

RIVERVIEW ELEMENTARY

BLOCK R AWARD



**An Introductory Guide for Earning the
“EXEMPLARY RAM AWARD”**

CLOVIS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2023-2024



Foreword

The Exemplary Ram Block R Award is the highest award that is offered to upper grade students at Riverview Elementary School. The recipients of this award truly exemplify the Sparthenian concept of Clovis Unified...to "be the best you can be in mind, body, and spirit". In essence, the award comes through goal setting, hard work, participation, and follow-through the ingredients of life-long learning and success. The Exemplary Award Program, used in nearly every elementary school in Clovis Unified, began decades ago. It started out as a simple way of getting students involved in school. At Riverview, it has become a focus on the total program that is offered to our students. We hope participation in the Exemplary Ram Block R 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 Ram Block R Program has something to offer everyone.

*Kaitlyn Vargas,
Principal*

PHILOSOPHICAL STATEMENT

Education plays an important role in preparing children 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 children and a framework within which positive attitudes can be nurtured. In essence, the school is an environment where children 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-roundness which are essential ingredients in exercising freedom of choice and decision-making as an adult.

This is what the **EXEMPLARY RAM BLOCK R AWARD** is all about. The award really 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 children 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 R Award**. We hope that it will be useful to parents, teachers, and students working together in pursuit of a worthwhile goal.

OVERVIEW

The Exemplary Ram Award is the highest award a student may earn at Riverview Elementary. The Block **R Award** is available to fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students and is awarded in May at our Block R Award Program.

The criteria for earning this award reflects a broad base of participation, achievement, and service. In order to earn the Block R Award, a student must complete the required number of items in each of the following categories:

Mind – Academic Performance: 5 Items Needed

Mind – Academic Challenge: 1 Item Needed

Body – Athletics: 5th/6th graders - 3 Items Needed and 4th graders – 2 Items Needed

Spirit - Leadership & School Service: 3 Items Needed

Spirit – Personal Responsibility Program: 1 Item Needed

Spirit - Performing Arts: 5th/6th graders - 2 Items Needed and 4th graders– 1 Item Needed

Spirit - Community Involvement: 1 Item Needed

The purpose of this award is to recognize those well-rounded individuals who exemplify the qualities that Riverview 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 R** plaque presented at a special program toward the end of the school year.

Over the past decades, the Exemplary Award Programs have had a positive impact on both individual students and the total school programs in the Clovis Unified School District in the following ways:

- Many students who had been reluctant to participate or try new things have now become much more active and involved.
- The quality of student participation has improved as students have taken the responsibilities and commitment of their involvement more seriously.
- It has provided parents and teachers with a means to identify students who either were too heavily involved in school activities or not involved enough resulting in the ability to offer appropriate guidance.
- Parents, teachers, and students view the "school-life" of a student as a total picture, not isolated bits and pieces.

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 Riverview community as we work to make the concept of this award meaningful to students and an important thread in the fabric of the Riverview educational program. Block R students represent the best Riverview 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 R.
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 Personal Responsibility Activity or suspended are **NOT** eligible for Block R.
7. Students who are referred to the office for disciplinary measures, may be disqualified from the Block R Award as determined by Administration.
8. Final consideration for Block R is processed through Administration.
9. All deadlines are final and late submittals will **NOT** be accepted.

Mind: Academic Performance – 5 Items Needed

Classroom Teacher signs off the following items:

GPA REQUIREMENTS

Principal's Honor Roll Award (can be earned three times)

- GPA of 4.0 needed per quarter and no marks of "N" on report card.

Honor Roll Award (can be earned three times)

- GPA of 3.5-3.9 needed per quarter and no marks of "N" on report card.

Proficient Academic Performance (can be utilized only two times)

- GPA of 3.0 – 3.49 needed with no marks of "N" on report card.

GRADE LEVEL WRITING ASSESSMENT

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

- Complete the CUSD writing assessment at school (given once per quarter)
- Perform at or above Grade Level Writing Standards (Score of 6,7, or 8)

SPARTHENIAN READER POINTS

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

- Meet the requirements for the AR Program for specific grade level.

PRINCIPAL'S MATH ALL STAR

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 grade level to earn this award.

Mind: Academic Challenge – One Item Needed

SCIENCE FAIR PARTICIPATION

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

- Apply to be involved in Science Fair.
- Attend Science Fair meetings.
- Know how to access Science Fair resources on the school's website.
- Know how to download Science Fair forms in the school's library.
- Conduct an original Science Fair experiment.
- Keep a Science Fair log.
- Complete an original Science Fair board project of high quality (as determined by instructor).
- Complete **ALL** of the requirements for Science Fair as discussed at the Science Fair Meeting.
- Science Fair teacher signs off for Block R credit.

DESTINATION IMAGINATION (DI)

Destination Imagination is an organized activity where students form teams which are challenged to find practical solutions to a variety of hypothetical problems. Teams from throughout the area compete on both long-term projects and spontaneous problem solving.

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

- Participate in one DI Team Challenge.
- Participate in one district level competition.
- Complete **ALL** of the requirements for DI as discussed at the DI Meeting.
- For more information, please go to: www.idodi.org - click on **challenge program** for 2023-2024 challenges or **what we do** for info about DI.
- DI Teacher/Coach signs off for Block R credit.

ROBOTICS PARTICIPATION

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

- Participate on a Riverview Robotics team.
- Participate in a district level competition.
- Complete **ALL** of the requirements for Robotics as discussed at the Robotics Meeting.
- Robotics teacher/coach signs off for Block R credit.

HISTORY DAY PARTICIPATION

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

- Apply to be involved in History Day.
- Attend History Day meetings.
- Complete and enter a History Day project of high quality (as determined by instructor) in the Riverview History Day Fair.
- Complete **ALL** of the requirements for History Day as discussed at the History Day meeting.
- For more information, please go to: www.nhd.org.
- History Day teacher signs off for Block R credit.

SPELLING BEE

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

- Take the district written spelling test to try-out for the Riverview Spelling Bee Team
- Earn one of the top four scores in each grade level in order to be placed on the team
- Complete all the requirements for Spelling Bee (i.e. practice attendance requirements)

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 Clovis Unified Schools at a district-wide competition to be held in February.

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 R Credit

Body- Athletics: 5th and 6th graders – 3 items / 4th Graders – 2 items

Riverview provides a variety 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 Riverview are an important part of the overall instructional program aimed at developing the well-rounded individual. All students in the upper grades are encouraged to participate. Students who enter their sport season with a 2.0 GPA may be required to complete and submit a weekly progress report to give to their coach and/or attend Study Table after school on Wednesdays during the season. Please see the Athletic Handbook on policy regarding student athletes and grades.

- Students who participate in athletics will be placed on "A", "B", or "C" teams based on skill level, experience, and participation except track. To earn Track item credit, athlete must participate in at least one track meet. (See Athletic Handbook for specifications)
- 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 however, in some cases students must "tryout" for roster positions on the teams due to league rules and the limited space available on playing fields.
- **Students who enroll at Riverview 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.

<u>FALL</u>	<u>WINTER</u>	<u>SPRING</u>
Cross Country Football Girl's Volleyball Cheer Squad	Girl's Basketball Boy's Basketball Wrestling Cheer Squad	Boy's Baseball Girl's Softball Boy's Volleyball Track Cheer Squad

SUPERINTENDENT'S 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
 - Information is found inside student planner

Spirit: Leadership and School Service – 3 Items needed

A completed Student Leadership Form is required in order to receive credit for this area.

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 only 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 only 1 item.**
- Student Council Teacher/Advisor signs off for Block R 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 quarter**. 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 quarter) and be selected by the Library Technician.
- 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 Quarters 1-3.
- Required service must be completed prior to the Block R turn in deadline.
- Library Technician signs off for Block R credit

CROSS AGE TUTOR

Cross age tutoring entails students providing academic help to other students. A cross age tutor may be involved in working with another student in his/her classroom or a student in another classroom, usually a lower grade. It is well established that cross age tutoring is mutually beneficial to both the tutor and the child being helped. Further, cross age tutoring enhances the concept of cooperative learning and the sense of the school family.

In order to check off this item:

- The teacher must validate that the student has constructively worked with and assisted another student on at least ten (10) occasions during Quarters 1-3
- Students will not be involved in cross age tutoring in any way that it is detrimental to their own learning progress
- Cross age tutoring assignments will be specific in nature, controlled, and scheduled by the teacher and/or teachers
- The primary teacher signs off for Block R credit

HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL OR RAM TEAM

The Riverview HRC and Ram Teams are open to students in grades 4-6. These groups may assist with multicultural 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 Ram Team in accordance with the Code of Participation for the entire semester.
- Complete the training and fulfill duty requirements.
- The advisor signs off for Block R credit.

WORK 2 HOURS AT A SCHOOL EVENT

School events may include school carnivals, rallies, and other events endorsed by the administration.

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 R form to the teacher or administrator for sign off.

Spirit: Personal Responsibility Program – one item needed

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AWARDS

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

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

Spirit: Performing Arts

5th/6th graders need 2 items, 4th graders need 1 item

Participation in the performing arts improves the whole student. It is an outlet for creativity, and an opportunity to become skilled in a craft.

The following activities qualify for **Block R** credit:

BAND/ORCHESTRA

- Student must complete the entire year of band/orchestra instruction.
- Student must perform at all school band/orchestra events, and pass all required skills tests.
- Band/Orchestra Director's signature is required to receive credit for Block R.

CHOIR

- Student must complete the entire year of choir instruction.
- Student must perform at all school choral events and festivals.
- Choir Director's signature is required to receive credit for Block R.

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 R.

Spirit: Service Learning – 1 Item Needed

The goal behind the Service Learning section is to encourage children at a young age to be positive contributors in our community. Students must commit to **3 hours** of community service during the school year with a community organization. Please clear your service with your child's teacher.

Examples include, but aren't limited to:

- SPCA
- Community Food Bank
- Reading stories at an assisted living facility
- Helping neighbors

In order to check off this item, students shall:

- Be actively involved in a community organization by volunteering a minimum of 3 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, for each service completed.
- 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

The Riverview 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., chorus, 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.

Riverview 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, band, chorus, 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 ("C" average) 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 4-6 will complete and maintain the Block R 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 quarterly.
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 R 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 R.
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 R CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE - STEP FOUR

1. The committee will consist of the principal, the G.I.S., 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 RAMS, inform parents, and schedule the Block R Award Program.

"Be the best you can be in Mind, Body, and Spirit"

RIVERVIEW ELEMENTARY *Block R 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, 2024

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 R.
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 suspended or eliminated from more than 1 PR Activity are NOT eligible for Block R.
7. Students who are referred to the office may be eliminated for Block R as determined by Administration.
8. Final consideration for Block R is processed through Administration.
9. No late submittals will be accepted.

Mind: Academic Performance: 5 Items Needed

- Proficient Academic Performance (3.0-4.0 GPA) Quarter 1: _____
Quarter 2: _____
Quarter 3: _____
- Passed (1) Grade Level Writing Assessment _____
- Earned Principal's Math All Star Award _____
- Earned Grade Level Sparthenian Reader _____

Mind: Academic Challenge: 1 Item Needed

- Science Fair _____
- Destination Imagination _____
- Robotics _____
- History Day _____
- Oral Interpretation _____
- Spelling Bee _____

Body: Athletics – 5th/6th - 3 Items & 4th – 2 Items- Needed

- Cheer Squad _____
- Competition Cheer Squad _____
- Cross Country _____
- Wrestling _____
- Football _____
- Boys / Girls Basketball _____
- Boys / Girls Volleyball _____
- Softball /Baseball _____
- Track _____
- Superintendent's Physical Fitness Award _____

Spirit: Leadership & School Service: 3 Items Needed

- Ran for Student Council Office, Fall or Spring (1 item) _____
- Elected by peer vote and served a full term in a Student Council Position, Fall or Spring (1 item) _____
- Library Assistant _____
- Cross Age Tutor _____
- HRC _____
- RAM Team _____
- Worked at School _____

Spirit: Personal Responsibility Program: 1 Item Needed

- PRP Activity _____
(earned a minimum of 3 out of 4 quarters)

Spirit: Performing Arts : 5th/6th - 2 Items & 4th -1 Item

- Band - **must earn an O grade and** perform at all concerts _____
- Orchestra - must perform at all concerts _____
- Choir- must perform at all concerts _____
- Participate in an Art, Essay, or Poster Contest _____

Spirit: Service Learning: 1 Item Needed

****Service Learning Form required***

- Community Service Organizations
*Attach both required forms

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

Student Signature: _____ Teacher Signature: _____

Office Signature: _____ **Approved / Not Approved** for Block R Award



Block R – Service Learning Form
DUE to classroom teacher – May 17, 2024

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 3 hours during the 2023-2024 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:

- o SPCA
- o Community Food Bank
- o Reading stories at an assisted living facility
- o Helping neighbors
- o Other (to be checked by the child's teacher) _____
- o **Volunteer opportunity should not be a part of the student's DI or Robotics Community Service Project**

I hereby request that the above checked item count toward my community involvement as sponsored by _____ during this school year.
Name of sponsoring organization

My leader, supervisor, or representative of the above organization has judged my participation (3 volunteer hours during the 2023-2024 school year) to be satisfactory and in keeping with the spirit of the **Riverview 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 R Handbook.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

SPONSOR CERTIFICATION

I certify that the individual named above volunteered during the 2023-2024 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 Riverview Block R Award for Service Learning.

Print Name

Signature

Hours Completed

Name of Organization

Date

Block R Service-Learning Student Description of Activity

(To be completed by the student applying for the Block Award)

Instructions for the student. Briefly describe the Service-Learning project/activity in which you were involved. Include specifically what you did, the dates of your service, and describe how this action directly benefits the larger community in which we live. Submit this form with your Service-Learning Sponsor Certification no later than May 17, 2024.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY FORM

DUE DATE: Friday, September 29, 2023

Earning the Block R Award, the highest award given to 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 R 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 R Award. This form only declares your child’s intent to be a candidate for the Block R 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.

This FORM will be completed ONLINE using the following link
which may also be found on the school website

<https://permission.click/L1GyX/us>

