

# Ortiz Elementary

**2550 Vogel Street  
Abilene, Texas 79603  
(325)671-4945**



School Mascot: All Stars  
School Colors: Blue & Silver

Principal – Carmen Crane  
Assistant Principal – Nichole Anderson  
Instructional Coordinator -Geraldine Wills  
Counselor – Gayla de la Vega  
School Nurse – Jenny Matthys  
School Secretary – Irene Castro  
Parent Coordinator – Candy Siklosi  
Office Assistant –Elizabeth Lozano  
Cafeteria Manager- Veronica Acosta

## **Ortiz Elementary Mission Statement:**

ALL STARS. ALL BELONG. ALL LEARN. ALL LEAD.

Welcome to Ortiz Elementary. We are honored to partner with you this year. We are here to ensure each student is successful and equipped to LEAD. I am excited to start a new year that looks much like a normal school year. I look forward to having more opportunities to serve each of you in the upcoming year.

Carmen Crane, Principal

# Ortiz Elementary specific information for 2023-2024

## Arrival, Dismissal and Traffic Procedures

### Early Arrival

The school building is open for students at 7:15 a.m. When arriving, students should enter the building through the main double doors next to the office. All students will go to the cafeteria upon arrival to eat breakfast (this is a change from previous years where breakfast was served in the classroom). Once students finish breakfast they will transition to the gym to wait on teachers. Students will be picked up, by their teachers from the cafeteria and gym at 7:40.

### Arrival

Students who arrive between 7:40 and 7:50 may go directly to the cafeteria for breakfast. The tardy bell rings at 7:50 AM and morning announcements are at that time. Due to security purposes, parents are not allowed in the building before school starts without properly checking in at the office and receiving an ID sticker.

### School Dismissal

All grade levels are dismissed at 3:15. For the safety of our students, parents should wait on the outer premises of the building for students to dismiss. Students will be dismissed from inside the building when their family number is called. Monitors are on duty after school at all pick-up points. Some Ortiz students are eligible to ride the school bus. In order to ease traffic and ensure a safe dismissal, Ortiz has developed a Safety Plan.

#### **Ortiz Elementary Safety Plan for 3:15 Dismissal**

Student walkers must go straight to the gym and will be escorted off campus in the direction that the student walks home. Students are not allowed to play on campus after school. Students are not allowed to re-enter the building after dismissal. Car riders will wait in an orderly fashion with their teacher (inside the building) until their ride pulls up in the line. Any changes regarding how a child is to get home should be called in to the office (671-4945) so that we may give a message to the student/students. **Please call changes no later than 2:30 PM to ensure that we have enough time to get the message to the child.**

- Students being picked up by car will wait inside the school building with their class and teacher.
  1. K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will be in the gym
  2. 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be in the cafeteria
- All bus riders will be escorted to their specific bus and checked in.
- Alliance After School Care students will go straight to the library and check in with ASC teachers.
- Students that are not picked up by 3:30 will be brought to the office. **No student will be allowed to wait anywhere else after 3:30 and must be picked up from the office.**  
Late pickup should be rare. Teachers are most often involved in tutorials, team meetings and planning. Please always call and let us know (671-4945) if you will be late and what your plans are.

### Traffic and Parking

Cooperation is essential to avoid conflicts in the front drive! Traffic is one-way in the front circle. Please be courteous and patient during drop-off and pick-up times. Please cooperate with the adult supervisors with kindness and respect. There is limited parking in the circle drive, but parking overflow on the east side of the campus.

### Change in after school plans

If your student's normal after school routine changes, parents must send a note with the student or contact the office directly (no later than 2:30). Teachers may not change daily dismissal norms based on information from the student.

## Absences and Tardies

### Reporting Absences

As soon as you know that your child will not be able to make it to school, please contact the parent coordinator, Sonia Castillo at 325-671-4945.

### Tardies

Please set your watch to “Ortiz Standard Time”! The tardy bell rings at 7:50. Morning announcements are at 7:50. All students should be inside their classrooms at that time. Late arrivals are disruptive to the classroom and have an adverse effect on educational progress. In order to help our students achieve the most they can in one school year, we cannot afford to lose instructional time.

### Release and Return of Students During the School Day

Because class time is important, doctor’s appointments should be scheduled, if possible, at times when the student will not miss instructional time. Please follow the **campus sign-out procedures** before leaving the campus with a student. Also, arrive at school 15 min. prior to needing to leave for appointment to allow enough time for sign-out procedures to be followed. If a student becomes ill during the school day, the student should receive permission from the teacher before reporting to the school nurse. The nurse will decide whether the student should be sent home and will notify the student’s parent.

A student returning to campus before the school day is over must come by the office before returning to class. Once a student checks in at the office, they will be given a pass to give to their teacher.

## Contacting the Teacher/Conferences

### Contacting the Teacher-

Your child’s teacher is your most important ally this year, and communicating often will help ensure that you are both on the same page. The best way to contact teachers at Ortiz is to send them an email or a Remind message. They are required to respond in writing or with a phone call within 24 hours (during the school week). It is difficult to interrupt a classroom for phone calls, so please understand that if you call during the school day for a teacher you will be asked to leave a message for a return call.

### Conferences-

Your child will accomplish many AMAZING things this school year. We will have 2 student led conference opportunities this year (fall and spring) for you to join us at school to see firsthand the great things your All-Star is accomplishing. Individual teachers will send out information on scheduling these conferences as time draws closer.

### School Nurse

We have a Registered Nurse at Ortiz. Her office is equipped to handle routine medical needs. In the event of a more serious illness or injury, parents will be notified immediately. It is vital that we have the latest information on the student’s ONLINE Emergency Card! If you move, change your telephone number, or change jobs, we need to know so that we can reach you with the shortest possible delay.

### Visitors

Parents and others are welcome to visit Ortiz Elementary. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors must first report to the main office. **A driver’s license is required and visitor stickers must be worn.** Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time are permitted only with prior approval of the principal and teacher and so long as the duration or frequency does not interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt the normal school environment. All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct; disruptive behavior will not be permitted. School personnel may require identification of any person on school property.

## **Student Behavior Management**

All children should have the opportunity to achieve their fullest personal and academic potential in a safe, caring environment. For this reason, Ortiz Elementary is a LIM school that follows the CHAMPS structure to help create a positive learning environment for your children. LIM and CHAMPS are a commitment that requires everyone – school personnel, students, and parents to assume his or her share of the responsibility toward the attainment of becoming our best selves. To do otherwise would be a disservice to our students. The LIM 7 Habits will be outlined for you and your student the first week of school. The CHAMPS structures will be communicated throughout the year to help the classroom run smoothly.

### **LIM 7 Habits**

1. Be Proactive—you're in charge
2. Begin with the End in Mind—have a plan
3. Put First Things First—work first, then play
4. Think Win-win—everyone can win
5. Seek First to Understand Then to Be Understood—listen before you talk
6. Synergize—together is better
7. Sharpen the Saw—balance feels best

Teachers and administrators have full authority over student conduct at before and after school activities. Students are subject to the same expectations for conduct that apply during the instructional day and will be subject to consequences established by the **Student Code of Conduct**. Each classroom has specific classroom rules posted. In addition, school wide expectations are posted in appropriate areas throughout the building. All school personnel have responsibility for all Ortiz students. A student's behavior should conform to acceptable standards of conduct as established by the principal and teachers. Positive behavior is essential for effective learning. Student behavior that disrupts the learning process or infringes on the rights of others will not be tolerated. It is important that students take responsibility for their actions and realize their own attitudes and actions are directly related to their school experience and that of their classmates. With the support and assistance of school personnel and parents/guardians, all students have the capacity to **choose behaviors** that enhance their relationships and facilitate learning. The ultimate goal of discipline is self-discipline.

Ortiz Elementary will provide a positive learning environment for students. In order to help students become self-motivated, self-disciplined, and life-long learners, school personnel are encouraged to respond to student success with positive reinforcement. When students are engaged in inappropriate behaviors, it is the responsibility of the teacher and the principal to work with the student to correct the behavior. Students shall be treated equitably and fairly. Discipline shall be based on the seriousness of the offense and frequency of misconduct. There will be immediate and consistent intervention of any behavior that impedes orderly classroom procedures or interferes with the orderly operation of school.

Ortiz Elementary follows the District-Wide Discipline Plan. On the Discipline Plan, if a student is referred to the principal, parents/guardians will be notified with a *Discipline Report* and/or a telephone call. Students are expected to discuss misbehaviors with parents/guardians at home so that we can work together to correct inappropriate behaviors.

Teachers and administrators have full authority over student conduct at before or after school activities on district premises and at school-sponsored events off district premises, such as play rehearsals, club meetings, and special study groups or tutorials. Students are subject to the same code of conduct that applies during the instructional day and will be subject to consequences established by the **Student Code of Conduct** or any stricter standards of behavior established by the sponsor for extracurricular participants.

Any district employee may, within the scope of the employee's duties, use and apply physical restraint to a student that the employee reasonably believes is necessary in order to protect a person from injury to self or another and to protect property from serious damage. Parents will be notified if students were restrained following the appropriate documentation per district policy.

## **Birthdays and Celebrations**

### **PARTIES**

Homeroom volunteers will plan these parties with the classroom/homeroom teacher. Parents may be asked for a small donation to cover the cost of the party.

**Invitations to personal student parties away from school can only be handed out at school *if EVERY child in the homeroom class receives one.***

**It is against AISD policy to send flowers or balloons to students at school.**

### **AWARDS**

Awards assemblies are scheduled for grade levels K-5 the last week of school.

### **Recess**

Recess is an integral part of students' day. Research is clear that recess and free play are essential in helping grow children's brains. At Ortiz, students will have a minimum of 20 minutes of recess each day. Recess times will vary between grade levels. In weather conditions under 40 degrees students will not have outdoor recess.

### **Lost and Found**

Our lost and found is located in the cafeteria for clothing items. Items found of value, such as eye glasses, cell phones, and money, will be turned in to the office.

### **Dogs and animals on campus**

Pets should be left at home unless there is an occasion that is instructional and approved by the teacher and principal.

### **Volunteering**

Our volunteers are invaluable! There are so many activities that parents may volunteer their time for...the list is endless! The VIPS chairperson will send home a volunteer sign-up sheet at the beginning of the year. Teachers will also have a sign-up sheet for homeroom volunteers. We appreciate the work our volunteers do every day!

### **School Communication**

Communication is key to our collective success. Our goal is to communicate with families in a variety of ways on a consistent basis. You can expect to receive monthly newsletters as well as information on an as needed basis via School Messenger and our social media platforms.