



FIDDYMENT FARM FORCE

PARENT-STUDENT HANDBOOK

2018 - 2019

4001 Brick Mason Circle

Roseville, CA 95747

(916) 771-1880

Roseville City School District

Edited July-2018

PHONE: 916-771-1880

Phone Tree Options

1. Reporting an Absence
2. List of School Events
3. Leave a General Message
4. School Location and Hours
5. Cafeteria, including School Lunch Balances
6. Front Office

FAX: 916-771-1881

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS 7:30 am – 4:00 pm

RSCD Website:

<http://www.rcsdk8.org>

Look at “Your Schools”

School Opened - August 2013

Principal - Ryan Poulsen

School Colors - Black and Gold

School Mascot - The Force (Depicted as a Lightning Bolt)

Mission Statement:

We at Fiddymment Farm are committed to maximizing learning for each member of our FORCE.

F Focused

O Organized

R Respectful

C Compassionate

E Encouraging

Fiddymment Farm Elementary School

4001 Brick Mason Circle

Roseville, CA 95747

Phone: 916 771-1880

Fax: 916-771-1881

Facebook: RCSD Fiddymment Farm
Ryan Poulsen, Principal

Twitter: @rcsdfiddymment
Derk Garcia, Superintendent



Hello Fiddymment Farm Families,

August, 2018

I hope you all have enjoyed a wonderful summer vacation, and it is my pleasure to officially welcome you all back to school for the 2018/2019 school year. As I begin my 2nd year here as principal, I am beyond excited to be part of this amazing staff at "The Farm" as we begin our 6th school year. I know I can speak for every staff member when I say, we are all excited to see those wonderful smiling faces come August, as we continue the best job in the world, helping our students learn and grow into powerful FORCE members of the community!

Fiddymment Farm is indeed a special place for students and families! Our phenomenal teachers and support staff are committed to addressing the needs and skills of ALL of our students. We pride ourselves on consistently working to improve student performance and teacher instruction, as well as instilling perseverance in our students to acquire the knowledge needed to face challenges and embrace enrichment, and in doing so, becoming a FORCE in our ever changing society. Beyond the common core standards, our students will participate in our school programs including art, music, physical education, technology, and character building, working each day to grow into outstanding young scholars and leaders, ready for the next grade level, middle school, and beyond!

With great partnerships from our community of families, Fiddymment Farm continues to be a special place for children to learn. From our community of volunteers in the classroom for everyday support, and our amazing art docents and room parents, to our phenomenal PTC board and members, they help foster a student experience at Fiddymment second to none. Their support for our students during school, our after school enrichment programs, and our community events, make our school a truly amazing place to be!

Please take the time to visit the PTC/Volunteer link on the website, and help to contribute this tradition of community support. I cannot encourage you enough to take to get involved in your child's school and learning. It truly is an awesome story to tell, and we want you to hear it and for you to be a part of it. You can follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. We also have a "Remind.com" account that you can sign up for to receive text message reminders from us about important dates and events!

I wish all of our wonderful Fiddymment Farm FORCE students and families, the best school year to come. I know it will be amazing for everyone. I look forward to the learning, growing, and most importantly, to the fun we will all have together this school year!

Best Regards,

Ryan Poulsen
Principal



2018/2019 School Year Calendar

JULY (0)							AUGUST (17)							SEPTEMBER (18)							OCTOBER (23)						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
														30													

NOVEMBER (14)							DECEMBER (15)							JANUARY (17)							FEBRUARY (18)						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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4	5 ^c	6 ^c	7 ^c	8 ^c	9 ^c	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28		
							30	31																			

MARCH (21)							APRIL (16)							MAY (21)							JUNE (0)						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
31																					30						

- ★ 1st Day of School
- Students in School
- ▨ Teacher Work Day/ Students not in School
- Non-School Day
- ▤ PLC Monday—All Schools—Minimum Day
- C Elementary Conference Week Schedule
- E Minimum Day—Elementary Schools
- Minimum Day—All Schools

First Day of School: Aug. 9
Last Day of School: May 30
School Days in Session: 180

PLC =Professional Learning Community:
Minimum Day Every Monday
Report Card Prep: Oct. 29, Feb. 25, May 20
Elementary Conference Week: Nov 5 - 9

TRIMESTERS
End of 1st Trimester: Oct. 31
End of 2nd Trimester: Mar. 1
End of 3rd Trimester: May 30

STUDENTS NOT IN SCHOOL:
Pre-Service/Staff Dev: Aug 6-8
Labor Day: Sept. 3
District Staff Dev: Nov. 1, Jan. 7, Apr. 22
Site Staff Dev: Sept. 14, Nov. 2
Veteran's Day Observed: Nov. 12
Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 19 - Nov. 23
Winter Break: Dec. 24 - Jan 4
Martin Luther King Day: Jan. 21
Lincoln's Birthday Observed: Feb. 11
President's Day Observed: Feb. 18
Spring Break: Apr. 15 - 19
Memorial Day: May 27
Teacher Work Day: May 31



Fiddymment Farm Bell Schedule 2018-19

1st to 5th Earliest drop off time is 8:35am when gates open.

1st to 5th After school student pick up is within 10 minutes of dismissal.

*We will have a minimum day on Thursday August 16, 2018 for Back to School Night and in May for Open House. Watch for updates and details.

TK Early		TK Late	
Start	8:30am	Start	9:30am
Dismissal	11:50am	Dismissal	12:50am

KINDER Monday AND Friday Schedule	
Start	8:30am
Lunch	11:30am -12:15pm
Dismissal	1:35pm

TUES, WED, THU KINDER EARLY		TUES, WED, THU KINDER LATE	
Start	8:30am	Start	9:30am
Lunch	11:30am-12:15PM	Lunch	11:30am-12:15PM
Dismissal	1:35pm	Dismissal	2:35pm

1 st thru 5 th Grade PLC Mondays and Minimum Days	
First Bell	8:35am
Instruction Begins	8:50am
Recess	10:20-10:37am
Lunch 1 st and 2 nd Grade	12:00pm-12:45pm
Lunch 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th Grade	12:30pm- 1:15pm
Dismissal	2:00pm

1 st thru 5 th Grade Tuesday-Friday	
First Bell	8:35am
Instruction Begins	8:50am
Recess	10:20-10:37am
Lunch 1 st and 2 nd Grade	12:00pm-12:45pm
Lunch 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th Grade	12:30pm- 1:15pm
Dismissal	3:13pm

Conference Week November 5 th -9 th 2018	
TK Classes	See Schedule above- It's the same for this week.
Kindergarten Classes ALL	
Start	8:30am
Lunch	11:00am-11:24am
Dismissal	12:00PM
1 st thru 5 th Grade	
First Bell	8:35am
Instruction Begins	8:50am
Recess	10:20am – 10:30am
Lunch 1 st to 2 nd Grade	11:36am -12:00pm
Lunch 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th Grade	12:06pm-12:30pm
Dismissal	12:30pm

Drop off and Pick up at Fiddymont Farm Elementary

TK Only

Teachers will meet and dismiss their classes at the front gate.

- Please arrive by 8:30 a.m.(early) / 9:30a.m. (late) to hand your child over to his/her teacher
- Pick up is at 11:50 a.m.(early) / 12:50p.m. (late)

Attendance/Late Arrival:

If you are late and the gate is closed, you will need to enter through the school office. Parents must check in, get a visitor pass and walk their child to the classroom.

Kindergarten Only

Drop-Off/Pick Up: 8:30 am (early), 9:30 am (late) / 1:35 pm (early), 2:35pm (late)

- Please park in a designated spot and walk your student to the following area designated by teacher and classroom. Teachers will meet their classes at the designated area.
 - Room 11 Mrs. Manley Kinder Gate
 - Room 10 Mrs. Van Voltinburg Kinder Gate
 - Room 4 Mrs. Dyas Kinder Gate
 - Room 3 Mrs. Bogert/Mrs. Evans Kinder Gate

Drop off 1st-5th grades

8:35-8:45 am

- Pull into the striped lane in front of school.
- No parking in the loading zone, ever.
- Drivers must stay IN the car and continue to pull forward as the line moves.
- Students should be ready to exit the vehicle quickly, do not store items in the trunk.
- Students exit on the curb, do not have them walk around the vehicle or in between cars.
- 1st-5th grade students arriving by car may be dropped off in front of the school.
- Students who are walking or riding bikes, will cross at the supervised corner of Farm House and Brick Mason and enter from the pedestrian gate on the east side playground.
- Students walking or riding bikes, may also enter on the west side pedestrian gate.
- Both back gates will be open until it is prohibited by park construction.

Pick up 1st-5th grades

2:00 (M)/3:13(T-F)

- 1st-5th grade students will be released through the front gate for car pick up. Students will be directed to the west end of the loop for pick up to allow vehicles to move fully through the loop.
- 1st-5th grade students will be released through the pedestrian gates and back gates on the east and west sides of campus to walk or bike home

Loading Zone

- Drivers must enter the east entrance at the intersection of Farm House and Brick Mason
- Stay in the right, inside lane
- Pull through to the white curb before letting your child out of the vehicle
- Once your child has safely exited or entered your vehicle from the right side of your vehicle, you may pull out into the left outside lane and proceed to the exit
- Be mindful of people using the crosswalks
- Cars in the left exit lane must turn left onto Brick Mason.
- Cars in the right lane must turn right onto Brick Mason.

Please remember: To have instruction start on time, our arrival bell indicates the opening of campus at 8:35 a.m for 1st-5th grade students. Students have 10 minutes to enter campus through any of our established entrances. At 8:45 a.m., our warning bell rings and gates are closed and locked. If a student is not through the gate by 8:45 a.m., they will need to enter through the office. Instructions begins at 8:50 a.m.

Parents please – when driving your child to school, keep it slow and remember:

- ✓ Stay in your car unless you are parked in a designated parking space
- ✓ Be polite and considerate of others
- ✓ Do not park in the bus loading zone – this area is clearly marked with red paint and signs

Bicycles, Skateboards, Scooters and Rollerblades

Students who ride bicycles or scooters to school must park them in our bike racks. Bikes and scooters must be WALKED as soon as students come onto campus or in the parking lot. Bikes and scooters should be locked and are never to be ridden on school grounds. Skateboards and rollerblades are not allowed at school. **Students riding bikes are reminded that the rules of the California Vehicle Code are in force – please wear your helmet!**

Rainy Day Arrangements

Please make permanent plans for the year with your children so they will know what to do about coming home on rainy days, i.e. should they expect you to pick them up at the bus stop or school? Or are they to walk home in the rain? Use of the office phone by students for such calls home can be challenging and frustrating for children. Please help us, and your child, by making clear plans for inclement weather in advance. School phones are for emergency use only.

Absences and Tardies

Absences

Children who are absent are required to bring a written excuse from home stating the cause of the absence or parents may call the Absence Hotline (771-1880 option 1) to report the absence verbally. Accurate attendance records are maintained by school personnel. If we do not receive a note, email or message on the hotline before 10:00 am, you will receive a call from school personnel to verify the absence.

When leaving an absence message, please speak slowly and clearly and leave the following information:

- Student Name (please spell the last name)
- Your Name (please spell the last name)
- Teacher's Name
- Reason for Absence – this is very important
- Telephone Number for follow up, if there are questions

Absences are only excused for health reasons, attendance at an immediate family member's funeral, court appearances or religious holidays. All other absences are considered unexcused and may result in truancy proceedings.

If a student is absent 14 days or more for illness in a school year, further absences will need to be verified by a physician. Excessive unexcused absences and/or tardies will be reported to the Student Attendance Review Board, per State requirements.

Tardies

Children who arrive after the official start time will be considered tardy. Tardy students must report to the office for a tardy pass before going to class. Tardy students disrupt instruction for their classmates, in addition to creating a hardship for themselves and their teachers. Please do your best to get your children to school on time so they will not miss or disrupt important instruction.

The number one determinant of success in school is regular and timely attendance. Please make every effort to avoid scheduling trips, vacations and medical appointments during school hours.

Releasing Students from School

If you need to pick up your child during the school day, you must check them out through the office. Parents/guardians or other adults picking students up will be asked to show photo identification and this will be checked against names filled out on the student's emergency card. If at all possible, a note should be sent to the school informing the classroom teacher that the student will leave before the end of the school day. Requests to release students early from class disrupt instruction and should be avoided when possible. Please schedule medical and other appointments after school hours so that children do not miss important instruction.

Visiting or Leaving the School Grounds

Parents coming to school during the day for any reason must check in through the office before going to the classroom. All volunteers, parents and visitors must check in and out through the office and wear “visitor” identification during their time on campus. This helps us identify those who have legitimate business on the school grounds and also enables us to account for everyone in the event of an emergency. Visitors must return and sign out in the office upon leaving the campus. Office hours are 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. No one is allowed to interrupt the classroom during instructional time. Visits to the classroom of any kind must be pre-approved by the teacher and Principal. We do not allow drop-ins.

Office Demeanor

Fiddymment Farm Elementary is fortunate to have many visitors and volunteers each day. With so many people entering and leaving our school office each day, we respectfully ask that you help us maintain a quiet zone in our school office to enable the office personnel to conduct business without unnecessary interruptions.

- Please supervise children that are with you
- Please refrain from using cell phones and socializing in the office

We appreciate your cooperation!

Safety Drills and Evacuations

Staff and students rehearse safety procedures for preparedness in the event of emergencies. In the case of fire or earthquake, each class has an assigned building evacuation destination on the playground. Other situations may call for lockdown and/or shelter in place. Safety procedures will be followed to secure the campus.

Dress Code

Students at Fiddymment Farm will be expected to dress in an appropriate manner at all times. The dress code is not intended to list all items that are appropriate or inappropriate to wear. Its purpose is to give guidelines for what is appropriate and inappropriate clothing for school.

- Shoes must be worn at all times. Sandals must have straps and toes should be covered. No flip flops.
- Clothing should be free of writing, pictures or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane, or deemed inappropriate for school attire.

- Hats, caps and other head coverings shall not be worn indoors. Baseball caps must be worn facing forward.
- Clothing must conceal undergarments at all times. See through shirts, tank tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, low cut tops, bare midriffs, tight shorts and very short skirts or shorts are prohibited. Pants must be worn around the waist and not hanging below the mid-section. All tank tops straps must be at minimum of two finger widths wide.
- Hair shall be clean and neatly groomed. Hair may not be sprayed with any color that would drip when wet.
- Students may not wear makeup.

If your child does come to school with items that do not follow the dress code, you will receive a phone call requesting that you bring appropriate attire or asking that you pick your child up, if we are unable to provide an appropriate article of clothing for the student to wear for the day. If we are able to find a 'loaner', please launder the article of clothing and return it to the school as soon as possible. This will allow us to provide the same consideration to another child when necessary.

The purpose of the dress code is to protect the health and welfare of each and every child at Fiddyment Farm. Thank you for your support and understanding in this area.

Social Skills

Fiddyment Farm staff teach a social skills curriculum called Second Step. This curriculum will help students become more aware of appropriate social behavior. Students will be taught to recognize and deal with others who are misbehaving and how to handle themselves in a respectful and responsible way.

Student Discipline and Problem Solving

Part of everyone's education is learning how to behave responsibly in society. We have developed a problem solving and discipline plan knowing all students have rights to learn and play in a peaceful, safe environment. Goals of our problem-solving discipline plan are for students to learn to:

- Behave responsibly in society
- Respect yourself and others
- Learn and practice problem-solving skills and self-discipline
- Take responsibility for your behavior

School Rules

In each classroom, students review school rules and appropriate behavior choices. At this age, teaching and modeling for students on how to solve problems is very important. Fiddymment Farm students are taught problem-solving steps as part of an integrated curriculum.

Our School Rules are:

- Be Respectful
- Listen and Follow Directions
- Always Do Your Best
- Do the Right Thing

Bullying

Bullying is any act that seeks to intimidate or threaten others. Bullying may be verbal or physical in nature and is repeated with the intent to put others down. Cyber bullying includes electronic acts of intimidation or threats. To ensure that all of our students remain safe and can learn in a healthy environment, none of these acts are acceptable at Fiddymment Farm. Please discuss this with your child so they do not bully others or are not the continued recipient of others' acts. Please notify your child's teacher immediately should your child report a repeated threat. In your conversations about bullying, please distinguish between "tattling" and telling adults. Staff will investigate all reported acts of bullying and deliver consequences as appropriate.

Please keep in mind, bullying is different from conflict. Students may disagree or have a conflict and that is not considered bullying. Bullying involves a power imbalance in which the target has difficulty defending him or herself.

Systematic Discipline Plan

Our students must learn and play in a safe environment. We have set rules to be followed in order for us to have a safe and controlled playground situation with minimum disruption.

In addition to teaching students problem-solving steps, a system of Time Out slips and Behavior Notifications will be used to monitor misbehavior. When a student makes a poor choice or breaks a rule, a Time Out slip or Behavior Notification slip will be filled out and given to the student's teacher, and then sent home to keep you, the parent, informed of behaviors occurring at school.

Caught Ya tickets are given to students who are 'caught' doing something good. This could be anything from being patient to being helpful.

Recess Restriction:

Staff may restrict a student's recess time under the following conditions, when he/she believes that this action is an effective way to bring about improved behavior.

- The student shall be given adequate time to use the restroom, get a drink or eat lunch as appropriate.
- The student shall remain under an employee's supervision during the period of detention.

More serious misbehaviors will be cited with a Behavior Notification. If your child receives a Behavior Notification, a copy of it will be sent home for parent signature. It is our intent to keep parents informed; not that students will be punished at home each time they receive a Behavior Notification. That is an individual home choice. We do ask that an adult sign the Behavior Notification and return it to school the following day. Signing the behavior slip is not asking for your permission for the consequence, but rather to keep you informed of behaviors that occur at school.

A student referred to the office for behavior will have a conference with the principal or designee and logical consequences deemed as related, reasonable, responsible and respectful will be decided by the school principal/designee.

Our sincere hope is that each child will choose to act in a manner that is safe and productive for themselves and others around them.

In addition, behaviors which are more severe and need to be dealt with in a different manner may result in student suspension or expulsion.

Parents, please review the following with your child(ren):

- There is no profanity or fighting on the school grounds or on the way to or from school. This includes use of sexual terms in humor or jest.
- All electronics are prohibited on school grounds.
- Makeup and jewelry are not allowed on school grounds.
- No live animals on school grounds.
- No baseballs, footballs, tennis balls, etc. are allowed from home.
- No trading cards of any kind on campus.
- No trading of rubber band bracelets on school grounds.
- No Kendama, yo-yo or similar toys on school grounds.
- Pocket knives, play guns, or other sharp instruments are not allowed. Bringing these items may result in suspension or expulsion from school.
- Students willfully damaging school property (including books, playground equipment, etc.) will be required to pay for their damage.
- Students in common areas or bathrooms during class time must have permission to be there from a staff member.
- Cell phones are allowed if they remain off during the school day. If a phone is turned on or being used by students during school hours, a parent will need to come to the office to retrieve the phone.

School Safety Issues

The Roseville City School District will not tolerate firearms, weapons or other threats to the safety of the students and staff. The District has high expectations for student behavior. Any and all actions which may jeopardize personal safety will be taken very seriously. The District will not accept comments directed at any student or staff member, which are of a threatening nature.

The District will apply appropriate disciplinary consequences, including possible expulsion. We will not hesitate to file charges with law enforcement or seek restitution on behalf of the District for any applicable damages.

The District will make every effort to notify parents when a direct safety issue for students or staff exists. Typically, parents will be notified when any of the following circumstances occur:

- When children at school are aware of an immediate safety threat.
- When the school and police department are involved in an investigation.
- When an incident involving high levels of vandalism or destruction of property has occurred.

We encourage all parents to share any safety information or concerns with the school site administrator.

Emergency Cards and Updates

It is essential that the information you have provided on your child's Emergency Card is legible and remains current at all times. Please call the office or send a note so we can make necessary changes as they occur. The more valid phone numbers you provide us with, the quicker we can contact you in case of an emergency. Remember, only adults specifically designated by the parent or guardian on the Emergency Card will be allowed to sign out or transport a student from school.

Please be prepared to show photo ID when picking up your child. We do this to ensure the safety of all the children at Fiddyment Farm. This will likely become unnecessary as we get to know you, but you should always be prepared, in the event a temporary employee is working in the office. Please remind any adults you have listed on the emergency card to bring photo id with them as well.

Communications

Fiddymment Farm Elementary School uses SchoolMessenger Notification Service to send email and voice message communications. These communications include our weekly newsletter, information and updates about upcoming events, and other important information regarding the goings on at Fiddymment Farm Elementary.

Emails will be from Ryan Poulsen (rpoulsen@rcsdk8.org) telephone calls will be from **(916) 771-1880**. Please be sure to add these to your 'safe senders' lists.

Medication

Students may not have medication of any kind (including over-the-counter medications) in their possession on school grounds or during any school-sponsored events. District policy requires that all medications be stored in the school office and that both parent and physician sign a form specifying dosage and administration time. Office staff administers all medicine. Forms are available in the school office.

Hot Lunch

For any student who wishes to purchase pre-paid lunches or qualifies for free or reduced lunches, a lunch account will be maintained.

Cost of hot lunch is \$3.00 (includes milk and salad bar). Lunch may be purchased daily or as needed.

Make checks payable to **RCSD Child Nutrition**.

Pre-paid Lunches: May be purchased in the school office. Please include your child's name and teacher's name on the memo portion of your check. If sending cash, please include this same information along with your cash, in a sealed envelope.

Lunch accounts are tracked by the cashier. If you need to request a lunch account balance, please do so in writing, to the school office. Your note will be passed on to the cafeteria cashier no later than the next school day, depending on when it is received.

You may also pay online at <http://www.ezschoollpay.com/> . A \$2.00 fee per payment transaction applies. There is no fee to set up an account to view balances.

Free/Reduced Lunch: Applications for free/reduced lunches may be obtained in the school office. Online applications are also available at www.ezmealapp.com . After completion, please return application and it will be forwarded to Food Services. If qualified, the applicant will be notified by mail. Please see the Cashier or school office personnel for questions.

Milk (regular or chocolate) may be purchased separately for \$0.25.

Lunch money will not be loaned. Students who have forgotten or lost lunch money will be sent to the office to call their parents. Please remind your children to check the counter in the office if they are looking for their lunch money or lunch. We are unable to deliver money or lunches to the classroom.

Snack Recess

Please send a healthy snack for your child to enjoy at snack recess. Students will have the opportunity to eat their snack in a designated area before going to play. Remind your student to properly dispose of their trash. We want to keep our campus clean.

Healthy Choices

Roseville City School District has a Board Policy on healthy foods in the schools. This RCSD Board Policy is based on the California Healthy Schools Bill SB12, which has been passed by the state lawmakers.

This policy focuses on serving only healthy foods at school, both in the cafeteria and in the classrooms. The intent is to educate students to make healthy food choices.

Fiddymment Farm will support this policy by implementing the following procedures concerning distribution of foods in the classroom, by both teachers and administrators.

- We will not be allowing students to bring in any food items to share with the class on birthdays or other special occasions.
- If you would still like to honor your child's birthday, check with your child's teacher on suggestions for non-food items (pencils, stickers, erasers, etc.) that could be shared with the class.
- Teachers will not be using non-nutritious foods (candies, cookies, etc.) as a reward for students' academic performance or classroom behavior.
- Teachers will still hold occasional parties during the school year. This will be the time to enjoy those special treats, along with some healthy snacks.

We trust that you will support us in teaching our students the importance and benefits of healthy eating. With childhood diabetes, obesity and dental health concerns on the rise, we have an obligation to provide our children with the best physical and academic environment.

Homework

Homework...some parents love it, most kids dread it and educators can debate the positives and negatives all day long. At Fiddymment Farm, we believe in a balanced approach to supporting our students with their studies. Here are the brand new dos and don'ts of homework at the Farm starting in January 2017.

- Any work sent home may be used as a reinforcement to material presented in class. It will serve as more practice for students and their families who believe repetition is a good strategy. It will not be required, graded or returned to students.
- Students will never be penalized at school (i.e. missing recess or Fun Friday) if homework is not completed or returned.
- All students are encouraged to read (or be read to) for 100 minutes weekly. There will not be a mandatory reading log sent home. We encourage parents to talk to children about what they are reading and ask questions about the material. This will help parents to understand what their child is reading and where they may need support. Please see the attached list of questioning strategies.
- Any work done at home will not be used towards grades.
- Teachers will post practice work on their website or give suggestions in their newsletters for families seeking resources. We believe our students work hard with us during the day and should not be required to complete additional work at home from school. We hold them accountable and teach responsibility at school and we know parents do the same at home.

We believe a child who plays, engages in his/her community, is a contributor to his/her family, participates in sports and other enrichment activities develops into a successful adult.

It is important for parents and teachers to be in communication about a child's progress in school. Teachers not only use progress reports and report cards as communication but they are always open to schedule a conference, talk on the phone or email to review a child's academic standing. Communication is a two way street, teachers will contact parents with a concern and parents are encouraged to do the same. Please read some of the articles online that discuss homework and its purpose and effect on learning. We hope you join us in celebrating doing what is best for our elementary aged children.

Computers and Internet Use

All students have access to technology as part of their education. Use of computers in the classroom, "pods", library and computer lab is integrated with reading, writing, math, science and social studies instruction. Internet use, under supervision, is available to all students at Fiddymment Farm. Students may access the Internet only after a signed District Internet Use Agreement is filed with the classroom teacher and signed by the parent or legal guardian.

Independent Study Contracts

Students who are going to be out of school for five or more days for reasons other than illness or injury may be eligible for independent study. Independent Study Contract length is not to exceed fifteen (15) school days. There is a specific set of District criteria for independent study. This program requires a contract signed by the parent, student, teacher and administrator. The contract specifies the amount of work to be completed, the amount of time to be spent each day, when the work will be turned in to the teacher, and how the work will be evaluated. **An independent study contract must be requested more than FIVE days prior to a planned absence so that teachers can prepare materials for the student and approvals can be obtained. Independent Study forms are available in the school office.**

All work products from an Independent Study Contract must be returned to the teacher within 3 days of the completion of the contract.

There are specific dates that Independent Study is not available. Those dates are generally the first 3 weeks of school and that last 3 weeks of school. Please call the office for specific dates each year.

Messages and Deliveries

In order to preserve instructional time, no messages or deliveries will be taken to classrooms. You may leave a voicemail for your child's teacher and it will be returned within 24 hours with the exception of Fridays. Messages left on Friday will be returned the next working day. Balloons, flowers and/or other distracting items will not be delivered to classrooms.

Private Party Invitations

In an effort to prevent children from hurt feelings, private party invitations may not be distributed on the school grounds by students or adults. Not only does it create some hurt feelings, but it may detract from instructional time. Distribution of flyers or advertisements of any kind is strictly prohibited. Balloons, flowers and other items sent to the school to celebrate a child's birthday will be kept in the office until the end of the day.

Telephone Calls

School telephones may be used by students to notify parents of the need to stay after school to complete missed work, in the event of missing the bus, illness, accident, or other unforeseeable situation. Phone messages for students from parents/guardian will be placed in the child's teacher's box by office staff. Please note: except in the case of a legitimate emergency, classroom will not be interrupted to get messages to students.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

At the end of the first trimester, the parents/guardians of each child will be invited to attend an individual conference with the teacher to discuss their student's progress. Standards Based Report Cards will be given to parents/guardian at this time. At the end of the second and third trimesters, report cards are sent home with each student. Individual conferences may be arranged by the parent/guardian or teacher, as desired. Parents are invited to request conferences at any time to discuss the progress of their student. Please call the school office or email your child's teacher to schedule a conference.

Classroom Volunteers

Classroom volunteers are welcome and encouraged to help in classrooms and to accompany their children on field trips. Parents who volunteer must coordinate times and duties with the classroom teacher and make child care arrangements for siblings. Siblings and non-enrolled children are not allowed in classrooms, in the office workroom or on field trips.

All classroom volunteers must complete a [RCSD School Volunteer Information Form](#) prior to entering the campus. This form will be kept on file for the current school year, and requires a copy of the volunteer's photo id. These are required for any parent or family member who will be in the classroom on a regular basis, or for a single event.

Class Parties

Fiddymment Farm classes will have 3 scheduled parties per year: Winter Party, Valentine's Day Party and an end-of-year celebration. Please check with your teacher and/or room parent to find out how you can help!

Field Trips

Field trips are an important part of the curriculum. They enhance and bring to life classroom studies. Prior to a field trip, parents will be informed about all details. All students going on a field trip must have a completed Parent Permission Form prior to departure. Bag lunches for field trips are available from the school kitchen if ordered in advance. Information regarding lunch orders will be included in the field trip packet. Parents who wish to chaperone field trips may do so with the teacher and principal's permission. Field trip chaperones may be required to ride the bus to and from the field trip destination. Siblings and other guests may not participate in school-sponsored field trips.

Parent-Teacher Club (PTC)

Fiddymment Farm Elementary has a fantastic PTC that supports our students in a variety of ways. We hope you will join the PTC and play an active role in making this your child's best school year ever! PTC meetings are held monthly and last approximately 1 hour. Meetings are usually scheduled on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm. Watch the school and PTC newsletters for meeting dates, times and for information about exciting PTC sponsored events.

School Improvement Plan

Fiddymment Farm has a School Site Council (SSC) consisting of school personnel and parents who help to develop school goals and allocation of funds. This plan is designed to meet the particular needs of our students.

Site monies obtained for our school improvement are used in a multitude of ways, such as purchasing educational materials, student incentives and awards, and/or staff development that allows staff members to enhance educational techniques and knowledge.

All parents are encouraged to become involved with the educational process by volunteering to help with special projects, attending meetings, visiting the school, learning more about the school program and assisting your child with studies at home.

Lost and Found

Please make sure that jackets, sweaters, lunch boxes, and other items brought to school are **clearly marked with your child's name** and phone number. We accumulate a vast assortment of property during the school year. Items left in the Lost and Found will be donated to a charitable organization at the end of each trimester.

Bi-Weekly School SING

Creating a positive school community, supporting and maintaining connections between students, staff and families are extremely important to us here at Fiddymment Farm Elementary.

One way to come together as a community is through our Sing program. All students and staff will participate in this 30 minute program approximately two Fridays each month.

Students will be encouraged to show FORCE pride by wearing their spirit wear each Friday. The staff and students will sing songs chorally with assistance from our upper grade students who will be leading the songs, teaching the student body the lyrics and dance/hand movements.

During each Sing, teachers will recognize one or two exemplary students per class for their exhibition of the “Social Skill” for the month. Students are awarded a certificate and the satisfaction of knowing they exemplify true character! We recognize and honor these students again in the newsletter following Sing.

FIDDYMENT FARM FORCE CHANT

(THIS IS AN ECHO SONG)

**WE ARE THE FORCE
THE FIDDYMENT FARM FORCE
EVERYWHERE WE GO
PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW
WHO WE ARE
SO WE TELL THEM...**

(END ECHO)

**F IS FOR FOCUSED
O IS FOR ORGANIZED
R IS FOR RESPECTFUL
C IS FOR COMPASSIONATE
E IS FOR ENCOURAGING**