

Riverview Elementary School

Exemplary Ram "Block R"



**An Introductory Guide for Earning the
"EXEMPLARY RAM AWARD"**

CLOVIS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2020-2021



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 Spartan 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 more a few 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.

*Marci Panoo
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-roundedness 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

Body - Physical Fitness: Activities/Time Log

Spirit - Leadership & School Service and Performing Arts

3 Items needed (5th – 6th); 2 Items eeded (4th)

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)

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) *servng 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.

For 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

- Deadline for submitting this application to the teacher is **May 14, 2021**
- The student must complete the requirements for each activity in order to be signed off for an item.
- Each item will only be counted once.
- The student must complete the correct number of items in each area to be eligible for Block R.
- Students who are suspended are not eligible for Block R.
- Students who are referred to the office may be eliminated for Block R as determined by the administration.
- No late submittals will be accepted

Mind: Academic Performance – 5 Items Needed

Classroom Teacher signs off the following items:

GPA REQUIREMENTS

Students will need to exhibit Proficient Academic Performance with a GPA of 3.0 – 4.0 for any or all of the first three quarters of the academic year.

GRADE LEVEL WRITING ASSESSEMENT

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)

iREADY READING LESSONS

In order to be signed off for this item, the student must complete a minimum of 20 reading lessons beginning in January and the start of the 3rd quarter through the due date in May 2021.

iREADY MATH LESSONS

In order to be signed off for this item, the student must complete a minimum of 20 math lessons beginning in January and the start of the 3rd quarter through the due date in May 2021.

Body - Physical Fitness: Activities/Time Log

Due to current conditions regarding Physical Education and Athletics at elementary schools, students will need to be self-motivated to continue the importance of physical fitness in their daily lives. These activities may range from working on basketball skills in the driveway, to running with parents, to walking the dog.

In order to receive credit for the Body category for the Block R Award,

- Students must keep a daily log of the activity completed and the time it lasted using the Fitness Log..
- At the end of each week, minutes must be totaled and include a parent/guardian signature.
- Students need to average 120 minutes a week for 15 weeks from January 19 – May 7.
- The Physical Fitness log must be included with the Block R Application by May 14, 2021.

Spirit: Leadership and School Service
3 Items needed (5th-6th); 2 Items needed (4th)

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 1 item.
- Student Council Teacher/Advisor signs off for Block R credit.

OTHER

Over the course of the year, opportunities may present themselves where students may earn 1 item for completing the activity. These activities may stem from the Positivity Project and building character strengths or socially distant service at school and/or community (i.e. videos, letter writing, etc.). Please ask your teacher for item approval prior to completing.

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: Performing Arts (5th and 6th)

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/CHOIR

- Student must complete the entire year of band/orchestra/choir instruction by attending weekly class sessions.
- Band/Orchestra/Choir Director will confirm attendance to receive credit for Block R.



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.

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" application throughout the school year by adhering to all sign up, sign off, and due dates.
2. 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 submit the forms of those who have met the criteria for the award to the *Block "R" Certification Committee*.
4. 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 Award Application

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Teacher Name: _____

Room: _____

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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

_____ Passed 20+ iReady Reading Lessons

_____ Passed 20+ iReady Math Lessons

Body: Physical Fitness *Completed Log*

Complete a log of all physical activities completed weekly during 3rd and 4th Quarters

_____ List activity and time spent weekly

- 120 minute a week
- 15 weeks (January 19th – May7)
- Log must be attached to this application upon submission

Spirit: Leadership and School Service *3 Items Needed (4th grade: 2 Items Needed)*

_____ Ran for Student Council Office (Fall or Spring)

_____ Elected by peers and served a full term (Fall or Spring)

_____ Other (Teacher Discretion: i.e. *Positivity Project*)

_____ Participate in an Art, Essay, or Poster Contest

Performing Arts: 5th/6th

_____ Band (must attend class each week)

_____ Orchestra (must attend class each week)

_____ Choir (must attend class each week)

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

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Teacher Signature: _____