

# Elliott Ranch Elementary School



# Parent/Student Handbook 2024-2025

# **Mission Statement**

## **Elk Grove Unified School District**

The Elk Grove Unified School District  
will provide a learning community that challenges **ALL** students  
to realize their greatest potential.

### **ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CORE VALUES:**

#### **1. Outcomes for Students**

- ◆ Achievement of Core Academic Skills
- ◆ Confident, Effective Thinkers and Problem Solvers
- ◆ Ethical Participants in Society

#### **2. Commitments about How We Operate as an Organization**

- ◆ Support Continuous Improvement Of Instruction
- ◆ Build Strong Relationships
- ◆ Find Solutions

#### **3. High Expectations for Learning for ALL Students and Staff**

- ◆ Instructional Excellence
- ◆ Safe, Peaceful, and Healthy Environment
- ◆ Enriched Learning Atmosphere
- ◆ Collaboration with Diverse Communities And Families

## **District Administration**

Mr. Christopher Hoffman  
Superintendent

Mark Cerutti  
Deputy Superintendent  
Education Services and Schools

Kristen Coates  
Deputy Superintendent  
Business Services and Facilities

Bindy Grewal Ed.D.  
Associate Superintendent  
Elementary Education (PreK-6)

David Reilly  
Associate Superintendent

## **Board of Education**

Beth Albiani  
Nancy Chaires Espinoza  
Carmine S. Forcina  
Gina Jamerson  
Anthony "Tony" Perez  
Isabella Sigal  
Michael Vargas  
Sean J. Yang

## **School Administration**

Catherine Van Housen, Principal  
Stephen Alessi, Vice Principal

## **Important Phone Numbers**

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| District Office | 916-686-7797 |
| School Office   | 916-683-3877 |
| Transportation  | 916-686-7733 |



# Elliott Ranch Elementary School

**ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Catherine Van Housen, Principal  
Stephen Alessi, Vice Principal

10000 East Taron Drive  
Elk Grove, CA 95758  
Phone (916) 714-3700  
Fax (916) 683-3862

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to Elliott Ranch Elementary School for the 2024-25 school year! Our teachers and staff dedicate their energy to providing an educational atmosphere that is challenging, enriching, and engaging. As the new year begins, we're excited to greet our dear friends and we look forward to meeting new families joining the Elliott Ranch family this year.

Our students are high achievers; in 2024, we scored the highest percentage of students reading proficiently of all 44 elementary schools in our district! Our rigorous curriculum includes reading (*Wonders*), math (*enVision*), science (*Amplify*), social studies (*Impact*) and social-emotional learning (*Second Step*). We are confident that – while working hand-in-hand with our families and community – we can help our students enjoy success and high-level learning. This handbook has been developed to provide you with the information you and your children need to thrive at Elliott Ranch.

Our teachers are dedicated to learning about their students so that their approach is culturally relevant and adapted to meet each individual's instructional needs. We are proud of the relationship we have built with the Stonelake community and know that it is only with your support that we are able to accomplish all that we do. We are confident that you will enjoy watching and supporting our Rockets as they soar this year, and together, we'll keep our forward momentum going!

A strong home-school connection is of paramount importance in this educational journey we are embarking on together. Please feel free to reach out to me or the office with any comments, questions or concerns. I can be reached through email at [cvanhous@egusd.net](mailto:cvanhous@egusd.net) or by phone at 916-683-3877.

Sincerely,

Catherine Van Housen  
Principal

## School Information

### Elliott Ranch Elementary School

10000 E. Taron Rd., Elk Grove, CA 95757

Phone: (916) 686-1725 <https://elliotttranch.egusd.net/>

**Office Hours**  
7:45-3:45

**School Calendar** (Traditional Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

### [2024-25 School Calendar](#)

#### Arrival & Dismissal

Gates open at 8:00 am, and students line up with their class on campus or eat breakfast in the MP Room. Teachers open their doors to welcome students at 8:15. School begins at 8:20, when students should be in their desks and ready to learn.

For dismissal, teachers walk their classes to the quad, where students may greet family members and exit gates. The main car line on E. Taron is for car-riders in grades 2 – 6. Bobbell Drive is for grades TK, Kinder and 1<sup>st</sup>, as well as our students with disabilities. ALL families arriving and dismissing by car are encouraged to use Nottoli Park, just to the east of school to relieve traffic!

Car lines are for drop-off and pick-up only. Never leave car unattended in line!

It is important to have a plan for your child at the end of the school day. Children left unattended will be brought to the front office and phone calls will be placed to parents, guardians and people listed as emergency contacts.

**Early Out Wednesday – Dismissal 1:50 pm**

## Elliott Ranch Bell Schedule 2024-2025

#### Regular School Day

TK/AM Kindergarten: 8:20 -11:40

PM Kindergarten: 11:20 - 2:40

1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grades: 8:20 - 2:40

#### Early Out Wednesday

1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grades: 8:20 -1:50

Kindergarten remains on normal schedule.

#### Minimum School Day

ALL Kindergarten: 8:20 - 11:40

1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grades: 8:20 - 12:30

#### Daily Schedule

| Grade                            | Recess               | Lunch       |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> | 9:45-10:00 1:30-1:40 | 11:30-12:10 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> | 10:05-10:20          | 11:55-12:35 |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>                  | 10:25-10:40          | 12:20-1:00  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>                  | 10:45-11:00          | 12:45-1:25  |

#### Minimum Day Schedule

| Grade                            | Recess      | Lunch in MP   |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> | 9:15-9:30   | 10:35-11:00   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> | 9:35-9:50   | 11:05-11:30   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>                  | 9:55-10:10  | 11:35-12:00   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>                  | 10:15-10:30 | 12:05 – 12:30 |

# **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

***All of our students will be taught and are expected to:***

## **Be Safe**

- 100% hands off other students;
- Walk on campus at all times; and
- Never talk about or tease others, especially about race, gender or how others look.

## **Be Responsible**

- Always follow your teacher's instructions (they are keeping you safe!);
- Know and follow the school rules; and
- Be an up-stander, not a bystander!

## **Be Respectful**

- Listen to others and think before you speak;
- Lend a helping hand and practice compassion for all others; and
- Avoid interrupting or causing disturbances.

Please refer to the Parent Handbook on the EGUSD website for a full description of Education Codes related to discipline: <https://www.egusd.net/documents/StudentsFamilies/ResourcesSupports/District-Handbook/2024-25-Parent-Handbook.pdf>

At Elliott Ranch, we ensure a safe learning environment for all students. That means disruptions to the classroom are regarded seriously. Following are our discipline protocols.

- I. Cyberbullying or Inappropriate Social Media Activity (no warnings):  
Admin confers with parents / device access removed / restorative interventions / possible suspension / memorialized in Synergy
- II. Minor Disruption to our learning environment (for example, interrupting the teacher, profanity)  
Teacher or staff confers with student / immediate consequence such as sitting out of game / restorative interventions / possible office referral if continues / memorialized in Synergy
- III. Major Disruption (for example, cell phone usage on campus, obscene gestures, fighting)  
Admin confers with parents / loss of school privilege / restorative interventions / possible suspension / memorialized in Synergy / possible counselor referral

## **EGUSD Policy [5131.8](#) on Mobile Communication Devices**

Our School District has a strict policy for portable electronic devices, including cell phones. Students in grades TK-6 *may not use* phones while on campus except when a teacher or administrator grants permission to the student per CA EdCode 48901.5/CA EdCode 48901.7. *Cell phones must be turned off and placed in backpacks during the school day.* Students who need to call parents may use phones located in the school administrative office. We have a gate-to-gate NO cell phones policy at Elliott Ranch.

If there's reasonable suspicion that a student used a cell phone in an unauthorized manner, including taking pictures, video or voice recordings, school admin may confiscate and search the device per CA EdCode 51512. The student may also be subject to discipline, especially if their actions pose a threat or danger to the safety of students, staff, or district property. If a mobile device is confiscated on campus, it will be held in a locked cabinet in the front office for retrieval by a student's parent or guardian.

## Attendance/Tardies

The importance of regular, daily attendance cannot be over-emphasized. State law requires mandatory attendance and research shows that student success is dependent on good attendance. Please call the front office if your records show a discrepancy. **If your child is going to be absent from school because of illness or for a personal reason, please call the office on the day of the absence to let us know 916-683-3877.**

1. Students are expected to report to class on time.
2. If attendance is a recurring problem, parents will be asked to meet with an administrator and teacher for the following reasons:
  - a. Excessive Absences
  - b. Unexcused tardiness
  - c. Truancy, i.e., absence without parental permission
  - d. Please refer to EGUSD parent handbook for further details [Attendance Improvement Office](#)

## Back-to-School Night

Elliott Ranch parents and guardians are invited to Back-to-School night Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 5 pm in the MP Room, followed by classroom presentations at 5:30 and 6:00 to learn about classroom procedures and expectations. Please make time to attend and later review this important information with your students.

## Birthdays

Students celebrating birthdays are recognized by the principal on the Rocket News each week. Goodie bags or snacks are allowed for classmates; however, they are only given out at the end of the day for fellow students to take home. Please be mindful of classroom allergies and keep it simple. Also, school is not the place to hand out party invitations; feelings get hurt for those children *not* invited.

## Communications between Home and School

Teachers welcome your emails, and will always respond within 24 hours. Virtual conferences can be easily arranged. Teachers are not available to accept phone calls when learning is taking place with students. The office (916-683-3877) will take messages anytime, and the teacher will return the call as soon as practical. Communication between teachers and parents is extremely important. Teachers and administration use Synergy ParentVue to send emails to parents; call the front office for your ParentVue code if you don't have one!

**If you have concerns, talk to the teacher first.** If concerns are not resolved, please talk with an administrator. Instruction will not be interrupted for deliveries from parents/guardians.

## Dress Code

When our school was first founded 23 years ago, as the Stonelake community was being built, the Stonelake HOA asked that the school have a uniform policy based on our school colors of dark blue and maroon. Over time, though, state legislation has been passed to prevent public schools from enforcing uniform policies. We all love seeing our students come to school in their dark blue and maroon outfits, but admin is not allowed to enforce that every student do so.

We do know that the manner in which students dress does affect their attitude toward learning and their behavior at school. Our aim is to provide a safe and academic atmosphere for our students, and proper attire is important to achieve this. School admin reserves the right to determine if attire is

appropriate for school, based on these guidelines:

- Shirts must be free of any graphics or writing that is offensive, suggests violence, or supports the use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco;
- No crop tops, spaghetti straps, off-the shoulder tops or oversized tank tops with large arm openings;
- Shorts, skirts and dresses should be fingertip length;
- No see-through material;
- For student safety, shoes must have back-strap support (tennis shoes are safest – no flipflops or heels); and
- Hats and hoods can be worn outside of classroom only.

Students who violate the above code may be sent to the office to call home for a change of clothing.

## **Homeroom Assignments**

Student's classroom assignments are based on a variety of criteria. The numbers of students enrolled in school dictate to a large extent the organization of grades and levels within the school and classroom. State law and District policy set the number of students in a classroom.

Each classroom consists of a groups of diverse students. Teachers effectively group and regroup students for learning based on mastery of skills. Whether a combination class or single grade-level class, we are confident that student success will be maximized. **Requests for specific teachers will not be honored.**

## **Meal Service**

Our Food Service personnel will provide free meals for school-aged children enrolled in Elk Grove Unified. Lunch and breakfast will be provided every school day.

## **Photos**

Photos are not to be taken of children, other than your own, during school hours for any purpose. Each family is provided an opportunity to opt-out of all photos, including the yearbook, at the beginning of the school year.

## **Progress Reports/Report Cards**

Progress reports are provided mid-way through each trimester to keep parents informed of their children's academic and behavioral progress. Report cards are available on ParentVUE for each trimester. If you have a question or concern regarding your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. Deficiency notices inform parents when a child is working below grade-level expectations and is at risk of receiving a failing grade. Deficiency notices are sent at the end of the sixth week of the trimester. ParentVUE can be accessed by calling the front office at 916-683-3877 for an activation code and then following these instructions: [ParentVUE Information](#)

## **Reading Counts!**

We're piloting replacements for the Scholastic Reading Counts Program that we've used for years to provide teachers and children an exciting way to promote reading at home and in the classroom. Reading Counts has been discontinued, so we will find a new reading incentive program to:



- Help kids get excited about books;
- Help students focus attention on careful reading of books, which improves students' critical thinking skills and builds the intrinsic love of reading;
- Provide teachers with reliable, objective information;
- Enable teachers to monitor both the quantity and the quality of student reading practice;
- Help to keep students challenged; and
- Provide opportunities for students to read appropriate books within their zone of proximal development (ZPD). This ensures that every student is challenged without being frustrated.

## **Recognition for Student Achievement**

Students of Character receive special recognition in their classrooms, in our monthly *Ranch Roundup* newsletters, and with Rock It! Tickets for prizes. These awards are intended to promote and recognize a variety of academic and citizenship achievements. Students will also be given a variety of opportunities to showcase their work and talents throughout the school year, including at Friday Assemblies. For these showcase campus activities, we welcome family members with disabilities to participate fully. If you need a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in any program, service or activity offered to celebrate your student, please contact Elliott Ranch Elementary School Administration, (916) 683-3877, at least 48 hours before the scheduled event so that we may make every reasonable effort to accommodate you. {Government Code Section 54953.2; Americans with Disabilities Act 1990, Section 202 (42 U.S.C. Section 12132).}

## **Student Academics**

We want you to thoroughly understand your child's educational program. Our "Back to School Night" allows us to better acquaint you with this year's program. A summary of school curriculum follows:

**Language Arts** - *Reading Wonders* by McMillan McGraw-Hill

**Mathematics** - *enVision* published by Savvas Learning Company

**Social Studies** – *Impact* published by McGraw-Hill

**Science Exploration** – *Amplify* by Holt, Rinehart and Winston

**Physical Education** - Our PE coach offers lessons and skill challenges every week for all grade levels

**Computer Technology** - Grades TK – 6 receive computer instruction from our Computer Resource Teacher, including digital citizenship and safety lessons.

## **Textbooks**

Each student is issued a numbered copy of each textbook for his or her grade level. Students are individually responsible for these books for the year. If a book is lost or damaged, the student will have to pay the full or partial price, depending on the original condition of the book when issued to the student. It is very important that you and your child discuss his or her responsibility for these textbooks. Designating an area in the home for school will be helpful for consistency and routine, two hallmarks of excellent educational practices.

## **Volunteering Opportunities**

Elliott Ranch has an active PTO that sponsors such events as the Harvest Festival, APEX Color Run, Spring Fling and E.R. Eats Out on designated evenings at local restaurants to earn a percentage of profit. Parents are an important part of the Elliott Ranch School family. We strongly encourage parents, guardians, grandparents, and other interested community members to join our PTO. Dues

help support the school in many ways such as: additional teacher materials needed for special projects, computer programs, library books and needed library materials, custodial equipment, and additional maintenance agreements for the school's copy machines. To connect with PTO, email [membership@elliotranchpto.com](mailto:membership@elliotranchpto.com).

To help on campus and in our classrooms, your child's teacher submits a request form for you, then you will arrange to have your fingerprints checked through our school district. Fingerprints are good for five years.

We also need parents to serve on our School Site Council, which assists in evaluating our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), the plan that drives our instruction and other key aspects of our school environment. This is done through collaborative decision-making on the allocation of funds received for our school. Our SSC is comprised of our principal, three teachers, one support staff member, and four parents who serve in an advisory capacity. PTO and SSC meetings are open to the public.

We also have PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System) and Equity committees, for which we need parent volunteers. Please consider being part of one of our teams that meet an hour or two every month. If you're interested in getting more involved, having an opportunity to give feedback, and being part of our decision-making processes, please reach out to Ms. Van Housen at [cvanhous@egusd.net](mailto:cvanhous@egusd.net).