TAYLOR RANCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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T: 941.486-2000 | F: 941.486-2129

Taylor Ranch Before & After Care: 941.544-5339
Taylor Ranch Food Services: 941.486-2130

STUDENT/PARENT INFORMATION HANDBOOK 2026-2027

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Welcome to TAYLOR RANCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Office Hours 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM | School Hours 8:30 AM – 3:15 PM

AGENDA BOOKS

Agenda books are used as a communication tool by some TRS teachers. Other teachers prefer email or Thrill Share. If your child's teacher uses an agenda book for messaging and assignments, it will be available for purchase at Meet the Teacher. Replacement agenda books can be purchased in the front office.

ATTENDANCE

The Sarasota County School Board and Taylor Ranch Elementary School are committed to maximizing the amount of time a student spends in the classroom in a positive learning environment. To help accomplish this commitment, the School Board has enacted rules to address tardiness, student absence, and work habits.

TARDY TO SCHOOL

- Students will be allowed to enter their classroom at 8:15 AM, first bell.
- **Children entering the classroom after 8:30 AM, second bell, are considered tardy and must report to the office to obtain a tardy pass.**
- Chronic tardiness may affect a student's academic performance.
- If the problem continues, a School Board social worker may be asked to make a home visit.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

For a student's absence to be defined as "excused," a note must be sent with your child upon their return or entered in SDM. Sarasota County Schools Board Policy 5.40 and the Sarasota County Student Progression Plan govern student attendance and excused absences. An excused absence is defined as:

- Illness documented by parent/guardian or medical doctor, if school has not received a note or call in 3 consecutive days absent, there may be a call home to check on student.
- Major illness in student's immediate family
- Religious holidays of a specific faith
- Pre-approved absences: Special situations (i.e., family emergency) **must be pre-approved by the School Administration.**
- Chronic absences can affect a student's academic performance.
- Letters will be sent to the parent/guardian of any student with excessive absences (9 per semester) and/or when attendance becomes an obstacle to academic success.
- **Family vacations/trips are not excused for absences.**

ABSENCES/MAKE-UP WORK

When a student has been absent, with a valid excuse, teachers will provide opportunities to complete missed assignments. Students will have make-up time equal to the number of days absent, to complete all assignments, per Sarasota County policy. The initiative for making up missed assignments rests with the pupil under the teacher's guidance. **(NOTE: School policy recognizes that if a student is sick, he/she is unable to work at their highest level. Therefore, make-up work will not be sent home prior to a student's return to school.)** OBJ

REASSIGNED STUDENTS

Any student who receives excessive tardies and/or absences and is at Taylor Ranch on reassignment, is subject to having their reassignment revoked, and the student returned to their districted school.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Taylor Ranch Before & After School Care | Taylor Ranch Elementary School (sarasotacountyschools.net)

BOOSTERS (Parent/Teacher Organization)

Taylor Ranch has an active Parent/Teacher Boosters Organization that provides excellent leadership and involvement opportunities for interested parents. Parents are encouraged to volunteer and support the Boosters to help give the students additional opportunities. Several fundraising projects are sponsored annually by the Boosters that help support our instructional programs and students. Meetings are scheduled throughout the year and are announced on the school calendar, school web page, and e-blasts. Please contact TRSBoosters@TRSBoosters.org for more information.

BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

Policy: School Board of Sarasota County, FL policy 2.70 states that all its students and school employees will have an educational setting that is safe, secure, and free from harassment and bullying. The Sarasota County School District will not tolerate bullying or harassment of any type. Conduct that constitutes bullying and harassment, as defined in policy 2.70, is prohibited, and disciplinary action will be taken. Any reference to "bullying" includes cyberbullying, whether specifically stated. Please refer to the School Board Policy 2.70 for information on bullying and harassment definitions, behavior standards, consequences, reporting, investigating, notifications, and counseling.

- All students will receive an orientation on bullying and the steps to take should they see bullying occur
- Training will occur for all staff and with our SAC (School Advisory Council)
- Parents should report any suspected bullying to the administration of the school

BUS TRANSPORTATION

The Sarasota County School District provides transportation to all Taylor Ranch students within our attendance zone. Taylor Ranch students may NOT ride their bikes or walk to school. Students are not allowed to ride a bus other than the one assigned. Requests for special services, questions or concerns regarding transportation should be directed to the Sarasota County School Board Transportation Department at 941-486-2141.



CHAPERONES

Anyone desiring to chaperone on a field trip, or volunteer at Taylor Ranch School in any capacity, must have prior approval. This is accomplished by completing an application on the Sarasota County School Volunteer Page Volunteer | Sarasota County Schools This system has been put in place as a safety feature. It allows us to keep track of individuals on campus and assures us that they have been screened by the FDLE. Level One screening is required for all volunteers annually. Level Two screening (fee based) is required to chaperone a field trip or to work with small groups of students. Fingerprint appointments are available through safety and security, 941-927-9000. The Level II status is valid for 5 years. Teachers may assign chaperones for field trips and/or classroom instructional support. A level II volunteer can take on the responsibility of student supervision. Tami Watjen, our librarian, is our volunteer coordinator.

COMPUTER USE

The school district provides access for staff and students to the Internet via computers. The benefits for staff and students of such information access are obvious. However, with this privilege comes responsibility.

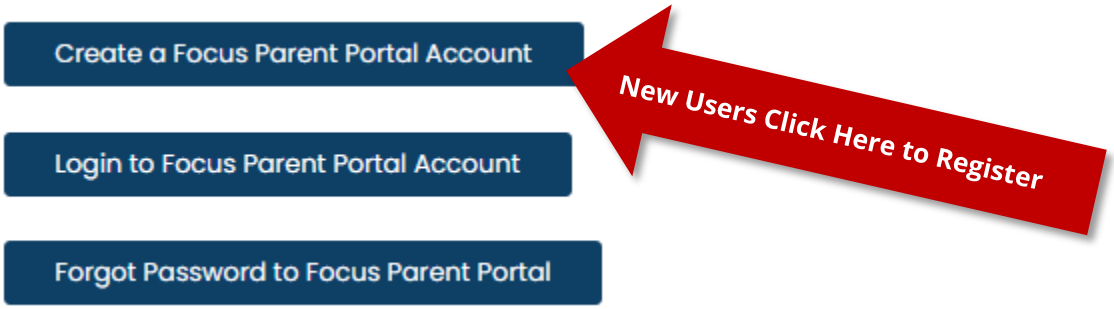
Although district staff monitor use, on a global network, it is impossible to control all access. The district believes that the valuable information available on this worldwide network far outweighs the potential problems. The county provides a security system (a blocker) to help prevent students from visiting inappropriate sites.

If any user violates any of these provisions, his or her access to electronic information services will be terminated. Willful violations will lead to disciplinary action, and if a criminal offense is committed, the user will be prosecuted per State Statute 815.04. NOTE: The student assigned to the network account is always responsible for its proper use. The school district has the right to review the contents of all email and other files created and stored on school district equipment.

COMMUNICATION

Taylor Ranch values a strong family partnership. Text, email, and voice messages are sent to keep our families informed of upcoming events, celebrations, student assessments, current TRS news, and volunteer and/or career opportunities. Please sign up for the Family Portal at the link below so you can receive pertinent updates. **This is a required task for Taylor Ranch families.** Also, please join us on our Taylor Ranch Facebook page to view the latest pictures and events that may include your child's class.

Focus Parent Portal: Re-Registration (Glad to have you back for another school year) | Sarasota County Schools



Follow Taylor Ranch School on Facebook & Instagram!

DRESS/APPEARANCE

It is our belief at Taylor Ranch Elementary that our students' self-esteem, behavior, and focus on learning are improved when they dress appropriately for school. **We follow the Sarasota County Schools recommendations for student dress code. TAYLOR RANCH ELEMENTARY DRESS CODE**

- **Daily Footwear:** To ensure student safety, only flat, closed toe, closed heel shoes may be worn. **Students should wear tennis shoes/sneakers each day.**
  Sandals, flip flops, slippers, CROCS, and shoes with wheels or boots are not permitted. In the event a student wears inappropriate footwear, they will not be permitted to participate in PE or use playground equipment to avoid risk of injury; they will be permitted to walk during these times.
- Shirts or tops must extend below the waist of the bottom garment or be tucked into the bottom garment. No midriff, skin, or undergarments should be visible when standing, sitting, or bending. Prohibited items include tube tops, tops with holes that expose the torso, oversized arm holes, backless dresses, half-shirts, or shirts. Sleeveless shirts must have a one-inch strap (no spaghetti straps).

- Pants must not have large holes in them above the knees that expose skin or hang below the waist or too tight.
- Shorts and skirts should be midrange between the thigh and knee. **Volleyball type shorts and short work-out shorts are not permitted.**
- No facial paint or make up.
- No clothing that is skintight, see-through, contains holes exposing skin, or unacceptable print matter regarding alcohol, drugs, tobacco, violence (knives, guns, etc.), or negative/offensive comments.

ACTION STEPS/CONSEQUENCES:

- **1st Offense** - Teacher sends student to clinic to change - Note sent to parents*****
- **2nd Offense** - Teacher sends student to clinic to change - Counselor will talk to student - Note sent to parents*****
- **3rd Offense** - Contact parent to bring appropriate clothes and Administration schedules a conference with parents

*****1st and 2nd Offense – Clinic will call home, and parents will be given the option to bring in a change of clothes.

- Unsafe Shoes – Walking only at Recess and PE & a note sent to parents

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

A student may possess an electronic device at school such as a cell phone, smart phone, smart watch, laptop, or other device that receives, sends, or stores digital data, provided that the electronic device remains powered off and stored in the student's backpack during the school day unless otherwise directed by a teacher for a specific educational activity. **Smart watches, smart glasses, and cell phones must remain powered off and stored unless authorized by a teacher for a specific educational activity.** Students may not use electronic devices on school property or at a school-sponsored activity to access and/or view websites that are otherwise blocked to students at school.

Students may not possess any electronic device during testing, even if the device is turned off, or the student does not use it. Violation of this rule will result in the student's test being invalidated.

Any student who uses an electronic device to threaten or intimidate another student or district staff member through email, text, social network posting, or other electronic message will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by school administration; this includes messaging that occurs outside of school hours. Electronic devices used in violation of school rules will be confiscated and returned to the student's parent or guardian. The school is not liable for any device that is damaged, lost, or stolen.

HEALTH ROOM



Children who become ill or injured are sent to the health room. **All children with a fever will not be allowed to remain in school. Children must be free of fever, vomiting and diarrhea without aid of medication for 24 hours prior to returning to school.**

Students with head lice infestation will be excluded from school until treatment for removal of live lice has been completed. Siblings and close associates of the student should also be examined for lice or nits. The health room staff examines students upon their return to school to ensure that no live lice is present.

Whenever possible, give medications at home. School personnel will give medication to students only if the following conditions are met:

- A serious or chronic health condition exists, and failure to take medication could jeopardize the student's health.

- Medication including non-prescription or over the counter must be in the original prescription container with the child's name, name of the medicine, dosage, and times to be given.
- Medication must be delivered by the parents to the health room staff at the start of every school year.
- A Medication/Treatment Authorization Form must be signed by parent or guardian, completed by the prescribing doctor, and given to the health room staff.
- No medication should be sent in a child's backpack.
- Parents are responsible for keeping forms and medication up to date.
- Medication is picked up at the end of the school year by the end of the last day of student.

HOME BAKED ITEMS

The Health Department has determined that food prepared in a private home shall not be used, sold, or offered to students. Any food items to be shared with students and/or staff must be commercially prepared and packaged with all ingredients listed on the product label.

HOMEWORK

In general, homework is considered a time for skill practice, enrichment, or more in-depth attention to a given unit of study. Homework can contribute to the learning process for every child. Homework expectations will be explained by the classroom teacher to your child. They will also be explained at the Open House, and in regular communication between you and your child's teacher. **Parental support in seeing that all homework is completed is strongly encouraged and plays a vital role in every child's academic success.**

When a student has been absent with a valid excuse, teachers will provide opportunities to complete missed assignments. Students will have make-up time equal to the number of days absent, to complete all assignments, per Sarasota County policy. The initiative for making up missed assignments rests with the pupil under the teacher's guidance.

HONOR ROLL: TRAILBLAZER ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Students in 2nd -5th grade who earn all A's and/or B's on their report card with satisfaction or above for effort, will earn Superstar Trailblazer status (aka Honor Roll). Please check with your student's teacher for more information and requirements.

LOST AND FOUND

"Lost and Found" is in the front office for most items. Water bottles, lunch bags, and jackets will be held in the cafeteria. Children and parents should check there in case of a missing item. **All unclaimed items are removed at the end of each month. Families are strongly encouraged to label all belongings with the child's name. This includes water bottles, jackets, and backpacks.**



Taylor Ranch Elementary School is not responsible for any lost items.

LUNCH & BREAKFAST PROGRAM

*Meal prices are subject to change, please check the website for current prices.

Checks for lunch money may be made payable to Taylor Ranch Elementary Food Service. Payments are also available online. Log onto www.myschoolbucks.com. A great deal of time is saved if lunch and/or breakfast are purchased in advance. **A Free or Reduced Breakfast/Lunch Program is available for students who qualify.** Applications are available here: MySchoolApps - Home Page. Any questions regarding the lunch program or a student's account should be directed to the Food Service Manager, Becky Berrios, at 941-486-2130.

Lunch menu: Food & Nutrition | Sarasota County Schools

LUNCH RULES FOR CHILDREN and FAMILIES

Parents may eat lunch **with their child only**, in designated outdoor areas. **Recess activities are not permitted during lunch time with your child. Do not use or access the playground areas. For accountability purposes, parents are not permitted to escort their child to recess after lunch**. **FOR PURPOSES OF SECURITY, IT IS REQUIRED THAT YOU SIGN IN AND PICK UP A VISITOR'S PASS AT THE OFFICE BEFORE MEETING YOUR STUDENT FOR LUNCH OR USE YOUR PARENT BADGE (ORDERED THROUGH SCHOOL OFFICE).**

- Parents may only eat with their own child
- Outdoor seating only
- Clear all trash on table and ground
- First come-first serve availability
- **Parent lunch opens after Labor Day**

HEALTHY FOOD FOCUS

At Taylor Ranch, there is a conscious effort being made to support healthy eating habits while on campus. Although on occasion, students may be provided a "special treat" in recognition of select accomplishments, it is our intent to promote a balance in the selection/consumption of healthy foods/snacks.

ENCOURAGED	DISCOURAGED
Water	Soda (bottled or canned)
Fruits	Candy/Sweets
Vegetables	Items lacking in nutritional value

NOT PERMITTED

Coffee

Highly caffeinated drinks (Celsius, Liquid Death, Monster, etc.)

Library

The Taylor Ranch library offers a wide variety of materials and equipment to reinforce and expand your child's educational experience. Library hours **for students** are **8:45 AM to 3:00 PM. Students will take their Accelerated Reader (AR) tests during the school day only**. Classroom teachers will make allowances for students to take tests in their classroom or in the library during their library time. Our library prides itself on the use of technology. Computers are used for circulation and inventory of all materials. Students learn at an early age how to use the electronic card catalog system.

Books are checked out for one week and may be renewed as needed. We encourage students to return or renew their books on time. Books may be renewed up to three times. Notices will be sent home with your child requesting the return of overdue books. Lost or damaged books must be paid for at their replacement cost.

Messages and Dismissal Changes

Messages will be delivered to children ONLY in emergency cases. Dismissal arrangements should be made before your child leaves home in the morning, or by using our School Dismissal Manager App for early dismissal or different ways home. ALL dismissal changes and early release notices **MUST** be made in the **School Dismissal Manager** system BY 1:45 p.m. Children will **NOT** be released from class to respond to incoming telephone calls. Do not notify teachers of dismissal changes via EMAIL, TEXT, OR THRILLSHARE. Please use our School Dismissal Manager App and try not to make a habit of calling close to dismissal for a last-minute change. It is very difficult to find students when they are transitioning for dismissal.

MORNING SUPERVISION

Adult supervision for students begins at 7:50 AM. **Children may be walked to the front gate starting at 7:50 or dropped at the parent drop off loop. Students will then proceed to the cafeteria or library until 8:15. Prior to 7:50, there is no school supervision**. The school is not responsible for students left unattended prior to 7:50 AM.

NEW STUDENTS

Students enrolled throughout the school year will begin attending Taylor Ranch within 2 school days, upon being completely registered. This allows the teacher time to prepare the classroom, custodial time to bring in necessary desks and chairs, Administration time to create the best placement, and for the new student to start at the beginning of a school day (in lieu of walking in unannounced).

All families must register for the Focus Parent Portal. This portal will provide parents/guardians with information about your child's grades, assignments, and more. In addition, report cards will only be available through this portal.

Focus Parent Portal Account: Re-Registration (Glad to have you back for another school year) | Sarasota County Schools



PARENT DROP-OFF/PICK UP

PARENT DROP-OFF

Parents who are dropping off or picking up students should use the front parent pickup/drop off loop. You will drop off or pick up your student at the farthest gate. Follow staff directions. **If parking, parents must walk students across the line of traffic at the crosswalk and up to the gate.**

Students may enter campus at 7:50 AM through the **supervised** southernmost gate at the front of the school (by the outdoor classroom) and report directly to the cafeteria or library for supervision until 8:15 AM. If a student is not in a supervised location (library or cafeteria), the student's family will be contacted, and the student will be issued a warning. If the problem persists, the student will not be permitted on campus until 8:15 AM.

PARENT PICK-UP

Taylor Ranch utilizes a staggered dismissal schedule. Please review the following:



TAYLOR RANCH DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Here are some basic instructions that must be followed if you are planning to pick your child up in one of the Parent Pick Up lanes in the afternoons.

- **Kindergarten through Third Grade** are picked up in the front pick up loop
- Kindergarten is released first for parent pick up beginning at 3:00 PM (earlier the first few weeks of school)
- Third grade has specials at the end of the day and will not be ready for pickup until after 3:15
- **Fourth & Fifth Grade** car riders are dismissed from their classrooms to the **bus loop** for pick up at 3:25
- If you have students in K-3 **AND** 4 or 5, your children will be picked up in the front pick up loop
- Information for All Parent-Pick Up Families:
    - Registration with School Dismissal Manager is required for any dismissal changes. Failure to register with the SDM App can cause delays in the parent pickup line and in retrieving your child if you haven't updated their dismissal properly.
    - Contact the school office for SDM sign up information.
    - Kindergarten parents will be moved to the front of the pickup line, those waiting from other grade levels may be asked to re-loop into the pickup line until we have loaded most of the kindergarten students
    - First, Second & Third grade: best time to come to parent pick up is 3:15 or later
    - Fourth & Fifth grade students will not be available at the bus loop parent pick-up until 3:30 PM (or after busses have departed the loop)
    - All students must be picked up by 3:45 PM or they will be sent to After Care and charged a $10 fee.
    - Be prepared for dismissal delays at the beginning of the year.

EARLY DISMISSAL

To protect instructional time, if a parent/guardian wishes to have his/her child dismissed from school prior to the end of the day, it must be documented in School Dismissal Manager **by 1:45 PM**. Please make sure the person picking up your student has been given permission in School Dismissal Manager and is on the emergency contacts listed on Focus Portal. **Proper identification must be provided before a student is dismissed. Because instructional time continues until the end of the school day, students will not be dismissed from school after 2:45 pm.**

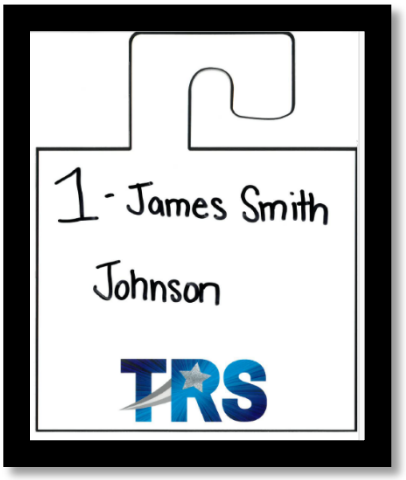
CAR TAGS

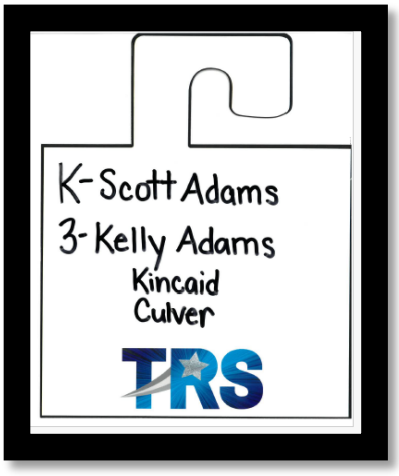
Here are some basic instructions that must be followed if you are planning to pick your child up at Taylor Ranch School.

- Please see the sample below before filling out your car tag **using a Sharpie**.
    1. Line 1: print the grade level and your child's First & Last Name
    2. Line 2: print the Teacher's Last Name
- (See example #1 on the next page)

- If you have multiple children, list them in order by grade level starting with the youngest.
    1. Line 1: print the grade level and students First & Last Name
    2. Line 2: print the next students grade level and First & Last Name
    3. Line 3 & 4: will be the Teacher's Name in order of your student
    - (See example #2 below)

Hang the car tag facing out (facing the staff) on your rearview mirror.





PERSONAL INFORMATION

ADDRESS CHANGE

In the event of an address change, whether during the school year or at re-registration time, Taylor Ranch Elementary School requires **written proof** of the new address for the school to change the records. Proof may include utility bill, lease, or property tax with homestead exemption.

CUSTODY

Before a request is made that we restrict information and/or release a student to an authorized person, a parent must provide a copy of custody papers which will become a part of the student's cumulative record. This will ensure that rights will not be violated. Student safety and best interests are always our concern.

MEDIA/DIRECTORY RELEASE

When a child is enrolled in a Sarasota County Public School, parents/guardians are asked to either grant or refuse permission for a child to be included in newspapers, directories, etc. Any change to this information must be submitted in writing. A media release is required for students to appear in the yearbook.
More information is on page 18.

QUESTIONS REGARDING STUDENT ACADEMIC / BEHAVIOR CONCERNS

FIRST Contact your child's teacher. Frequently, a conference or a sharing of information/concerns will answer the question.

SECOND If concerns remain unresolved, contact the school at 941-486-2000 and request to speak with a school counselor.

THIRD If your questions/concerns remain unresolved, contact the school administration for further assistance.

READING PROGRAM: ACCELERATED READER (AR)

All students are encouraged to work toward earning AR points. Students will earn special recognition and AR dog tags for their success along the way.

First Level of Recognition: Invited to End of Year AR Party

K - 15 points & celebration
1 - 25 points & celebration
2 - 50 points & celebration
3 - 75 points & celebration
4 & 5 - 100 points & celebration

Second Level of Recognition: Announced on TRS News & Wall of Fame photo in the library.

- All grades – 100 points

RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Individual classes and grade level teams may hold traditional seasonal parties. Parties may include recognition of an event of cultural or social importance. If a parent strongly objects to their child's use of instructional materials that include certain symbols, or participation in a school or class activity, please notify the classroom teacher in writing. Any parent willing to assist the classroom teacher with activities like these or recommend recognition of other cultural activities, please submit your suggestion to the teacher in writing. If you have any questions, the classroom teacher will be glad to assist.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are distributed through the Focus Parent Portal. However, you should expect ongoing communication with your child's teacher regarding their performance at school. If you have questions or concerns, do not wait until the report card or performance report is distributed. Contact your child's teacher in writing or by telephone.

The following are suggested guidelines that teachers will follow as it relates to the Family Access Portal:

- Grades will be posted within one week of a graded assignment/test being given
- Teachers will respond to a parent inquiry regarding a grade(s) within two school days
- Midterms will NOT be required as grades are accessible to parents via the Family Access Portal

** Please note that teacher illness, and other factors may delay the above parameters. Our goal is to have ongoing communication with you regarding your child's academic progress.

REPORT CARD GRADING SCALE

2ND – 5TH GRADES

The grading scale that has been adopted by the Sarasota County School District is as follows:

A – Outstanding.....90-100%	E - Excellent
B – Above Average 80-89%	G – Good
C – Average 70-79%	S – Satisfactory
D – Below Average 60-69%	N – Needs Improvement
F – Failing.....0-59%	U – Unsatisfactory

KINDERGARTEN & 1st GRADES

Standards are what students should know and be able to do at the end of each grade. A standards-based report card helps students and parents better understand grade level expectations. On traditional report cards, students receive one "letter grade" for each subject area. On a standards-based report card, each subject area is divided into a list of skills and knowledge that students are responsible for learning. Students receive a separate mark for each skill that reflects grade level content. It is important to note that it would be impossible to list every standard on the report card. The skills on the Sarasota County Schools Kindergarten

and First Grade report cards are a "snapshot" of the standards for your child at this grade level. The report card is a communication tool between schools and families of the continuous progress a child makes throughout the school year.

Understanding Performance Levels
The following performance levels are used on the report card:

Level 3 is the grade level expectation and is what all students should meet by the end of the year.

4 - The student has an **advanced** understanding and **exceeds** *end of year*, grade level standard mastery. A student receiving a 4 demonstrates this advanced knowledge at school.
3* - The student demonstrates **mastery** on *end of year*, grade level standard. A student receiving a 3 shows solid knowledge and has proficient understanding of concepts and skills.
2 - The student is **approaching** *end of year*, grade level standard mastery. A student receiving a 2 understands basic skills and concepts but is not yet fully independent. The student is applying concepts and skills with increasing success.
1 - The student is **beginning** progress towards *end of year*, grade level standard mastery, but is not yet independent. A student receiving a 1 may benefit from additional support*.
L - The student has **limited** progress towards *end of year*, grade level standard mastery. A student receiving a "L" may benefit from additional support*.

S.A.C. (SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL)

The purpose of the School Advisory Council is to enhance school site decision making, to serve in an advisory capacity to the principal regarding school improvement, to assist in the preparation and evaluation of the School Improvement Plan, and to provide input on the budget and use of School Improvement funds. SAC also approves supplemental & club funding. All meetings are open to the public and are publicized well in advance. Nominations are held annually, and minutes are posted on the school and district websites.

SCHOOL DAY HOURS

- **School office hours are 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM – Student Day is 8:30 AM to 3:15 PM**
- Students are not permitted on campus until 7:50 AM.
- Students may enter their classroom after the first bell at 8:15 AM
- Students are to report to the cafeteria (if eating breakfast) or the library for supervision until 8:15 AM
- Students are **TARDY** if they are not **IN THEIR CLASSROOM** by the 8:30 AM bell and must report to the office for a tardy pass.

This information is on page 3 as well.

SPECIALS CLASSES INFORMATION

Art, Spanish, Music, PE, & Science
The following teachers are on the Special's Rotation working with your child.

Art *– Ms. Friend,* ***Spanish****- Sra. Perez,* ***Music*** *Mrs. Johnson,* ***Science -****Mrs. Parham,*
Physical Education (PE*) – Coach Merkel, Coach Friday & Coach Ojeda*

Students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade are on a seven-day rotation. Students will have PE every other day. Students' grades are based on a limited number of days they are in a Specials class. Each quarter, students' grades are based on being in that class for a maximum of 5 days. Students' behavior and effort play a significant role in class, so with limited amount of time, a grade of **satisfactory is considered an average score.**

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATION (We feel these are also good life skills to exhibit.)

1. ***Respect*** everyone and everything - Treat others as you want to be treated, clean up after yourself, treat all equipment with care.
2. Be ***kind*** **-** Help others, include others, and speak nicely to each other.
3. Use ***self-control*** **-** Keep hands and feet to yourself, no running inside, use inside voices or whisper while involved in inside activities.
4. Try ***your best*** **-** Take your time on a task and give it all your effort, dress correctly for each special.

Kindergarteners and first graders are graded on skills in Art, Music, and PE every other quarter. (2nd and 4th quarters). The students' performance for Science and Spanish is integrated in with class grades. An effort grade is only given during the 1st and 3rd quarters, while an academic/skill grade is given during the 2nd and 4th quarters along with an effort grade.

GRADES

O = Outstanding *Does above and beyond the basic requirements (enrichment) and always follows class expectations.*

G = Good *Does the required assignments and follows class expectations.*

S= Satisfactory *Does the required assignments with little or no assistance and follows class expectations most of the time. This is considered an average grade.*

U = Unsatisfactory *Incomplete assignments and/or note sent home for behavior.*

EFFORT

E =Excellent - Apply previous skills always learned and follow class expectations.

G = Good - Willingly works on assigned tasks and follows class expectations.

S = Satisfactory - Completes assignments with little or no assistance and/or needs very few reminders of class expectations.

N = Needs Improvement - Doesn't complete assignments and/or has difficulty following class expectations.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

At the start of the school year, each teacher will clarify classroom rules and procedures. Rules guiding behavior are written in general terms to require interpretation and discussion by teachers and students. Once the rules are discussed and understood, they will set the standards of conduct.

♦Listen ♦Walk ♦Use Inside Voices ♦Respect Others' Property & Personal Space

Everyone shares the responsibility of behaving in a manner that makes Taylor Ranch Elementary a school where there are high expectations, and all people are valued. At the opening of school, all students will receive information about school rules from their teachers and through the "**Student Code of Conduct**" section in the Sarasota County School District Student and Family handbook which can be found online at: https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/o/scs/page/student-and-family-handbook. Parents are expected to review this information with their children. Open lines of communication are important. Children who repeatedly violate the rules are referred to the administration. Appropriate action will be taken which could involve restricting freedom or loss of privileges. Some violations of school rules are so severe they may require out of school suspension for a period not to exceed ten school days. If the behavior is not only a breach of school rules, but a violation of the law, students will be referred to the appropriate community authority. This does not preclude disciplinary action by the school as well.

STUDENT INSURANCE

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

At the start of the school year, the Sarasota County School District allows all students to purchase a Student Accident Insurance Plan. Enrollment forms are sent home during the first few weeks of school. The plan is also available to any new student enrolling during the school year. Students can purchase accidental insurance coverage for the school day only, or they may purchase coverage for 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The cost and coverage descriptions are explained in the insurance company literature. Here is the link: School Insurance of Florida | Student Insurance

STUDENT MEDICAL COVERAGE (other than Student Accident Insurance)

The Sarasota County School District has no provision, either insured or otherwise, to make routine payments of medical expenses for students injured as the result of accidents. It is assumed that all parents/guardians of students have made provisions to meet the financial responsibility of paying medical costs incurred by their child.

STUDENT MEDIA RELEASE

As you complete the online registration, please note that there are 4 options for student media releases. These selections are made in accordance with Board Policy 5.70 (Student Records), the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and the District's Annual Notification of Rights.

No directory - no family information will be released for public viewing,
No photo/video - student will not be in yearbook/class photos.
No media center - student will not be permitted to check out books in the library.
No classroom library - student will not be permitted to check out books from the classroom library.
This information is on page 14 as well.

TELEPHONE USE & ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Children are not permitted to use telephones except in EMERGENCIES. **Students are NOT to use the telephone to call for homework or agendas.**

***Students may only have smart watches, smart glasses, tablets, or cell phones if they are powered off and kept in their backpacks during the school day. TRS is not responsible for any items lost/damaged at school.**

TEXTBOOKS

Students are responsible for their textbooks. Classroom teachers keep a record of books assigned to students. Each child is required to print his/her name on the front cover. Students will be charged if they do not return the books assigned to them. If a book is lost during the school year, the student will be charged for the book prior to another being issued. Any student paying for a book found within the school year is eligible for a refund.

TOYS, TRADING CARDS, OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES, ETC.

Trading cards, electronic games, electronic music devices, fidget spinners, and other toys that may be a distraction to the learning environment, **are not permitted at school.** Should one of these items be brought to school, it may be confiscated and stored in the front office until a parent comes to pick it up.

TRAILBLAZER STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Each quarter, students who set examples as role models to others may be selected as Trailblazer student of the month. These students work hard and deserve to be commended for their positive rapport with their classmates. Students are selected by their teachers.

VISITORS

All visitors wishing to visit the school must first report to the front office and present a valid driver's license (any state), or official state photo identification card (any state), to be scanned by the Raptor System (sexual offender/predator database). Other forms of photo identification accepted are U.S. Military Identification card, Foreign Consulate card, Employee Photo identification card, Resident Alien card, or Temporary Protected Status card. Visitors are also expected to sign out properly when they leave campus. You can simply scan the barcode on your visitor badge at the kiosk in the lobby and it will sign you out, then you can dispose of your visitor badge, if you have a plastic parent badge you simply scan the barcode and it will sign you out, your badge will be good for the current school year only. A parent badge may be ordered for you to use yourself at the office kiosk, so you can walk your student to class in the mornings or to have lunch.

VOLUNTEERS

Taylor Ranch Elementary School is well known for its many volunteers working with staff and students. District policy requires that all volunteers & chaperones complete an online application, which is screened by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). All persons must have level one clearance to volunteer on campus and level two (fee based) clearance to accompany students on a field trip as a chaperone out of county or in county, if not under a teacher's direct supervision. Tami Watjen, our librarian, also serves as our volunteer coordinator.

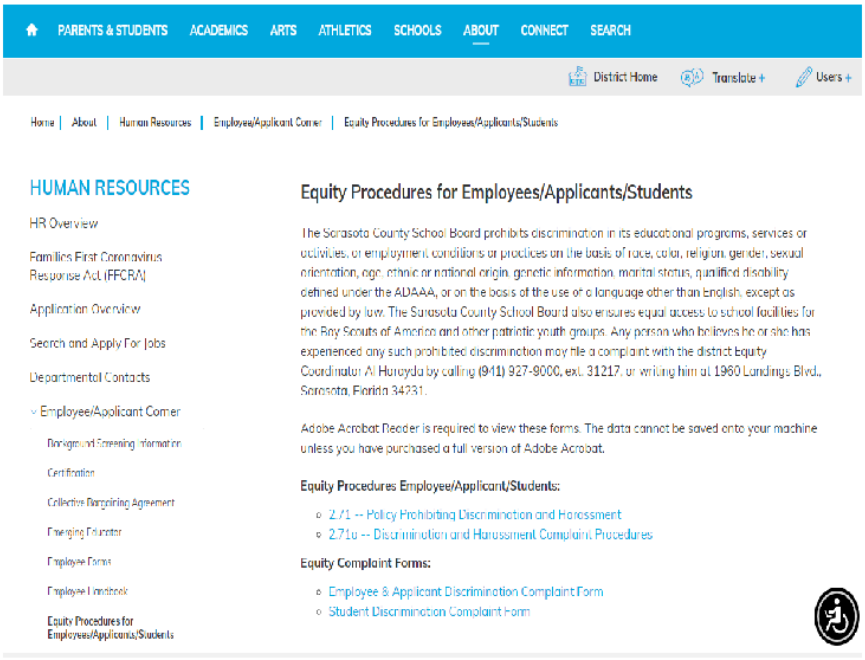
WITHDRAWAL

If you are planning to move out of the Taylor Ranch School district, please notify the registrar IMMEDIATELY. All textbooks, library books, lunch charges, and childcare fees must be paid before your child's records can be released to the new school.

Withdrawal & Reentry – To ensure appropriate staffing levels, we strongly encourage families who withdraw from Taylor Ranch and then wish to reregister to complete this process prior to October 1st. This allows us to avoid overcrowded classrooms.

EQUITY / PROCEDURES FOR EMPLOYEES/APPLICANTS/STUDENTS

Sarasota County Schools Equity Procedures can be found at the following link:
Equity Procedures for Employees/Applicants/Students | Sarasota County Schools



Accelerated Work Class (AWC): Grades 1 & 2

Taylor Ranch offers an accelerated work class in grades 1 & 2. This program has been designed for academically advanced students, and there are high expectations in relation to student academic performance, attendance, and behavior. The curriculum is both enriched and accelerated.

Students are invited to participate in this class on an annual basis. Families are notified via email, and an acceptance form must be digitally submitted to secure a seat in the class.

How do students qualify?
A matrix is used to identify students for placement based on end of year scores. To ensure multiple data points are used, a composite score is created based on FAST Reading, FAST Math, iReady Reading, a math placement test, and an oral reading fluency probe.

Considerations:
Prior to accepting an invitation, carefully consider whether you feel this program fits your child's needs. The curriculum is both enriched and accelerated. Additional out-of-school projects and homework may be assigned to the students in AWC. If at any time during the school year your child cannot meet these expectations, he/she will be reassigned to a more appropriate setting.

It is equally important to acknowledge that placement in the accelerated class is subject to change on an annual basis. This practice ensures that there is an equitable opportunity for all students to access the program each school year. Students and families must acknowledge that placement is not guaranteed from one year to the next.

Accelerated Mathematics Program for Elementary Development (AMPED): Grades 3-5

The Accelerated Mathematics Program offers accelerated mathematical instruction for elementary students demonstrating an exceptional aptitude in mathematics. Aligned with the Florida Department of Education's model for elementary math acceleration, this program prepares students for advanced

studies in middle and high school while providing engaging, challenging learning experiences. Accelerated courses move at a faster pace and require a higher level of academic challenge.

At Taylor Ranch, this program will be replacing our current Advanced Work Classroom (AWC) model in grades 3 and 4 in 2026-2027; the following year AMPED will roll up to 5th grade. Please refer to placement criteria below:

Key Benefits for Your Child

- Enhanced Engagement: Your child will explore math in a deeper way, keeping them interested and motivated to keep learning.
- Advanced Preparation: Your child will get an early start on more advanced math concepts, giving them a solid foundation for future success.
- Skill Development: Your child will strengthen important skills like problem-solving, critical thinking, and analysis, which will help them in all areas of learning.

Course Pathways: The Accelerated Mathematics Program for Elementary provides a clear pathway for advancement, and this structured approach ensures students build a strong foundation while advancing toward middle school mathematics.

Grade Level	Program/Course	Content Focus
1	AWC/PreAMPED	1st grade standards are being addressed at an accelerated pace, with students demonstrating a high level of critical thinking and a strong understanding of grade-level skills.
2	AWC/PreAMPED	2nd grade standards are being addressed at an accelerated pace, with students demonstrating a high level of critical thinking and a strong understanding of grade-level skills.
3	Grade 3 Accelerated Mathematics	Accelerates students through 3rd grade skills with introduction of 4th grade concepts
4	Grade 4 Accelerated Mathematics	Accelerates students through remaining 4th grade skills along with all of 5th grade mathematics
5	Grade 6 Accelerated Mathematics	Accelerates students through 6th grade mathematics with introduction to 7th grade skills

Placement Criteria: Students qualify for the Accelerated Mathematics Program through a comprehensive review process that considers:

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Placement Criteria:**	Grade K STAR PM 3 95th percentile or higher AND Evidence of Need	Grade 1 STAR PM 3 95th percentile or higher AND Evidence of Need	Grade 2 STAR PM 3 95th percentile or higher AND Evidence of Need	Grade 3 FAST PM 3 90th percentile or higher AND Evidence of Need	Grade 4 FAST PM 3 90th percentile or higher AND Evidence of Need

	-Unit Assessments <u>OR</u> Student is Gifted AND Evidence of Need <u>OR</u> Out-of-State Evidence of high performance on equivalent state testing	- Unit Assessments <u>OR</u> Student is Gifted AND Evidence of Need -District Math Interims <u>OR</u> Out-of-State Evidence of high performance on equivalent state testing	- District Math Interims <u>OR</u> Student is Gifted AND Evidence of Need - District Math Interims <u>OR</u> Out-of-State Evidence of high performance on equivalent state testing	-District Math Interims <u>OR</u> Student is Gifted AND Evidence of Need -District Math Interims <u>OR</u> Out-of-State Evidence of high performance on equivalent state testing	- District Math Interims <u>OR</u> Student is Gifted AND Evidence of Need - District Math Interims <u>OR</u> Out-of-State Evidence of high performance on equivalent state testing
Assessment	Grade 1 STAR	Grade 2 STAR	Grade 3 FAST	Grade 4 FAST	Grade 5 FAST

Deadline to enter* or exit the Accelerated Course Pathway	Data should be reviewed on an individual student basis by the end of Quarter 1. Students of concern should either be exited from the course or receive support during the WIN block. The traditional grade-level course remains available for students exiting the accelerated course path. Students who join the Accelerated Math Program at times other than the start of 3rd grade should receive ongoing support, as needed. Remediation opportunities may include supporting during WIN time, summer preparation opportunities, etc.

**Placement criteria scores are subject to change based on student performance on Progress Monitoring 3 achievement.

Students identified as gifted:
Students who have been identified gifted ***may*** be placed in the accelerated class based on the review of the end of year matrix mentioned above. If an identified gifted student does not place into the cohort, they will be provided enrichment support with a teacher who has extensive training in gifted education and holds a Florida Department of Education endorsement to teach gifted students.

As we begin this journey together, we are grateful for the opportunity to learn, grow, and celebrate our students and their successes as one community. Thank you for being part of our school family. We are looking forward to a year filled with learning, connection, and achievement.

Thank you!
Taylor Ranch Elementary School