing, music history and appreciation, and performance are also a regular part of the program. Evening performances may be held for each grade level or a combination of grade levels. Students are encouraged to attend these concerts as part of their school programming.

Physical Education

All students have two or three periods of physical education each week. The program helps each child develop a high level of motor skills and fitness. Grades K-3 work on overall coordination and basic skills for hand-eye coordination. Grades 4-5 use these basic skills to learn different sport activities. Grade level track and field days are scheduled each year in May. Students are expected to dress accordingly and participate in all scheduled physical education activities unless prohibited due to medical reasons. Such reasons must be verified by a written note from the parent and/or doctor. We request that students wear rubber or crepe soled shoes (avoid black soles), if possible.

Instrumental Music

Our instrumental music program, consisting of band and orchestra, is available to any interested student in grade 5. It includes lessons and both group and individual performances. Students perform several times throughout the school year. Lessons are free. In most cases parents rent or buy their child's instrument. The school has a few instruments to loan for one-year periods.

Library Media

The library is open every day during school hours. Our school Librarian is Helen Taft and the Library Assistant is Lisa Wollard. Helen will be in the library all day on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Lisa helps students with check out on Monday and Friday. Students in Preschool, Kindergarten, First, and Second Grades may check out one book for one week. Students in Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grades may check out two books for two weeks. Students can renew their books for more time.

Students will not be able to check out a new book if they have one that is overdue. Overdue notices will be sent home after two weeks and a book will be considered lost after four weeks. Lost book fees are \$5.00 for a soft bound book and \$10.00 for a hard bound book. Report cards will be held at the end of each reporting period until books are returned or paid for.

Each classroom teacher has scheduled a weekly time for browsing and check out. Please check with your child's teacher to find out which day your child will be visiting the library.

Volunteers are always welcome!

Health Care

Immunizations

The office staff, health room para-educator, and school nurse maintain health records on all pupils, check hearing and eyesight and consults with parents on health problems. They are also responsible for enforcement of the state law which requires all children attending Colorado schools to have completed the normal series of immunizations. Parents must bring records of their children's immunizations to the school at the time of registration. Immunization of children prior to school entry requires the student or parent to submit documentation of immunization and a plan for completing immunizations fourteen days after direct personal notification that the immunization certificate is not up to date. Parents have a right to obtain an exemption to these requirements.

Health Room

Students who become sick or are injured will be sent to the health room to be attended to by the Health Room paraeducator or the office staff. When fever is present or an injury requires medical attention, parents will be called to pick up their child. In milder cases, children will be allowed to rest in the Health Room for a short period of time. Please do not send your child to school with a fever, upset stomach, sore throat or rash. Please keep emergency phone numbers on file in the office up to date at all times.

Prescription and Over the Counter Medicines

Prescription and over the counter medicines (these include cough drops, vitamins, herbal remedies, etc.) can be given only if they are accompanied by a special written release form signed by the doctor and the parent. This form may be obtained from the school office. The dosage from the doctor must be on the original prescription bottle.

Insurance Coverage

Families who do not have medical or accident insurance are urged to purchase the student insurance coverage offered by the BVSD. When accidents happen to students at school, medical assistance is frequently sought. Adequate insurance coverage is highly recommended.

Student Responsibilities

The main responsibility for a student at school is to learn. Every student has the right to pursue learning in a safe and comfortable atmosphere. With this right comes the responsibility to respect the rights of other students. Arrive on time and be prepared for school. Teachers and their students work together to decide on any other rules which are needed in their classrooms. Each fall, and as needed, class meetings will be held to discuss safe conduct in the halls, restrooms, dining room, playground, and indoor recess. Teachers will also discuss what to do about strangers and stray animals on school property. In general, students are expected to demonstrate the Character Traits that Matter at NES.

School Bus Program

Bus Assignments

Bus assignments are made according to the bus routes established each year. Information about routes is available by calling the school office or the Nederland Transportation Department at 303-258-3252. Students are to ride the same bus each day. If a change is necessary they must bring a signed note from home. The student should show this note to the school office for approval and then present it to the classroom teacher and the bus driver on the way home. A note is also necessary if a child is to get off at a different stop on his/her same bus route.

Transportation Discipline

Student bus rules and expectations for safe conduct are distributed by the bus drivers each year. These transportation forms must be signed each year and turned in within the first two weeks of school to avoid a suspension in bus riding privileges. In general, rule violations will be dealt with on an individual basis between rider and driver. If a problem continues, a written misconduct report will be made to the school. Parents will be notified in writing. Three misconduct reports will be reason for suspension from the bus; parents will then be responsible for transportation to school. Remember, school bus transportation is a privilege, not a right; school bus transportation can be suspended or terminated for willful misconduct or endangering the overall safety of the school bus or its occupants.

Parents Riding the Bus

Parents are allowed to ride the school bus on a space-available basis. Special arrangements must be made with Nederland's transportation supervisor at 303-258-3252.

Miscellaneous School Policies

Discipline Philosophy

The NES discipline philosophy provides opportunities for students to develop safe, responsible, and respectful behavior. Student Council, PTSA, and teachers were surveyed to develop a list of intolerable or "nonnegotiable" behaviors at NES. These behaviors include: (a) theft, damage or destruction of property, (b) verbally offensive language/obscene gestures, (c) defiance of authority, (d) physical contact, spitting, fighting, threats, or intimidation, and (e) harassment of students or staff. These behaviors along with those discussed in school district policy are used to create our discipline hierarchy.

A discipline hierarchy is used by the principal to track student behavior incidents.

1. The first incident is considered a "learning opportunity" and a detention or loss of privilege may be given. Detention may include a brief stay in the office or classroom, loss of recess, etc. Students will be asked to discuss the incident and identify appropriate replacement behaviors.
2. The second incident is considered a "mistake" and a detention or loss of privilege may be given. Parents will also be contacted. Students who violate the rules are asked to tell or write about the impact of their behavior on others and repair the harm by giving and accepting apologies. Students will also be asked to discuss alternate, more appropriate replacement behaviors.
3. The third incident is considered an act of "willful disobedience" or defiance and added detention or in-school suspension may be given. Behavior plans may put in place with parent, student, and staff input.

After the third incident, the student is placed on added in-school suspension or out of school suspension, depending on the severity of the incident. Parents are contacted for a conference with the principal. A revised behavior plan is put in place and monitored both at home and at school.

At NES, we work together with students and parents to ensure that students stay in school and learn more each day. Class meetings, peer mediation and counseling are provided for students who need help in developing responsible and respectful behavior. Continuous disruptive behavior is not tolerated. Serious violations of the school's conduct code may result in automatic suspension or recommendation for expulsion from school as determined by the district and state law.

Copies of the Student Rights and Responsibilities are sent home in the first Friday Folder. Please reference behavioral expectations and discuss this with your child. Please read this document with your child and sign and return the Parent/Student sign-off sheet.

Parking Lot Safety and Courtesy

Parking lot changes have been implemented due to the difficult and often unsafe situation during pick-up and drop-off. Parking spaces were decreased to allow for a moving flow lane. This lane does not allow for parking or cars left unattended during the morning drop off and afternoon pick up. If you need to escort your child to and from school you must park in one of the three designated visitor parking spots in the lower parking lot or on the north side of Sundance Trail.

Travel through the parking lot with great caution and care to protect all who must walk in the parking lot. Remember to treat others with courtesy and to exercise patience during these hectic times. The children's safe access to the school is our mission.

Birthday Celebrations

A student may have a short celebration of his/her birthday in the classroom with the approval of the classroom teacher. Parents wishing to send healthy treats should include enough for all the class and may come and help to serve the food if they wish. Contact individual teachers for more information.

Bicycles

Bikes may not be used during the school day. Bikes brought to school must be parked and locked in the bike racks. Students will walk bikes on the sidewalk to the bike rack and obey all Town cycling rules.

Dress Code

Students are to dress in clothing which is neat and clean and is not disruptive to the learning process in the classroom. Shirts advertising tobacco, drugs, alcohol or inappropriate language are not to be worn. Also not allowed are spaghetti straps, shirts exposing midriffs or chests, and low-riding pants or shorts exposing underwear or skin. Students will not be allowed to wear outside clothing in the classroom. Appropriate footwear is required to be worn at all times: i.e. shoes inside, boots outside for snowy days, tennis shoes for gym. Children should have warm hats, mittens and boots to wear outside in cold weather. No hats or head scarves or bandanas are to be worn while inside the building.

Gum

Gum chewing will not be allowed in any area of the school.

Lost and Found

A lost and found is maintained in the school cafeteria and office throughout the school year. Parents are encouraged to check periodically for lost items. Each year a number of items are unclaimed by pupils and will be given to charity. Students should have their name on all clothing and other items brought to school.

Lunch Program

Hot lunches are served daily. Students may buy a hot lunch daily, by the week or by the month. Students will be allowed to charge only 2 lunches. A student will be served a peanut butter sandwich if the charges exceed the limit. Children may bring their own lunch from home. A monthly menu is sent home in the Timberline Times newsletter.

A free or reduced-cost hot lunch program is available for eligible families through a federally funded program. Parents may apply any time during the school year by filling out a form and returning it to the school office. Students will receive a free or reduced lunch if parents qualify according to the Federal Income guidelines. Parents are encouraged to inquire about this program by contacting someone in the office. A Free and Reduced Lunch Program application will be sent home in the first Friday Folder. (One application per family).

Money/Personal Property

Personal property brought to school should be kept to an absolute minimum. The only money a student should have is what is necessary to pay for hot lunch, field trips etc. Parents are encouraged to use checks rather than cash. Do not bring toys or special personal items to school such as walkmans, cell phones, facsimiles of weapons, knives and laser pointers. These items will be confiscated by the school.

Nondiscrimination Policy

The Boulder Valley School District will not tolerate discrimination, harassment or violence against anyone, including students and staff members, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability or religion.

To report an incident against you or someone else, please contact the principal. The principal will investigate, keeping your report confidential, and develop an appropriate resolution. Disciplinary action may range from conferences with student and/or parent to suspension.

Pets

Cats and dogs are not allowed in school. Other animals of educational interest are allowed in the classroom with prior permission of the classroom teacher. Animals may not be transported on the school bus; they must be brought by the child's parents.

Snacks

All students are provided a snack break sometime during the day. Parents are encouraged to send healthy snacks.

Staying After School/Alternative Plans After School

There is no supervision for students before 8:15am and after 3:10pm. When a child is to stay after school, prior arrangements for transportation and supervision must be made between student, parent and appropriate school personnel. If a student would like to go home with a friend, either walking or by bus, he/she must have written permission **in advance** from the parents. Under no circumstances may students make these arrangements during the school day, nor will they be permitted to phone home for such purposes.

Students Selling Items in School

Students are not to sell items on their own in school as a fund-raising activity. The only fund-raising activities allowed in school are those sponsored by the PTSA or Student Council and approved by the principal to raise funds for a school related activity.

Telephone Use

Students are to use the office telephone only and are not to use the telephone in the classroom. Students will only be allowed to use the telephone in the event of an emergency.

Telephone Messages/Personal Phone Calls

Make your daily plans and write necessary messages for your child before your child arrives to school. In the event of an emergency only, the office staff will deliver messages at 2:45pm. Students in grades 1 – 5 will be called to the office on the intercom by 2:50 pm to pick up their message. Staff will check the bulletin board outside the office on their way out of the building for last minute changes. Preschool and kindergarten messages will be delivered directly to the classroom. *Any messages received after 2:50 pm will not be delivered.*

Visitors to Classroom

District policy prohibits non Nederland Elementary School students to visit our school due to the disruption of the learning environment.

Special Education Needs

Special Education

Special education services are provided through our Response to Intervention Model. Special Education teachers and service providers are part of the Intervention Team. They bring their experience and specialized skill to serve our whole school as well as student's with an IEP. Our intent is to provide inclusion at the highest level as well as specific, prescribed instruction where it is needed.

Extracurricular Educational Programs

After-School Activities

After-school sports and activity programs are scheduled during the year. Parent volunteers are needed for these programs. Students will be charged a fee for each event in which they participate.

Assemblies

All-school Pride Assemblies, which emphasize student achievements and overall school spirit, are conducted. Other assemblies are held whenever a special program is available throughout the year. They are treated as a regular part of the school program and students attend with their classes.

School Programs for Support and Enrichment

NES has a safe, trusting, and happy environment that welcomes students of diverse abilities. We offer challenging learning activities and enrichment activities for Talented and Gifted Students. In order to broaden our special education services, we are adding a cross-categorical classroom to support our special needs students. NES provides a preschool program to children in our community. Some of the children attending the preschool have an individual educational plan (IEP), allowing them to receive services through speech

language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, behavioral programming and/or counseling and educational support.

We have also implemented a new instructional support program called the Response to Intervention Model. The model brings together our special education and literacy specialists to form a collaborative team who provide small group instruction to identified students. We identify students who need this support through literacy assessments, TAG assessments, CSAP assessments, Math assessments, and teacher referrals. Our intent is to provide short term intensive, interventions, and on-going instructional support, as needed, at a specific time each day. This allows the students to remain in class during math and literacy blocks, not missing any valuable teacher instruction.

Special curricular events for all students include:

- Writers in the Schools
- Poet's Day
- Publishing Center
- Literacy Lab
- Mini-Society
- Spelling Bee
- Geography Bee
- Science Fair
- Lego Club
- Choral and Instrumental Music
- Gymnastics "Circus"
- After school sports
- Track and Field Day
- Peer Leaders
- Yearbook Club
- Big Brother/Big Sister (partners with Nederland High School)
- Pride Assemblies
- Character Matters
- Transition programs for 5th grade students going to Nederland Middle School
- Winter Adventure Days

Ski Program

We will continue to offer downhill skiing, snowboarding, Nordic skiing, and snowshoeing through Eldora Ski Area. In addition, Wild Bear Center for Nature Discovery will be offering winter ecology activities right from the backdoor of our school. Our town Racquet and Ice Park will be available for ice skating activities. This park, which is located just a ¼ mile from our school, will enable us to offer hockey, figure skating, and recreational skating opportunities. Our expectation is that 100% of NES children will enjoy the activity of their choice this year and take advantage of these wonderful learning opportunities.

Student Council and Peer Leaders

Student council is composed of representatives from grades 3 through 5. Students are both elected by classmates and selected by their teacher to serve on this council. The purposes of the student council include developing school wide communications dealing with school-wide problems and sponsoring various kinds of special activities. Peer Leaders are composed of students in grades 4 and 5. Students are nominated and selected by teachers and the principal. Peer Leaders work to uphold the NES character traits through year-round activities and skits at award assemblies.

Character Education and Safe School Environment

The implementation of the Character Matters Program at NES has provided the basis for our safe school plan for several years. The feedback we have received from Nederland Middle/Senior High School 6th grade teachers regarding student behavior and application of the character traits in daily behavior has been very positive. Student surveys conducted by our Peer Leaders indicate a high degree of emotional satisfaction from being involved in the Character Matters Program. As a result of the articulation and planning between the middle school and NES, we will be implementing the “Bully Proofing Your School” curriculum at both schools to enhance and deepen the character education begun at the elementary level.

School Committees/Parent Volunteer Organizations

School Improvement Team (SIT)

The SIT serves as the state-mandated accountability committee for NES. The accountability committee meets monthly to monitor progress toward goals. The committee reviews what we have currently in place and considers additional ideas for student academics and character building. Parents and community members are encouraged to send their ideas to the attention of the committee. The SIT consists of up to thirteen representatives: six parents/community members, six staff members and the principal. Members are elected for a two-year term in the fall of each year.

The mission of the NES SIT is to promote, support and ensure quality education for all children by (a) overseeing the accountability and accreditation process, by analyzing student and community data, and by developing and monitoring school goals, (b) soliciting, coordinating and disseminating information within the school community, (c) honoring the individual uniqueness of people of all ages and cultures, (d) identifying problems that hinder or prevent the continued improvement of the community educational process, and (e) advocating for creative, positive change. Decisions will reflect sound educational philosophy, legal and ethical standards, school board policies, and budgetary considerations. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the principal.

PTA (Parent Teacher Association)

The NES PTA is an affiliate of the state and National PTA. The goal of the PTA is to promote and enhance the education and enrichment of children. PTA provides people and financial support for many school programs including outdoor education, art enrichment, literacy night and more. PTA fundraising events include the Spell-a-thon and the Book Fair. Membership in the PTA is open to all community members, parents, teachers, students and businesses.

Student Directory

The Student Directory lists classes with student’s name, address, phone and parents’ names. It is the result of a volunteer effort on the part of our PTA. The directory is published with parent permission.

Home/School Communication

This is the third year of our parent phone tree. Call the office with any telephone and address changes. Contact the school if you wish to join the growing list in the email bank.

APPENDIX

Staff List

Calendar

Internet Use Policy

Non-Participation Form - Media

Homework Policy

Absence Form

Nederland Elementary School Staff

Principal

Debra Benitez

Classroom Teachers

Preschool

Irene Pritsak

Kindergarten

Johanna Gangemi

Meghan O'Malley

First Grade

Marceia Decker

Sue Hubert

Second Grade

Jeanne Caldwell

Jill Morimitsu Mahon

Third Grade

Kimberlee Sorrell

Carrie Howell

Fourth Grade

Emily Tate

Rebecca Vosteen

Fifth Grade

Kelly Teitelbaum

Tammy Forrest

Brenda Theodorakos

Literacy Teachers

Jay Kaminsky

Meghan O'Malley

Special Education Teachers

Claudia Kuster

Liz Pelletreau, Speech/Language

Zoe Brooke, Occupational/Physical Therapist

Kaiya Wolf

Support Services Personnel

Chris Munro, School Psychologist

Justin Pacheck, School Counselor

Diana DeEsposito, Social Worker

Specialists

Jessica Bernstein, Art

Sarah Flynn, Art

Jessica Cooper, Instrumental Music

Susan Jones, Music

Helen Taft, Media

Mary Joyce, Physical Education

Patty Kayle, Kindergarten Care

Sara Hersh, TAG

Megen Stadelé, ESL

Administrative Staff

Charlene Page-Nielsen, Principal's Assistant

Marisa Orszulak, Registrar

Sheila Kassera, Support Secretary

Custodial Staff

Cherie Gomez, Head Custodian

Carol Brengosz

Paraeducators

Jacque Anderson

Shorey Condon

Debbie Garrison

Deb Hadford

Sara Hersh

Deb Jagt

Sheila Kassera

Rita Storkamp

Ruth Whirl

Lisa Wollard

Food Service

Marty Locke, Server

Shorey, Condon, Cashier

Transportation

Dennis Lewis