

Plainfield
Elementary
School
2022-2023
Parent-Student
Handbook



Plainfield Elementary School
20450 County Road 97
Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 662-9301 (phone)
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www.plainfield.wjUSD.org

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

As the principal of Plainfield Elementary School, I welcome you to the start of the 2022-2023 school year! It is an honor to be principal of such a wonderful school, and I look forward to working with the dedicated staff, parents, and community to provide an exceptional educational experience for our students.

The start of each school year brings a variety of emotions ranging from excitement to apprehension, and I thank you for entrusting your children to the Plainfield staff. We believe that first quality instruction coupled with a strong home to school partnership will prepare and empower our students for a future of endless possibilities. We pledge to build positive relationships and will make every effort to ensure that your children receive a highly-engaging education in a safe and caring environment.

As such, I anticipate a successful and rewarding school year and reiterate that it is great to be a Plainfield Mustang. I always welcome your input, questions and concerns at any time. Go Mustangs! Phil Pinegar, Principal

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

Plainfield Elementary School, a California Distinguished School, is a small school with big expectations. We are located in a rural country setting, surrounded by farmland, just outside the city limits of Woodland. The school serves approximately 300 students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Originally formed as Plainfield School District in 1861, Plainfield is one of the oldest institutions in the region with a long history of serving the children of farmers and migrants, their children, grandchildren, and even great, great grandchildren. From 1926-1965, Plainfield went through a series of unifications with other area districts to ultimately form what is today the

Woodland Joint Unified School District. The present site was established in 1949 with additions in 1959 and 2005. We are also fortunate to share our campus with Yolo County’s Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing program.

TEACHERS

Heather Allan (3rd Grade)
Cassi Ayers (PE)
Ruth deLemos (6th Grade)
Barbara Densmore (4th Grade)
Marianne Ferrendelli (1st Grade)
Jessica Friedman (5th Grade)
Teri Janousek (RSP)
David Johnson (Music)
Christy Johnson (6th Grade)
Traci Neilson (Kindergarten)
Quincy Newsom (2 – 3 Combo)
Cindy Phillips (1st Grade)
Frank Ramirez (2nd Grade)
Clara Skaug (4th Grade)
Jennifer Smookler (5th Grade)
Randy Veirs (Strings)

SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Brandi Bolden	Librarian/Admin. Clerk II
Yolanda David	Office Coordinator
Maria Diaz	Health Technician
Jared Dodd	Psychologist
Victoria Ferrendelli	Speech Therapist
Lindsay Fisher	Nutrition Assistant
Jose Goche	Custodian II
Eduardo Gonzalez	ASES Coordinator
Shawn Hamdard	Counselor (K-6)
Frode Joensen	Behavior Specialist
Ana Keneni	Social Worker
Brandon Killion	EL Specialist
Vince Lipan	Custodian I
Lori Moncur	K-3 Literacy Para
Kathy Monhoff	Paraprofessional II
SanJuana Trujillo	Administrative Clerk II
Sarah Yob	K-3 Literacy Para

STUDENT DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

There is no supervision of students before 8:10 a.m. Parents should not drop off students before this time. All students who are transported by car should be dropped off and picked up in the paved

drive-through lot adjacent to Road 97 on the east side of the school for the morning arrival and first dismissal (2:30 p.m.). At second dismissal time (3:00 p.m.), students whose last names begin with **A-G** will be picked up in the front east lot, while those with last names beginning with **H-Z** will be picked up in the back southwest lot, near the multi.

Parents who wish to come on campus to pick up their children must park in a designated parking spot and walk to the pick-up area. In order to ensure the safety of our students and families and to respect the right-of-way of our buses and farm vehicles, **parking along Road 97 is not allowed. Double parking in any parking lot is also not allowed.**

Please note that the gravel lot on the northwest corner of our campus is restricted to school bus transport. Parents may not park there or block the driveway. Upon arrival each morning, students are expected to go directly to the playground, unless they will be having breakfast in the multipurpose building or outside on the lunch area tables pending supervision/staff direction.

Licensed childcare providers who make stops at several schools may request special permission to pick up students in an alternative pick-up area. Please contact the principal for details.

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

Our fabulous PTA is a non-profit organization composed of a group of highly committed parents and teachers who meet once a month. Their goal is to provide parent educational support and financial assistance, within their reach, in order to help meet the needs of all students at Plainfield School. This will be done through yearly goals they set and various fundraisers they organize and run. You are encouraged to join and attend their meetings to help assist in meeting PTA goals.

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL (SSC)

The SSC group consists of the principal, parents elected by parents and district employees elected by teachers and classified employees. SSC is involved in the development, implementation and evaluation of school plans. The School Site Council provides another means whereby the community can be involved in their schools. If you are interested in attending a meeting or would like to address any ideas or concerns, please call the principal.

ENGLISH LEARNER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ELAC)

The English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC) is made up of parents of children who are learning English. The ELAC meets with the principal and staff representatives on a regular basis to monitor and give recommendations regarding the programs and services for English Learners and the school's effectiveness toward meeting the needs of the students being served. All parents of English learners are encouraged to attend these informative meetings.

SCHOOL MEALS

All school meals and nutritional snacks are to be eaten in the designated eating areas (multipurpose room and outdoor picnic tables). Breakfast is served in the multipurpose room from 8:10 - 8:30 am every day. Students may bring a **nutritious** snack to school to eat at the morning recess (please note: candy, soda and most processed snack foods are not nutritious choices, and we discouraged them from our campus).

A school lunch may be purchased in the cafeteria every school day. A monthly menu is available on the district website (www.wjusd.org) at beginning of each month. A salad bar option is also available to intermediate students twice a week. Parents may pay day-to-day or may send a check to the cafeteria supervisor, who will then apply the amount to the student's account.

Many students also bring a lunch from home. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their children have a nutritious lunch. Please join us in our efforts to improve the nutrition of all students

by eliminating items with high fat or sugar content from your children's lunches.

Forgotten lunches do not warrant an emergency phone call home from the office. A child in this predicament may purchase a school lunch or receive a courtesy lunch if he/she has reached the maximum number of charges according to District Policy.

TELEPHONE USE

In order to ensure opportunities for our students to develop personal responsibility and not further enable their dependency on others, the use of school telephones by students will be limited to emergencies only.

STUDENT CELL PHONES

Plainfield staff respects our students' right to ensure personal safety, so cell phones are allowed. However, cell phones must remain **off and put away** either in student backpacks or turned in to teachers for safe-keeping while students are at school.

BUS NOTES AND PASSES

If the student needs to take a different bus or get off at a different bus stop, parents need to send a signed and dated note to the office so that we can issue a bus pass. Parents, please do not telephone bus changes or messages for students into office, except in case of emergency.

Parents need to send a note if their child will be picked up from school instead of riding the bus. Unless your child brings a signed note to office, your child is expected to take his/her regular bus.

LOST AND FOUND

There is a Lost and Found rack for unclaimed items in the cafeteria. All students are encouraged to check for their lost items there. Jewelry, money, or other valuables that are found on the playground are turned in to the office. If unclaimed after ten days, the item will be given to the child who found the article. Parents are encouraged to mark their student's name on their clothing, backpacks, lunch

boxes etc. Unclaimed items will be displayed at least twice during the year and then, if still unclaimed they will be given to a local charity to give to others in need.

LIBRARY

Under supervision of our library clerk, all classes visit the library once a week for storytelling, library skills, and book checkout. The library is also used for reference work by students and as a resource for staff. Students are expected to follow checkout procedures and care for materials they borrow from the library. Students are responsible to pay for all lost or damaged books.

PROCEDURES WHEN RETURNING FROM AN ABSENCE

If a student is absent, he/she will need to have a valid excuse note from a parent or guardian upon returning to school. The note should have the information listed below:

-name of student

-reason for absence and date(s)

-parent signature

Only absences due to illness are considered excused. All other absences are considered unexcused.

TARDINESS

Students are expected to be on time to school and to classes. Being punctual is an excellent personal trait highly valued by society and all employers. It is also an important part of the learning process. Students who are more than 30 minutes late to school are considered **truant** according to district policy. Students who are consistently tardy will be referred to the principal and assigned to recess or after-school detention. One might be surprised how quickly a few minutes here and there can really impact a student's education. Just 15 minutes of lost educational time a week adds up to over 600 minutes of lost instructional time in a year!

NUISANCE ITEMS

Items not directly associated with the educational program are not to be brought to school. These include radios and other electronic equipment or

games, toys, trading cards, balloons, rubber bands, toothpicks, excess jewelry, etc. Students found in possession of such items will be directed to put the items away for safe keeping or have the items confiscated and returned at the teacher's discretion. Disciplinary action may be taken as appropriate. If the nuisance item(s) are brought to school again, the item(s) will be confiscated and returned only to the parent. **Neither the school nor the school district is responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen property.**

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Our three overall school rules are:

BE SAFE
BE RESPECTFUL
BE RESPONSIBLE

PARENT COMPLAINTS/CONCERNS

In the event of a problem, parents should first contact the teacher. Teachers are usually available for phone calls before and after school. Parent conferences may be set up at any time during the school year. However, please do not ask to conference with the teacher during class time. This detracts from the learning environment of other students. If the problem is not resolved between the parent and teacher, the principal will assist in mediation. There is a copy of our District Parent Complaint Procedure that can be picked up at the office. If at that point the site administrator cannot resolve the problem, it then is taken to the Superintendent or other designee for resolution.

CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE PLANS

Each classroom teacher will also have a written and/or posted discipline plan to use in his or her classroom. The plan will include the rules for the class as well as positive and negative consequences for students. This plan will be shared with parents at Back-to-School Night.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

We make every effort to create a school environment that is conducive to the safety and well being of all. Class meetings help provide forums for

conflict resolution and help build students' communication skills, and our increased emphasis on character education supports our positive learning environment. We use a progressive approach to discipline, according to the guidelines in the Sequential Discipline Plan adopted by the district (*see examples on the last page*). In this plan, unacceptable behavior is dealt with beginning with low-level consequences, then moving on to more severe consequences for recurring behaviors. There are, however, certain unacceptable behaviors that may require immediate suspension from school or even suspension with a mandatory recommendation to expel. We are happy to report that these types of serious behavior problems are rare at Plainfield.

Teachers have the primary responsibility for promoting and monitoring appropriate student behavior in the classroom. However, all staff members are responsible for monitoring the behavior of students at our school.

A referral to the principal is made when the corrective actions employed by the teachers and other staff members fail to effect change in unacceptable student behavior.

BULLYING

Plainfield school is, in many ways, a model school when it comes to creating a warm, inclusive environment for our students and families. Bullying, however, can exist in even the best of schools, so we address it as soon as we see it occur.

Verbal abuse is the most common form of bullying used by both boys and girls at the elementary level. Younger children who haven't yet developed a strong sense of self are most susceptible to it. Verbal bullying can take the form of rumors, gossip, name-calling, taunting, belittling, cruel criticism, racial slurs, and perhaps even sexually suggestive remarks. Relational bullying is also very prevalent among school-age children, and can also be equally damaging. Examples may include such things as excluding schoolmates from games on the playground, creating exclusive clubs, planning

invitation-only parties in the presence of others, etc. To discourage these types of exclusions, we ask that **invitations to parties not be passed out at school unless all classmates are invited.**

WALKWAYS

All Plainfield Students are to **WALK** in the hallways and they must respect others who may be working by maintaining silence when passing by other classrooms and staff offices.

DRESS CODE

We expect students, staff and volunteers to attend school dressed neat and clean. Our appearance should not disrupt or detract from the educational environment of the school. We expect students to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to wear clothes that are suitable of the school activities in which they participate and appropriate for the weather. We use and enforce the district's policy on dress and grooming (accessible on the district website) as our guide. Examples of prohibited clothing items include: "flip-flop" sandals, extremely short shorts, and strapless or spaghetti strap tops.

Fridays are School Spirit Days, when students and staff are encouraged to wear clothing that has our school colors (red and white) and/or show our school logo or name.

PLAYGROUND RULES

There are playground rules we expect all students to follow. These rules will be reviewed with classes at the beginning of the school year, and upon returning from winter and spring breaks. By following just 7 easy rules, we can have fun every day. They are as follows:

1. Have fun.
2. Always use common sense when walking or running on the playground.
3. Be safe and kind while using equipment:

- only one person may go down the slide at a time (never climb up the slides)
- keep your hands and feet to yourself
- never jump off
- never climb on the play structures when they are wet
- take turns

4. Always play in designated areas where there is supervision. Off-limits areas are halls, walkways, restricted marked areas, parking lots, behind or between portables and outside of fences (teachers will show you the restricted areas).
5. **NO TACKLING GAMES OR ROUGH PLAY.**
6. Do not climb or hang on fences, trees, basketball hoops or soccer posts.
7. If you have any problems you can't solve on your own, go ask a supervisor for help.

Consequences for not following the rules on the playground may include restrictions from specified play areas, missing recess, or referral to the principal.

LOITERING ON OR ABOUT CAMPUS

Students are not to loiter on our school campus before or after school. Once they arrive at school, they must stay here until school is out. We are a closed campus. No one is allowed to leave or come to school without a legal early dismissal or checking into the office. **Students are to go home immediately after school and not wait for brothers or sisters.** If you are involved in an after school activity, you must be where you are required to be.

ASSEMBLY PROCEDURES

This is the behavior specifically expected:

1. Enter in a prompt and orderly fashion.
2. Remember to always sit with hands and feet crossed.
3. Quiet down and **actively listen** (eyes, ears and heart, with your undivided attention) when a person is approaching the microphone and/or speaks.
4. Be POLITE: applaud, clap or cheer only when it is appropriate.
5. The quiet signals used will be followed by all.
6. Remain seated until dismissed by person in charge.
7. Exit in an orderly fashion following directions from your teacher or principal.

BUS CONDUCT

Riding the bus is a privilege. We expect students to be responsible by following the directions and expectations of their bus drivers.

Students are asked to:

- Obey bus driver.
- Help driver keep attention on the road by not displaying any distractive behavior.
- Wait patiently on sidewalk and file in bus in orderly fashion.
- Remember to stand 10 feet back from roadway in country areas.
- Be caring and respectful while on the bus.
- Get permission from the bus driver to lower windows.
- Keep all parts of body inside the bus.
- Be careful with traffic when going to and from the bus.
- Be at the bus stop on time (that's 5 minutes before pick-up time).
- Model appropriate conduct at all times.

The bus driver will issue bus citations for inappropriate behavior. Violations of these rules may result in suspension of the bus riding privilege by the principal or bus driver director. The parents of students who are suspended from riding the bus

will need to find a way to bring their children to school during the period of bus suspension.

STUDENT STUDY TEAM

The Student Study Team (SST) is made up of the referring teacher, the student's parent/guardian, the student (when appropriate), principal, resource specialist/SST chair, school psychologist, and other appropriate school personnel. The purpose of the SST is to address needs of students who may require a more specialized or adaptive educational program. The team suggests specific strategies and methods to teachers and other staff who work with the student. Parents of the referred student are encouraged to attend and participate in this very important process. A child may be referred because of academic, behavioral, or emotional difficulty. Solutions may include remediation techniques such as classroom and school interventions, counseling and/or testing to determine the most positive learning environment for the child.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Students with special needs may receive specialized academic instruction from various support personnel (i.e. Resource Specialist, Speech & Language Specialist, etc.) Referrals are initiated by the classroom teacher or parents. Each case is reviewed individually by the Student Study Team. If necessary, the group may suggest testing to evaluate a student's strengths and/or disabilities for possible placement in special education or some other adaptive program. If the student qualifies for Special Services, an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) placement meeting is held to determine the services that will need to be provided to the child. Parental involvement is required for all testing and placement of students in special education.

GRADING POLICY

Plainfield School students are laying the groundwork for their future. They are preparing for "real life." The study habits and skills acquired here will determine their academic success in high school, college, universities and jobs in the future.

Therefore, our expectation is that our students achieve the highest grades possible by doing their PERSONAL BEST! At Back to School Night our teachers will explain their grading system.

The following is a general explanation on our standards-based reporting:

3	2	1
<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Partially Proficient</i>	<i>Below</i>
<i>Meeting grade level standard</i>	<i>Partially proficient in grade level standard</i>	<i>Not meeting the grade level standard</i>

MAKE-UP WORK

To help maintain your grades, if you were absent or missed class assignments, remember that you are responsible for getting the makeup work from your teacher and returning it on time to receive full credit. Parents are asked to call our office and ask our secretary to request homework from student's teachers if student is expected to be absent more than one school day.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

The California State Department of Education does not provide any ADA for students who are absent for any reason, with the exception of a completed independent study. However, as much as we would like all students to be in school every day, we do understand that on occasion a student may become ill.

If the school is notified within 3 days by the parent by phone call or in writing of an illness, this will be reported as an excused absence. Any absences not reported within the 3 day period are considered unexcused.

Please review the District’s Parent Handbook for further explanation on what constitutes excused and unexcused absences. Students who have excessive excused absences may be required to submit a doctor’s note verifying his/her absence.

HEALTH CONCERNS

A child should not be sent to school with the following conditions or symptoms:

- infectious disease
- lice
- strep throat
- flu
- severe cough
- severe vomiting
- fever
- infectious rash
- symptoms related to COVID

If any of these conditions arise at school, your child may be sent home. Basic first aid is provided for minor injuries. If serious injury occurs, parents will be contacted and appropriate emergency procedures will be taken. Nurse Debbie is on call to answer any questions you may have.

MEDICATION

We cannot administer any medication unless the parent or guardian has completed and submitted an Authorization for Medication Administration form to the front office. All medication will be kept locked in the school office and will be identified with the student's name, dosage, and doctor's name. Whenever possible, try to space medication doses before and after school. If you need to contact someone regarding the administration of your child’s medication, please call our office.

APPOINTMENTS DURING SCHOOL DAY

We request that, as much as possible, all doctor or personal appointments be made after school. If you can't do this, please have your child come to school first, then pick him/her up prior to his/her appointment time.

INTERRUPTIONS OF LEARNING TIME

We need to respect our school community value that learning takes precedence over every other activity. It is for this reason that we keep classroom interruptions to a minimum. Only emergency messages to students or staff will be delivered during class time during instructional time. Please plan ahead, send notes and make sure your child understands any special directions for the day.

Although we do encourage a strong parent-teacher partnership, please keep in mind that dropping in for a mini-conference with the teacher without an appointment, in many cases cannot be accommodated. If you need to speak with the teacher, send a note with your child or arrange an appointment by phone. If it is a matter of urgency, please feel free to request an appointment with our school principal. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

EARLY DISMISSALS

Students may not leave campus during the school day without parents signing them out from the office. We recommend that parents send a note to school with their children when they have a scheduled appointment. Students must give the note to the teacher immediately when they arrive to school in order to minimize disruption during the instructional day.

INDEPENDENT STUDY PACKETS

If your family needs to leave town for 5 days or more, we encourage you to request a short term independent study contract from the office at **least two weeks in advance**. This packet will help your child not fall so far behind academically. This independent study packet will include a contract for the parent and student to sign, stating that the work will be completed and submitted in accordance with the deadline and conditions given. All independent study requests need to be approved by the school principal. Any student who fails to meet all of the contract conditions will not be allowed to go on short term independent study in subsequent years.

IMMUNIZATIONS AND PROOF OF AGE

State law and School Board policy require all students to be fully immunized against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, rubella, measles, hepatitis B and mumps. Parents and/or guardians must present proof of immunizations at the time of registration. Students may not attend school unless immunization records are verified. A birth certificate, passport, immigration record, baptismal record or hospital record are needed to verify age of child.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

In case of an emergency concerning your child, it's important that information on the emergency card be filled out completely and kept up to date. Please notify the school of **any change** in your home address, phone number at work or home, family doctor, babysitter or friends you have listed to call in case of an emergency.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

If you live and attend a school in our school district but reside outside of Plainfield School's attendance area and you wish to attend Plainfield, you need to apply for open enrollment during our open enrollment period in the spring. Once your open enrollment has been approved, your school of choice becomes your home school. For more information about the Open Enrollment process, please contact the District Office Enrollment Center.

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE EXAMPLES

Explanation of Levels of Response	
Level 1	Classroom Managed Responses: These consequences and interventions aim to teach correct behavior so students may learn and demonstrate safe, respectful, and responsible behavior. Teachers are encouraged to try a variety of teaching and classroom management strategies.
Level 2	Examples of Administrative Responses: These consequences and interventions, used in response to an office discipline referral, aim to correct behavior by stressing the seriousness of the behaviors while keeping the student in

	school. Interventions often involve support staff and aim to engage the student's support system to ensure successful learning, consistency and change the conditions that contribute to the student's inappropriate or disruptive behavior.
Level 3	Administrative Removal Responses: Level 3 consequences and interventions involve short-term removal of a student from the school environment due to the severity of the behavior or because Level 1 and Level 2 consequences have failed to bring about proper conduct. Level 1 and Level 2 interventions may still be applied in addition to those listed in Level 3.
Level 4	Administrative Removal Responses: Level 4 involves the removal of the student from the school environment due to the severity of the behavior or because lower levels of consequences have failed to bring about proper conduct. These consequences focus on protecting the safety of the school community and ending self-destructive and dangerous behavior.
Level 5	Mandatory Recommendation for School Expulsion: Mandatory removal from school and referral for expulsion for acts as specific in Education Code.

	Examples of Problem Behaviors (not an exhaustive list)
Level 1	Class disruptions, name calling, inappropriate language, tardiness, minor physical aggression (little or no injury), running or excessive noise, dress code violation, non-cooperative behavior, lying and cheating, failure to follow directions, tantrums, technology violations not resulting in harm.
Level 2	Bus citation, harassment, written and verbal aggression, offensive behavior, property damage, stealing, <i>increased level of severity or frequency of Level 1 behaviors,</i>
Level 3	Mutual fight, battery, false activation of a fire alarm, Major disruption to the atmosphere of order and safety in the school (riot, food fight), robbery, <i>increased level of severity or frequency of Level 1 & 2 behaviors,</i>
Level 4	Drugs, willfully use of force or violence upon another, caused serious injury to another, terroristic threats, <i>increased level of severity or frequency of Level 2 & 3 behaviors,</i>
Level 5	Firearms, brandishing a knife at another person, explosives, sexual battery/assault, sold a controlled substance.

	Possible Consequence	Possible Interventions
Level 1	*Contact Parent *In-class time out *Parent Conference *Student Reflection *Loss of classroom privileges *Student apology *Use of buddy teacher system *Teacher and student consequence	*Establish Positive Relationships *Seat change *Redirections *Role play replacement behavior *Parent accompany student in class *Daily Progress Report & Goal setting *Positive recognition
Level 2	*Level 1 Consequences *Parent notification required *Detention/Time out *Change of class *Student conference *Loss of school privileges/restricted *Relationship Development Action	*Refer to SST, psych, *Increase positive recognition *Collaborative problem solving *Mentoring *Develop/revise positive behavior plan/contract *Check in, check out *Counseling referral
Level 3	*Parent notification *Suspension from school (one to five days) or In-School Suspension (one to five days)	*Develop/revise positive behavior plan/contract *Revise 504/IEP and Behavior Support Plans *Develop Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) and Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) *Restorative Justice re-entry conferencing
Level 4	*Parent notification *Suspension from school (5 days) *May refer for expulsion if other means of correction have not brought about proper conduct or are not feasible or there is a continuing danger to the physical safety of the student or others	*Manifestation determination (IEP only)/504 compliance review *Develop/revise positive behavior plan *Revise IEP and Behavior Support Plan *Develop FBA and BIP *Alternate educational placement
Level 5	*Parent notification *Suspension from school (5 days) *Mandatory expulsion	*Manifestation determination *Alternative educational placement

SAFE HOME FIREARM STORAGE

March 15, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Providing students and staff with a safe educational environment is our number one priority.

California Education Superintendent Tony Thurmond has requested that all schools send information to parents and guardians about the legal requirements for storing firearms at home.

California Penal Code Section 25100 mandates that firearms must be safely stored in all homes where children live or where children might reasonably be expected to enter. Gun owners can avoid criminal penalties by keeping their firearms in a locked container or secured with a locking device that renders the firearm inoperable.

Ensuring firearms are securely stored prevents small children from accidentally accessing the firearm and prevents older children from using an unsecured firearm to commit senseless violence, scenarios that unfortunately occur too often in our nation.

Another thing you can do is familiarize yourself with the Be SMART gun violence prevention curriculum:

- S - Secure all guns in your homes and vehicles.
- M - Model responsible behavior around guns.
- A - Ask about the presence of guns in other homes.
- R - Recognize the role of guns in suicide.
- T - Tell your peers to Be SMART.

Together we can help keep children safe by safely storing firearms.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for supporting safety in our community.

Sincerely,

Elodia Ortega-Lampkin
Superintendent