

# **Great Western Elementary School** **Exemplary Bronco "Block B"**



**An Introductory Guide for Earning the  
“Exemplary Bronco Award”**

**Great Western Elementary School  
2018-2019**



## *Foreword*

*The Exemplary Bronco Block "B" Award is the highest award that is offered to 3rd-5th grade students at Great Western Elementary School. The recipients of this award exemplify well-rounded students, striving toward the mission of KCUSD in order to reach their highest potential. In essence, the award comes through goal setting, hard work, participation, and follow-through....the ingredients of life-long learning and success. 2018-19 will be the inaugural year for this Exemplary Award Program. The goal is to get students involved in school. At Great Western, we will focus on the total program that is offered to our students. We feel that students should be well-rounded in several different categories, and when presented with various options will choose to become involved...."to get in the game of life". We hope participation in the Exemplary Bronco Block "B" process will inspire students to try more activities, recognize important opportunities, and open the door to new interests and hidden talents. Whatever the situation, we feel that the Exemplary Bronco Block "B" Program has something to offer everyone. To those who persevere in receiving the award, there is satisfaction in knowing that they, indeed, are among the "Best of the Best"!*

*Lori Botkin, Principal*

# PHILOSOPHICAL STATEMENT

Education plays an important role in preparing students for future challenges. This entails much more than merely teaching skills and imparting knowledge. The school must also provide a wide range of experiences for students and a framework within which positive attitudes can be nurtured. In essence, the school is an environment where students assume a variety of roles and engage in diverse experiences that allow them to explore and develop the many facets of their unique personalities and talents. It stands to reason that those who are involved in school activities and who learn how to participate in a variety of settings will have a better understanding of their own individual interests and abilities. Moreover, there is strong evidence to suggest that involvement and goal setting help students develop poise, self-confidence, and well-roundedness which are essential ingredients in exercising freedom of choice and decision-making as an adult. This is what the EXEMPLARY BRONCO BLOCK "B" AWARD is all about. The award has several functions. First, it is a vehicle to motivate students to become active participants in school activities. Second, it is a blueprint for parents and teachers to use in planning, encouraging and setting goals with students regarding their involvement in school activities and programs. Third, it helps to affirm that the nurturing of responsible, well-rounded individuals is important. Finally, it is a significant form of recognition for students who have met the criteria for the award. Planning and commitment are the key factors in earning this award, not necessarily ability and talent. This handbook outlines the criteria for achieving the Block "B" Award. We hope that it will be useful to parents, teachers, and students working together in pursuit of a worthwhile goal.

## OVERVIEW

The Exemplary Bronco Award is the highest award a student may earn at Great Western Elementary. The Block "B" Award is available to third, fourth, and fifth, grade students and is awarded in June at our Block "B" Award Ceremony. The criteria for earning this award reflects a broad base of participation, achievement, and service. In order to earn the Block "B" Award, a student must complete the required number of items in each of the following categories:

### Academics:

- Academic Performance: 8 Items Needed

### Physical Fitness:

- Physical Fitness: 2 Items Needed

### Engagement:

- Leadership & School Service: 5 Items Needed
- Personal Responsibility Program: 1 Item Needed
- Performing Arts: 2 Item Needed
- Community Involvement: 1 Item Needed

The purpose of this award is to recognize those well-rounded individuals who exemplify the qualities that Great Western hopes to foster in all of its students, namely: (1) the desire for self-improvement; (2) dedication and commitment in reaching for goals; (3) concern for and service to others; and (4) the willingness to be a positive role model to others. The word EXEMPLARY, in fact, means: (1) deserving imitation; (2) serving as an example; and (3) worthy of being a model.

A student need not be a "superstar" to earn this award; however, he or she must be an active and enthusiastic participant in the activities of the school, engaged in the pursuit of excellence and meeting certain standards of achievement and performance. Individuals earning this prestigious award receive a Block "B" plaque presented at a special ceremony toward the end of the school year.

It is our hope that all students will actively pursue this award, making it a part of their planning for their total school experience. Whether or not the student actually receives the award, striving for it will hopefully enrich and enhance his/her educational foundation.

In the sections that follow, specific guidelines and requirements governing the earning of points in each category are discussed. We encourage parents and teachers to work closely with students in planning and setting goals.

We appreciate the input and participation and the support of the Great Western community as we work to make the concept of this award meaningful to students and an important thread in the fabric of the Great Western educational program. Block B students represent the best Great Western has to offer.



## General Guidelines

1. The student must complete the activity's guidelines to be signed off on an item.
2. The student will obtain the advisor's/coach's signature to confirm that the activity was completed.
3. The student must complete the correct number of items in each area to be eligible for Block B.
4. Each check off item will only be counted once.
5. The office will not accept the application for consideration without the teacher's signature.
6. Students who are eliminated from more than one RED Activity or suspended are NOT eligible for Block B.
7. Students who are referred to the office for disciplinary measures, may be disqualified from the Block B Award as determined by Administration.
8. Final consideration for Block B is processed through Administration.
9. All deadlines are final and late submittals will NOT be accepted.

### **Academics: Academic Performance – 8 Items Needed**

Classroom Teacher signs off the following items:

#### **PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

In order to be signed off for the Perfect Attendance item, students must adhere to all of the following: • Perfect Attendance is defined as “No Absences”. • Students who enroll in Independent Study are not candidates for the Perfect Attendance Award as Independent Study is considered an excused absence by the district and eliminates the student from earning the Perfect Attendance Award. • Students are eligible to utilize this item two times during the first two trimesters of the school year for a total of two items.

#### **GRADE LEVEL WRITING ASSESSMENT**

In order to be signed off for this item, the student must adhere to all of the following: • Complete the classroom writing assessment at school (given once per trimester) • Perform at or above Grade Level Writing Standards (Score of 3 or 4) This may be used twice during the school year for a total of two items.

#### **AR READING CLUBS**

In order to be signed off for this item, the student must adhere to all of the following: • Meet the requirements for the AR Club for specific grade level. Students may earn one item for each grade level club reached, including the End-of-Year awards for a total of 6 possible items.

<b>3rd-5th</b>	<b>Trimester Awards</b>	<b>End-of-Year Awards</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 35 point club will earn one item</li><li>• 55 point club will earn one item</li><li>• 75 point club will earn one item</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 100 point club will earn one item</li><li>• 200 point club will earn one item</li><li>• 300 point club will earn one item</li></ul>

## **GRADE LEVEL MATH ASSESSMENT**

In order to be signed off for this item, the student must adhere to all of the following: • Complete the classroom Math Module Assessment at school • Perform at or above Grade Level Math Standards (Score of 3 or 4) This may be used three times during the school year for a total of three items.

## **GATE**

In order to be signed off for this item, the student must adhere to all of the following:

- Test and be involved in Gate
- Attend Gate meetings and rehearsals
- Complete ALL of the requirements for Gate as discussed at the Gate meeting
- Participate in the district level Gate Expo
- Gate Advisor signs off for Block B Credit

## **Physical Fitness- Athletics: – 2 items Needed**

Great Western provides an introductory level of athletic programs for students. The goals of our athletic program are: (1) to provide opportunities for students to participate in and experience athletic competition at levels and in contexts appropriate to their needs, experience, and skill, (2) to teach and develop proficiency in the skills associated with each sport in contexts appropriate to the student's needs, and (3) to develop the personal qualities of discipline, commitment, teamwork, and sportsmanship associated with being a member of a team. The sports programs at Great Western are an important part of the overall instructional program aimed at developing the well-rounded individual. All students in 3rd-5th grades are encouraged to participate.

- Participation on a team for the full season must be in accordance with the athletic "Code of Participation." Team membership is open to all students who want to participate.
- Students who enroll at Great Western after the season has begun may receive credit if they participate for at least 50 percent of the season.
- The coach must sign off for participation.

FALL Cross Country

SPRING Track

## **PRESIDENTIAL PHYSICAL FITNESS AWARD**

In order to be signed off for this item, the student must adhere to all of the following:

- Meet the requirements for your child's specific age to earn this award

## **FIESTA RUN**

In order to be signed off for this item, the student must adhere to all of the following:

- Sign up and participate in the Fiesta Run
- Fiesta Run Advisor signs off for Block B Credit

## **OUT OF SCHOOL ACTIVITY**

In order to be signed off for this item, the student must adhere to all of the following:

- Participate in a full season for an out of school activity such as: Sports, Cheerleading, Dance, Gymnastics
- Complete the Out of School Participation Form and turn into teacher
- Teacher signs off for Block B Credit

## **Engagement: Leadership and School Service – 5 Items needed**

### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

In order to check off this item, the student shall:

- RUN for a student body office in the fall or spring, even if not elected, student earns 1 item.
- Be elected to a student body office and serve for the full term in accordance with the "Code of Participation" in the fall or spring, student shall earn 1 item.
- Student Council Teacher/Advisor signs off for Block B credit.

### **LIBRARY ASSISTANT**

A Library Assistant completes tasks such as working at the circulation desk, shelving books, assisting students and visitors, tidying the library and other jobs as assigned. Sign-ups for Library Assistant will only occur once per trimester. Application deadlines are final. Late applications will not be accepted.

In order to check off this item, the student shall:

- Apply on the designated days (once per trimester) and be selected by Administration, with approval from teacher.
- Be selected and serve as a Library Assistant within the time frame designated by the Library Technician.
- Work in the Library Media Center as scheduled by the Library Technician during Trimesters 1-3.
- Required service must be completed prior to the Block B turn in deadline.
- Library Technician signs off for Block B credit.

### **CAFETERIA ASSISTANT**

A Cafeteria Assistant completes tasks such as helping serve students at lunchtime, tidying the cafeteria and washing down the tables. Sign-ups for Cafeteria Assistant will occur once per month. Application deadlines are final. Late applications will not be accepted.

In order to check off this item, the student shall:

- Apply on the designated days (once per month) and be selected by the Cafeteria Manager with approval from teacher.

- Be selected and serve as a Cafeteria Assistant within the time frame designated by the Cafeteria Manager.
- Work in the Cafeteria as scheduled by the Cafeteria Manager during month selected.
- Required service must be completed prior to the Block B turn in deadline.
- Cafeteria Manager signs off for Block B credit.
- This may be used three times during the school year for a total of three items.

### **BRONCO TEAM**

The Great Western HRC and Bronco Teams are open to students in grades 3-5. These groups may assist with RED activities, supervision and encouragement of school rules, and mediation of minor disagreements or misunderstandings among students .

In order to check off this item, students shall:

- Serve on the HRC or Bronco Team in accordance with the Code of Participation for the entire trimester.
- Complete the training and fulfill duty requirements.
- The advisor signs off for Block B credit.

### **WORK 2 HOURS AT A SCHOOL EVENT**

School events may include school carnivals, parent nights, and other events endorsed by the administration. Examples: Volunteer for Soup Night, Family Fun Night, RED Activities, Pastries with Parents, Awards Assemblies, etc

In order to check off this item, students shall:

- Apply and be approved for a school event, arrive on time, and complete all necessary tasks assigned by teacher, administrator, or a member of the PTC.
- Submit the Block B form to the teacher or administrator for sign off.

## **Engagement: Personal Responsibility Program – 1 item needed**

### **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AWARDS**

In order to check off this item, the student shall:

- Not be eliminated from more than one (1) RED Activity, suspended, and/or referred to the office for disciplinary measures (as determined by administration).
- Submit the Block B form to the teacher for sign off.

## **Engagement: Performing Arts – 2 items needed**

Participation in the performing arts improves the whole student. It is an outlet for creativity, and the opportunity to become skilled in a craft. The following activities qualify for Block B credit:

### **ART, POSTER, OR ESSAY CONTEST**

Students may complete an art piece, a poster, or an essay for a community, school, or district sponsored contest.

- Contest entry must be approved by the classroom teacher and be submitted on time.
- Teacher's signature is required to receive credit for Block B.

### **WINTER MUSICAL**

In order to be signed off for this item, the student must adhere to all of the following:

- Participate and be involved in the Winter Program
- Attend Winter Program meetings and rehearsals
- Complete ALL of the requirements for the Winter Program as discussed at the Winter Program meeting
- Participate in the Winter Program Main Event
- Students who try-out and earn lead roles shall earn 1 additional item, for a total of two in this category.
- Winter Program Advisor signs off for Block B Credit

### **ORAL INTERPRETATION**

Oral Interpretation is a way for students to practice their drama, reading, and memorization skills while having FUN! Through recital and choreography, students perform a selected poem, passage, or skit. Participants compete against other Kings Canyon Unified schools at a district-wide competition to be held in October.

In order to be signed off for this item, the student must adhere to all of the following:

- Apply to be involved with Oral Interpretation
- Attend Oral Interpretation meetings and rehearsals
- Complete ALL of the requirements for Oral Interpretation as discussed at the Oral Interpretation meeting
- Participate in the district level competition
- Oral Interpretation Advisor signs off for Block B Credit

## **Engagement: Service Learning – 1 Item Needed**

The goal behind the Service Learning section is to encourage students at a young age to be positive contributors in our community. Students must commit to two(2) hours of community service during the school year with a community organization. Please clear your organization with your child's teacher.

Examples include, but aren't limited to:

- The Reedley/Orange Cove Community Center
- Palm Village
- Reedley College
- Boy and Girl Scouts

In order to check off this item, students shall:

- Be actively involved in a community organization by volunteering a minimum of two(2) hours within the school year.
- Complete the Service Learning Form, including a brief description narrative written by the student describing what service they performed and how it benefited the community.
- Parents MAY NOT sign off their own children in this category, and the action of the child should have an obvious positive impact on the greater community.
- Complete one item in this category.

# CODE OF PARTICIPATION

## **"Being the Best We Can Be"**

The Great Western Co-Curricular program is an integral part of our total school program. It is an opportunity to allow all students to acquire progressively the skills, knowledge, and attitudes that lead to maximum development within their individual capabilities. It also affords the child an opportunity to develop social skills needed in order to be a well-adjusted individual. When students elect to participate in a co-curricular program (i.e., student council, sports, etc.), they must recognize that they have assumed certain responsibilities and obligations to the coach/advisor, to the members of the activity, and certainly to themselves.

Great Western School will maintain a "no cut" policy for all athletic teams. We encourage each and every child who has a desire to be part of a team while giving each individual the maximum amount of playing time possible.

Upon entering any sport or other co-curricular activity, students agree to participate in accordance with the Code of Participation. The code is enforced commencing with the second week of practice.

- Students are required to attend practice/rehearsal as established for the activity. Absences or tardies may be excused as with classroom attendance. The participant has the obligation to clear these with the teacher or coach.
- Students joining a sport or other co-curricular activity will be given one week grace period to determine whether they wish to continue with the activity throughout the entire season. The student and/or athlete will not arbitrarily or unilaterally "quit" a sport, activity, etc. After the grace period, the student may drop the activity only after consultation between the student, parent, coach or advisor and principal.
- Students are expected to respect and properly care for all property and/or equipment issued in conjunction with the activity. Team uniforms are the property of the school. Students who negligently lose or cause undue damage to a uniform will be charged for its replacement.
- Students will maintain a satisfactory level of scholarship and demonstrate satisfactory behavior and citizenship.

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

1. The student will be respectful of his/her teammates, opponents, and all supervising adults.
2. The student will contribute as well as encourage others to contribute in their efforts towards the team's success.
3. The student should inspire competitiveness in teammates without personal antagonism toward the opposing team.
4. The student will be a gracious and humble winner.
5. The student will elect to place team betterment over individual accomplishment.

## **CERTIFICATION OF AWARD RECIPIENTS**

### **STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY - STEP ONE**

1. All students in grades 3-5 will complete and maintain the Block "B" worksheet throughout the school year by adhering to all sign up, sign off, and due dates.
2. Each student will complete appropriate forms and gather signatures as required prior to due date.
3. Students registering credit in the "Service Learning" category must turn in the form.
4. Each student will turn in his/her completed form to the teacher by the specified date.

### **TEACHER'S RESPONSIBILITY - STEP TWO**

1. The teacher, advisor or coach will monitor and review the completed form with all students each trimester.
2. The teacher will review the students'/class' progress and goals on a periodic basis.
3. The teacher will verify all category items and signed forms.
4. The teacher will submit the forms of those who have met the criteria for the award to the Block "B" Certification Committee.
5. Students whose forms are submitted to the certification committee are considered CANDIDATES for the award.

### **PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY - STEP THREE**

1. The parent will monitor school newsletters, their child's planner, and the marquee for information regarding Block B.
2. The parent will discuss with the child which activities they will participate in to ensure thoughtful planning.
3. The parent will review their child's progress and goals on a periodic basis.
4. The parent will submit any and all questions to the classroom teacher as soon as they arise.

#### **BLOCK “B” CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE - STEP FOUR**

1. The committee will consist of the Principal, the Learning Director, and three lead teachers.
2. The committee will review the forms of all candidates in order to verify accuracy and, more importantly, to ensure consistency in interpretation among the classrooms.
3. The committee will consider all matters where credit may be in dispute and make the decision.
4. The committee will certify and announce the EXEMPLARY BRONCOS, inform parents, and schedule the Block “B” Award Program.

**“Be the best you can be, strive to reach your highest potential”**

## Block B Application

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Rm. \_\_\_\_\_

(please clearly print first and last name)

**General Rules: Deadline for submitting this application to the teacher is May 17, 2019**

1. The student must complete the requirements for each activity in order to be signed off for an item.
2. The student will obtain the advisor's/coach's signature to confirm that the activity was completed.
3. The student must complete the correct number of items in each area to be eligible for Block B.
4. Each sign off item will only be counted once.
5. The office will not accept the application for consideration without the teacher's signature.
6. Students who are eliminated from more than 1 RED Activity, or suspended, are NOT eligible for Block B.
7. Students who are referred to the office may be eliminated for Block B as determined by Administration.
8. Final consideration for Block B is processed through Administration.
9. No late submittals will be accepted.

<p><b><u>Academic Performance: 8 Items Needed</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Perfect Attendance (can be used only two times)</u></b>  <u>Tri 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____</u></p> <p><b><u>Passed (1) Grade Level Writing Assessment _____</u></b>  <b><u>Passed (1) Grade Level Writing Assessment _____</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Earned AR Reading Club Award _____</u></b>  <b><u>Earned AR Reading Club Award _____</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Passed (1) Grade Level Math Assessment _____</u></b>  <b><u>Passed (1) Grade Level Math Assessment _____</u></b>  <b><u>Passed (1) Grade Level Math Assessment _____</u></b></p> <p><b><u>GATE _____</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Engagement: Leadership &amp; School Service: 5 Items Needed</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Ran for Student Council Office, Fall or Spring (1 item) _____</u></b>  <b><u>Elected by peer vote and served a full term in a Student Council Position, Fall or Spring (1 item) _____</u></b>  <b><u>Library Assistant _____</u></b>  <b><u>Cafeteria Assistant _____</u></b>  <b><u>Bronco Team _____</u></b>  <b><u>Worked 2 Hours at School Event _____</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Engagement: Personal Responsibility Program: 1 Item Needed</u></b></p> <p><b><u>RED Activity _____</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Engagement: Performing Arts : 2 Items Needed</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Participate in an Art, Essay, or Poster Contest _____</u></b>  <b><u>Winter Musical _____ Lead Role _____</u></b>  <b><u>Oral Interpretation _____</u></b></p>
<p><b><u>Physical Fitness: Athletics – 2 Items Needed</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Cross Country _____</u></b>  <b><u>Track _____</u></b>  <b><u>Presidential Physical Fitness Award _____</u></b>  <b><u>Fiesta Run _____</u></b>  <b><u>Out of School Sport _____ * Form required</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Spirit: Service Learning: 1 Item Needed</u></b>  <b><i>*Service Learning Form required</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Community Service Organizations</li> </ul>

By signing below, I certify that the above is true and accurate:

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Administration Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ **Approved / Not Approved** for Block B Award

**Block B – Service Learning Form**  
**DUE to classroom teacher – May 17, 2019**

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_  
(please, clearly print name)

In order to receive credit for the Service Learning Section, students must volunteer at a community organization for a minimum of two(2) hours during the 2018-2019 school year. The list below is meant to be a guideline. Please check with your child’s teacher to ensure your volunteer organization meets the requirement. The following examples below are examples of acceptable organizations:

- The Reedley/Orange Cove Community Center
- Palm Village
- Reedley College
- Boy and Girl Scouts
- Other (to be checked by the student’s teacher) \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby request that the above checked item count toward my community involvement as sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_ during this school year. Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of sponsoring organization Not Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher’s Signature

The leader, supervisor, or representative of the above organization has judged my participation two(2) volunteer hours during the 2018-2019 school year) to be satisfactory and in keeping with the spirit of the Great Western Code of Participation as certified by his/her signature below. This activity meets the criteria for the Service Learning category as outlined in the Block B Handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

**SPONSOR CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the individual named above volunteered for two(2) hours during the 2018-2019 school year as a member of the organization indicated above and has actively participated in a consistent and acceptable manner. I recommend that s/he be granted credit toward the Great Western Block B Award for Service Learning. If you have any questions, you may contact me at this phone number \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# DECLARATION OF “BLOCK B” CANDIDACY FORM

DUE DATE: Friday, September 14, 2018

Earning the Block B Award, the highest award given to Great Western Elementary students, requires a collective commitment on the part of staff members, students, and parents. Thoughtful planning, organization, and work must occur on the part of each member of this team. The “Declaration for Candidacy” form declares that the student and parent have read this handbook. This declaration means that your child is committing to the Code of Participation and the Code of Ethics. Finally, this form ensures that each member of this team: student, parent, teacher, and Block B Committee Member will commit to the responsibilities delineated on the pages above. Signature of this form does not ensure your child will receive the Block B Award. This form only declares your child’s intent to be a candidate for the Block B award and allows the school to help monitor your child’s progress. This form does not mean your child MUST commit to earning the award. If at any time, you and/or your child decide that earning this award is no longer the goal, please discuss this with your child’s teacher. By signing this form, I am declaring myself, child, or student a candidate in pursuit of the Block B Award. I agree to adhere to the responsibilities set out in this handbook. I am also aware that signing this form does not ensure the Block B Award is granted; rather this is the first step in declaring intent to attempt to earn the award.

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_