



Berenda Elementary

April 2022

From the Principal

Hi Broncos,

We have had some very nice spring days and I hope we have many more before the really hot days of summer arrive. As the weather changes, I have a couple of important items to share.

- 1- Make sure you have your child's name on their sweatshirt/jacket. We are finding lots of them laying around at the end of the day.
- 2- As it gets warmer, we need to remember that we want students dressed appropriately for school.
- 3- Here is a [link](#) to the MUSD Elementary School Handbook. Dress code info on page 20-21.
- 4- We always want students wearing appropriate shoes during PE for their safety.

Easter vacation is coming in a few weeks. I hope that each of you gets to spend some family time together during the week. At the end of this post there are some family fun ideas.

When we return from our week off, **we will begin our state testing (CAASPP testing)** for our 3rd-6th graders. It is very important that our Broncos get a good night's rest, eat a healthy breakfast, and get to school on time every day. I tell our students that they have been working hard and learning lots...so this is their opportunity to show off all they have learned this year. They can make their teacher proud, they can make their parents proud, and they can make themselves proud.

We will be having **summer school at Berenda** again this summer. It will run from Wed., June 8 to Wed., June 29th. There will be no school on Monday, June 20 in observance of Juneteenth. Class will start at 8:00 and end at 11:30. You will need to bring your child to school each day; we will not have transportation.

Soon you will receive a Parent Square survey asking if you would like your child to attend summer school. We will do the best we can to accommodate everyone who wants to attend, but may not be able to. So, when I send the survey, reply back quickly. We will take students in the order we receive them, by grade level, and then will place other students on a waiting list. This is going to be a quick 15 days of fun and learning for our students.

Be Safe, Give Grace, and Thrive!
Mr. Christiansen

Important News

Open House will be April 27th from 5:30-6:30. We are looking forward to having parents come and visit our classrooms and see some of the exciting things we have been working on all year.

We have had some **questions about why an absence** is listed as 'excused' or listed as 'unexcused'. Here are the general guidelines that we follow.

Excused absences: Illness, Medical/Dental appointments, Funeral, Quarantine, Court appearances, Religious (holiday/ceremony).

Unexcused absences: Family vacation, Outings or extended holidays, Student sleeping in, Missed the bus.

You can report an absence by calling 559-674-3325, by Parent Square to Rosa Navia Ramirez, or by emailing rosanaviaramirez@maderausd.org. You can also send doctor's notes or test results. If you get a SARB letter notifying you that Mr. Christiansen would like to meet with you, this is because our system has determined that your child has missed too many days and we need to talk about what is happening, so we can work together on a plan to improve attendance.

Our next sport is going to be **Track & Field**. There are many events and many opportunities for our Broncos to participate. Track & Field is open to 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students.

Remember to **let the cars driving west on Club Drive turn left into the parking lot**. If we don't let those cars turn in, then the cars can't get out of the parking lot. It is also important to let the cars out of the parking lot...else no more cars can get in...and then nothing moves.

Event Highlights

We had our last **wrestling** match on Friday. Our boys and girls did very well this season. They learned so much and came so far in their skills, and we beat each of the schools we competed against. Yea us!! We will have students competing in the district championship event and want to wish them all well.

For April, our **PBIS focus** will be on Self-Control / Self-Discipline / Alertness & Action. The ability to have self-control is so important. It is something that we spend a lot of time talking about with our students. Our Second Step program teaches students to 1) recognize their feelings, 2) name their feelings, and then 3) practice some calming down strategies. We teach our students that 'Calming down helps you think clearly!'

We recently participated in the **Red Pyramid Choir Concert**, the **Spring String Concert**, and the **Red Pyramid Band Concert**. I was able to attend all these events and was very proud of how well our students performed. Music is a great activity to grow the brain and it is a lot of fun. Win-win. If your child is already in one of these groups, remind them to practice daily. If they are thinking about joining...give them your support and encouragement.

We held our first ever **Berenda Battle of the Books**. Teams of students competed against each other to help determine who would be moving forward to the Madera Unified Battle of the Books competition. We were excited to see the kids compete and wish our Berenda team good luck.

We just completed our **Cookie Dough Fundraiser**. I want to thank everyone that participated. I am always impressed with the support that our families provide to our school. You are the best!!

Upcoming Events - Mark your calendar.

- April 5 - Berenda Parent Club meeting 3:30 via zoom <https://maderausd.zoom.us/j/86042099959>
- 4/11 - 4/18 - Easter Vacation
- April 19 - 7:55 Bell rings (First day back after vacation.)
- April 19 - Window opens for state testing - CAASPP testing - for grades 3-6.
- April 22 - Progress reports go home.
- April 27 - Open House 5:30-6:30

Student Health & Wellness

Please read this message from the department of School Culture and Climate at MUSD:

Make spring break a week to remember with fun-filled activities the whole family can enjoy at home. Madera Unified schools will close for Spring Break from April 11-18, 2022. Whether you're staying home or heading out of town, use this week as a chance to spend time together as a family. You don't need to pack each day with activities or stress about planning every minute. These easy ideas will ensure the kids stay entertained—and you stay sane.

- **Have a Movie Night:** Kick-off spring break at home by streaming a new movie to get you all in the mood for some family fun.
- **Make a Playground Bucket List:** Make a list of local parks and playgrounds to see how many you can check off the list during spring break.
- **Play Backyard Games:** Invite friends or relatives over to join you for an afternoon of fun and games.
- **Paint Your Neighborhood:** Brighten the neighborhood with sidewalk chalk.
- **Cook with the Kids:** Challenge the kids to a cooking contest.
- **Go for a Walk!**
- **Play Games:** We all know what the kids really want to do all week—play video games! Instead of fighting with them, join them for a little screen time rivalry.

What awesome spring break activities do you have planned? Here are some more [hands on activities](#) to keep your children engaged during this vacation. Happy Spring Break!

