

**Student  
and  
Family  
Handbook  
2025  
2026**



OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Oak Valley  
Elementary**

## **Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Behavior (MTSS-B) is being implemented in all Omaha Public Schools and Programs.**

The Omaha Public Schools (OPS) implements Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Behavior (MTSS-B) to promote student use of positive behavior. Through this framework, Omaha Public Schools has committed to providing staff with tools and resources to positively engage students and families through implementation of school-wide positive behavior interventions. These practices are designed to support safe and encouraging learning environments.

We believe that we cannot “make” students learn or behave. But we can create environments to increase the likelihood of positive behaviors occurring.

MTSS-B is a research-based, highly effective behavioral framework that is designed for teaching and reinforcing students’ social, emotional, and academic learning skills in order to sustain academic achievement and support the social, emotional, and behavioral well-being of students. Consistent implementation of MTSS-B leads to:

- Improved school climate;
- Reductions in major disciplinary infractions;
- Improved academic achievement;
- Improved concentration, positive social behavior, and emotional regulation.

Omaha Public Schools is committed to supporting students through behavior interventions and alternatives to exclusionary practices that require removal from the educational setting where the safety of the student and/or others is not of immediate concern.

MTSS-B utilizes consistent practices that have tiers of increasingly intensive supports, and in our schools, this includes:



## Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

In addition to MTSS-B, Omaha Public Schools continues to support Social Emotional Learning (SEL) development through curriculum, strategies, and resources. SEL is defined by the Collaborative of Academic Social Emotional Learning (CASEL) as the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

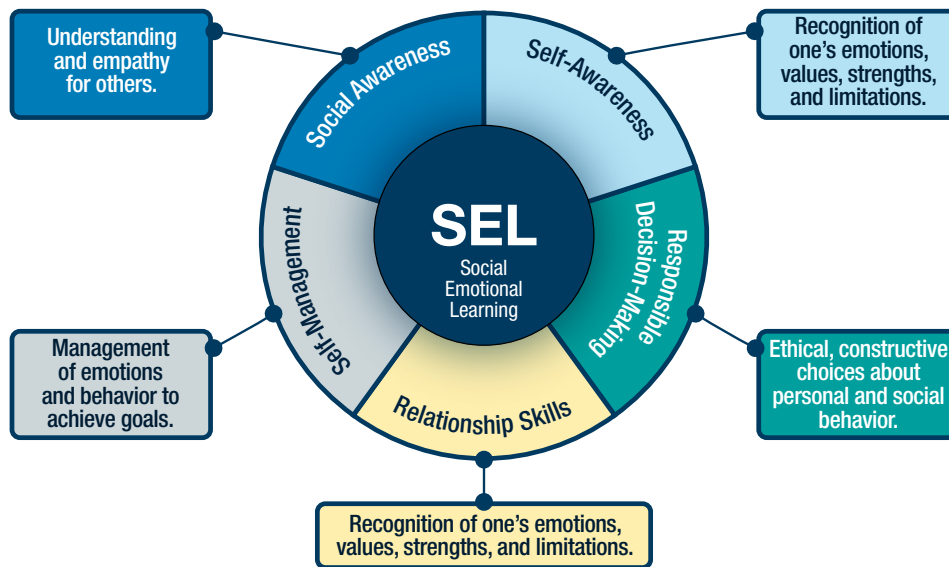
Within the Omaha Public Schools, our goal is to focus on CASEL's five SEL competencies:

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills
- Responsible Decision-Making

SEL promotes knowledge, skills, and attitudes that support lifelong success and advance educational equity and excellence.

### How do MTSS-B and SEL Align in all Omaha Public Schools and Programs?

MTSS-B and SEL are frameworks that work together to provide an ethic of care for students and promote success in students' academics, behavior, attendance, and overall well-being. Combined they create positive learning environments where students and staff are equipped with resources and skills for successful school communities.



If you would like more information about how MTSS-B and SEL are implemented in your school, contact the building principal.



# Oak Valley Elementary

## Student and Family Handbook 2025-2026

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*This handbook is prepared to serve as a guide to Oak Valley Elementary students. In it you will find the policies and procedures that are followed at Oak Valley. We hope that you will find this handbook a convenient reference during the school year.*

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### Mission Statement

Omaha Public Schools prepares all students to excel in college, career, and life.

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### Vision Statement

Every student. Every day. Prepared for success.

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Omaha Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, citizenship status, veteran status, political affiliation or economic status in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individual has been designated to accept allegations regarding non-discrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-9822). The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Equity and Diversity, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-0307).

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### **Omaha Public Schools District Handbook**

### **Omaha Public Schools Code of Conduct**



Dear Oak Valley Families,

The staff at Oak Valley is committed to working with our families. We want all students to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. We look forward to partnering with you this school year.

Families, we need your help! Regular school attendance and engagement in school are both essential to a great education. Be sure your student attends school every day, on time, and stays all day. Please review the school expectations for your student and encourage them to do their best and challenge themselves each day. Check in with your student about their school work, what they are learning, and how they persevered when something was hard. We want ALL of our students to grow and feel successful!

Thank you for being part of the Oak Valley community. We look forward to your partnership this school year.

Sincerely,

The Oak Valley Staff

## **Oak Valley – A Great Place to Learn**

### **We are OWLS – Owls: Working, Learning Succeeding**

### **Oak Valley Spirit**

We are the proud Oak Valley Owls! Our school mascot is Hootie the Owl. Our school colors are green and white. Please join us in spirit days on Friday! Hootie, Hoot, Whooo!

## **General Information:**

6:30 am - Kids Club Opens (pre-registration required)

8:00 am - Office Opens

8:35 am - Doors Open / Breakfast Begins

8:50 am - School Day Begins

4:00 pm - Pre-K Dismissal

4:05 pm - K-5 Dismissal

4:20 pm – Office Closes

6:00 pm – Kids Club Closes

There is no adult supervision prior to 8:35 a.m. **Students should not arrive prior to this time.**

## **Registration and Student Records**

Nebraska statutes require each school district to keep a continuous census of pupils. Each parent or guardian is asked to complete and/or update the following online using Parent Portal: (1) an individual student census and (2) a family census naming children in the family. Parents are also asked to provide the following information: (1) report cards and all pertinent records from the previous school, (2) The child's official birth certificate for new student, (a copy will be made by the school), (3) emergency dismissal information, (4) information for a home language survey and (5) proof of address. Parents and guardians are asked to keep the school office informed of: (1) any changes in home addresses or telephone number, (2) any changes in emergency contact persons who are called when neither parent can be reached and (3) any changes in emergency or dismissal directions.

## **Health Records**

A physical examination by a health care provider is required for kindergarten students and students new to the Omaha Public Schools. Parents are asked to provide the student's immunization records and health conditions. Inform the School Nurse of medications, allergies, or emergency health needs. See Student Health and Medication Policy.

## **Home - School Communication & Responsibilities**

Our main mode of communication is through email. Omaha Public Schools phone caller and text messages are also used to communicate. Be sure we have your most up to date contact information. Teachers will also share information on SeeSaw. We also share school happenings on Facebook.

## **Field Trips**

Field trips are planned to be educational experiences. Students are expected to be courteous, respectful, and follow all adult directions. Permission slips are required to be signed and returned to the teacher before any student is allowed to attend any field trip. Verbal permission will not be accepted.

## **School Property**

Students lockers, desks, iPads, and other property are owned by the school. The school exercises exclusive control over this school property. School property is subject to search at any time by school staff. Students are responsible for whatever is contained in desks, lockers, devices, and other property issued to them by the school.

## **Physical Education**

Students are required to take part in physical education classes and is part of the Omaha Public Schools curriculum plan. If students are unable to participate, a physician's note must be submitted to the school. Gym shoes need to be worn on scheduled PE days.

## **Celebrations or Birthdays**

Families are welcome to share treats or a goodie bag to be sent home with classmates. No homemade food. If families send party invitations to school, all classmates or grade level must be included. Families must arrange with the classroom teacher before sending any celebrations items or invitations to school. Students may be excused from celebrations at the request of the parent or guardian.

## **Cafeteria Breakfast and Lunch**

The Nutrition Services staff provides a healthy breakfast and lunch each school day. Breakfast is free to all students and is served Grab-and-Go style. Students grab their breakfast selections and go to the classroom to eat breakfast. Students should arrive between 8:35 – 8:45 am to have enough time to eat before class begins.

Lunch is a federally subsidized program served in the cafeteria. We expect all students to be safe, respectful, and responsible in the cafeteria and adhere to the federal guidelines for the program. Students can choose the school lunch options or bring a healthy lunch from home. Please do not send large bags of chips, sugary drinks, or sodas. Milk can be purchased in the cafeteria. Families can check the lunch menu and choose to complete the Education Benefits Form to qualify for free or reduced lunch online at: <https://www.schoolcafe.com/OMAHAPS>.

If your student has food allergies, please contact the school nurse and send the doctor's note as soon as possible.

## **Student Personal Electronic Devices**

Students should not use personal electronic devices during the school day. This includes cell phones, smartwatches, and accessories. Students must place them in the teacher's secure bin during the school day. Devices found on students will be placed in the secure bin and returned at the end of the school day. If there are multiple incidents, a parent or guardian will need to pick up the device and create a plan with the teacher. Families that need to contact their child during the school day, please call the office. Otherwise, your child will check their device at the end of the instructional day.

## **Safety Expectations**

### **Arrival**

K-5 students will line up in the front of the school by the main doors at 8:35 am. Please do not drop off or allow students to come early as there is no supervision. Doors will open at 8:35 am for grab-n-go breakfast. If your student will not eat breakfast, please drop off at 8:45 am. Students must go straight to class after entering the building or grabbing breakfast.

### **Dismissal**

K-5 students who are walking or picked up by family are dismissed at 4:05 pm along Pedersen Dr. Please wait along Pedersen Dr. for your student to be dismissed by the teacher. When students see their adult or family member, they must signal and get an ok from the teacher before they are dismissed. K-2 students are dismissed along the back of the building. 3-5 students are dismissed near the front of the building. Please communicate with the teacher and office of any dismissal changes or new person who is authorized to pick up.



### **Traffic**

Please help us create a safe dismissal. Only park and load on the Oak Valley side of the street. Only cross the street at the crosswalks. Safety patrol will be on duty after school. Crosswalks are circled in green on the map below. Thank you for helping keep everyone at Oak Valley safe.



### **Evacuation Site**

Our primary evacuation site is Westwood Heights Baptist Church at 3343 Pedersen Dr. In the event of an evacuation, no children will be dismissed to parents until students have arrived, have been accounted for, and dismissal procedures have begun. We appreciate your patience to ensure all children and staff are safe. Our secondary site is Southwest Branch YMCA.

### **Emergency Plans**

All Omaha Public Schools sites use Standard Response Protocol and practice these procedures with students and staff throughout the year.

### **Late Arrival or Early Pick Up**

If your student is late to school or needs to be picked up early, please contact the office. Turn in any medical notes related to the absence. Every minute counts. Be sure your student is in school as much of the school day as possible. If picking up early, please come to the office to sign-out your student. If you are authorizing another adult to pick up your student, notify the office and that adult will need to show identification before dismissing with the student.

### **Communication**

Communication with the office and teachers is important. All messages to students and teachers need to be completed by 2:30 pm to ensure delivery by dismissal. Any changes in dismissal procedures need to be communicated to the office by 2:30 pm. Students can request to call a parent or guardian with the permission of the teacher.

### **School-Wide Expectations**

#### **Be Safe**

- Keep body and objects to self
- Stay in your space
- Keep others safe

#### **Be Respectful**

- Follow directions the first time
- Use manners
- Use kind words and actions

#### **Be Responsible**

- Stay on task
- Calmly solve problems
- Fix mistakes
- Ask for help

Students will participate in lessons during the first weeks of school and throughout the school year regarding appropriate behavior at school. Please remind your students to follow behavior expectations and do their best each day.

**See Omaha Public School Technology agreement. The insurance only covers the iPad. Accessories are the responsibility of the family if lost or broken.**

## **Complaint Procedure**

If parents have a concern regarding a situation with their child at school, they are encouraged to follow these steps:

1. Do not ignore problems or let them continue to grow and bother you and your child. Please feel free to call the school and express your concerns.
2. Contact your child's teacher to discuss the concerns and possible solutions. Just as we try to teach children to talk to each other concerning their conflicts, we ask that adults model these behaviors by meeting with their teacher to initially seek a solution.
3. If the concern cannot be resolved with the teacher, the parent should then schedule a conference with an administrator. Parent concerns are always important to us and we will make every effort to work with you to resolve the problem.
4. If the parent feels the problem has still not been resolved, further resources are available through the Office of Student and Community Services.

## **Counselor**

The role of the elementary guidance counselor is to assist students with developing and attaining their academic, career, and personal goals through:

- Developmental Guidance Lessons
- Individual Counseling/Attendance Interventions
- Small Group Counseling
- Lunch Bunch
- Home Visits/Family Involvement
- Crisis Intervention
- Consultation/Collaboration with: school & staff, parent & guardians, district support services, and community agencies

## **Volunteers**

If health conditions permit, parents and families are encouraged to volunteer and help in the school. All volunteers and chaperones on field trips need to complete the online volunteer form on the Omaha Public School Career page. Criminal background checks are required for volunteers who may have unsupervised contact with students or volunteer coach. Please contact your child's teacher for ways to volunteer.

## **Parent Visitation**

If health conditions permit, parents are encouraged to visit their child's classroom, please contact the teacher first. Visitors who wish to visit with a teacher are asked to arrange for an appointment at a time outside of regular class hours. All visitors are asked to sign-in at the front office to obtain a visitor's pass before going to the classroom. Visits are generally limited to 30 minutes to ensure the instructional flow of the classroom is not compromised.

## **Communication of Progress**

Grades for students in 3-5 can be checked using Parent Portal of Infinite Campus. Please check your student's backpack for completed schoolwork.

Conferences are formally scheduled twice during the school year, fall and spring. Families should contact the teacher any time during the year to check on your student's progress.

## **Combined District and School Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

Omaha Public Schools intends to follow the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy guidelines in accordance with federal law, *Section 1116(a -f) ESSA, (Every Student Succeeds Act) of 2015.*

### **In General**

The written District parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly with, updated periodically and distributed to parents and family members of participating children and the local community in an understandable and uniform format. This policy agreed on by such parents describes the means for carrying out the requirements as listed below.

- Parents and family members of all students are welcomed and encouraged to become involved with their child's school and education; this includes parents and family members that have limited English proficiency, limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, racial or ethnic minority background or are migratory children. Information related to school and parent programs, meetings, school reports and other activities are sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
  - Back to School Night
  - School Open House
  - Title I Annual Parent Meeting
  - Curriculum Night
  - Parent-Teacher Conferences
  - Reading Night
  - Math Night
  - STEAM/STEM Night
  - Family Game Night
  - PTA/PTO – meetings & activities
- Parents are involved in the planning, review, evaluation and improvement of the Title I program, Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the School-Parent Compact at an annual parent meeting scheduled at a convenient time. This would include the planning and implementation of effective parent and family involvement activities.
- Conduct, with meaningful parent and family involvement, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Use the evaluation findings to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
- Opportunities are provided for parents and family members to participate in decisions related to the education of their child/children. The school and local educational agency shall provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities.
  - The student handbook
  - Curriculum Night
  - Parent-Teacher Conferences
  - Standardized Tests results
  - Progress reports & report card
- Parents of participating children will be provided timely information about programs under this part, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards. The school will provide assistance, opportunities, and/or materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement in a format, and when feasible, in a language the parents and family members can understand
  - The student handbook
  - Curriculum Night
  - Parent-Teacher Conferences
  - Standardized Tests results
  - Progress reports & report card
- Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.
- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State and local programs, including preschool programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.
  - Summer Reading Program
  - College and Career Academies and Pathways Night with The Empowerment Network

## **Parent Right To Know Clause**

At the beginning of the school year, any District that accepts Title I, Part A funding must notify parents that they can request information regarding their child's teacher and his/her qualifications, including certification and endorsements. Parents can also request information about paraprofessionals working with their children.

# **Oak Valley Elementary**

## **Title 1 School / Family Compact**

### **A Partnership in High Student Achievement**

This Oak Valley Title I School-Parent Compact has been jointly developed with parents and outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high academic standards. At the annual parent-teacher conferences, the compact shall be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement.

#### **Administrator/Teacher:**

It is important that students achieve. we will:

- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment to enable children to meet the challenging state academic achievement standards.
- Offer special assistance and/or gifted or advanced programs to students who progress at different rates.
- Set firm and fair safety/discipline policies.
- Regularly communicate with parents on child's progress.
- Provide quarterly reports of student progress.
- Demonstrate professional behavior and positive attitude.
- Meet with parents as needed for special SAT, MDT & IEP meetings.
- Provide parents/guardians reasonable access to staff before and after school and by appointment.

#### **Parent/Caring Adult:**

I want my child to achieve; therefore I will encourage him/her by doing the following:

- Communicate and work with the teachers and school staff on an ongoing basis to be involved and support my child's learning.
- Discuss with our child the importance of school, work completion and good attendance.
- Read at home together or encourage our child to read at least 15 minutes a day.
- Make sure our child arrives at school on time each day ready to learn, unless he/she is ill.
- Stay informed by reading all school notices.
- Communicate with teachers and attend school functions to support my child.
- Support my child's learning-volunteer in their classroom; participate, as appropriate, in decisions related to their education, guide positive use of extracurricular time.
- Provide a quiet place and time to do homework and encourage my child to complete schoolwork.

#### **Student:**

I know my education is important to me. It is important that I work to the best of my ability. I agree to do the following:

- Be at school every day and on time unless I am sick.
- Come to school every day prepared with supplies and an attitude to learn.
- Be responsible for my own behavior.
- Respect and cooperate with other students and adults.
- Return completed schoolwork on time.
- Read at home.
- Ask for help from my teachers when I need it.
- Give all school notices to my parents/guardians.

## **Omaha Public Schools 2025-2026 Calendar**

## **Omaha Public Schools District Handbook**

## **Omaha Public Schools Code of Conduct**