

Flatirons Community Handbook



1150 7th Street, Boulder, CO 80302

Tel: (720) 561-4600

Principal: Jess Seevers

School Hours: M, T, Th, F 8:35 a.m. - 3:35 p.m.; W 9:35 a.m.-3:35 p.m.

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



**FLATIRONS
ELEMENTARY**

SOARING TOGETHER

mission

Fostering supportive and meaningful relationships in an inclusive community where joy is at the heart of learning.

vision

Students who lead with curiosity, confidence, and compassion positively impact our world. Through authentic learning experiences that expand beyond the classroom and meaningful relationships, students are empowered to create a brighter future for themselves and others.



Critical Thinking

Project-Based Learning

Engaging projects that apply interdisciplinary knowledge.

Design Thinking

Hands-on activities fostering creativity.

Depth & Complexity

Encouraging higher-level thinking skills.

Authentic Experiences

Real-world learning and problem-solving.



Innovation

Maker Culture

Creative exploration and encouraging students to bring their ideas to life.

STEAM Education

Blending arts and sciences for holistic learning.

Student-Led Opportunities

Empowering students to lead their learning.

Hands-On Learning

Providing structured opportunities for goal-setting and personal growth.



Partnerships Empowerment

Career Exploration

Integrating career readiness into the curriculum.

Family Engagement

Encompassing families' funds of knowledge, cultures, and expertise.

Community Connections

Partnering with local businesses, educational entities, and community resources to expand learning beyond the classroom.

Power of WE

Working together to better our students and community.



Social-Emotional Learning

Programs supporting emotional and social growth.

Positive Behavior Support (SOAR)

Reinforcing Safety, Ownership, Aspiration, and Respect to cultivate a positive environment where all students thrive.

Inclusivity

Celebrating diversity and ensuring neuro-inclusivity.

Student Voice

Platforms for student leadership and advocacy.



BOULDER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL DESCRIPTION

Location – Flatirons Elementary School is at 1150 7th Street, Boulder, CO 80302, at the corner of 7th Street and College Avenue.

Attendance Area – Our school serves a large geographic area. In Boulder, our school attendance boundaries include Canyon Boulevard on the north, Broadway on the east, and Baseline on the south. We have students who live in the Chautauqua area and several mountain areas. Students who live on or above Flagstaff, in Four Mile and Sunshine Canyons, in Knollwood and Sugarloaf are bused to school at Flatirons.

School Size – Our total school population is usually around 170 students serving kindergarten through fifth grade.

Special Needs – We help our student population with special needs by using a partial inclusion model. Students who receive special education services receive most of these resources in the regular classroom. Up to 20% of our population gets this support each year.

Student Demographics – Approximately 20% of our population is composed of students with non-Caucasian racial backgrounds.

Curriculum – We implement the approved Boulder Valley School District Curriculum and expect students to be engaged in service-learning activities throughout the year. In addition to the curriculum presented in the regular classroom, students receive instruction in Art, Music, and Physical Education.

[Volunteers](#) – Our school is fortunate to have many caregivers, university students, and community members who are willing to extend our learning opportunities through their volunteer support. Due to this support, we can often reduce the adult:student ratio to approximately 1:9. Any volunteers who plan to work directly with students must complete a [BVSD Volunteer Application](#) before volunteering.

[CAREGIVER INFORMATION](#)

We highly value the communication between our caregivers and the school staff. The following is a list of how you may receive information about your child's classroom, Flatirons Elementary, and the Boulder Valley School District.

[Flatirons Website](#) – The school website fle.bvsd.org contains information regarding all aspects of Flatirons Elementary and many links to district and educational websites. On the website, you can access the Flatirons School Calendar, staff information, schedules, lunch menus, enrollment, school supplies, classroom information, caregiver information, awards, PTO information, etc.

[Flatirons Newsletter \(Falcon News\)](#) – The school newsletter contains information about all aspects of Flatirons Elementary, such as upcoming events, awards, program information, and some community events.

[Parent/Guardian Teacher Organization \(PTO\)](#) – This group of caregivers, teachers, and school staff organizes fundraising activities and social events for the Flatirons School. All Flatirons' caregivers are members and are encouraged to attend meetings.

[School Accountability Committee \(SAC\)](#) – This group of caregivers, teachers, school staff, and community patrons is the school's decision-making body. They work together to assess how to improve Flatirons' student achievement, increase student attendance, increase the graduation rate, and on the valuing of cultural diversity.

[Student Directory](#) – HelpAtSchools is Flatirons' Student Directory provider. Please visit the [Student Directory page](#) of the website for details on how to sign up and access the student directory.

[Report Cards](#) – Report cards are available online following each semester.

[Notice of Nondiscrimination](#) – If you have special needs due to a disability and wish to request accommodations to participate in any school activity, please notify the School Principal or BVSD Central office at (720)561-5835 at least seven (7) days in advance of the event so that appropriate accommodation arrangements can be made.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

All visitors to Boulder Valley School District facilities must report to the office with a photo ID when they arrive. We ask that visitors and volunteers sign in and wear a visitor/volunteer badge while in our building. Please visit the [Volunteer page](#) of the website for information on background checks and volunteering in BVSD.

BEFORE AND AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The School Age Care (SAC) program offers before and after-school childcare programs for students at Flatirons. Morning programs are available based on enrollment as early as 7:00 a.m. and continue until the beginning of the school day. After-school programs begin at the end of the school day and continue until 6:00 p.m. Caregivers may choose morning, afternoon, or both. Flexible drop-in is also an option. During in-service days or school holidays, SAC offers full-day childcare from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. More specific information about the whole program and enrollment may be obtained from [BVSD SAC \(School Age Care\)](#).

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

[Fearless Falcons](#) is an after-school music program for grades 3-5. Students work together on songs using a variety of instruments.

[Running Club](#) is a before-school activity offered one morning a week in the spring for grades K-5.

FEE-BASED EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

[Chess Club](#) is an after-school, fee-based activity for grades 1-5.

[Math Olympiads](#) is an after-school, fee-based activity for grade 5 only.

[LifeLong Learning](#) - BVSD Kids Lifelong Learning has some excellent after-school enrichment opportunities at Flatirons Elementary. Classes will fill quickly, so register early online at www.bvsd.org/LLL.

[BVSD Community Connections: Resources for Kids & Teens](#) – BVSD’s online guide, *Community Connections: Resources for Kids & Teens*, can be found at guide.bvsd.org. Community Connections aims to connect the BVSD community with groups and individuals offering youth-oriented activities and services. Categories include academics and tutoring, health and support services, camps and classes, sports and fitness, the arts, teens, adventure, college planning, and more. We strive throughout the year to make Community Connections a valuable resource for fun, educational, and transformative opportunities for kids and teens.

MEALS

Thanks to Colorado voters, school meals will be free for all BVSD students beginning in the 2024-25 school year. The BVSD School Food Project will continue to provide breakfast and lunch, complete with an unlimited salad bar, every day at schools across the district. Although meals will be free to students, they will continue to enter their student ID, and optional second entrees can be purchased using cash or money in each student’s meal account. Staff and visitors will continue to pay the posted lunch prices.

Even though lunch is free this year, it is still crucial that families complete the free and reduced lunch meal application, as it waives and reduces fees district-wide for families, reduces childcare, lifelong learning, and BVSD online costs, and impacts necessary funding for individual schools.

If you have a remaining balance in a meal account, you have three options: You may donate the funds to the BVSD School Food Project, transfer them to another account, or receive a refund.

The monthly lunch menu is located on the [Lunch Menu Page](#) of the Flatirons website or the Boulder Valley School District website under Nutrition Services. Please alert the cafeteria staff of any food allergies your student may have. Every effort will be made to accommodate allergies.

FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL FOR KINDERGARTENERS

Letting go can be challenging, especially for caregivers. Don't let your doubts or nervousness dampen your child's enthusiasm for beginning school. If you have a positive attitude and look forward to the first day of school, your child will likely do the same.

Kindergarten students have a staggered start schedule for the first few school days. Students will attend during an assigned time during these Kindergarten Welcome Days.

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

Kindergarten orientation is held sometime between November and January and is an information night for caregivers of their incoming kindergarteners. As this is an opportunity for adults to learn about our school, this is an adults-only event. Kindergarten Orientation is for caregivers of students starting kindergarten in August of the following school year. You can meet teachers, ask questions, and receive information on registration/enrollment. The SAC before and after-school care program will also make a short presentation. Reservations are not required.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT (PBS)

We expect students to display appropriate behavior in all locations. Being responsible for one's behavior, making the right choices, and becoming independent learners are goals for all of us. Teachers and caregivers must be accountable for teaching behaviors and skills supporting these goals. With this philosophy in mind, we have adopted a Positive Behavior Support (PBS) system to assist children in becoming responsible learners.

Positive Behavior Support (PBS) is a program supported by the Colorado Department of Education and the Boulder Valley School District to create safe and effective learning environments for all students. We focus on four essential values: Safety, Responsibility, Achievement, and Respect.

To help students remember these four values, we use the acronym **S.O.A.R.**--
Safety, **O**wnership, **A**spire, **R**espect. Students must know these statements and adjust their behavior to comply with them. As with all of us, sometimes a student will make a mistake in their choice of behavior. In this case, we expect the student to be able to develop a plan for improving the behavior. In most cases, this plan is related verbally to the intervening adult. Suppose the behavior warrants more intensive intervention or becomes chronic. In that case, we will complete a Discipline Form and send it home to inform caregivers of the situation and the student's efforts

to modify their behavior. If the inappropriate behavior continues, we will ask the student, the caregivers, the classroom teacher, and, if appropriate, the principal to meet to develop a plan that will result in improved behavior.

Occasionally, a student may be suspended or expelled from school for more severe behavior infractions. Our students have inadvertently had problems carrying "lethal" weapons to school, which occasionally happens with items brought from home for show and tell. Please contact the school office ahead of time to discuss arrangements for any item you may have questions about that could fall into this category.

We base behavior interventions on natural and logical consequences, not punishment. The student is always involved in discussions regarding behavior improvement plans and the consequences of inappropriate behavior. We have different expectations for all students based on their developmental level and ability to understand and comply with the expectations.

In intervening with students, we expect the adults to follow our basic management principles. At Flatirons, we believe:

1. The student's self-concept is always a prime consideration.
2. The student is always left feeling that they have some control.
3. An equal balance of consequences and empathy replaces punishment.
4. The student is required to think more than the adult.
5. The student is responsible for understanding and following the S.O.A.R. expectations.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The Flatirons staff believes that foundations for healthy social-emotional learning include trust, respect, personal responsibility, a sense of belonging, acceptance, and caring commitment. We use the *Second Step* curriculum, which proactively teaches children critical social and emotional skills. The goal is to promote social-emotional competence and reduce disruptive behavior. The ability to transfer learning to real-life situations is a major goal of the *Second Step* program.

HONORING DIVERSITY

Flatirons Elementary strives to be a bias-free environment. Diverse family systems, races, cultures, religions, ages, genders, ability levels, etc. are valued. All children are expected to

participate in all classroom activities, with modifications made based on the student's personal needs, goals, and assignments. We strive to foster an inclusive environment where students feel a sense of belonging to the classroom, school, and neighborhood community.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Mission Statement – The mission of the Special Education Division is to provide a continuum of quality services for students with handicaps that acknowledge and value individual differences and foster individual achievement.

Philosophy – The Special Education Division believes that all students with special needs can and will learn to the best of their abilities. We are committed to providing a positive educational experience that promotes student achievement and advancement. We recognize that each student has individual skills, interests, talents, and educational needs that substantially influence individual student learning and success. For these reasons, the emphasis is on providing specialized, unique strengths rather than limitations. We focus on desired student learning outcomes based on positive expectations for each student. In this way, we support each student in achieving their potential and unique success.

The special education process is a collaborative effort involving families, general education staff, para-professionals, educationally related service providers, other community agencies, and professionals. Working together contributes to student success and achieving individual goals and objectives.

Special education shares with general education the responsibility and goal of educating all students, including those with handicapping conditions. For this reason, special education is an extension of the general education program rather than a separate program. Students with handicaps may require specific modifications and adjustments of curricula, materials, and instructional techniques within the inclusive environment, providing a continuum of support.

GIFTED AND TALENTED /ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

With the help of caregivers and extended community members, the GT program at Flatirons Elementary offers many enrichment opportunities to all students. These may include Math Club, National Geography Bee, Spelling Bee, and Chess Club. In addition, our Flatirons Gifted and

Talented Education Advisor works with students in small groups with input from classroom teachers.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact our GT Education Advisor.

[What is GT?](#) – GT stands for Gifted and Talented. It is identified within BVSD and aims to meet the advanced academic needs of students in grades K-12.

[Who Nominates a Child for GT Assessment?](#) – Any teacher, caregiver, student, or GT Education Advisor can nominate a child for GT assessment.

[How is a Child Identified?](#) – We use several bodies of evidence in the identification process. We test in spatial relations, language arts, and math, and caregivers, teachers, and specialists fill out student inventories. BVSD allows up to ten weeks for the assessment process. Our GT Committee meets to review all information and make a decision.

[How Do You Meet the Needs of All the GT Students with Just One Education Advisor?](#) – The needs of most GT students at Flatirons are met in the classroom. While we have just one Education Advisor, all of our classroom teachers are masters at differentiating instruction to meet the needs of GT students. Please note that only students formally identified as GT will work with the Education Advisor.

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL POLICY

School is in session from 8:35 a.m. to 3:35 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Wednesday is a late-start day; therefore, school begins at 9:35 a.m. and ends at 3:35 p.m. Students may arrive 15 minutes before the bell rings at 8:20 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 9:20 a.m. on Wednesday, as this is when staff supervision begins. Late-start care is available from 8:35-9:20 a.m. for those who would benefit.

Outside school hours, students can only be on school grounds with staff or direct caregiver supervision unless caregivers make arrangements with the classroom teacher or school office in advance. Students in morning clubs and the SAC program may arrive at their arranged times.

Upon arrival at school from 8:20-8:35 a.m., students should play on the playground, where school staff can supervise them. They line up for their classes outside their designated door when the bell rings. Students will be permitted to enter the building after the starting bell except to have

breakfast or if given special permission by a staff member.

During severe weather, when school is in session, staff will post a red indoor recess sign on the front doors. Students will enter the front of the building and proceed to the cafeteria until the bell rings.

School ends at 3:35 p.m. At that time, students are to get to their bus, walk or ride home, go to their after-school activity, or go directly to the SAC after-school program. An adult must accompany students if they would like to play on the playground after school.

Flatirons Elementary Staff does not supervise the playground after 3:45 p.m. **Students who are not picked up or supervised at 3:45 p.m. are to report to the Flatirons Office so we can notify caregivers.** A good way for students to know when to report is if their pickup person has yet to arrive by the time the school buses leave.

We have two bus lanes, handicapped parking, and a staff-only parking lot. Our large bus lane is to the right of the main school entrance. Our second bus lane is to the left of our main entrance, next to the accessible parking spot. The second bus lane is for ride-share vehicles that pick up and drop off select students at our school. Please avoid parking in these areas and communicate with non-guardians (nannies, extended family members, etc.) who might take on any transportation responsibilities for your students.

Caregivers must communicate with the front office about changes to after-school plans, as classroom teachers teach students throughout the day and may miss communications.

ATTENDANCE

Students are to be in school when it is in session unless they are ill, a family emergency prevents attendance, or they are observing a religious holiday. If your student is out due to a trip for more than three days, a caregiver must complete and return a Pre-Arranged Absence Form to office staff.

We monitor student absences and tardies and notify caregivers of concerns as necessary. When your student is tardy or absent, please report it using your [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#).

Communication is vital when it comes to attendance. Please let us know if you have questions regarding our school systems and expectations.

FLATIRONS SAFETY CHECK

We are extremely concerned about your child's safety. We carefully monitor student absences in our office and expect all students who can attend school to be present and on time. Regular attendance is crucial to student success. We take attendance every morning and after lunch each day. If a student is absent, we ask that a caregiver report it by 8:35 a.m.

TARDINESS

When students arrive late at school, they sign in on the Late Check-In Sheet at the office. Excessive tardiness negatively impacts individual students, as they miss crucial learning time. It also affects the classroom as a whole, as it is disruptive and adds additional stress and work to classroom teachers and paraeducators. Please be mindful of planning your mornings with your students so that they can create healthy habits and maximize their time at school.

EARLY DISMISSALS

Caregivers must notify the school regarding early dismissals. The school can only release students to individuals with pick-up permissions granted by a legal guardian. Upon arrival, the pick-up person(s) must report to the office to sign out students and provide the date, time, and reason for early dismissal. Students are not allowed to wait outside for pick-up during regular school hours. If students leave for a short period and then return to school, an adult must sign them back in and provide the date and return time.

STUDENT TELEPHONE USE

Students may use a school phone, with a school personnel's permission, in case of an emergency or to clarify caregiver directions as to where to go after school. School phones are NOT to be used to arrange after-school play dates.

CELL PHONES/SMART DEVICES

We are seeing more cell phones and smartwatches used at school. Cell phones should be turned off and kept in backpacks during school hours. Students can only use personal smart devices to communicate with caregivers before or after school. Gaming or other uses of these devices are not allowed during the day. Staff will confiscate misused devices, and caregivers will be expected to pick them up from the front office.

COSTUMES, BIRTHDAYS & SNACKS

Weapons (real or fake) are never allowed at school or on the bus, even as costume accessories. Please make sure that your students leave such items at home.

Celebrating birthdays is part of Flatirons' Morning Announcements. Still, we ask that caregivers distribute party invitations outside of school and not bring birthday treats for the class.

Each classroom has snack time twice a day. Caregivers must provide snacks for their students daily, as the school does not. Neither gum nor soda are allowed anytime, whether during snack time or lunch.

HEALTH ROOM

Flatirons' health room is staffed four hours daily by a paraeducator. Office staff supports students' health needs if the health room paraeducator is unavailable.

When a student is not feeling well at school, the health room staff determines the extent of illness or injury and decides whether or not to contact a caregiver. The primary responsibility for transporting injured or ill students will be with the student's caregivers or those listed as their emergency contacts, except in emergency medical procedures. When a caregiver is called to pick up a student due to illness, this is expected to be done as soon as possible. Students must go home if they cannot return to the classroom, have a fever, or have an injury or illness requiring caregiver/doctor intervention. All infectious diseases should be reported to the school once diagnosed.

MEDICATIONS IN SCHOOL

Medications are sometimes necessary for students during the school day. State law requires that NO medication, prescription or non-prescription, shall be administered by any school personnel, including the nurse, except on written authorization of a physician and caregiver. Additionally, NO medication, prescription or non-prescription, may be carried by a student to take on their own, i.e., in a lunch box or pocket, unless arranged with the physician, school nurse consultant, caregiver, and the student. Contact your health room paraeducator regarding the district policy on "inhalers" and "EpiPens."

The caregivers must obtain the "Parent's Request for Giving Medicine at School, Release Agreement and Physician's Signed Order" form from the school's health room or the [Health & Wellness page](#) of the Flatirons website. All medication must be in a pharmacy-labeled bottle that matches the physician's order or in the original container for over-the-counter medicines. The school requires a new order from the physician and caregiver each school year, any medication dosage change (up or down), and a "stop" decision.

Whenever possible, caregivers are encouraged to administer the student's medication outside of school hours. However, caregivers can always come to school and administer medication to their students.

PHYSICALS

BVSD Board Policy strongly recommends that all students entering kindergarten, 4th, 7th, and 10th grade, and all those new to the district receive a physical examination. Your physician has a form for the examination in their office. Please return the form on the first day of school or as soon as possible. Caregivers must submit an update yearly for any student with a significant health condition.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Colorado law ([Board of Health rule 6 CCR 1009-2](#)) requires all students attending Colorado schools and licensed child care to be vaccinated against certain diseases unless a caregiver files an exemption.

Under Colorado law, students may be exempt from immunizations if they submit a signed medical, religious, or personal exemption. Exemption information and forms can be found [here](#) or on the [Flatirons website](#).

[VISION AND HEARING TESTS](#)

Screening is done annually for K-5 students under the supervision of the school nurse in September. Screenings for new students and special referrals occur throughout the year. Caregivers may request these services by contacting the school.

[ANNUAL DATA UPDATE](#)

Due to our transition to a new enrollment software, SchoolMint, this year, we do not require that families complete their Annual Data Update (ADU) via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal at the beginning of the 2023-24 school year.

If your student has any updated health needs or concerns, or if you need to submit an immunization record, please contact your school's health office.

Families can change contact information or addresses in their [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#) account anytime during the year.

We must have two emergency contacts listed. Be sure to notify the office of any changes in health conditions or if you have moved. If you will be out of town, please inform us in writing who will care for your student.

[RECESS](#)

Students must dress appropriately for all activities throughout the school day. Please be aware of the weather changes and prepare accordingly. The school cancels recess only when the wind is strong enough to lift the dust, the chill factor makes it unbearable to be outside, or it is raining. Students who cannot participate in all phases of the school program should be kept at home until the illness has passed.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

[Join a School Committee](#) – The Parent Teacher Organization or the School Accountability Committee

[Help in the Classroom](#) – Tutoring, Field Trips, Computers, Reading/Writing Workshop, Math Assistance, Science, Homeroom Caregiver, Parties, Friday Folders

[Help in the School](#) – Library Assistant, Fundraising, Art, Music, Physical Education, Performances, Talent Show, Garden to Table, Ground Beautification, Skills-Fun-and-Fitness Day

[Help at Home](#) – Return Friday Folders, Communicate with Teachers, Return Library Books, Read School and Classroom Newsletters, Check Website for Important Events and Information

[Help in the Office/Workroom](#) – Welcome Committee, Bulletin Boards, Photocopying, Class Projects, Recycling, Sharpening Pencils, Putting Supplies Away

If you want to participate in specific activities, remember to complete your volunteer agreement form and background screening at the beginning of every school year.

FIELD TRIPS

Teachers send home permission slips before field trips, regardless of transportation mode. Caregivers must sign and return these slips beforehand for a student to participate. Volunteers are usually needed to accompany students on these excursions, so check with your student's classroom teacher or visit [HelpAtSchools](#) to view volunteer opportunities.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

The Flatirons Media Center provides resources for the students, teaching staff, caregivers, and volunteers at Flatirons Elementary School. We maintain an open library where anyone can use our resources during the school day. We offer various types of instructional technology, including an automated library circulation and catalog system, CD-ROMs, and access to the Internet. Students are responsible for the books they check out. Students must return books after reading them so the next student can enjoy them. Books not returned or renewed after three months will be

considered "lost" and are to be paid for by the student.

Our Media Center is a busy place where volunteers play an essential role. Volunteers assist students with keyword searching, locating materials, answering reference questions, and working with circulation, materials processing, and collection maintenance. During a school year, volunteers assist with one-time-only events such as the annual book fair, paperback book exchange, and other special events such as author visits and Children's Book Week or National Library Week activities.

[VOLUNTEERING/BACKGROUND CHECKS](#)

Volunteering in schools is a beautiful, beneficial experience that rewards the students, the teachers, and the volunteers. It provides an opportunity to create positive relationships and support schools in succeeding in their overall goal of student achievement.

The safety of all students is our number one priority. Part of keeping students safe is knowing who is always in our buildings. As a District, we utilize the volunteer management system called Raptor. Raptor strengthens campus safety for students and staff, making it easier for family members to volunteer at their child's school. Raptor also streamlines the background checks required to volunteer in our schools, saving our family members time and making it more accessible and equitable for them to participate in and support their child's education and school.

We ask that each individual interested in volunteering with BVSD complete the appropriate application: [ENGLISH LINK](#) or [SPANISH LINK](#). Please note a \$24.99 background fee is due at the time of submission, and an active email and a valid social security number* are needed to complete the application. If you do not have an email, you can create one by clicking [HERE](#).

Once you have received email confirmation that your application has been approved, you are welcome to begin volunteering. Please allow up to 48 hours upon submission for approval notification. Approved background screenings are valid for 12 months and need to be renewed.

*If you do not have a valid social security number, please contact Vivian Campbell, HR Manager, at 720-561-5259 or vivian.campbell@bvsd.org. For more information on volunteering processes, check out <https://www.bvsd.org/parents-students/get-involved/volunteers>.

LOST AND FOUND

For most of the school year, lost and found items are kept in the hallway next to the art room. However, they will be moved to the front hall several times during the year: during parent/teacher conferences, before spring break, and during the last week of school. The school will donate all unclaimed items at the end of each school year. We highly recommend that caregivers label any personal items their child brings to school to help quickly identify lost items.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Please check the Flatirons [School Supplies](#) page for school supply lists by grade.

BIKE RIDING

Students are welcome and encouraged to ride their bikes to school. Bike racks are available along the North wall of the school for locking bicycles. The decision to permit a student to use a bicycle and the compliance with basic safety rules relating to bike use are the responsibilities of the student and their caregivers. The school strongly suggests that caregivers review general safety procedures and safe routes to and from school with the bike rider. The school does not undertake any responsibility for the safety of students when they are not on school grounds, nor the duty to prevent any student from riding a bike to or from school. The school district cannot be responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged bicycles.

WALKING

Students are welcome and encouraged to walk to school. Please encourage your child to develop proper safety habits. They should begin the journey to school early enough to arrive on time without rushing; walk on the sidewalk, or if there is no sidewalk, on the left side facing oncoming traffic; cross only at intersections and school crosswalks; refuse to enter or approach strange automobiles; and proceed directly to school or home before beginning to play.

DOGS

Injuries caused by dogs on campus generally will not be covered by the district's insurance, and, therefore, dogs are allowed on school property only under certain circumstances. The following guidelines clarify when a dog can be on campus.

Show and tell with family pets is not permitted.

Community members, caregivers, and students should refrain from bringing dogs on campus during drop-off and pick-up times.

A service dog within the meaning of the Americans with Disabilities Act is permitted ***if first approved by the District's 504 Compliance Specialist***. Note that the ADA does not cover emotional support/therapy dogs used by an individual student and are, thus, not permitted.

School-sponsored events involving therapy dogs, such as reading programs and support during finals, MAY be allowed if

- A National Therapy Dog Association has adequately vetted the dog, has liability insurance and health certificate/vaccinations, and
- The school has taken appropriate steps to ensure the protection of students, staff, and volunteers with allergies and immunocompromised conditions by working with your School Nurse Consultant and providing advance notice to your community about the event.

The Office of Legal Counsel must review this information before approving an event involving a dog, and they may require a special insurance policy endorsement.

BUS

Bus stop locations and times for registered riders assigned to a bus route are posted on Infinite Campus in early August. Look for the BVSD Bus Stop and Schedule tab, which is found by clicking "More" in the left-hand column of the home page.

Many of our students ride a bus each day or will have an opportunity to ride the bus sometime during the school year. The following basic rules and suggestions help provide the safest means of transportation.

Before the Bus Arrives

1. Leave home on time each day.
2. Walk facing traffic if there are no sidewalks.
3. Arrive at the pick-up spot five minutes before the bus.
4. Wait off the roadway, not in the street, staying off lawns.

Boarding the Bus

1. Wait for the bus to come to a full stop.
2. Be polite and take turns getting on without pushing.
3. Use the handrail.

Conduct on the Bus

1. Walk to the assigned seat and stay there.
2. Do not stand or move around while the bus is moving.
3. Follow the directions of the driver.
4. Do not talk to the driver unless it is an emergency.
5. Talk quietly so that the driver can hear traffic sounds. No yelling or profane language.
6. Keep arms, feet, and articles out of the aisles and inside the bus.
7. Do not alter window positions.
8. Do not deface or litter the bus.
9. Do not touch any safety devices.

Leaving the Bus

1. Wait to stand up and leave your assigned seat until the bus is at a full stop.
2. Take turns; do not push those in front of you.
3. Use the handrail and be mindful of your steps.
4. Be aware of traffic when leaving the bus.

HOMework

At Flatirons, our approach to homework is rooted in research and guided by what we feel is best for kids. We want students to grow academically **and** thrive as whole people—with time for reading, play, family, rest, and curiosity.


Our Commitment

Starting in 2025–26, Flatirons will fully adopt this **balance-centered homework philosophy**. Our aim is to nurture curious, resilient, and well-rounded learners who know that growth happens both inside and outside of school.

Why This Approach?

- **Research shows** homework has little impact on academic achievement in elementary school. John Hattie's Visible Learning identifies homework as having an effect size of 0.15 in elementary school *(Hattie, 2009). *Visible Learning: A Synthesis of Over 800 Meta-Analyses Relating to Achievement*. Routledge).
- **Our goal** is to build healthy lifelong habits, not nightly stress. A focus on developing skills to unplug, connect, and cope with the stressors of daily life.

What Homework Looks Like at Flatirons

- **Daily Reading**  – Students are encouraged to read independently or with family every night. No logs, no grades. Just JOY.
- **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)** – Themes and activities that support balance, coping strategies, and connection.
- **Optional Academic Practice** – Families may use IXL or request resources for extra skill practice. Teachers may suggest reinforcement as needed.
- **Projects** – Students may occasionally bring home projects. Teachers focus on organization, long-term planning, and self-management during the school day.

What Homework is *Not*

- It is **not graded** or tied to consequences.
- It is **not excessive** or one-size-fits-all.
- Families always have the choice to supplement if they wish.

[SCHOOL CLOSURE INFORMATION](#)

School officials are responsible for keeping school in session under all but the most extreme conditions. When the weather is terrible, but school is open, caregivers must make a family decision regarding their student's attendance or late arrival. Please notify the school office if your

student will be late or absent.

Whenever it is necessary to close the schools, the District contacts caregivers by robocall and posts information on the BVSD website. Information is also available on the BVSD website page at www.bvdsd.org. There is also a link to the webpage from the Flatirons Elementary website on the Snow Closure page.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Please review a safe route to school with your students so they are aware of stop signs, corners where they need to take extreme care as they cross, the use of crosswalks, and, for those who cross at 9th Street, the appropriate use of the pedestrian light at 9th and College.

Students must dismount their bikes, scooters, or skateboards on school grounds and remove their rollerblades upon entering.

PARKING FOR STUDENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

Please do everything you can to make these times of day safe for all our students.

You may park in several areas when picking up or dropping off your student:

1. South of the bus lane on the east side of 7th and the north side of College. This area is preferred because students can avoid crossing the street to get to a vehicle.
2. On the west side of 7th, north and south of Pennsylvania, except near the crosswalk. The forbidden area is marked so vehicles are neither in the crosswalk nor blocking lines of sight up and down 7th. If you use the permitted sites to drop off or pick up your students, please escort them across the street using the crosswalk by the school or the one at College Ave. Do not let them cross alone. Caregivers and staff on campus for an extended time also use the west side of 7th.
3. On either side of Pennsylvania, except within 15 feet of the fire hydrant, have your student cross at the crosswalk to reach your vehicle.

CAREGIVERS ARE NOT TO PARK, EVEN FOR A SHORT PERIOD, IN THE CROSSWALK TO DROP THEIR STUDENT OFF.

ACCESSIBLE PARKING

We have an accessible parking area in front of the school on the east side of 7th St., south of the faculty parking lot, and a designated area in the parking lot.

