

Ralph Dunlap School
Parent/Student Handbook



School Information
You Can Use

Message from the Principal

Dear Dunlap Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year at Ralph Dunlap Elementary School! Let me start by saying how honored I am to lead this outstanding school, and to work with the staff and community to create an unmatched education for our students. The entire staff at Dunlap is ready and excited to embark on another year of academic success with your children.

At Dunlap we believe all children can achieve high levels of learning. We also believe that students perform best when they feel confident about themselves and connected to a positive school environment. I will work tirelessly to guide our school toward continued academic success and further foster a supportive learning environment for all of our students.

One reason Ralph Dunlap has been successful for many years is due to the strong partnerships shared between the school and the community it serves. I am truly looking forward to working with the Dunlap families and staff members to provide the best possible educational program for our students.

This handbook has been developed to help you get acquainted with the services, policies, and procedures of our school. We ask that you keep it handy and use it as a reference throughout the year.

As the year progresses and questions arise, please feel free to call the school and talk with those who may be able to help. Thank you for all your support in making Ralph Dunlap a place where students flourish.

Sincerely,

Joe Schmidt
Principal
Ralph Dunlap Elementary

School Facts

Ralph Dunlap Elementary School
1220 Oak Knoll Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Main Line: (805) 938-8500
Absentee Line: 938-8545
FAX: 938-8549

School Schedule

Office Hours	8:00 -	4:30
Grades K – 6	8:35 -	2:50

Minimum Day Schedule

Grades K-6:
8:35 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Lunch Schedule

Grades 1 & 2	11:10 -11:40
Grades K, 3 & 4	11:45 -12:15
Grades 5, 6	12:20 -12:50

Wednesday Collaboration Day Schedule

Grades K-6:
8:35 a.m.-1:35 p.m.

Rainy Day Schedule

Lunch Schedule

Grades 1 & 2	11:10-11:40
Grades K, 3 & 4	11:45-12:15
Grades 5, 6	12:20-12:50

***Recess and lunch times are subject to change.

School Rules

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

Dunlap will continue implementing PBIS as our school wide behavioral system. After getting input from students, the community, and teachers our expected student behaviors will be respectful, responsible, value everyone, and engage in learning. Below is the matrix of what that will look like in different areas on campus.

	Multi Use Room	Hallways	Playground	Bathroom	Arrival and Dismissal
We Are Respectful	-Keep hands, feet, and objects to self. -use polite manners	-Walk at all times -Keep hands and feet to self	-Listen to supervisors -Use appropriate language -Play safely	-Keep it clean	-Keep hands and feet to self -Wait calmly in designated areas
Act Responsibly	-Clean up after yourself -Follow directions -Enjoy your own food	-Walk directly to destination -Stay on sidewalk -If you drop it, pick it up	-Eat snacks at table -Pick up trash -Stop playing at the whistle and walk to destination	-Go, flush, wash, and leave	-Walk scooters and bicycles while on campus -Hang up backpacks and exit the Learning Zone.
Value Everyone	-Honor Personal Space -Listen attentively	-Be aware of others -Smile	-Help others when needed -Be inclusive	-Give others privacy	- Friendly greetings -Be Positive
Engage in Learning	-Listen to adults -Be mindful of others	-Yield to others -Walk in the Learning Zone	-Active problem solving -Apologize when appropriate -Practice good sportsmanship	-Play outside	-Arrive on time -Go directly to your destination after school

Responsibility for School Property

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

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

Arrival Time

Students are allowed on the school grounds **no earlier than 8:15 a.m.** Students need to wait in designated areas until before-school recess begins at 8:25. If your child needs supervision before that time, on-campus childcare is offered through the district's Campus Connection Program.

Bus Conduct

Pupils transported in a school bus will be under the authority of, and responsible directly to, the driver of the bus. Continued disorderly conduct or persistent refusal to submit to the authority of the driver will be sufficient reason for a pupil to be denied transportation.

Detentions

Students with minor disciplinary infractions may be given detentions at recess or after school. Parents will be notified prior to a student being kept after school. Parents are responsible for transportation home following an after-school detention.

Grounds for Suspension or Expulsion

Students may be suspended or expelled based on causes stipulated in the California Education Code. These include "continued willful disobedience or open and persistent defiance of the authority of the teacher."

Confidentiality

School disciplinary matters, including consequences administered, are kept confidential by school staff. They are not considered public information.

Student Safety

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

Bullying and Threats

Mr. Schmidt and Dunlap's classroom teachers are firm and direct in handling bullying, threats, intimidation, and/or verbal harassment. They are very diligent about involving parents and applying appropriate consequences. They often remind students to let teachers or the supervising adult (i.e. Noon Duty) **know immediately** about any problems with threats or bullying.

Emergency Drills

Each month, the school conducts a fire drill. Earthquake drills are held four times a year. At least three times a year, the school practices lockdown procedures. Once a year, the district runs a school evacuation drill.

Animals on School Grounds

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

Closed Campus

During school hours, from approximately 8:45 a.m. to approximately 2:25 p.m., gates on the perimeter of the school will be locked. All visitors need to enter the campus through the office, where they must check in with the office (see policy on "Visitation"). Gates are locked to protect the campus from unauthorized visitors or intruders.

Transportation to/from School

By Car

Parents who drive their children to/from school are asked to drop off and pick up their children on Oak Knoll Road, below the school parking lot. For safety reasons, the school driveway and parking lot need to be reserved before and after school for school buses. This area is not to be used as a drop-off/pick-up zone.

Because so many parents use Oak Knoll Road in the mornings and afternoons, parents are reminded to obey the rules of the road. The California Highway Patrol would like to emphasize the following rules:

1. Drivers should not drop off or pick up students while in the roadway – even in heavy traffic. Drivers must pull over to the side of the road to let out or collect their children.

2. Drivers may not park in the middle of a crosswalk to drop off or pick up students.
3. Drivers may not let out or pick up students at a stop sign.
4. Drivers may not stop – even momentarily – in any red zones.
5. **As per state law, drivers may not use handheld cellphone devices while operating a motor vehicle.**

To help keep traffic moving, the school's curb on Oak Knoll Road between the two parking lot driveways has been designated by Santa Barbara County as an official loading zone during school hours. No drivers will be allowed to park in this area between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. each weekday.

By Bus

As per policy of the Orcutt Union School District, bus transportation will be provided to students who live beyond one mile from either the Dunlap campus or the nearest bus stop. Bus stops will be provided at the following locations during the 2017-2018 school year:

- 8:10 – South Telephone Road
- 8:12 – Clark Ave @ South Telephone (south west corner)
- 8:15 – Lake Marie Drive and Mead Lane
- 8:10 – Morning Ridge @ the park

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

By Foot

If parents approve, children are invited to walk to campus. For safety, we emphasize the following rules:

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

By Bicycle or Scooter

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

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

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

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

Skateboards and Skates

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

School Attendance

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

Absences

If your child is absent, please phone the office (**938-8545**) each morning your child is not at school. Please give a reason for the absence, as we must list it for state auditors. The only **excused absences** are for illness, medical appointment, quarantine, attendance at a funeral of one's immediate family, or a religious service. If you know in advance that your child will be absent for **any amount of time**, please phone the office and send your child's teacher a note asking for school work for your child. We can arrange for your child to receive assignments for the day(s) that

he/she will be missing. If your child will be absent from school for five or more days, we will arrange an Independent Study Agreement.

Truancy

State law requires us to report truancy. Any student who is absent from school without a valid excuse for three full days, or who is tardy 30 minutes or later on three occasions, or who has any combination of three or more unexcused absences or over-30-minute tardies, is considered **truant** (Section 48260 of the California Education Code). In this case, parents will receive a letter from Mr. Schmidt that is inserted in the child's permanent record. If truancy continues, then referrals may be made to the School Attendance Review Board and the Santa Barbara County District Attorney.

Excessive Absences for Illness

When a student has been absent from school 10% or more of the total days enrolled due to illness, any further absences for illness need to be verified by a physician (Orcutt Union School District Board Policy 5113).

Tardiness

Getting to school **on time** is an important responsibility of parents and students, and at our school tardiness is regarded as a serious problem. Our teachers use the first few minutes of every day to complete necessary routines (attendance, lunch count, homework collection, and announcements) and to go over the day's schedule. Missing this time can leave your child uninformed, confused, or out-of-step with classmates. Moreover, many teachers use this time early in the day for review and practice exercises to activate thinking and creativity. **All** of our students need to participate in these valuable experiences! Please make sure your children arrive at school on time – and ideally, well ahead of our 8:35 a.m. start. If you transport your child to school each day, you may consider dropping off your child 10-15 minutes early.

Again this year, if a student has a pattern of habitual tardiness we will be contacting parents via phone calls, letters and District Truancy meetings. We have found in the past that being proactive encourages a better effort for the student to be at school on time. Students who are tardy to school must check in at the office before going to class.

Release of Students to Parents

Prior to leaving campus during the school day, students must be released by the office. When parents need to take a student from school for part of the day, the parents must sign the student out in the office and then sign the student back in upon returning. Please do not disturb the classroom; the office will send for the student.

School-Home Communication

Communication to Parents

At Dunlap, we work hard to be as communicative as possible with parents. Most school information will be sent via ParentSquare. The Dolphin Digest, our school newsletter, is sent via e-mail every other Friday, and the PTA newsletter is sent monthly. We can also be found on Facebook (@DunlapDolphins), Instagram (dunlap_dolphins), and Twitter(RD_Principal), or you can search the hashtag #DunlapDoesAwesome. Finally, teachers distribute notes, letters, printed newsletters, and e-mail newsletters to inform parents about classroom news.

Communication from Parents

We also invite communication **from** parents. Parents should feel free to contact your child's teacher or Mr. Schmidt with any questions, ideas, or concerns that they have. Our phone system has been set up to include classroom phone numbers with voice mail for teachers, and our teachers have their own e-mail addresses, all of which helps greatly with parent-teacher communication.

Report Cards

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

School Web Site

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

School Policies

Campus Visitors

Visitation

To ensure the safety of students and staff and minimize interruption of the instructional program, the following procedures facilitate visits/observations during regular school days. These procedures do not apply to parent volunteers in classrooms where the volunteer has been accepted by the teacher to assist within the classroom.

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

PTA and Parent Volunteers

Many classes, the office, library, and special events use volunteers. Please indicate your interest on the parent volunteer letter sent home or talk to a teacher, the librarian, office staff, or a PTA board member. Volunteer hours are logged in the office and used for PTA records. Please be sure to sign in at the office and note time donated.

How To Volunteer: PTA, your child's teacher, and the office regularly seek assistance. Please contact them if you wish to volunteer. The scheduling of volunteers (time and length) is determined by need and at the discretion of the teacher and principal.

Volunteer Log: There is a Volunteer Log in the front office. Please sign in when you arrive and when you leave, and record the time that you spent volunteering. The PTA keeps track of hours volunteered.

Working in the Classroom

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

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

Be Sure You Understand What the Teacher Needs You to Do: If you aren't sure, feel free to ask for more

clarification.

No Cell Phone Interruptions: Turn off your cell phone. It would be inappropriate and disruptive to make or receive phone calls during your classroom volunteer time.

Hold off on conversations with other parents: Please do not socialize with other parents in the classroom during your volunteer time. There may be other parents present or volunteering in the classroom during your time; it would be disruptive to the class if the parents socialize or during class time.

Be Confidential: Confidentiality is crucial and is the cornerstone of a successful classroom volunteer program. Information about every child is **CONFIDENTIAL**. All conversations with teachers and staff, test scores, behavior, etc. must remain within the classroom. For example, if you are working with a child on spelling words, and that child is struggling and not doing well, it would be wrong for you to report that later to the child's parent. Comments about children's progress (or lack of) and behavior in class should be addressed by the teacher. Please give each child the same respect you would want shown to your child by others. Never discuss a child's behavior, academic performance, or other student information outside the classroom or school. Because confidential issues are sometimes discussed in our Staff Lounge, we ask that parent volunteers not use the room during staff break and lunch periods.

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

Use These Techniques When Working With Children

- Use a quiet and controlled voice that will encourage and help children feel confident.
- Avoid comparing children and their work.
- State directions in a positive tone.
- Be sure a child understands what you are saying.
- Reward good behavior with a smile or compliment.
- In small groups, offer each child a chance to participate; quiet children can sometimes be overlooked.
- Try to be consistent in helping all of the children.
- Let children try to do as much as possible without your help; children learn by doing.
- Respect children's differences and personalities.
- Remember that you are an example of appropriate behavior such as sharing, not talking when the teacher is talking, showing respect, talking quietly and taking turns.



School Records

Student Information Cards

During the school day, students will be released only to parents or those parties listed as emergency contacts on the student information card kept on file in the office. Parents are asked to keep the student information card up to date.

Change of Address and Phone Numbers

It is imperative in case of an emergency that we can reach parents. Please notify the office of any changes in address or telephone numbers as soon as possible.

Cumulative Record

Information concerning a student's progress is recorded in their cumulative record each year. This record is available for review by parents, and Mr. Schmidt can help interpret this information for parents upon request.

Health Information

Communicable Diseases

Please notify the school immediately in case of contagious conditions such as measles, mumps, chicken pox, lice, etc.

Medication

When absolutely necessary, medicine will be dispensed to students with written authorization and explicit direction from parent and physician. Forms can be picked up from the school nurse. Parents should note that most antibiotics on a three-dose-per-day schedule can be administered upon the student's return home from school and parents should check with their physician or pharmacist about doing so.

Other Policies

Adults on Campus for Student Dismissal

To minimize interruptions on campus and distractions to classrooms, parents and other adults picking up students at the 2:50 p.m. dismissal time should remain off the school playground, blacktop, and common areas until **2:50**. At that time, parents and adults can enter the grounds.

Messages for Students

Please do not call the office and leave messages for students unless the message is critical. We have an interest in keeping classroom interruptions to a minimum.

Student Dress

The general standard of appearance for students is that they be clean, neat and properly dressed. It is recommended that boys wear shirts, shorts or long pants, and sturdy shoes. It is recommended that girls wear pants, shorts or dresses/skirts and sturdy shoes. Shorts, skirts and dresses need to reach mid-thigh. Inappropriate school wear includes tank tops less than 2 fingers wide over the shoulder, bare-midriff tops, sandals, heels, make-up, temporary tattoos, temporary hair dye, and clothing with offensive graphics/ words. Socks should be worn with shoes. Hats may be worn **outside only**, as protection from the sun. Students are encouraged to wear Dunlap sportswear on Fridays, which are our "Spirit Days."

Party Invitations

Invitations to parties are not to be distributed during school hours. Class rosters with phone numbers and addresses are not distributed so as to maintain confidentiality.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices

Cell Phones, electronic toys, and music devices (iPods, etc.) may not be used on campus. They must be turned off and placed out of view during the school day. The only exceptions are for students who are using them during child care under Campus Connection guidelines or with the specific permission of teachers for a specific time period. Students who bring such devices are doing so at their own risk. The school is not liable for any loss or damage that may occur. Inappropriate use of electronic devices will result in the student not being allowed to bring the device to school.

School Programs

Educational Programs

Academic Standards

Students at Dunlap are expected to master the academic standards for their respective grade levels. The California Department of Education and the State Board of Education have adopted the Common Core standards and current work with our district is providing teacher training to transition to those standards.

Character Education

Educators at Dunlap work to develop integrity and citizenship skills in their students. Throughout the school year monthly character “themes” will be emphasized.

Art and Music Programs

The arts are a vital part of Dunlap’s educational program. Students will receive music instruction from a credentialed music teacher. The Orcutt Children’s Arts Foundation will be supporting the Arts Attack visual arts curriculum/program of lessons to be taught in grades K-6th by a trained adult (classroom teacher or Parent volunteer).

Band

Students in grades 4 through 6 have the opportunity to participate in the Orcutt Union School District’s Band Program. In Band, students can learn a musical instrument in the brass, percussion, or woodwind families.

Internet Use

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

Field Trips

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

Outdoor School

Sixth graders participate in Outdoor School, a four-day camping experience held at the Rancho Alegre camp near Lake Cachuma. The cost is paid by the parents. Parents of fifth graders are encouraged to begin to make payments for camp. Fund-raising opportunities are available to fifth and sixth graders. A limited number of scholarships are available to families with financial need.

Student Testing

Students in grades 3-6 will participate in the Smarter Balanced California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) in the areas of English/language arts, mathematics, and science (for fifth grade students). Parents are asked to do whatever they can to avoid medical appointments, dental appointments, or any other engagements during school hours on or before these days. Students in 1st – 6th grade will continue to take the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) assessments to document student achievement of standards on report cards. The test is given three times a year. We employ other tests throughout the year as diagnostic tools and as indicators of overall progress. For more information on tests that are used in your child’s classroom, please ask your child’s teacher.

Student Nutrition

Lunch Program

Nutritious breakfasts and lunches are served in the cafeteria each day. Students preferring to bring a sack lunch from home may purchase milk or juice for 35¢. The cost for breakfast is \$2.00. The cost for lunch is \$2.75.

Student meals are tracked by a computerized accounting system. Each student has his/her own code number to enter on a keypad before each meal. Parents can pay for the meals ahead of time. Information on free and reduced-price meals is available in the school office.

Each day’s lunch count is based on a morning lunch count taken by classroom teachers. Once they have indicated whether they will be having hot or cold lunch, students may not change their lunch preference.

Snacks

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

Cold Lunches

Students are invited to bring a lunch from home to be eaten at school. Parents are asked to avoid the distraction of dropping off fast-food lunches for their children.

Student Support Programs

Student Success Team

The Student Success Team is available to help students with any kind of issue or challenge: academic, behavioral, emotional, social, physical, or medical. Parents and/or teachers may refer a student to the team for discussion after interventions have already been utilized with no success or desired growth. Team members Mr. Schmidt, the District Psychologist, Resource Specialist, and classroom teachers – examine each student's situation, brainstorm ideas, and recommend next steps. Parents of referred students are invited to attend.

Psychological Services

Our Psychologist, Darrell Black, is available on campus one day a week and is on-call all week to provide consultation and/or direct service as required. He attends Student Success Team meetings and is available to talk with parents about situations regarding their children.

Counseling Services

A is available on campus to meet with students. Students are referred for counseling through the Student Success Team or through Mr. Schmidt.

Speech Therapy

A speech therapist is on campus during the week. The speech therapist works closely with teachers to screen students for speech issues. Parents and/or teachers may request a speech assessment for students.

Resource Specialist

Students requiring special academic assistance may become eligible for our Resource program. Our Resource Specialist works with parents and teachers to assist students in overcoming learning problems.

Retention/Promotion Policy

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

At the conclusion of the school year, teachers and parents will review the progress of identified students. Students who do not meet promotion requirements may be recommended by their classroom teacher for retention. Students who have Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and/or Section 504 accommodation plans will be evaluated based upon the goals/guidelines in their plans. English Learners will be evaluated based upon their overall progress, not solely upon English proficiency.

English Learners' Program

English Language Development resources are available to help students who are English Learners. These resources include special English Language Development instruction in reading and language arts. When needed bilingual interpreters are available through the district.

Santa Barbara County Education Office Deaf/ Hard of Hearing Regional Program

Ralph Dunlap School has two county deaf/hard of hearing (DHH) classes housed on campus. Students from these classes are mainstreamed into general education classes at Dunlap. This has many benefits for general education students, as deaf/hard of hearing teachers and interpreters lower the teacher-student ratio, collaborate with classroom teachers, and occasionally offer special opportunities such as sign language classes.

District Nurse

A district nurse is available at a scheduled time at school and is on call for emergencies. The nurse maintains all school health records and oversees health screenings. All students in grades K, 3, and 5 are tested for vision, and

all students in grades K, 2, and 5 are tested for hearing. Parents are notified when a possible vision or hearing problem is detected. Parents and teachers may also request vision and hearing tests for students.

Student Involvement

Dolphin Squad

Students in grades 4-6 are invited to participate in The Dolphin Squad. The purpose of this “squad” is for its members to give back to their school and community through various charitable endeavors. Students in Dolphin Squad promote school spirit by organizing special days and taking a leadership role in school events. They also support a school Talent Show.

Student Recognition

Student Recognition

Once a month, usually on the last Friday, students from each class in grades K-6 are selected as Students of the Month based on our *character* theme for that month. The purpose for the recognition is to validate students for good work, citizenship and character. Students of the Month are honored with a ceremony in their respective classrooms followed by a cafeteria reception with Mr. Schmidt. Parents will be notified if their child is to be honored as a Student of the Month so they can attend. The PTA contributes awards for this program.

Positive Referrals

Students in all grades are recognized for doing positive, good deeds in their classrooms and on our campus. These students receive a Positive Referral and spend some special time with Mr. Schmidt. Parents are also contacted and photos are taken of the students, which are then placed in the weekly newsletter.

Attendance Awards

Students are recognized for monthly and trimester perfect attendance. Students are also eligible to receive the PANDA award (Perfect Attendance No Days Absent) for achieving perfect attendance throughout the year. The award is given in June.

Other Programs

Campus Connection Childcare Program

On-campus childcare is offered before school from 6:30-8:30 a.m. and after school from 2:50-6:00 p.m. Space is limited in Campus Connection, therefore early registration is encouraged. Tuition in the Campus Connection Child Care Program is \$3.00 per hour, \$2.50 per hour for any siblings in the family. Annual registration fees are \$35 for the first child in the family, \$30 for the second child, \$20 for each child thereafter. Children must be enrolled for a minimum of five hours per week. Campus Connection also offers “camp” programs during Winter Break, Spring Break, and summer. For more information, phone the Campus Connection main office at 938-8950.

Room Parents

Room parents are selected by each teacher. Responsibilities vary from teacher to teacher, but generally Room Parents are responsible for organizing classroom parties and activities, and are involved in the PTA’s Fall Festival and Jog-A-Thon.

School Site Council

The School Site Council is a committee of elected staff members and parents that provides leadership and input regarding all school programs and initiatives. Its chief duty is to write a School Plan for Student Achievement and to monitor students’ progress toward plan goals. It also administers a small School Improvement Program budget. Meeting agendas and minutes are sent home to parents serving on the council, however, all parents are invited to attend.

School Donations

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

Tooth Holders

Students who lose a tooth are invited to ask for a tooth holder from the office.

Yearbooks

The PTA publishes a school yearbook each spring. Parents are advised to order yearbooks early to ensure availability. The yearbook is distributed during the last week of school.

Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation

Parents are invited to join the Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation, which supports the arts at Dunlap and in the Orcutt Union School District. Annual membership fees are as follows: \$5 for students, \$10 for individuals, \$20 for families, \$100 for community groups, and \$500 for corporate memberships. You can join online by going to the district web site (www.orcutt-schools.net) and clicking on "OCAF"; you also can join by phoning 938-8966.

Special Events

Back to School Night

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

Book Fair

In partnership with Scholastic Books, the PTA organizes a Book Fair as a service to students and families.

Box Tops for Education

The PTA collects Box Tops for Education coupons clipped from General Mills products to redeem funds for school use.

Fall Festival

This is a PTA-sponsored family night held in the fall that features games and prizes in a carnival atmosphere.

Family Nights

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

Make-n-Take Holiday Crafts

This is a fun PTA family event involving craft-making for the holidays.

Open House

Held on an evening in the spring, students have an opportunity to share their class activities with parents. A fun and pride filled night!

Parent Education Nights

These are opportunities for parents to learn from a guest presenter about important topics in parenting and education. Free childcare is provided to make attendance more convenient for parents.

PTA Jog-A-Thon

Run in the spring, the PTA Jog-A-Thon not only is an important fund-raiser, it is a school wide unity-builder that involves students, staff, and scores of parents.

Red Ribbon Week

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

Reflections

This is the National PTA's cultural arts project that offers a showcase for the creative efforts of children and young people in art, literature, music, photography, film and dance. Information is disseminated in the fall, and all interested students are encouraged to participate.

Restaurant Family Nights

Dunlap families can support their school by dining in or ordering take-out at selected local restaurants on selected

nights. These nights are fund-raisers for the school; they also are fun get-togethers for families and staff.

Science Fair

All students are eligible to participate in the Science Fair. Held in the late winter or early spring, students are encouraged to display the results of a scientific exploration from a project of their choice. Guidelines and entrance forms are distributed to students. This event is sponsored by the PTA.

Sixth Grade Celebration

Held at the end of the school year, this is an opportunity for sixth graders, their parents and other family members, along with school staff to celebrate a great time at a great school! This past year's celebration was a Family BBQ held at Pioneer Park.

Spirit Days

On Fridays, students are encouraged to wear their Dunlap T-shirts or blue, the school color.

“Stuff the Bus”

Scheduled throughout the year, this event enables Dunlap families and the community at large to “stuff” an entire school bus with donations for a designated charity.

Walk to School Day

This is a day when the school and PTA promote walking to school, specifically pedestrian safety and safe routes to school.

Dunlap PTA (Parent Teacher Association)

All parents and teachers are welcome to join and become active in the Dunlap PTA (Parent Teacher Association). Dunlap PTA membership dues for the 2017-2018 school year are \$6.00/person and includes a membership in the national PTA. The membership drive is held early in the fall. Numerous programs supported by the Dunlap PTA include music instruction, student awards, enrichment assemblies, classroom supplies, the Science Fair, and much more.

The Dunlap PTA general membership meetings will be held on Back to School Night and Family Nights in February and April. Everyone is invited to attend. Parents are also invited to attend Dunlap PTA Executive Board meetings held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the staff lounge. Your participation is vital to the programs that PTA provides to Ralph Dunlap. You are always welcome to contact any member of the Dunlap PTA board to discuss a specific interest or concern, or volunteer a talent or idea.

The Dunlap PTA holds two major fundraising projects. The fall fundraiser is a See's candy sale. This project is scheduled for delivery before the holiday crunch. The Jog-A-Thon is held in the spring. Proceeds from these projects support our many programs.

Information about PTA meetings, programs, and events will be distributed through the Dolphin Digest bi-weekly school newsletter and the PTA monthly NewSplash newsletter.