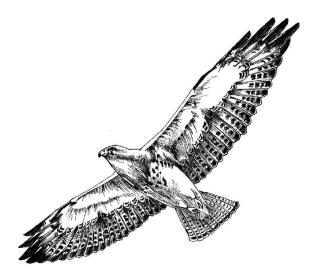
### Nicholas Falcons

## Parent/Teacher Handbook 2024-2025



**Sacramento City Unified School District** 

#### **Nicholas Elementary School**

Rene Sanchez, Principal Patricia Carillo, SIC

5100 El ParaisoAve. Sacramento, CA 95824

Telephone (916) 395-4842/395-4655 Fax (916) 433-5325

Title IX

The Sacramento Unified School District prohibits discrimination, intimidation, harassment (including sexual harassment) or bullying based on a person's actual or perceived ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, immigration status, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

#### **NICHOLAS SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT**

Nicholas Elementary will provide a rigorous, Common Core Standards-based curriculum and instruction that enables all students to meet and exceed measures of success. Through the establishment of cultural opportunities, high expectations and support, Nicholas students will remain actively engaged in the learning process as they acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to become responsible, contributing citizens within the local, state, and world community.

#### **OUR MISSION**

It is the mission of the Nicholas Elementary School Community to assist every child in reaching his or her full potential, we will:

- Provide a rigorous, Common Core Standards based curriculum and instructional program that enables all students to meet and exceed established measures of success.
- Ensure all teaching and learning is effective, meets the needs of all students, and promotes individual student growth.
- Attendance in School and Class is fundamental for student success.
- We believe in Career and College Readiness for all students.
- Empower students to make good decisions and enable them to achieve their life potential.
- Students and teachers will be reflective and evaluative practitioners, regularly engaging in active and open communication reflecting our commitment to develop and improve student achievement.
- Teachers will consistently use data to guide curriculum and instructional practices.
- Include parents, students and community as active members of the school community in the decision making process.

#### **CORE BELIEFS AND GOALS:.**

- We believe that everyone is an important part of Nicholas succeeding in reaching its goal.
- We believe that all Nicholas students have the ability to excel.
- Parents trust our staff to deliver the best education to their children.
- We value the Nicholas family's diverse cultures.

Dear Nicholas Families,

This will be an amazing school year. We want your child's experience to be positive and fun at our temporary campus at C.B Wire. We will continue working together to ensure the success of your student. Help us by making sure they arrive at school on time ready to learn.

Please join us at school for special events and any meeting that supports the wellbeing of your student. We look forward to working with you as we provide an exceptional learning environment for all students.

This handbook contains the rules and procedures that are essential to the smooth operation of our school. Your teacher will review the information with your students. Every student and his/her family are required to become familiar with this information.

I look forward to meeting all of you and am excited about the new Nicholas School!!

Sincerely, *Rene Sanchez* Principal

# Nicholas Elementary School Bell Schedule 2024-2025

Regular Day Schedule		
SDC/Kindergarten	9:00 AM – 12:20 PM	
PM Kindergarten	11:30 AM - 3:02 PM	
1 <sup>st</sup> – 3rd Grades	9:00 AM – 3:02 PM	
4th— 6th Grades	9:00 AM – 3:07 PM	

Early Release Collaborative Thursdays		
SDC/Kindergarten	9:00 AM - 12:20 PM	
PM Kindergarten	11:30 AM - 2:02 PM	
1 <sup>st</sup> – 3rd Grades	9:00 AM – 2:02 PM	
4th - 6th Grades	9:00 AM – 2:07 PM	

Shortened Days		
SDC/Kindergarten	9:00 AM – 12:20 PM	
PM Kindergarten	11:40 AM - 3:02 PM	
1 <sup>st</sup> – 3rd Grades	9:00 AM – 1:45 PM	
4th – 6th Grades	9:00 AM – 1:54 PM	

#### **BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT/OPEN HOUSE**

Parents are invited to attend Back-to-School Night, which will be held in September. Parents have an opportunity to meet their child's teacher, learn about grade-level curriculum, class rules, procedures, and expectations for the school year. This is an evening reserved for parents and guardians only.

Open House is held in the spring. Parents, friends, and family are invited to accompany their students to visit the classrooms and see displays of student work. There is no supervision for Open House so children are required to stay with their parents. Parents and students may visit other classrooms to view future classes. Notices will be sent home for both events.

#### SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Nicholas Elementary School offers several learning opportunities after school. Many of our teachers and staff provide additional tutoring or enrichment services after school. In addition, the following programs are available:

The Nicholas Elementary After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program goals support the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) 2016 - 2023 strategic plan through a sustained focus on developing college, career and life ready students, family and community empowerment, and striving towards communication and interaction among and between students, parents, staff and community partners is defined by mutual respect, trust and support. To provide quality after school programming that focuses on the development of the whole child including academics, enrichment, recreation and community. The Nicholas ASES Program vision aligns with the Single Plan for Student Achievement to "provide a rigorous, standards-based curriculum and instruction that enables all students to meet and exceed measures of success. Through the establishment of cultural opportunities, high expectations and support, Nicholas students will remain actively engaged in the learning process as they acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to become responsible, contributing citizens within the local, state, and world community."

The ASES program is aligned with the Social Justice Youth Development (SJYD) framework and intentionally provides opportunities for our urban community youth to navigate the constraints of poverty and social injustice. We are committed to addressing the physical, social and emotional needs of students by offering support to enhance their interest, skills and abilities.

The **Before School Program (BSP)** Plan supports the SCUSD framework for the promotion of healthy schools by establishing a school wellness policy while creating opportunities for student wellness through physical activity, prevention education, and access to nutritional foods and beverages.

#### **ASES Program Goals:**

Health/Wellness: Students will have regular, inclusive physical activity aligned with the after school physical activity guidelines, as well as, an environment that promotes healthy nutrition behaviors.

- Family and Community Engagement: Four ASES showcase events are planned to encourage family engagement and student support.
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM): Students will engage in weekly science activities and monthly engineering challenges.
- Literacy: Students will read at least fifteen minutes each day followed by intervention and/or supplemental literacy activities to reinforce foundational literacy skills and strategies.
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL): 5th & 6th grade students will engage in three hours per week of social emotional learning activities.

#### **BSP Goals:**

Access: All BSP students will have access to the school breakfast.

Physical Fitness: All BSP students will participate in physical activity for a minimum of 30 minutes daily. Nutrition: All BSP students will have daily nutrition activities.

#### PARENT INVOLVEMENT

#### SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL AND ELAC

The elections for School Site Council (SCC), and English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) are held in September/October of each school year. All meetings are always open to all families. We appreciate and need your input. For more information, please contact Rene Sanchez at 916-395-4842.

#### **FALCON PARENT COFFEE**

- Meetings are held on the third Friday of every month at 9:00am.
- All parents are encouraged to attend.
- School updates about school policies and procedures are presented.

#### **HOME VISITS**

The Parent/Teacher Home Visit Project is a nationally recognized non-profit organization jointly governed by three founding member groups: a teacher's union, a faith-based community organizing group and a school district. Nicholas Elementary teachers and staff are able to visit the homes of their students if the family is interested.

#### i-READY DIAGNOSTIC

i-Ready diagnostic and instruction is an online, interactive learning environment designed to assess students.

#### **CAFETERIA**

Breakfast and lunch are provided free of charge to all Nicholas Elementary students. Breakfast will be served **no earlier than 8:40 a.m. and no later than 8:55 a.m.** No food service is available once the cafeteria is closed. Menus can be found by visiting the Nicholas web page or at https://thecentralkitchen.org/on-the-menu/menus/.

The following rules must be followed at all times in the Cafeteria:

- Show respect to students and adults.
- Walk at all times.
- Keep your space clean and throw trash away when being dismissed.
- Food must stay in the Cafeteria and parents may not eat from a child's plate (Federal regulations) Meals CANNOT be purchased by parents. Only students/staff may eat in the cafeteria.
- Only AM Kinder parents can escort their child into the cafeteria at the beginning of the school year.
- Cafeteria tables are reserved for students only.
- Any parent, guardian, or other person who insults, abuses, or otherwise threatens a school employee or disrupts school activities is guilty of trespassing must leave the school grounds immediately. Failure to comply with this directive will result in Withdrawal of Consent from the Principal, a police report, and possible arrest for violation of Penal Code 601, Penal Code 71, and Education Code 44811.

#### **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

#### OFFICE PROCEDURES

The front office is a very busy place. Students must have a pass from their teacher to come to the office, unless there is an emergency. Please make all after school arrangements with your child prior to the start of school. Telephone use in the office is limited to emergency calls only. Students must wait until 3:30 to contact parents. In addition, teachers will not be disturbed during instructional time for phone calls, except in the case of dire emergencies.

#### **SCHOOL COMMUNICATION**

Quarterly newsletters from school are sent home with the students electronically and with students, you may also receive text, email and phone calls. They include important information about school procedures, calendar, or attendance schedule or special events. Parents are encouraged to check the various forms of communication from the school daily.

#### **DELIVERIES TO STUDENTS**

Students should not receive any items unrelated to instruction at school. This includes flowers, balloons, or other personal items. The school will not be responsible for the delivery of such items. NO food items will be delivered to the Cafeteria for class distribution during student's lunch break. Personal party invitations should be delivered before or after school, outside the classroom. Change of clothes, glasses, medication etc. should be brought to the office rather than directly to the classroom. The office will deliver items to the students at a time that will not disrupt instruction. If a classroom event takes place and items are requested, please send your child to school with such items or bring them with you when you attend the event.

#### **FIRE DRILL**

A monthly fire drill will be conducted according to California State Law. The purpose of a fire drill is for students to practice our evacuation procedures in the event of an actual fire. The students will go out the nearest exit at a rapid pace without any pushing, shouting, talking or running.

#### **SCHOOL SAFETY**

The safety of our students is of critical importance at Nicholas Elementary School. All faculty and staff are familiar with district "Emergency Preparedness Guidelines," which are posted in each classroom. In addition, our school site has safety procedures which are implemented as needed.

**Notice of School Disruption:** Any parent, guardian, or other person who insults, abuses, or otherwise threatens a school employee or disrupts school activities is guilty of trespassing and must leave the school grounds immediately. Failure to comply with this directive will result in Withdrawal of Consent from the Principal, a police report, and possible arrest for violation of Penal Code 601, Penal Code 71, and Education Code 44811.

**Earthquake/ Duck and Cover Drill:** During an earthquake, severe wind storm, and other defined emergencies, children duck for cover under desks. If classroom evacuation is necessary, children leave for a fire drill.

**Fire and Evacuation:** Classes evacuate the entire school and wait with their teacher for permission to return. A monthly fire drill is conducted in accordance with California State Law.

**Intruder**: A school alarm alerts staff than an intruder is on campus or nearby. Children remain in their classrooms, doors are locked, and curtains are closed to provide further security. The principal and/or police determine when it is safe to resume normal operations.

**Other School-Wide Emergencies:** Comprehensive school plans exist to deal with a full spectrum of emergency conditions which may arise. In the case of a critical incident, a lock down will occur. Once the school site has been established to be safe, parents and students may then be reunited. A parent or other authorized adult must sign the student out of the site. Parents should come to the cafeteria and NOT the student's classroom.

#### The procedure for the reunification will be:

- Parents should come to the cafeteria and not the student's classroom. Students may not be checked out of their classrooms.
- Parents will be asked to get in a line.
- Parents will receive an emergency student release request.
- Parents must fill out the request and present a photo ID.
- Staff will verify the identity of the person requesting to be reunited with a student.
- The person must be on the child's emergency card in order to check the student out.
- The adult must sign and fill out the date and time of release of each student on the Reunion Check
   Out Log before the student is called for.

#### **PARKING**

We have established safety rules with regard to our parking lot in front of the school to PREVENT any pedestrian INJURY. We ask that you support a safe environment by following these procedures:

- Please park on the street in designated parking areas.
- Please leave Crosswalks free of traffic.
- Please allow the flow of traffic to run smoothly by not double parking or by leaving vehicles unattended in the NO PARKING ZONE or School BUS ZONES.
- Please do not park in the STAFF parking lot or enter to drop off or pick up students.
- Park ONLY in designated parking spaces on the street.
- Please follow traffic laws in the front of school to keep students safe.
- Follow the instructions of staff in following the flow of traffic for drop off and pick up.

If you need to park your car to enter the school, please park on the street and report directly to the front office. Visitors should NOT park in the <u>Staff Parking Lot</u>. Please reserve Handicap Parking for individuals who need to access the front office or inside of Campus. Handicap Parking is not a waiting area and should not be used for picking up or dropping off children unless the child has a disability. If handicap parking is full you will need to park on the street and not in the staff parking lot.

#### **VISITORS**

Parents/Guardians are welcome to visit their child's classroom with office check-in. Visitors are required to sign in and return the visitor badge when they leave the Front Office.

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

All families are invited to play an active role at Nicholas Elementary School by maintaining strong communication with your child's teacher, visiting campus on a regular basis, attending school events, and becoming involved in one of several leadership opportunities we have for families. There are also many opportunities for adults to volunteer at school as morning greeters, field trip chaperones, yard duty supervisors, classroom tutors, mentors, readers, and library volunteers. There are also opportunities for adults to do volunteer work at home. On-site volunteers working with children must complete a background check and application process. Please contact the front office for more information.

#### **LOST AND FOUND**

All clothing and other personal items, such as lunch boxes and backpacks, should be clearly marked with your child's name. All lost clothing will be placed in a "Lost and Found" box. Other articles will be kept with the Office Manager in the front office. Please be aware that all articles of clothing and personal items that have not been claimed will be donated to Goodwill at the end of each Trimester.

#### STUDENT HEALTH

#### **MEDICATION**

No medication of any kind, whether prescription or over-the-counter, is allowed to be brought by a child without a written doctor's authorization. Pain relievers and any other over-the-counter medications may not be dispensed to students. Education Code 49423 states: "Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 49422, any pupil who is required to take medication during the regular school day, medication prescribed for him/her by a physician may be assisted by the school nurse or other designated school personnel if the school district receives:

- a written statement from such physician detailing the method, amount, and time schedule by which medication is to be taken, and
- a written statement from the parent or guardian of the pupil indicating the desire that the school district assist the pupil in the matters set forth in the physician's statement."

For the safety of your child and other children, we ask for your cooperation in following our policy in regard to medications during school hours. These forms are available in the office or from the nurse and must be completed every year.

Medication must be in the original container, properly labeled with the prescription number, patient's name, doctor's name, and dosage must be clearly marked.

Medications will be stored in the school nurse's office. All parties recognize the fact that this is a service or accommodation, which the school is not legally required to perform, and they agree to hold the school and its personnel harmless from any and all liability, which might arise out of these arrangements.

• Students are not allowed to have any medication, including aspirin and cough drops, in their possession to self-medicate.

The school is only equipped to treat minor injuries with ice and band-aides. Parents/guardians will be called for more serious injuries. If parents cannot be contacted the emergency personnel noted on the emergency card, will be contacted.

#### **Head Lice:**

At any school, there is an occasional problem with head lice. Lice are tiny insects that live and lay eggs in the hair, close to the scalp. The eggs stick to the hair like glue and cannot be removed with regular shampoo and combing. Lice are treated with special shampoos that kill the insects and their eggs.

If a student is found with active, adult head lice, he/she shall be allowed to stay in school until the end of the school day. The parent/guardian of any such student shall be given information about the treatment of head lice and encouraged to begin treatment of the student immediately and to check all members of the family. The parent/guardian also shall be informed that the student shall be checked upon return to school the next day and allowed to remain in school if no active head lice are detected.

Upon the student's return to school, the school nurse or designee shall check the student for active head lice. If it is determined that the student remains infected with head lice, the school nurse or designee shall contact the student's parent/guardian to discuss treatment. As needed, he/she may provide additional resources and/or referral to the local health department, health care providers, or other agencies.

If a student is found consistently infested with head lice, he/she may be referred to a multidisciplinary team, which may consist of the school nurse, representatives from the local health department and social services, and other appropriate individuals, to determine the best approach for identifying and resolving problems contributing to the student's head lice infestations.

When it is determined that one or more students in a class or school are infested with head lice, the principal or designee may, at his/her discretion, notify parents/guardians of students in that class or school and provide them with information about the detection and treatment of head lice.

#### **INSURANCE**

Student accident insurance is available and may be applied for anytime during the school year. There are several different types of coverage available. Application forms may be obtained from the school office.

#### ATTENDANCE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

#### **ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL GUIDELINES**

Your child's prompt and daily attendance is an important part of their overall school success. In order for us to do our job well and promote student learning, we need to ensure they are here every school day. Regular attendance is imperative to ensure successful and positive growth in school. All children need to be in attendance each day that they are not ill. Students should return to school after or before doctor or dentist appointments.

**Arrival:** Students who eat breakfast at school should report directly to the cafeteria no earlier than 8:30 a.m. Students who do not eat breakfast at school should arrive no earlier than 8:45 a.m. because there is no supervision on the yard before this time. Any children who arrive earlier than these specific times may be referred to Child

Protective Services. <u>Instruction begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. and all students should be in their seats ready to learn at this time.</u>

Dismissal: Children are to leave immediately after school unless they are participating in an After-school Program. If students are not picked up within 15 minutes, they will be taken to the office to call home. Students waiting beyond 15 minutes may be referred to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department or Child Protective Services. In the interest of student safety and supervision, the Board of Education has established a "closed campus" policy throughout the district. Once students arrive on school grounds, they must remain until dismissal unless they have proper written authorization from a parent/guardian for an early dismissal. Without this permission, students will be classified as truant and subject to disciplinary action.

Early Dismissal: Early dismissals cause a general disturbance and loss of class time for your child. Please make an effort to schedule appointments after school. Once children have arrived at school, they are not permitted to leave the school grounds without parent permission. If it is necessary for you to take your child out of class early, you must come to the office. All students requiring early dismissal at any time must be picked up from the front office. For your child's safety, the teacher will not release a child to anyone who has not obtained permission from the office. Adults must be prepared to fill out the appropriate form and show picture identification. Students will not be released to any person(s) not listed on the emergency card.

#### **RECESS**

Nicholas Elementary expects all students to be respectful and follow all school rules to ensure that students are active and safe during their recess breaks. Students will be walked to the playground by their teacher. Please do not allow your child to bring personal toys, balls, etc. to school. The school will not be responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen personal items brought from home. Students are to remain on the playground area, in sight of yard duty supervisors, at all times. Playing in the restrooms, walkways, or classrooms is prohibited. A whistle will be blown to signal students that all games end and to return their play equipment to the appropriate location. When the bell rings at the end of recess, all students line-up on the class # dots.

#### **SHORTENED DAYS**

A shortened day is when students are excused from school earlier than the Regular M/T/W/F or Collaboration Thursday dismissal time. A notice will be sent in advance indicating the dismissal times and dates for shortened days. Shortened days are used for district-scheduled parent conferences, teacher in-service training sessions and other occasions as announced during the school year. Please review the calendar in this handbook for the list of Scheduled Shortened Days for 2024-2025.

#### **ATTENDANCE & ABSENCES RECORDS**

We request that parents make every effort to ensure daily attendance. Students are expected to be in school unless it is absolutely necessary that they be absent. A note including your child's name, date of absence, reason for absence, parent or guardian signature, and current contact phone number is **required** for each absence and must be provided to the front office upon student's return to school. If you are writing absence notes for more than one child, please write a separate note for each child. You may also leave an absence excusal message 24/7 by calling phone # 916-395-4842 or by filling out the form on our school website.

We request that parents make every effort to ensure daily attendance. Students are expected to be in school unless it is absolutely necessary that they be absent. It is our goal that your children arrive at school and are picked up from school in a safe, timely, and orderly manner.

If a student has 3 or more unexcused absences or 3 tardies of 30 minutes or more, he or she is considered truant.

#### These are the ONLY excused absences recognized by the State:

- Student illness or injury (Doctor's note must be provided)
- Quarantine under a county or city health officer (Written Verification from Quarantining Dept. must be provided)
- Medical, dental, optometric, chiropractic, counseling or any therapy services (Doctor's Office Visit Verification must be provided)
- Funeral services of an immediate family member

- (One day in California, three days out-of-state. Written Verification must be provided from place of service)
- Exclusion from school for lack of immunizations (limited to five days and updated Immunization Record must be provided upon student's return to school)
- If your child has a communicable disease or has a fever they may return after 24 hrs. fever free or with Doctor's written clearance.

See below for a template on how to excuse an absence.

	in	was absent on	
(Child's Name)	(Teacher's Name)	(Date(s)	Absent)
because of			(Reason/Type of Illness)
	<del></del>		<del></del>
(Parent Signature)	(Cı	urrent Contact Phone Number)	(Current Date)

#### ATTENDANCE PERMITS

A student may attend Nicholas Elementary from outside the attendance area by obtaining a permit. One
must have a valid reason for obtaining a permit. Permits are contingent upon good attendance, good
behavior and are valid for the current school year. Intra and Inter Permits for the 2024-2025 school year
can ONLY be obtained at the Enrollment Center located at 5735 47th Avenue.

There are two types of permits:

- Intra District Permits are for students who do not live in the Nicholas Elementary School attendance area but who live in the Sacramento City Unified School District attendance area.
- Inter District Permits are for students who do not live in the Sacramento City Unified School District attendance area.

#### **TRANSFERS**

In order for us to prepare records for students, please notify the school at least two days in advance if you are transferring out of Nicholas Elementary School. If you are moving at the end of the school year, please notify the school as soon as you know so that records can be processed and sent to the receiving school.

#### **ACADEMIC POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

#### STUDENT RECORDS

According to the California Education Code 49069, parents of currently enrolled or former students have a right to all student records related to their children which are maintained by school districts. In order for parents to see their children's records, they need to appear in person and bring a picture ID during the regular school hours. Parents should notify the school office in advance so that qualified personnel will be available to interpret test scores, grades or reports.

#### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS / PHONE NUMBERS**

It is important that we can contact parents in the event of an emergency. Please notify the school office if any changes occur in residential addresses, phone numbers, work places, or if authorized individuals to pick up the student have been changed. New information is vital for the protection and safety of your child. Please provide proof of a new address such as a lease/mortgage statement within 30 days of transition.

Doctors and emergency rooms will NOT treat children without their parents' consent; and in the event of an emergency, we must be able to reach parents.

#### **EMERGENCY CARDS**

At the time of registration and the beginning of each new school year, parents and/or guardians are required by law to complete an emergency information card. This information will be filed in the office in case the school must contact either the parent or someone designated by the parent for sudden illness, accident or any other emergencies. Please be sure that you complete an emergency card for each child in your family and that it is complete with accurate information. Please notify the school if any changes occur during the year so that the school can update the student emergency information card. Every student is required to have a completed emergency card on file in the office. In case of emergency, we need current names and phone numbers of adults

authorized to pick-up students. It is also extremely important that numbers for home, work, cellular, daycare, emergency contacts, and doctors be included so that we can contact the appropriate person in the event of an illness, accident, or other emergencies. **No child will be released to any adult not on the emergency card.** Picture identification will be required when picking students up early.

#### **REPORT CARDS AND PROGRESS REPORTS**

Nicholas Elementary School has three reporting periods (trimesters) during the school year. The report card is aligned with the California State Standards.

There will be a total of three report cards. Report cards will be given at the end of each trimester. Progress reports will be distributed mid-trimester. Progress reports are required to be given to any student not obtaining a 3 or a 4 in any standard area. A conference to discuss academic progress may be scheduled at this time by the teacher or the parent.

#### PARENT CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher conferences are held twice each year (at the end of the first and second trimesters). Academic progress and student behavior are the primary topics of the conferences. Parents are encouraged to maintain close contact with the school and are invited to make appointments whenever they have questions or concerns. Please contact the classroom teacher to schedule an appointment to make sure he/she is available to meet with you.

Parents or guardians do not have to wait for conference week to confer with the teacher or principal. They may conference at any time as long as an appointment is made prior to coming in.

#### PROMOTION AND RETENTION

District officials and Nicholas Elementary School have an important obligation to inform all parents of their child's progress towards proficiency. The Promotion/Retention process has been put in place to support students in meeting state standards. Part of the process is to identify students who are below grade level in reading and/or math and to provide additional support that will assist students in improving these areas. A retention decision will require that effective instructional programs, practices, and strategies are in place and the unique instructional needs of each student are recognized. A parent/teacher conference will be scheduled early in the school year to inform you if your child is at risk for retention, and a plan will be developed to help your child meet grade level requirements.

#### **HOMEWORK POLICY**

Homework is required for all Nicholas Elementary School students in grades K-6. Homework is daily reinforcement of grade level skills or material already taught in class. We ask parents to support their children by providing a quiet place at home and checking to make sure homework is completed to the best of your child's ability. Teachers will communicate with parents if homework is not being completed. Homework may not be assigned as a punitive measure. Make-up homework for a sick child should be requested from the office by 9:00 a.m. and then picked up by 3:30 p.m. It is a parent/guardian's responsibility to contact each student's teacher for the specific homework schedule and to make sure that all assignments are completed and returned on time.

#### **TEXTBOOKS**

Textbooks are provided to all students, if damaged or lost you may be held monetarily responsible for replacement costs of damaged or lost items.

#### **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS GRID**

Area	Be Safe	Be Respectful	Be Kind
Classroom	<ul> <li>Use appropriate voices</li> <li>Keep hands and feet to yourself</li> <li>Use walking feet</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Listen to the speaker</li><li>Follow adult direction</li><li>Clean up after yourself</li></ul>	<ul><li>Take care of school materials</li><li>Use kind words</li><li>Help others</li></ul>
All Common Areas (Office, Library, etc.)	<ul> <li>Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself</li> <li>Stay in assigned supervised areas</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Follow school rules</li> <li>Follow adult directions</li> <li>Use appropriate voice level</li> <li>Take proper care of school equipment</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Clean up after yourself</li> <li>Use kind words and action</li> <li>Wait patiently for your turn</li> </ul>

Cafeteria	<ul> <li>Keep hands, feet, and food to self</li> <li>Sit with feet on the floor, bottom on bench, facing table</li> <li>Walk at all times</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Wait patiently for your turn</li> <li>Get all utensils, milk, etc. when you go through the line</li> <li>Use quiet voices</li> </ul>	Use kind words and actions Clean your area when excused Raise hand and wait to be excused
Playground	Walk to and from playground     Stay within boundaries     Play appropriate school games (Play fighting or tag are not allowed)     Use equipment properly     Wear safe shoes	<ul> <li>Eat individual sized snacks on benches</li> <li>Follow adult directions</li> <li>Return play equipment when the bell rings</li> <li>Play in designated areas</li> <li>Gum and candy stays home</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Follow game rules</li> <li>Play fairly</li> <li>Wait your turn</li> <li>Put trash in garbage cans</li> <li>Use kind words and actions</li> </ul>
Hallways	<ul><li>Walk in covered areas</li><li>Keep hands and feet to self</li><li>Walk in a straight line</li></ul>	Have a pass     Stay on sidewalks	<ul><li>Use quiet voices</li><li>Hold the door open for others</li><li>Use kind words and actions</li></ul>
Bathrooms	<ul> <li>Keep water in the sink</li> <li>Turn off water</li> <li>Flush toilet and wash hands</li> <li>Return to room promptly</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Knock on stall door before entering</li> <li>Use hall pass</li> <li>Put paper towels in trash can</li> <li>Use bathroom supplies appropriately</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Give people privacy</li> <li>Wash hands</li> <li>Use kind words and actions</li> <li>Use quiet voices</li> </ul>
Arrival/ Dismissal Times	<ul> <li>Use sidewalks and crosswalks</li> <li>Keep hands and feet to yourself</li> <li>Do directly home or to after-school program upon dismissal</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Arrive on time</li> <li>Follow adult directions</li> <li>Walk your bike, scooter, or skateboard when on campus.</li> <li>Go to dismissal area promptly</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Use proper greetings</li> <li>Use kind words and actions</li> <li>Use appropriate classroom behavior</li> </ul>
Before & After School	Before School: Do not arrive at a staff member. If you plan to he school. Breakfast is served between	een 8:30-8:50 a.m. nediately upon dismissal unless a pr	to the cafeteria when you arrive at

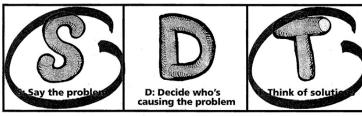
#### **BEHAVIOR POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

Nicholas Elementary School students are expected to Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Kind.

E SAFE	BE RESPECTFUL	BE KIND
<ul> <li>Keep your hands and feet to yourself.</li> <li>Make safe choices.</li> <li>Have a pass with you at all times when you leave class.</li> <li>Stay in your personal space.</li> <li>Use all equipment appropriately.</li> <li>Play with good sportsmanship.</li> <li>Go to appropriate areas promptly during dismissal time.</li> <li>Walk at all times on campus.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Treat others the way you want to be treated.</li> <li>Be honest and respectful.</li> <li>Use kind words and actions.</li> <li>Respect other people's belongings.</li> <li>Listen attentively when others are talking.</li> <li>Take care of school property.</li> <li>Place trash and recycling in appropriate places.</li> <li>Use appropriate voices.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Use kind words with others.</li> <li>Take care of each other.</li> <li>Be helpful to others.</li> <li>If you see something that is not right, say something.</li> <li>Be a problem solver.</li> <li>Wait for your turn.</li> <li>Stand up against bullying.</li> </ul>

#### **CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

We believe that children have the ability to solve most problems if taught strategies for dealing with them. We teach three basic strategies for conflict resolution:



A: Say the problem

B: Decide who's causing the problem

C: Think of solutions

- **SAY:** Children are supported in discussing the problem by identifying the problem, communicating frustration, suggesting resolutions, and ending with an apology
- ROCK, PAPER, and SCISSORS: Rock, Paper, Scissors allows children to quickly solve a problem so they can get back to their game or activity.

The conflict resolution strategies help students to change negative behavior to positive behavior. Teachers will use a wide variety of classroom strategies to help a student reconnect with learning. If the behavior does not change, additional consequences may be given. If the student displays repeated unacceptable behavior, a behavior contract and plan might be implemented and or hearing with the District's Hearing Office may be requested.

#### PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE POLICY

A progressive discipline policy is used at Nicholas Elementary in each classroom. Students that display office related behaviors (Level 2 infractions) will go through a series of consequences prior to receiving a referral. This discipline policy gives students a chance to re-think poor behaviors before getting a referral.

- 1. Warning.
- 2. Change of seat.
- 3. Sent to work silently in another classroom.
- 4. Referral Sent to meet with the Administrator.

Good behavior in the time out classroom will result in the student returning to their homeroom. Poor behavior in the next classroom will result in the child being sent to the office and a referral.

The progressive discipline policy is used by teachers in all classes, EXCEPT in the case of a major infraction (fighting, cursing at a teacher etc.) when the student shall be sent to the office immediately.

#### **DEFINITION OF BULLYING**

Bullying is a pattern of aggressive, intentional or deliberately hostile behavior that occurs repeatedly over time and has an imbalance of power. Bullying behaviors normally fall into three categories, physical, emotional, and verbal; and may include, but are not limited to, intimidation, assault; extortion; oral or written threats.

#### **SCOPE**

This policy covers conduct that takes place in the school, on school property, at school-sponsored functions and activities, on school buses or vehicles, and at bus stops. This policy also pertains to usage of electronic technology and electronic communication that occurs in the school, on or off school property, at school-sponsored functions and activities, on school buses or vehicles, at bus stops, and on school computers, networks, forums, and mailing lists. This policy applies to the entire school community, including educators, school and district staff, students, parents and volunteers. (GLSEN, 2014)

#### **RESPONSE PROCEDURES**

The school site principal or designee will investigate all bullying reports in accordance with existing District practice and Board Policy 5145.4. The school site principal or designee shall complete the investigation within a reasonable period of time. Normally, such an investigation should be completed in one week's time from the date the report is

submitted to the site administrator. Depending upon the extent and complexity of the complaint, however, in rare circumstances investigations into alleged bullying may take up to 30 calendar days.

- Create a written student safety plan for the targeted student
- Create a written student action plan for the student who engaged in bullying behavior
- Contact the parents/guardians of the students involved
- The safety and action plan are placed in the student's cum and a copy of all the paperwork gets sent to the bullying prevention specialist.

#### LEVEL ONE INFRACTIONS

Teachers are expected to address Level One Infractions (classroom managed behaviors) through classroom management strategies, class meetings, refocus forms, second step interventions, loss of recess, and by contacting the student's parent or guardian as needed. Level One Infractions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- General classroom disruptions
- Play fighting (hitting, slapping, or rough horseplay)
- Chewing gum or eating candy
- Wandering about in the classroom
- Demonstrating inappropriate behavior in the classroom or while outside the classroom
- Failing to follow classroom rules and procedures

- Failure to complete class work
- Minor disagreements between students
- Using put-downs or teasing classmates
- Failure to participate in class activities
- Leaving classroom without permission
- Disrespecting an adult or peer
- Participating in horseplay
- Running in undesignated area
- Failing (on a habitual basis) to bring textbooks or other learning materials

#### **LEVEL TWO INFRACTIONS**

When a student <u>repeatedly</u> commits a Level One Infraction or Level Two, he/she may be referred to another classroom for time-out, loss of recess and/or privileges, sent to office or sent home and his/her teacher will contact the student's parents and parents may be asked to attend a portion of a school day. Students may be placed on a Behavior Support Plan or a Bullying Intervention Plan. Additionally, the student may receive a referral. Level Two Infractions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Using profane inappropriate language about or towards another person that is disrespectful
- Making or using profane gestures
- Demonstrating unsafe behaviors, such as: Crosswalk or road crossing violations or running between parked cars, etc.
- Purposely using playground equipment in an unsafe manner
- Hitting other students

- Being insubordinate (refusal to follow directions or being defiant)
- Inappropriate public displays of affection
- Demonstrating extreme inappropriate behavior in the hallway or during an assembly (including spitting and inappropriate physical contact)
- Using school computers or Internet inappropriately
- Using electronic equipment during the school day

#### LEVEL THREE INFRACTIONS

When a student commits a Level Three Infraction or zero tolerance behavior, he/she is immediately referred to the office, which may lead to an in-school or off-campus suspension for one or more days, and may also result in exclusion from field trips. Additionally, some Level Three Infractions can lead to a district behavior hearing or expulsion from school. Level Three infractions or zero tolerance behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Being extremely or repeatedly defiant
- Stealing
- Possessing or using in a threatening manner any instrument that could cause great bodily injury
- Fighting (mutual combat)
- Possessing, using, or selling alcoholic beverages, tobacco, controlled substances (including paraphernalia)

- Participating in or threatening to commit battery (use of force) on another person (e.g., peer, school employee, students, or innocent victim)
- Using extortion (obtaining money, property, or services from a person)
- Threatening or attempting to cause physical injury with a deadly weapon
- Biting (causing breaks in the skin or leaving noticeable bruise/red mark)

- Attempting to light a fire (arson) with matches, lighter, candle, etc.
- Committing or threatening to commit damage to property
- Throwing objects that have the potential to cause harm (e.g., chairs, scissors, desks, books, staplers, pencils)
- Defacing school property or using graffiti
- Participating in repeated acts of harassment or any other act which degrades another person. (e.g., any form of bullying in person or social media)

#### Suspensions/ Expulsion: Education Code 48900

A student may be suspended from the classroom by the classroom teacher or from school by the principal if it is determined that a student, while on the school grounds or during an activity off school grounds related to school attendance, has:

- 1. Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
- 2. Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the pupil had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, which is concurred in by the principal or the designee of the principal.
- 3. Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, or otherwise furnished, or been under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined in Section 11007 of the Health and Safety Code, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
- 4. Unlawfully offered or arranged or negotiated to sell any controlled substance, as defined in Section 11007 of the Health and Safety code, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid, substance, or material in lieu of the controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant.
- 5. Committed robbery or extortion.
- 6. Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.
- 7. Possessed or used tobacco or tobacco related products.
- 8. Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity of vulgarity.
- 9. Had unlawful possession of or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Section 11364 of the Health and Safety Code.
- 10. Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, or other school personnel.
- 11. Knowingly received stolen property or private property.

#### BICYCLES/SKATEBOARDS/ SCOOTERS/ ROLLER BLADES

If bikes are ridden to school, they **must be walked** on school property and locked in the bike rack. We are not responsible for damaged or stolen bikes. Students are not allowed to ride roller blades, scooters, or skateboards on campus. The school is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen items.

#### **SNACKS**

Eating will be confined to the cafeteria with the exception of certain classroom activities where it is encouraged that healthy snacks are provided. Students are to bring only individual snacks. Students are not allowed to share their snacks with others during lunch due to potential allergy risks.

#### **GUM AND JUNK FOOD**

Nicholas Elementary is a *gum-free zone*. Students are not permitted to chew gum at any time on campus. In addition, candy, soda, energy drinks, junk food and sunflower seeds are not allowed. Please do not send these items to school with your child, as they will be asked to throw them away. Sugary foods can interfere with a child's ability to learn and function in the classroom. Recent legislation bans the sale of soda and candy to students at elementary schools. Any healthy snack should be an individual size.

#### **TELEPHONE USE**

Office telephones are not for student use. Special arrangements for after school activities should be made prior to coming to school. Classroom phone use will be limited to emergencies only. Students can call for their rides 15 minutes after dismissal using the phone in the front office.

#### **CELL PHONES, ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, AND PERSONAL ITEMS**

Nicholas Elementary School is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen electronic equipment or personal items brought to school from home. All student cell phones must remain turned off during school hours. If a cell phone is seen by a staff member during school hours, it will be taken to the office and may be picked up after school on the first offense. If a cell phone is taken for the second time, a parent must pick up the phone. If a third offense occurs, student will not be allowed to bring a cellphone to school. If parents wish to leave a message for a student during the school day, they should call the school office. Cell phones may NOT be used to take pictures or videos on campus; this will result in immediate confiscation of the phone.

No student is allowed to bring personal items to school (Pokemon cards, balls, toys, marbles, large amounts of money, etc.). These items do not contribute to the educational process of student achievement. If an item is confiscated, a parent will be required to pick it up in the front office. The second offense will result in the item(s) being taken for the remainder of the year.

#### **COMPUTER USAGE**

Use of school computers is a privilege. If students do not follow the rules below, you will lose your computer privileges. Students are to follow rules for effective and safe use of computers. When using computers on campus, students must follow the rules below:

- 1. Follow directions of teachers and school staff.
- 2. Abide by the rules of the school and district.
- 3. Be considerate and respectful of all users.
- 4. Do not produce, distribute, access, use or store information that is unlawful, private, harmful, abusive, obscene, pornographic, or contains inappropriate language.
- 5. Do not allow anyone else to use your password and do not use anyone else's password.
- 6. Do not change any settings, add software or documents (except documents you create in class for assignments assigned by teachers).
- 7. Do not download any programs unless instructed by teachers.
- 8. Do not add stickers or damage chromebooks.

#### **DRESS CODE**

At Nicholas Elementary, our number one priority is student learning. The Nicholas Dress Code is designed to minimize distractions and keep students focused. The Nicholas Dress Code requires children to be appropriately dressed for full participation in school activities.

#### The following items are NOT to be worn by the students at Nicholas Elementary School:

- Shirts exposing the midriff, tube tops, see-through tops, or spaghetti straps
- "Short" shorts are not allowed
- Bottoms worn below the waist (sagging)
- Clothing with profanity, violence, reference to drugs/alcohol, or questionable logos/artwork
- Hats and hoods (may be worn outside during breaks only; not indoors)
- Shoes with wheels or heels.
- Earrings longer than one inch (safety reasons)
- No open toed shoes, Flip-flops, Crocs, high heels, or any other shoe that prevents safe movement for P.E. or on the playground. If worn, the child won't participate in playground activities or PE.
- Long necklaces which could be a safety hazard during play
- Sunglasses worn indoors
- Rags (blue or red handkerchiefs) or any other gang-related clothing

All sweaters, jackets, backpacks, and lunchboxes should have identifying marks sewn or written into the lining.

#### Consequences for Not Following the School Dress Code

- Parents will be contacted immediately to bring appropriate clothing so the student can remain in class.
- If violation persists, the teacher or principal will contact the parent to discuss follow through and support.
- Any further dress code violations will require a conference with the principal to review the expectations
  agreed to in the Student/Parent/Teacher Pledge and obtain resources if needed.

#### NICHOLAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/PARENT/STUDENT COMPACT

The School/Parent/Student compact is a written agreement between the school, parents, and students. It is a document that clarifies what families and the school can do to help students reach high academic achievement and/or standards. This compact serves as a clear reminder of everybody's responsibility at school and at home so that students can learn what is required of them. It is a written commitment indicating how all members of the school community agree to share a responsibility for student learning.

The purpose of this compact is to help the administration, parents, teachers, and students agree on the responsibilities of the individuals that are involved in the teaching and learning process.

This compact serves as a valuable tool for all individuals because it takes a collective effort to ensure students achieve in school. All individuals are expected to perform their responsibilities to ensure students benefit from educational opportunities provided at school. The compact lists specific expectations that all individuals are held responsible for. Your assistance in carrying out these expectations is crucial to student success.

#### SCHOOL/TEACHER AGREEMENT

It is important to me that students achieve their fullest potential. Therefore, I shall strive to do the following to the best of my ability:

- Provide a warm, inviting, safe, and caring learning environment.
- Provide meaningful homework assignments to reinforce and extend learning.
- Communicate regularly with students and parents about students' progress.
- Have high expectations, and help every child to develop responsibility for learning.
- Use best practice engagement strategies to make the lessons interesting, challenging, and enjoyable.
- Respect the school, staff, students, and families.

#### PARENT AGREEMENT

I want my child to achieve and do well in school and in life. Therefore, I shall strive to do the following to the best of my ability:

- Ensure that my child is well-rested and comes to school on time every day in appropriate attire.
- Provide a quiet time and place for homework.
- Become an active member of the Nicholas School community.
- Volunteer and participate in school wide functions and events.
- Ensure that my voice is heard/counted in the Nicholas School Community.
- I will ask questions when I am unclear of the learning objectives set for my child.
- Meet regularly with my child's teacher and school administration throughout the year.
- Review my child's homework and any notes coming home from the school.
- Communicate regularly with my child's teacher about my child's progress.
- Let the teacher/school know if my child is having problems with learning.
- Communicate the importance of education and learning to my child.
- Respect the school, staff, students, and families.

#### STUDENT AGREEMENT

I want to achieve and do well in school and in life. Therefore, I shall strive to do the following to the best of my ability:

- Come to school on time, ready to learn, and try my best every day.
- Follow the school expectations: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Kind.
- Be responsible for my own learning and behavior.
- Complete and return all homework assignments when they're due.
- Respect the school, staff, other students, and families.

#### PRINCIPAL AGREEMENT

I want the school and our students to achieve. I will provide an environment that allows for positive communication between all teachers, parents, and students. I will support teachers, parents, and students in the learning process.

Parent's Signature	Date

Student's Signature	Date
<u> </u>	

### Sacramento City Unified School District Request for Possession of Cellular Phone/ Smartwatch/Social Media

I understand possession of a cellular phone and or/a smart watch is subject to the following rules and regulations:

- A cell phone and/or a smart watch may be carried to school and at school-sponsored activities. However, cell phone usage is restricted to before and after school.
- Cell phone and/or smartwatch usage by students while riding to and from school on the bus, or on the bus during school-sponsored activities is prohibited.
- Cell phones and/or smart watches may not be used during school hours for any reason at recess, during class time, in the restrooms or on the playground. No Texting at any time.
- If a student needs to call home for any reason, a call must be made on the office phone or on a personal cell in the Front office with administrative permission.
- Cell phone and/or smartwatch usage is also prohibited during any emergency situation, disaster, during safety drills, or when otherwise directed by a district employee.
- No pictures or Videos may be taken of self or others or posted to social media during school hours.
- The Sacramento City Unified School District shall not assume responsibility for theft, loss, or damage of a cell phone and/or smart watch.
- It is a student's responsibility to ensure that cell phones and/or a smart watch are turned off completely and out of sight during unauthorized times. Students who violate the above restrictions shall be deemed to have created a disruption to the instructional environment and are subject to disciplinary action including confiscation and return of the cell phone and/or smart watch to the student's parents and/or revocation of the privilege of carrying the cell phone at school, as well as suspension. Refer to (Board Policy # 5131.2) (Education Code 48901.5) (Administrative regulation 5131.2)

#### Social Media Usage Agreement

- I will not engage in online bullying, including making unkind comments.
- I will not post or share offensive or inappropriate images, language, video or other content.
- I understand that posting certain types of photos, comments, threats or information on social media sites can be a school offense.

Parent's signature	Date
Student's signature	Date

\*The state of California adopted Assembly Bill 272 in July of 2019. The bill declares that there is growing evidence that unrestricted use of smartphones by students during the school day interferes with the educational mission of schools; lowers pupil performance, promotes cyberbullying; and contributes to an increase in teenage anxiety, depression, and suicide.

Please review this page with your child, sign it, and return it to school