



OAK - 8 Update

2018-2019 School Year, Edition 19 | Week of January 14, 2019

Principal's Message

Happy New Year, everyone! Here's hoping that you and your families have had a nice holiday season and a good Winter Break.

As I sit in my office on a rainy January afternoon, I want to look ahead to the remainder of the school year by emphasizing the importance of **good school attendance** for our students. Simply put, every school day and every hour of instruction matters for your child ... and consequently we want to stress that your child be at school and on time for school as often as possible.

As you probably know, we have strong accountability for student attendance. The state has strict guidelines for what constitutes an excused absence, and we are required to track attendance and issue notices of truancy if children accumulate a combination of three or more unexcused absences and/or unexcused tardies of more than 30 minutes. We also document, and issue letters for, chronic tardiness and chronic absenteeism (which is defined as being absent 10 percent or more of the time).

To be sure, we don't want your child to come to school if he/she is ill. That said, we respectfully ask that you do everything you can to make sure your child comes to school each and every day. Absences add up ... if your child misses just two days of school per month, that means he/she is missing a full 10 percent of the school year. Don't let this happen.

Meantime, tardies also matter. It may seem like it isn't a big deal for a student to come to school five or 10 minutes late. The reality, however, is that **the first 15-20 minutes of the morning are the most important part of the school day**. Teachers welcome students, preview the day, and provide motivation for their class. Students who arrive late miss all of this important input.

So ... if you are setting resolutions for the New Year, good school attendance would be a worthy goal. Keep your child in school -- and learning -- to the fullest extent possible.

Have a great week!

Joe Dana, Principal



SPARTAN PRIDE: Congratulations to all of the students honored at our Spartan Pride awards assembly the week prior to Winter Break! Those recognized included Lillie Ayala, Reagan Bauer, Aiden Calleja, Jett Carter, Uriel De La Cruz, Prisella Garcia, Trevor Glynn, Makayla Goodchild, Cozette Hamer, Lillian Hamer, Genesis Hastings, Samantha Miya, Thomas Reno, Sophia Rubalcava, Kian Shalhoob, and Annie Youngquist.

The Week

Monday

Hot lunch: Bean & Cheese Burrito

Since this is our first school day following Winter Break, we will have **school rules assemblies** this morning to review our rules and expectations with students.

Tuesday

Hot lunch: Domino's Pizza

Wednesday

Hot lunch: Mexican Beefy Nachos

Thursday

Hot lunch: Orange Chicken with Brown Rice

Thursdays are "**College Day**" for our school. Students and staff are invited to wear college apparel to campus.

We have a **campus tour for prospective OAK-8 parents** this morning at 9:15. The tour will begin in the cafeteria.

Representatives of **Orcutt Academy High School** will be on campus this afternoon to do a presentation on high school for Mrs. Clayton's class.

Friday

Hot lunch: Chicken Taco Salad



CAPTIVATING CHOIR: Members of our campus Senior Choir sing at a Holiday Musical the Thursday evening prior to Winter Break. Both the Junior and Senior Choirs performed, to the delight of a packed crowd in the gym. Kudos to our choir teacher, Mrs. Sullivan, for doing a wonderful job with our kids!

School News

Our campus was delighted to receive a visit from our superintendent, **Dr. Debbie Blow**, during the week prior to Winter Break. Dr. Blow is shown at right talking to students from Mrs. Cole's TK/K class.

Our **boys' and girls' basketball teams** are scheduled to begin their season later this month. We do not yet have our league schedule, but we will include it in this newsletter as soon as we have it.

The Orcutt Academy is **now accepting applications for enrollment** for the 2019-2020 school year. If you have children to enroll, please be sure to fill out an enrollment application for each child. And if you know people interested in OA, please

encourage them to attend an information night/meeting, as they will receive valuable information on school programming as well as our lottery and admissions procedures. For a schedule of information nights/meetings as well as the online enrollment application, please click [here](#).

OAK-8 families are encouraged to become members of the **Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation**. Membership is just \$10 for individuals. Envelopes are available in the school office, and members also can sign up at the OCAF website [here](#).



Coming Up

Monday, January 21: We have no school today, as it is the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

Wednesday, January 23: The OAK-8 PTSA has a fundraiser at Panda Express in Santa Maria this evening.

Friday, January 25: Today marks the end of the Second Quarter for grades 7 and 8. Second Quarter report cards will go home on Friday, February 1.

[Click here](#) to see the entire **school year calendar for OAK-8**.

New Bus Schedule

Following is the OAK-8 bus schedule for the start of the 2018-2019 school year. Parents of Transitional Kindergarten and kindergarten students are requested to let Mrs. Cole know which bus/bus stop their children will be using in the afternoon; that way, Mrs. Cole can make sure the students get on the correct bus. Our complete schedule follows:

Morning

- 7:37 - Pine Grove School (front of school on Bradley Road)
- 8:00 - Lakeview Junior High School Gym (in front of gym doors)
- 8:05 - Kmart Shopping Center (on west side of Kmart building)
- 8:30 - OAK-8 (on Helena Street in Los Alamos)

Afternoon (3:00 Dismissal - Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays)

3:00 - OAK-8 (on Helena Street in Los Alamos)
3:30 - Kmart Shopping Center (on west side of Kmart building)
3:30 - Pine Grove School (in parking lot)

Afternoon (2:00 Dismissal - Wednesdays)

2:00 - OAK-8 (on Helena Street in Los Alamos)
2:30 - Kmart Shopping Center (on west side of Kmart building)
2:30 - Pine Grove School (in parking lot)

Afternoon (1:30 Dismissal - First Day of School, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Last Day of School)

1:30 - OAK-8 (on Helena Street in Los Alamos)
2:00 - Kmart Shopping Center (on west side of Kmart building)
2:00 - Pine Grove School (in parking lot)

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