



★BUCKAROOS
BOB BEARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

A supplement to the
NISD Elementary Student-Parent Handbook

**Bob Beard Elementary School
8725 Sonoma Pkwy
Helotes, TX 78023
Phone: 210-397-6600 · Fax: 210-695-3849**

NORTHSIDE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Buckaroo Families,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! As we begin our year, we're excited to build on a foundation of positive energy.

We value the strong partnership established between home and school, and thank you for entrusting us with your child. We will continue to strive for excellence in instruction and an atmosphere that nurtures curiosity and creativity. Please know we consider it a privilege to serve your children, as well as a responsibility that we do not take lightly.

This campus handbook is a supplement to the NISD Elementary Student-Parent Handbook. Please take a few minutes to read each item, paying particular attention to the section on Arrival/Dismissal and Visitors. These routines and procedures are to help provide the safest environment for our children.

As we move into the new school year, please know that every member of the Beard staff is deeply committed to making this a happy and productive year for your child! Thank you for your gracious support. It's going to a fabulous year!

Sincerely,

**Blanca Arizpe Hemann
Principal**

**Jeremy Day
Vice Principal**



School Namesake: Bob Beard

Mr. Bob Beard was one of the pioneers of Northside Independent School District. His forward thinking as a member, Vice President, and President of the Northside Board of Trustees from 1967 to 1974, helped form what is now one of the premier school districts in the country.

While serving on the NISD Board of Trustees, Mr. Beard provided the leadership and vision that was required in transitioning Northside ISD from a rural school district to that of a more modern, suburban-urban, sophisticated multi-million dollar enterprise. He and his contemporaries strengthened the foundation for what would eventually become the "destination District" in Bexar County.

Mr. Beard passed away in March 2011 and is survived by four children and 14 grandchildren.

School Hours

Our instructional day is 7:45 a.m.- 2:50 p.m.

School office hours are 7:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. Monday-Friday.

The front doors will remain locked until 7:00 a.m. so please do not drop students off early. Children arriving after 7:50 a.m. are tardy. **A parent dropping off a child after 8:00 a.m. will need to accompany the child to the school office to obtain a tardy slip to gain admittance to class.**

Air Quality Alert

Northside Independent School District has developed a plan to respond to high concentrations of ground-level ozone when reported in the Bexar County Area. There are generally more **Orange Alert Days** (August, April, and May) and rarely **Red Alert Days** (which are most hazardous). Based on the ozone warning level, certain strenuous outdoor activities, such as physical education, recess, or Field Day may be adapted for some or all students. An outdoor field trip that is scheduled on an **Orange Alert Day** may be subject to cancellation. It is important for parents to understand that the decision to limit outdoor activity will be based upon information provided to the district by parents and medical providers of the student.

Arrival & Dismissal

- **Morning Arrival Procedures**

Please drop off students at the main entrance of the school; drop offs are not permitted in the parking lots. Dropped off students will only be allowed to enter at the main entrance as all other doors are locked. The gym, hallways and cafeteria will be supervised by staff beginning at 7:15 a.m.

Students who ride the bus and students who arrive prior to 7:15 a.m. must wait in the cafeteria until the doors to classrooms and hallways are opened. Students in 5th grade will report to the gym. Students in grades

K - 4 will sit in the hallway outside their classroom. If you choose to walk your child into the building, please park in the parent lots located in front of the school. The back drive is for use by school buses. However, after 7:15 a.m., parents may use the bus loop for student drop off. Please never park and exit your vehicle in the front drive as this area needs to be kept accessible to emergency vehicles.

- **Afternoon Dismissal Procedures**

At the end of the school day (2:50 p.m.), teachers accompany their own students to their appropriate dismissal location (bus loop, Learning Tree, or front pick-up area). Students will exit the building at the end of the school day by grade level with the Kinder students exiting first. Students waiting to be picked up will remain with their teacher along the front covered walkway until dismissed. Any children remaining at 3:10 p.m. are brought to the office to contact their parents. **If you are arriving after 3:10 p.m. to pick up your child, you will be required to park and provide picture identification in order for your child to be released to you.**

If you arrive early, please wait outside for your child as teachers are unable to dismiss students in the hallways or classrooms. Please wait until the classes have exited the building and reached the covered side of the front walk to ask for your child. We ask that parents do not enter the covered walkway area so teachers can easily see and manage the children, ensuring they get with the correct adult at the end of the day.

Parents who wish to pick up their child without exiting their car may pull **single file** into the right lane along the red curb. **The left lane is for moving traffic only.** Please do not pick up students or park in the left lane.

If you wish to talk to your child's teacher, please park your car in the parent parking lot and wait until all children have been dismissed to see if the teacher is available. Conversations held in the pick-up lane block the flow of traffic, and conversations during dismissal can distract teachers from safely supervising children.

Adults and safety patrols will supervise the opening of car doors for safe dismissal. Please remember to turn off cell phones in the front drive. Our children deserve your undivided attention, and their safety is our top priority. Thanks to our drivers who keep our children safe by:

- No cell phone use in our drive and parking lot
- Displaying the sign with their child's name/teacher
- Being patient as everyone learns the routine
- Having doors unlocked so children can quickly enter the vehicle
- Using the designated crosswalk
- Staying in your vehicle in the drop-off/pick-up line

Please know we will always err on the side of safety when it comes to our children. Thank you again for your cooperation.

- **Day Care**

Learning Tree, a tuition-based afterschool program offered by Northside, uses Beard's cafeteria, gym and classrooms to provide childcare from 2:50-6:30 p.m. Multiple local day cares also provide transportation between their sites and school. Students who ride day care vans in the afternoon will be dropped off in the cafeteria by their classroom teacher and will wait to be picked up by their designated van in the back drive. Please stop by the Beard office for contact information for local day cares serving our students. You may also register your child for Learning Tree online at: <https://parentportal.kidscarecenter.com> and use access code Bear1617.

- **Early Pick Up**

Early pick-up is discouraged and considered a "partial day absence" under the state compulsory attendance laws. Under the rare circumstance that your child must leave before 2:50 p.m., the parent must come to the office to have the student released from class. **If a student needs to be picked up early, it must be done before 2:15 p.m. Students will not be permitted to be signed out between 2:15-2:50 p.m.** Students will only be released to individuals listed on the emergency health card, and proper identification will be required. For the safety of all children, we will not release students to individuals who are not on the emergency health card or individuals who do not have proper ID. It is therefore important for parents to update the medical emergency card information as changes occur.

- **Early Notification of Dismissal Changes**

Please notify your child's teacher of any changes to your child's dismissal plan in writing and well in advance. Our goal is to ensure every child gets home safely, and having a **consistent dismissal plan** and **communicating any changes to that plan well in advance** helps us ensure children are at the correct end-of-day location.

If the teacher has not received notification from a parent/guardian regarding a dismissal change, the child will be sent home according to the plan on file with the classroom teacher. Please do not ask your child to verbally deliver a message regarding dismissal. Please also keep in mind that children sometimes forget to give the teacher a written note, teachers may not see an e-mail or hear a phone message until after school is dismissed at 2:50, or there may be a substitute teacher without access to the teacher's e-mail. **The earlier you provide notification, the more confident you can be that your child will be dismissed according to your directions. Same-day changes are best communicated by calling the office at 397-6600 no later than noon.**

- **Emergency Changes**

If there is an emergency that requires a last-minute change of your child’s dismissal plan, please speak with a member of the office staff by calling 397-6600. We will be vigilant in getting the message to your child and his/her teacher as quickly as possible. We do ask that you please reserve last-minute phone calls for **emergencies only**. With approximately 800 students, messages can quickly accumulate at the end of the school day with limited time to disseminate, risking the chance of a message not being delivered before students have already been dismissed.
Thank you for your cooperation in helping us ensure students arrive and depart safely each day!

Attendance

Parents are required by Texas Compulsory Attendance Law to ensure their child(ren) are in school the full day of instruction (7:45 a.m.-2:50 p.m.) every day of the school year. **Students will be counted as absent if they arrive after 9:00 a.m.**

Children who are absent are missed by their teachers and friends. Absenteeism unavoidably affects the quality of a student’s work, interferes with normal instructional procedures in the classroom, and places additional demands on the teacher to provide remedial assistance. It negatively impacts the child who is absent as well as other students in the class.

When a child is absent or tardy from school, the parent or guardian should send a note or doctor’s excuse to Sandra.beard@nisd.net explaining the reason for the absence upon the child’s return to school. All notes must include:

- The date of the note
- The name of the teacher
- The name of the child
- The date of the absence or tardy
- The specific reason for the absence or tardy
- The parent’s signature



An absence may be excused when there is acceptable cause such as personal illness, a death in the immediate family, or family emergency. **Vacations are not an acceptable cause for an excused absence from school.** When a student’s absences for personal illness exceeds three consecutive days, a statement from a physician or health clinic verifying the illness or other condition should be provided. Failure to provide any note within 5 days will result in an unexcused absence. **Any absences in excess of 10 days for the school year will require a doctor’s note to be excused.**

It is our desire to work with families to address any attendance concerns at the campus level. Ongoing attendance issues will be referred to an attendance officer who will determine if judicial action is appropriate. Judicial action for a Class C misdemeanor offense is considered appropriate if there has been violation of the Compulsory Attendance Law.

<u>Absences Excused with a Note</u>	<u>Absences Unexcused Even with a Note</u>
Illness	Car Trouble
Medical Appointments	Missed Bus
Religious Holidays	Overslept
Funerals of Immediate Family	Family Business (including trips)
Court Appointments with Subpoena	Errands for or with Parents
*All above are unexcused without a note	Vacations

You may review your child's attendance record at any time by logging onto the Northside website at www.nisd.net and utilizing Parent Connection. Please note that all absences are initially entered as Unexcused (UE). If the attendance secretary receives a note providing an acceptable reason for the absence to be excused within 5 days of the child's absence, it will be changed to Excused (EA). Any changes made should occur no later than the first Monday following the **5 day window** parents have to submit a note.

For further information, please reference the NISD Student-Parent Handbook. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or the school office. We thank you for making every effort to ensure your child gets the most from his/her education by being in school all day every day.

Birthdays

No day is more special than the one on which your child arrived! Birthdays will be recognized in the classroom, and parents are welcome to send or deliver easy-to-serve treats such as **store-bought** cupcakes, doughnuts, or cookies to be shared in the classroom the last 15 minutes of the instructional day. As an alternate, you can arrange with the cafeteria manager to provide ice cream for your child's class. (Jason.Berain@nisd.net) The delivery of balloons and/or flowers to students is not permitted. Please let your child's teacher know if you do not want your child to participate in birthday recognitions.



Cell Phones/Mobile Devices

Cell phones are to be turned off and kept in students' backpacks while at school. Students not complying with this policy may have the cell phone confiscated and secured until a parent picks it up. **Each classroom is equipped with a telephone if a student needs to get in touch with a parent for emergency purposes. The school is not liable for any damage or theft of cellular & mobile devices.**

Classroom Parties

Elementary schools may have three parties per school year. Party refreshments are permitted on these occasions. Communication regarding classroom parties will be distributed by either the classroom teacher or a room parent.

Communication from School

Hard copies of the school newsletter, calendars, classroom newsletters, and other important communication will be sent early in the year. As we develop electronic databases, we may transition to electronic means of communication to save money on paper and printing. Advance notification will be given. Families who need or prefer a hard copy will be able to obtain one upon request.

Controlled Access & Raptor Sign In

Parents and guests are welcome at Bob Beard Elementary School. For the safety of our children, all parents, visitors and volunteers during the instructional day must register in the front office using the Raptor Visitor Tracking System. **Photo ID is required** to be presented. It will be scanned by our office staff and, upon clearance, a photo badge will be generated that must be worn while on campus and turned in upon exiting the campus. In order to volunteer on our campus you will be required to submit and clear NISD's Criminal Background Check. Information on how to complete this task will be provided during the Parent Information Night meetings.

Entrance and exit is through the front doors adjacent to the main office. All other doors are locked during the school day and are not to be used.

Discipline

One of the most important requirements of an effective learning environment is appropriate behavior of each student. We believe each child has the right to learn in an environment that is free from disruptions and/or the threat of harm from other students. Our staff will reinforce the use of Kelso's Choices, a program which focuses on teaching students decision-making skills in discipline and concepts of socially acceptable behavior. It empowers students to become responsible for their conduct and the consequences that are the result of their choices.



Student behavior will be communicated via a Behavior Folder or the Student Planner/Agenda for grades 2-5. This will serve as a communication tool between the school and the home. Student behavior is documented and sent home daily. The emphasis of the folder is a positive one. Behavior notations focus on the attributes of Citizenship and Work Habits reflected on Northside report cards. Positive feedback will be provided and infractions noted to keep parents informed. Please be sure to check your child's folder or planner on a daily basis. Continuation of an inappropriate behavior that is disruptive to other students' learning and/or threatens the well-being of others may necessitate the student being removed from the classroom for a visit to the office, In-School-Suspension (I.S.S.), or off campus suspension until either the student is ready to follow school rules or other consequences are determined. Fighting is unacceptable regardless of who initiated it, and all participants will be subject to disciplinary consequences. Our priority in regard to discipline is to ensure the safety of each and every student. We take our responsibility of teaching your child and providing a happy, safe learning environment very seriously.

Dress Code

Shorts, skirts, and dresses must be **no more than 4 inches above the kneecap** for children in Grades 3-5. Any clothes that are suggestive or which cause distraction will not be permitted. No cut-offs, tight fitting pants, or exercise/bicycle shorts are allowed. Over-sized or baggy pants are also not allowed. Students may not wear tops or shirts with "spaghetti" straps or large cut-out armholes. Tennis shoes are the preferred shoe at school for safety reasons. Flip flops are popular but expose the foot to many dangers. While wearing flip flops, children often trip while running, so this type of shoe is not allowed during P.E. class. Tennis shoes with retractable wheels are not allowed at school because they also pose a safety concern. Please review the NISD Elementary Student-Parent Handbook for additional information on dress.

Educational Programs

All students participate in the following programs:

*Art & Music

*Computer Literacy

*Guidance taught by a Certified Counselor

*Physical Education

*Integrated Library Services

Other programs and services available for qualifying students:

*Individual and Small Group Counseling

*Gifted and Talented

*Speech/Language Development

*Special Education



E-Mail

E-mail is an extremely useful tool for communication. Used efficiently, it can promote improved home/school communication. However, excessive e-mail may actually inhibit responsive communication and distract from teachers' other responsibilities such as working with children and planning/preparing for diverse student needs. The following guidelines for staff and families are provided to help ensure e-mail enhances our ability to work together for our children:

- Use e-mail to communicate general information or questions (i.e., attendance, scheduling, special events, deadlines, brief comments/questions).
- In-depth conversations or dialogue regarding a child are best held in person. Conferences should be scheduled to ensure full attention can be given to the discussion.
- E-mail topics should be in regard to the parent's child and not include other children.
- Do not expect immediate turnaround. During instructional time, teachers are focused on the children, and therefore cannot read and respond to e-mail as quickly as it arrives in the Inbox. E-mail may be read before school, after school, or during a teacher's conference time, keeping in mind that teachers may also have duty or meetings at those times. We recognize that parents also have many other priorities beyond e-mail and may not be able to respond immediately.
- Emergency messages requiring immediate attention (such as an emergency change in a child's dismissal plan) should be called in to the office to better ensure the information is transferred in a timely manner.
- The lack of nonverbal cues and feedback make e-mails easy to misinterpret. If needed, seek clarity through a phone call or face-to-face interaction.
- Allow at least 24 hours for a response. Staff members and parents alike may receive a great many messages each day, yet have many other responsibilities. It may also take time for the e-mail recipient to gather sources and thoughts to provide a considerate response.

Emergency Information

It is very important that we always have a number where we can reach you in case of an emergency. Please keep the office updated with any change of cellular numbers or telephone numbers at home or work. If you do not have a phone at home, we need the name of someone who can contact you.

Family Lunch

You may eat lunch with your child during their lunch period. **To ensure student safety and supervision, only students whose parents (or immediate family members listed on the emergency card) are present may eat at the parent/student tables.** All other students must remain with their designated class. Since we view lunch as a social time, expect much happy chatter. Please enter through the front doors, sign in at the office, and wear a visitor tag. Please go directly to the cafeteria to meet your child. Stopping by the classroom disrupts the routine at a difficult transition time. Teachers will appreciate your cooperation with this request. We have found that it is best to wait until after the first few weeks of school to visit for lunch. This allows us to establish routines with as little disruption as possible. Please note that district policy prohibits a parent from bringing any food items to students who are not their child. Due to food allergy concerns, students are prohibited from sharing their food/lunch with other classmates. If you bring fast food items, please avoid the "Peanut-Free" tables. Some fast food restaurants use peanut oil to prepare their food.

Field Trips

Field trips for educational purposes are an important part of the instructional program. They are used as a teaching extension directly related to the content of the grade level or subject area. Teachers may ask parents to chaperone small groups of students. Chaperones are required to apply for a criminal background check and be cleared before serving as chaperone. Parents may not take siblings on field trips if they are serving as a chaperone. **A permission slip must be signed and returned by a parent** before a child may attend a field trip. If there is no permission slip signed, the child will not attend the field trip.

Research supports the use of field trips to support student learning, and we appreciate your membership and support of PTA which funds these important opportunities.

Food at School

Elementary schools are required to follow nutrition rules established by the Texas Department of Agriculture. Parents may choose the food items sent to school for their own child, but may not send food or purchase food for other students. Please be aware that some students may experience food allergies, so it is important that children not share food at school. Students are also prohibited from selling food fundraising items to students during the school day or extended school day. Birthdays will be recognized in the classroom, and parents are welcome to send or deliver easy-to-serve treats such as cupcakes, doughnuts, or cookies (**store-bought**) to be shared in the classroom **the last 15 minutes of the instructional day**. Please inform your child's teacher if your child has an allergy that would impact him/her participating in birthday treats.

Free/Reduced Lunch Forms

Forms are mailed to everyone who registers by early August. Those who register late or did not receive a mailing may pick up a form in the school office or request that your child bring one home to you. If you apply for this, please fill out the form carefully and completely so that there will be no delay.

Health Appointments

It is recommended that health appointments be made after school releases at 2:50 p.m. However, if a student is absent for **part** of the school day due to an appointment with a health care professional, **a note from the health care professional must be provided** to the office upon the child's return, and the partial absence will not be documented as a tardy or an absence. If a student is absent for the entire day due to an appointment with a health care professional who provides a note, it will count as an Excused Absence.

Homework

Children will receive homework assignments relevant to coursework. Parents are asked to help their child by providing the time, place and encouragement needed to complete assignments. Please talk with your child's teacher if the work is challenging your child to the point of frustration or if extensive time is needed.

Report Card Recognition

- **All A Honor Roll** is awarded to students in grades 3-5 who receive all A's in academic coursework and no less than an "S" in all citizenship categories (including rotation classes). Per district policy, students may not have any N's or U's on the report card to be on Honor Roll.
- **Perfect Attendance** is awarded to students who have not exceeded one tardy or one partial day absence during the grading period that is not categorized as a documented appointment with a health care professional. All Year Perfect Attendance is awarded to students at the end of the year who have never been absent. In order to receive Perfect Attendance at the end of the year, students may have no

more than 4 tardies or 4 partial day absences during the year that are not categorized as a documented appointment with a health care professional.

- **Citizenship Award** is awarded to students in grades K-5 who have maintained an “E” in citizenship in the classroom and in all rotation classes.

Invitations

Invitations to private celebrations may be passed out at school **only** if every child in the classroom receives one, if every girl in a classroom receives an invitation to a girl’s party, or if every boy in the classroom receives an invitation to a boy’s party.

Lost and Found

Misplaced items will be placed in the lost and found section of the school which can be found across from the exit doors to the Kindergarten playground. Parents are strongly encouraged to write their child’s last name in all jackets, sweaters, hats, gloves, etc. **Misplaced items are very easy to return if labeled.** Please check lost and found periodically for missing items. Leftover clothing will be donated to a local charity throughout the school year.

Meals

Students may purchase a breakfast meal for \$1.00 or a lunch meal for \$2.10 in the school cafeteria. Parents may write a check or pay cash at the campus (sorry, no debit/credit cards) to be deposited in your child’s account. Parents may also pay by debit/credit card on www.mylunchmoney.com. Purchases will be deducted each time your child eats in the cafeteria. Please note that an alternate lunch will be offered after 5 unpaid lunch charges to help prevent accumulation of owed funds. A menu, price list, and Child Nutrition policies will be provided in the First Day Packet. If you need to reach our cafeteria manager, please e-mail at caf180@nisd.net or call the cafeteria office at 397-6625. If there is a consistent need for restrictions to be placed on your child’s account (for example, you do not want your child to purchase snacks/desserts), simply contact the cafeteria manager, and this can be annotated in your child’s account.

Medications

All medication should be taken directly to the school office by the parent. Medication (both prescription and over-the-counter) can only be administered with a physician’s order and a parent note. No medications are allowed in the classroom (including over-the-counter items, such as cough drops, Tylenol, etc.), nor may students administer their own medication. If it is necessary to send medication via the child, please call in advance to alert the school nurse. Parents are responsible until it is delivered to the clinic. Leftover medication must be picked up by the parents as students may take home only empty containers. If you are designating that your child is asthmatic, an Asthma Action Plan must be on file with the school nurse in order for your child to have medication dispensed to him/her. Please see the nurse for the paperwork to be completed by your child’s physician.

Parent Orientation

At the beginning of the school year a Parent Information Night will be held. Teachers will share many important aspects of their overall classroom organization and classroom procedures at this time. Your attendance and participation are vital. Teachers will send home reminders at the beginning of the year.

All parents are invited. Please join us for an evening full of valuable information as you learn about the year to come!



Beard Parent Information Night

Tuesday, August 30th

4:30 – 5:00 p.m.

AND

5:15 – 5:45 p.m.

*Counselor instructional materials
will be available for preview*

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are encouraged throughout the school year and are to be prearranged at the request of the parent or the teacher. All parents will be invited to a conference during the first semester. If you do not receive an invitation, please contact your child's teacher. Building a positive partnership between home and school is a priority. Please trust that our teachers sincerely care about each child and want to work with you to ensure your child's success.

Please note that teachers cannot stop instruction or traveling with the class during arrival or dismissal time to discuss an individual student. Teachers often arrive early to get materials ready and mentally prepare for the day. Please respect this time and do not "pop in" for an informal conference. If there is an immediate need, please call or e-mail to set up a conference at a mutually agreeable time when you can talk in private with no distractions.

Parent Connection

NISD's Parent Connection allows parents to view information regarding their child's grades and attendance at any time throughout the school year. It also allows parents to sign up for School Messenger voice messages from the campus as well as cafeteria account information and payments. Here's how to sign up:

1. Go to www.nisd.net/parentconnection
2. Follow screen instructions to create an account for each user.
3. Add students after accounts are created by clicking Add Students link.
4. You will need your child's student ID number which can be obtained from the school office. The password (PIN) is the first four letters of the student's last name followed by the last four numbers of his/her social security number.

Parent-Student Handbook

It is important for you to read the online handbook carefully as it contains the policies and procedures for all NISD elementary campuses. In the First Day Packet, the **Parent-Student Authorization Form** explains the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and requires that you answer 3 statements, then sign and return that page. ***Please consider this information carefully.*** If you check "no" to the first statement, your

child's picture and name will not be included in the Beard Yearbook. On the reverse side of this form is an explanation of Northside's policy regarding the **Acceptable Use of the District's Technology Resources** and permission for **Web Publishing**. Students will not be allowed to use the campus computers until the Acceptable Use form is returned with your signature. **We ask that these pages be returned with your signature no later than Friday, August 26th.**

Parents as Visitors in the Classroom

As noted in the District Handbook, parents are encouraged to visit their child's school any time. Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time will be permitted for limited time frames pending principal's approval in consultation with the teacher to ensure the duration and frequency does not interfere with the delivery of instruction. Prior to entering your child's classroom, you **MUST** sign in and receive a name tag at the front office of the school. Parents without proper nametags will be directed back to the front office.

Pets at School

Please do not bring pets to the campus at all times of the day, including dismissal. Service dogs are permitted.

PTA: Goal 100%

We encourage each parent and extended family members to support our PTA by becoming a member of the Bob Beard Elementary School PTA. There is no obligation to volunteer, but there are many opportunities for those enthusiastic to support our children! Membership fee for the 2016-2017 school year is \$9.00. Our first 2016-2017 PTA Meeting of the year is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27th at 8:00 a.m. Please join us!

Remind Text Messages

To receive brief school messages via text, text @beardelem to (512) 982-4916. You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying, "unsubscribe@beardelem".

Safety Drills

Periodically, we practice drills for fire, severe weather, and security. If you visit our campus during one of these drills, please follow the staff's lead and participate appropriately.

Safety Patrol

Our Safety Patrol Team is comprised of fifth grade students and is one of several opportunities fifth graders will have to serve as school leaders. Requirements include excellent citizenship, positive work habits, passing grades and reliability. Please help your child recognize the patrols as leaders on our campus, serving to help arrival and dismissal flow smoothly.

School Colors and Mascot

Our school colors are burgundy and blue. We are the Buckaroos! Spirit Day will be celebrated each Friday. Students and staff are encouraged to wear their Beard shirts to show school spirit!

School Song

*We've got a yearnin' for learnin' at Bob Beard Elementary,
And our minds are all turnin' to know the things we should.
Burgundy bold and denim blue, to our colors we'll be true;
Buckaroo pride, Buckaroo honor through and through.
We're on the trail of knowledge, going where we've never been,
To discover the world around us, and how we all fit in.
A yearnin' for learnin', right now and when we're grown;
We're the Buckaroos of Northside San Antone!
Yee-ha!*

By: Bethany Hirota and Dr. Gary Mabry



Snacks

If your child requires a snack due to the time of his/her scheduled lunch, please send one. **Please do not send anything that requires refrigeration and/or heating.** We request that you send in snacks that are deemed nutritious (fruit, granola, nuts, raw vegetables,). Teachers will have a scheduled snack time.

Student Planners

Student planners will be available for purchase in the school office at the beginning of the year. The planner will be an important tool for our second through fifth grade students to organize their academic responsibilities. Parents are asked to review and sign the planner daily as a communication tool between school and home.

Teacher Assignments

Some changes in initial placement may be necessary during the first few days of school. It can be difficult to predict students who move in or out of our attendance area, but staffing must be based on actual enrollment in order to not overspend taxpayer dollars. It is not unusual for enrollment to change in the first days and weeks of school. If actual enrollment does not match staffing, class numbers may need to be adjusted. Should your child's classroom assignment need to be changed, you will be promptly notified. We thank you for your patience and support through this process.

Toys/Weapons

Toys may not be brought to school unless the teacher sends home a note requesting items for an instructional activity or reward time. Weapons of any kind or items associated with weapons may not be brought to school for any reason. Prohibited items include fireworks, toy guns, water guns, pocket knives, toy knives, boy scout knives, etc. Students who bring make-believe or real weapons are subject to consequences, potentially severe, as outlined in the Northside ISD Elementary Student-Parent Handbook.

Transportation

NISD bus transportation is provided for some students. To find out if your child is bus eligible, visit <https://nisd.net/boundaries-and-buses>. If your child is a bus rider and their mode of transportation will differ on a given day, please ensure you send a note and verify the teacher has received it. Each time you change modes of transportation, you must inform the teacher in writing to help us ensure accuracy in how your child is

dismissed. If no note is sent, the child will be sent home on the school bus. Phone calls to change transportation will only be allowed for emergencies.

Students who are not eligible for bus transportation may not ride the bus with the exception of field trips or with advance administrator approval on a limited basis. Students assigned to buses may not ride other buses for the purposes of visiting a friend, going to scouts, piano lessons, or other functions. Please read the section on NISD transportation in your District Handbook for more information on bus rules and safety.

Visitor Name Tags/Safety

We always want you to feel welcome to visit the school. All visitors must sign in at the office and get a name tag. We have an automated system that requires a driver's license. The Raptor system is just part of our campus safety plan to ensure student safety and a focus on learning. Please understand and cooperate with staff should they stop you in the building if you are not wearing a Raptor badge. Please also remember to exit through the main doors after returning your visitor badge.

We rely on our families to help be the eyes and ears in our community and share any information relevant to student safety. If at any time you have information regarding real or perceived threat to students' safety, please contact the District's 24 hour anonymous tip line: 397-SAFE. Northside Police will follow all leads. Thank you for your continued partnership in assuring our school is a safe and vibrant learning community.

Volunteers

Beard staff members welcome and appreciate enthusiastic volunteers. We invite you to assist teachers and PTA by signing up for various volunteering opportunities that occur during the school year. All volunteers must submit and pass a background check before volunteering with students. Go to <https://hrvolunteer.nisd.net/TempMod.nsf?Open> to complete the short form. Be sure to select Beard as your campus. Administrators check the list regularly, and you may call the school to verify that you have cleared the background check.

Web Sites

Visit our school web site at <https://nisd.net/beard/>
Visit our PTA web site at <http://www.beardpta.org/>

Thank you for your continued support!

