



PONDEROSA ELEMENTARY



School Discipline Plan and Rules

We are CHAMPS

Caring

Honest

Active everyday

Motivated

Productive

Soaring!

Each student is an individual with his or her own personal, social, and educational needs. As a result, every behavioral situation becomes unique in nature. Consequences for misbehavior provide the best learning value when matched to the unique student and situation. The probability for children learning from their mistakes increases dramatically when children see a reasonable connection between their behavior and the resulting consequences.

If a student causes a problem for him/herself or anyone else, he or she will most likely be asked to solve that problem. If he or she cannot solve the problem, or chooses not to, appropriate consequences may be imposed. These consequences will depend upon the situation. For major disciplinary infractions, the school follows the Elementary Student-Parent Handbook found at www.meridianschools.org. Staff members will use their best judgment based upon the information they have at the time. If students or parents feel that the consequences are unjust, they may request a meeting.

The above Guiding Principles direct our attempts to provide consistency in disciplinary procedures. They also allow the staff to accommodate and meet the needs of individuals and circumstances. Since these principles provide the guide for our professional decisions, the staff encourages parents to bring concerns and questions to us in the event we operate in ways that appear to be inconsistent with these principles.

Safety Rules and Procedures

The purpose of school and playground safety rules is to provide a safe learning and play environment. Due to safety concerns, rules may be revised or new rules implemented at any time. Please read over these rules with your child. The Elementary Student-Parent Handbook also contains school district expectations. The Handbook can be found on the district's website: www.meridianschools.org.

Children are expected to act in ways that will not cause a problem for himself or herself or anyone else.
Expectations include, but are not limited to the following:

Student Behavior:

1. Students will be good problem solvers.
2. Students will choose appropriate language and touch:
 - a. Report bullying or harassment.
 - b. Follow the No Touch rule.
 - c. Fighting, rough play, bullying, or wrestling will not be allowed.

Items at School:

1. Cell phones are not to be visible or heard in the school building or on school grounds. Cell phones are to be kept in backpacks. They may be confiscated.
2. Keep toys and electronic equipment at home. They may be confiscated.

School Grounds:

1. Stay in assigned areas on school grounds and be visible to school personnel at all times.
2. Walk bikes, skateboards, skates, or scooters.
3. Remain in safe areas while waiting for the buses or rides home.

Recess:

1. Walk on the blacktop, bark areas, and play structures.
2. Follow the Stop, Wait, and Walk rule.
3. One hand must be on the play equipment at all times.
4. The slide is for going down one person at a time in a sitting position. Do not block the bottom of the slide.
5. Swinging or spinning can be done on the pull-up bars with both hands holding the bar.
6. Standing on pull-up bars and cross-bars (monkey bars) is not allowed.
7. No kicking balls on the blacktop.
8. Follow Ponderosa's tetherball, 4-square, and Pacer rules.
9. No bats or hardballs (i.e. baseballs, super balls, handballs).
10. Stay in designated areas on the play structures
11. Stay away from bike racks and fire hydrant.

Inclement Weather:

1. A Walk and Talk recess will be called if the playground is not safe for active play (i.e. too wet/muddy/icy).
2. Stay on the blacktop. (Pacer Path may be used if it is safe.)
3. No equipment, play structures, or playing on the field during Walk & Talk.
4. Stay off play structures when red flags are hung.
5. Snow and ice rules: Stay on your feet. No throwing, kicking, or sliding.