

CUSD Junior High BLAST

Best Life After School Team

Parent/Student Handbook



21st Century After School Program





CHICO UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administrative Offices/Education Services
1163 E. 7th Street, Chico, CA 95928
(530) 891-3000

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the BLAST (Best Life After School Team) – a 21st Century Community Learning Center after school program! We are pleased to offer this program and take pride in the quality program we provide for the youth of Chico. Our goal is to provide a safe and fun atmosphere for your student and to help your student succeed in school. We constantly review our program and make every effort to provide a wide variety of stimulating activities for participants.

Everyone involved in the BLAST is excited about the new school year! If you have any questions, please speak to your site coordinator or contact me directly.

Have a great school year!

Kristine Keene

Kalyn Quok

**Kristine Keene
Director, Educational Services
Chico Unified School District
891-3000 Ext. 20165
Email: kkeene@chicousd.org**

**Kalyn Quok
Admin Program Coordinator
Chico Unified School District
891-3104 Ext. 115
Email: kquok@chicousd.org**

BLAST Morning program (Bidwell and Chico Jr. Only)

The BLAST morning program operates from 6:30am – 8:00am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 6:30am – 9am on late start Wednesdays. The program takes place on campus (CJHS-Library, BJHS-Room 402), and students are free to arrive anytime during the hours of operation. All Junior High students are welcome. Students do NOT need to fill out BLAST paperwork to attend, as this is a drop-in program.

The morning program provides students with:

- Textbooks
- Computers
- School Supplies
- Library book check in/out
- Homework assistance
- A safe and fun place to be!

BLAST After School Program Schedule

BLAST operates on all school days and is closed on all school holidays. BLAST operates from the end of the school day until 6:00pm (5:15pm at MJHS) Monday through Friday.

Attendance Procedures

**** Students initially are admitted into the BLAST program through a lottery system, and spots are limited. If a student does not receive a spot, they will be placed on a waiting list. Failure to meet attendance requirements may result in dismissal from the BLAST program.** Attendance is taken daily. You child is expected to attend the program at least **5 days per week and stay until at least 4:30pm.** (MJHS-4 days per week and stay until at least 4:00pm.) Students are required to sign in and out of the program every day that they are in attendance. They will do this in the BLAST classroom (CJHS – 500, BJHS – 402, MJHS-E22). Students who are authorized to walk or ride a bike home must have a signed statement on file. Authorized individuals will pick-up students in the BLAST classroom. For your convenience, students can be reached through the BLAST cell phone at any time.

Chico Junior BLAST Cell Phone: 624-2699

Bidwell Junior BLAST Cell Phone: 624-9848

Marsh Junior BLAST Cell Phone: 801-1490

Attendance/Early Release

Your child is expected to be at program every day until at least 4:30 (MJHS 4:00) unless otherwise arranged with your site Coordinator with an Early Release Form (obtained from Site Coordinator) **BLAST employs a strict attendance policy. If your child misses more than (15) unexcused absences OR non-excused Early Releases (not due to illness/medical appointments) days during the school year, he or she may be dropped from the program.** Note: You are granted (1) day a week for an early release to another extracurricular activity. Other weekly early releases, before 4:30 (4:00 for MJHS), may result in your child being dropped from the grant funded BLAST After School Program.

School Clubs/ Sports

All students participating in school clubs or sports during after school program hours must report to BLAST first to check in. This ensures the safety and whereabouts of all students on the campus.

Late Pick Up Policy

The after school program closes promptly at 6:00pm (MJHS 5:15pm) each evening. All parents and/or guardians are expected to pick up their children on time. If you are unable to do so, it is your responsibility to notify the BLAST Coordinator on the BLAST cell phone.

****A Late Pick-up Fee of \$1 per minute will be charged to students picked up after 6:00pm. (5:15pm at MJHS)**

****If your child is not picked-up by 6:15pm (5:30pm MJHS) and no contact has been made with person on the emergency form, Child Protective Services will be called.**

Daily Schedule/Activities

Upon dismissal from school, all students report to the BLAST classroom to sign in. Students are then assigned an academic room that they will report to daily from 3:00pm – 3:55pm. At 3:55, students are dismissed from academic hour and will report to the Multi-Purpose Room where they will receive a supper snack. At this time, daily announcements will be made and students will pick an enrichment or recreational activity to participate in.

Academic Hour - (3:00 – 4:00)

- Tutoring
- Homework Help
- Enrichment and Recreation (4:00 – 6:00)

- * Intramural Sports
- * Soccer
- * Softball
- * Computers
- * Guitar
- * Yearbook
- * Theater Club
- * Dodgeball

- * Arts and Crafts
- * Basketball
- * Volleyball
- * Flag Football
- * I Tech
- * Hip Hop
- * Game room
- * Cooking

Personnel

BLAST maintains a staff to student ratio of 1 staff member for every 20 students. All staff are certificated employees and are either CUSD certificated teachers or student teachers. Each staff member must be fingerprinted and background screened.

Dress Code

All students are required to be in compliance with the Chico Unified Junior High Dress Code.

Weekly Schedule/Announcements

A weekly schedule and important announcements will be available in the BLAST classroom. This is our primary method of communication for parents.

Healthy Snack

A healthy snack program will be provided based on the California School Nutrition Standards guidelines. Snack is portion controlled and the same snack will be offered for each child on a daily basis.

Discipline

The BLAST staff are committed to providing a safe, enjoyable place for all participants to achieve success. After school staff are dedicated to using positive reinforcement and conflict resolution. The following consequences will be applied to students in defiance of the BLAST rules and expectations

Consequences

Warning

Strike 1: Conference with BLAST Coordinator and parent notification

Strike 2: Suspension from BLAST

Strike 3: Expulsion from BLAST

Expulsion Policy

Extreme cases of behavior such as fighting, extreme disruption, stealing, threats of violence, or possession of drugs/alcohol/weapons may result in immediate suspension or removal from the program. If your child is expelled for any reason, he or she may not attend after school programming with BLAST for at least one year following the date of expulsion. The “three strikes and you’re out” rule applies to ALL students.

Academic Hour Expectations

- Sit down and quietly take out your planner
- Be productive with your time
- Come prepared with a book. If you don’t have homework you may read quietly.
- Chromebooks are for educational use only
- Do not distract others.

BLAST Expectations

- Be respectful to all staff and students
- Cell phones must be kept on vibrate and may only be used to communicate with parents. No social media, texting friends, taking pictures, etc.
- Must be in a supervised location at all times.
- All school rules apply after school
- Have fun!

Supply Donation

BLAST After School Program is provided free of charge except for an annual, non-refundable, suggested supply donation of **\$60.00**. Supply donations (**cash or money orders only**) are due to the BLAST site coordinator within two weeks of your student attending the BLAST program. Payment options are available. Your Site Coordinator is more than willing to work with you, should this be a hardship. Additional cash donations are always accepted and appreciated

