

# **An Introductory Guide For Earning *The Valley Oak Block W Award***

“Be the best you can be in mind, body, and spirit.”  
-Doc Buchanan



**Valley Oak Elementary School  
Clovis Unified School District**

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**2017 – 2018**



## OVERVIEW

### ~~ BLOCK W AWARD ~~

The Block W Award is the highest award a student may earn at Valley Oak and is available to fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students. This award is based upon three quarters of hard work and is awarded at our Block W presentation near the end of the school year. The criteria for earning this award reflect a broad base of participation, achievement, and service. In order to earn the Block W, a student must accrue points in all five categories:

### CURRICULAR CO-CURRICULAR ATHLETICS SCHOOL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP EFFORT AND CITIZENSHIP

Candidates must earn a minimum of **TEN (10)** points in the "CURRICULAR" category and earn additional points in each of the other categories. Students who have met these initial criteria AND have earned the following total number of points will receive the **BLOCK W AWARD**.

**Grade 4: 35 points**

**Grades 5 & 6: 45 points**

Two additional categories are included for students to earn points: (1) Community Involvement and (2) Attendance. Students are not required to earn points in these areas. Points earned in these categories will apply to the total points required for the award, but they cannot be used in lieu of points in the required categories.

Individuals earning this prestigious award receive the **Block W** plaque presented at a special program in their honor. This exemplary award program has a positive impact on both individual students and the total school program in the Clovis Unified School District. *It is our hope that ALL students will actively pursue this award, making it a part of their planning for their total school experience.*

### CURRICULAR GOAL AREAS (A minimum of 10 points is required in this category)

<i>Curricular Areas</i>	<i>Possible Points</i>	<i>Points Earned Quarter 1</i>	<i>Points Earned Quarter 2</i>	<i>Points Earned Quarter 3</i>
High Honor	4			
Honor Roll	3			
3.0 GPA	2			
Grade Improvement	1			
Sparthenian	3			
Essay Contest	1(2,3)			
Art Contest	1(2,3)			
Math Cat/Super Cat	1(2)			
Total Category Points				

### HONOR ROLL

1. High Honor Roll: **four (4) points** for each quarter the student earns High Honor Roll. (4.0 GPA)
2. Honor Roll: **three (3) points** for each quarter the student earns Honor Roll. (3.9-3.5 GPA)
3. 3.0 GPA: **two (2) points** for each quarter the student earns 3.0 GPA

## GRADE IMPROVEMENT

**One (1 point)** is determined by comparing the latest report card grades with those of the most recent past quarter of the current school year. Requirements: (1) Improved at least one whole grade in at least two subject areas; (2) No decrease in any grades; (3) Students may earn Honor Roll OR Grade Improvement points each quarter.

## SPARTHENIAN READER AWARD

1. This goal area is designed to promote outside reading for enjoyment and personal satisfaction.
2. **Three (3) points** will be verified and awarded to the Sparthenian Reader by the classroom teacher based on the following grade level requirements to be completed by the Spring deadline:  
\*Grade 4: **70 AR Points**      \*Grade 5: **85 AR Points**      \*Grade 6: **100 AR Points**
3. Outside reading used to earn points is subject to teacher approval based on reading-level appropriateness.
4. Teachers and students must maintain records indicating the amount of points a student has received on Accelerated Reader. These requirements will be outlined by the classroom teacher.

## ESSAY/ART CONTEST PARTICIPATION

1. Participation in any (or all) of the essay/art contests throughout the year will earn the student **one (1) point**. *Participation means submitting a completed essay/project. Points may be earned for one submission only.*
2. A student whose essay/art earns a school-level award or is chosen for a higher-level competition will receive **two (2) points**.
3. A student whose essay/project earns an award at the district, county, state, and/or national level will receive **three (3) points**.

## MATH CAT/ SUPER MATH CAT

Grade	Students earning Math Cat receive 1 point	Students earning Super Math Cat receive 2 points
4	100+, 100-, 100x, 100÷ in four minutes	100+, 100-, 100x, 100÷ & mixed in three minutes
5	100+, 100-, 100x, 100÷ in four minutes	100+, 100-, 100x, 90÷, 100 mixed, 100 decimals, 100 fractions in three minutes
6	100+, 100-, 100x, 100÷ in four minutes	100+, 100-, 100x, 100÷, mixed, fractions, decimals, integers in four minutes

## CO-CURRICULAR GOAL AREAS (minimum of 4 points required in this category)

Co-Curricular Areas	Possible Points	Points Earned
Instrumental Music	3(4)	
4 <sup>th</sup> grade chorus and recorders	3	
Concert Choir	3(4)	
History Day	3(4)	
Science Fair	3 (4)	
Oral Interpretation	3	
Drama Participation	2(3)	
Spelling Bee	1(2,3)	
Destination Imagination	1(2,3,4)	
Robotics	3(4)	
GATE	3	
Spanish Club	1	
Total Category Points		

## GUIDELINES FOR CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

1. Instructors for each activity will award points and, verify that students have participated in accordance with the "**Code of Participation**" during the course of the semester.

2. Students who enroll at Valley Oak after an activity has begun may receive the points if they participate in at least 50 percent of the activity.

### **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC/RECORDERS**

1. 5th and 6th grade students participating in Valley Oak Instrumental Music will receive **three (3) points**.
2. All instrumental music participants receive **one (1) additional point** if the school earns a *Superior* rating on the district instrumental music test (based on playing and written components of the test only).
3. Students who are permanently dismissed from music due to disciplinary reasons receive zero points.
4. All 4<sup>th</sup> grade students participate in VO recorder music.

### **Special Note:**

We recognize that many students receive instrumental music instruction outside of the school program. Participation points in this area are awarded only through the instructional program offered by the school. (See Optional Points, "Community Involvement")

### **CONCERT CHOIR/WILDCAT CHORUS**

1. Participation in the Valley Oak Concert Choir will earn **three (3) points**. Students must serve in the Valley Oak Concert Choir during the entire year.
2. All Concert Choir members receive **one (1) additional point** if the chorus earns a *Superior* rating at the district spring festival.
3. Students who are removed from choir due to disciplinary reasons receive **zero (0) points**.
4. Students in Wildcat Chorus will receive **3 points** and must adhere to the above chorus guidelines.

### **SCIENCE FAIR PARTICIPATION**

1. Students that participate and enter a completed science fair project in the school or county Science Fair will receive **three (3) points**.
2. Students will receive **one (1) additional point** if they earn a science fair award.  
**4th-6th Grade:** School Science Fair, 1st - 4th place awards. **6th Grade:** Fresno County Science Fair, any award.

### **HISTORY DAY PARTICIPATION**

1. A student will receive **three (3) points** for completing/entering a project in the school's History Day Fair.
2. A student whose History Day project earns a school, county and/or state award will receive **one (1) additional point**.

### **DESTINATION IMAGINATION**

Destination Imagination is an organized activity where students are on teams that are challenged to find practical solutions to hypothetical problems. Teams compete on long term and spontaneous problem solving.

1. Participation in either a long-term problem or a spontaneous problem at a school-level performance earns a student **one (1) point**.
2. Participation on a classroom team for a long-term and a spontaneous problem earns students **two (2) points**. Participation must include a school-level performance in both categories.
3. Participation on a school team representing Valley Oak at the regional DI finals earns students **three (3) points**. Individuals will receive **one (1) additional point** if the team earns an award at the county/state or national level.

### **ORAL INTERPRETATION**

Oral Interpretation is an organized activity where students perform a choral reading of a literature selection.

1. Participation in oral interpretation earns students two (2) points.

## **PARTICIPATION IN A DRAMA PRODUCTION**

1. Participation in Valley Oak's Drama production earns students **two (2) points**.
2. Students participating in an organized school-level drama production or any production in combination with Kastner and/or Clovis West will receive **three (3) points**.

## **ROBOTICS**

Robotics is an organized activity, wherein students are placed on teams with 6-8 students. Each September, the LEGO League announces a challenge, and teams have until November to build a robot to address specific 'missions' to meet the challenge on a pre-designed course that resembles a sports playing field. The season runs from late August to early December.

A student will be awarded **3 points** for participation. If the team qualifies for a regional or state tournament, the student will earn **one additional point**.

## **SPELLING BEE**

Students in grades 4-6, are invited to participate in the written spelling bee to qualify for the Valley Oak School Oral Spelling Bee. Qualification for the Valley Oak Oral Spelling Bee will be awarded **one (1) point**. If a student qualifies to represent CUSD at the county level, they will be awarded **two (2) points**. Any student qualifying at county level to go to state championships level will be awarded **three (3) points**.

## **GATE**

Those students who have been assessed and are actively participating in the Gifted and Talented Program (GATE) will receive **(3) points**. Students who are removed from GATE for any reason receive **zero (0) points**.

## **ATHLETICS** *(Minimum of 4 points required in this category)*

<i>Athletic Areas</i>	<i>Possible Points</i>	<i>Points Earned</i>
Fall	3(4)	
Winter	3(4)	
Spring	3(4)	
Track	2	
Sports Manager	2	
Community Sponsored Athletics	1(2)	
Physical Fitness	2(3)	
Total Category Points		

## **Overview**

The goals of our athletic program are: to provide opportunities for students to participate in and experience athletic competition at various levels according to their experience, and skill; and to teach and develop the personal qualities of discipline, commitment, teamwork, and sportsmanship associated with being a member of a team. The sports programs at Valley Oak are an important part of the overall desire to develop the well-rounded individual. Please see **Valley Oak's Guide for Students & Parents Handbook**.

1. Participation on the team for the full season in accordance with the "Code of Participation" will earn student three (3) points. Students who enroll at Valley Oak after the season has begun may receive participation points if they participate for at least 50 percent of the season.
2. All "A" team members receive one (1) additional point if the "A" team finishes in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Clovis West Area. "A" team members receive one (1) additional point if the "A" team earns 1<sup>st</sup> place at the district championships.

## Elementary Sports by Season

### FALL

Cross Country  
Football  
Girls' Volleyball

### WINTER

Girls' Basketball  
Boys' Basketball  
Wrestling

### SPRING

Baseball  
Softball  
Boys' Volleyball  
\*Track (Late Spring)

**\*Track:** Track is offered in the late spring. Participants receive **two (2) points** for trying out for the Valley Oak Track Team.

### SPORTS MANAGER

Students in grades 4-6 may opt to become a sports manager. Students must ask the individual sport coach for permission to be the sports manager for that selected team. Students are to attend every practice and game. Responsibilities may include taking attendance, bringing out and taking in equipment and/or helping the coach however needed. If any issues with behavior or responsibility arise, the manager will be removed at the coaches' discretion and zero (0) points will be earned.

### COMMUNITY SPONSORED ATHLETICS

We recognize that many students participate in athletic programs sponsored by various community organizations (e.g., soccer, Little League, gymnastics, etc.). We encourage all of our students to participate on our teams sponsored by our school.

1. Participation in a Community Sponsored Athletic activity will earn a student **two (2) points, with the maximum of 2 points per year**. Students must have at least **one (1) additional point from another school athletic event**. This point may be used one time during the course of the school-year. Participation in a community sponsored activity means signing-up, participating in all scheduled games, practices, meets, etc. The coach of the activity/team must verify your participation.

### PHYSICAL FITNESS

Grade level is based on district criteria determined at scheduled testing times. Criteria is as follows...  
Scoring at the "Healthy Fitness Zone" in each of the physical fitness test areas earns **two (2) points**  
Scoring at the 85th percentile in the physical fitness testing areas and earning the "Superintendent's Award" earns **three (3) points**.

### SCHOOL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP (Minimum of 3 points in this category)

<i>School Service &amp; Leadership Areas</i>	<i>Possible Points</i>	<i>Points Earned</i>
Cheer	3(4)	
Student Council	1(2)	
Library Monitor	1(2)	
Cafeteria Server/Plant Supervisor Asst.	1(2)	
Cross Age Tutor	1(2)	
Wildcat Buddies	3	
School Service (teacher discretion)	1(2)	
SPECTRUM	2	
Garden Maintenance	2	

### CHEER

1. Students are to serve as cheerleaders for the entire year.
2. Participation as a cheerleader in accordance with the "**Code of Participation**" and the specific cheerleader participation contract will earn students **three (3) points**.

3. All cheerleaders will receive **one (1) additional point** if the group earns an award or awards at a district or area sponsored event/showcase for Pep or Cheer groups.

### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

1. A student will receive **one (1) point** for RUNNING for a student body office, even if not elected. (This does not apply to "classroom representatives")
2. A student will receive **two (2) points** for being elected to a student body office and serving for the full term in accordance with the "**Code of Participation.**" Semester 2 officers must successfully serve the entire Block "W" period.
3. A student will receive **one (1) point** for serving as a classroom representative to the Student Council for the full semester in accordance with the "**Code of Participation.**"

### **LIBRARY MONITOR**

1. Students are selected to serve as a library monitor for the semester. Participation as a library monitor earns **one (1) point per 150 minutes of service. (Maximum of 2 points, one for each semester)**
2. The Library Monitors' tasks include shelving books, assisting students and visitors, tidying the library and other jobs as assigned.

### **CAFETERIA SERVER & PLANT SUPERVISOR ASSISTANT**

Students are selected to serve in the cafeteria and / or assist the Plant Supervisor with clean up. Participation earns **one (1) point for 150 minutes of service. (Maximum of 2 points, one for each semester).**

### **CROSS AGE TUTOR**

1. Cross age tutoring entails students providing 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.
2. In order to earn one (1) point as a cross age tutor, the teacher must validate that the student has constructively worked with and assisted another student on at least five (5) occasions during the quarter. (Maximum of two (2) points)

### **WILDCAT BUDDIES**

1. The Valley Oak Wildcat Buddy program is open to students in grades 4-6 and is the school peer mediation group that assists with mediating minor conflict during recess.
2. Students serving on the Student Wildcat Buddy program in accordance with the Code of Participation for the entire year will earn **three (3) points.** To earn three (3) points, members must complete the training and fulfill duty requirements.

### **SPECTRUM**

1. SPECTRUM (STUDENTS AND PRINCIPAL EMBRACING CULTURES TOGETHER, REACHING FOR UNDERSTANDING AND MEANING) is open to students in grades 1 – 6. Meetings are held once a month and students learn about other cultures around the world, as well as in our community. Participation in the year- long program earns two (2) points.

### **GARDEN MAINTENANCE**

1. Garden maintenance is open to students in grades 4-6. Opportunities to assist in the garden will be posted in the Wildcat Weekly and will be shared with teachers. A sign in sheet will be available and must be signed by the student to document the volunteer time served.

### **CLASSROOM/SCHOOL SERVICE (Teacher/School Discretion)**

1. This area was created in recognition of the fact that, while points are required in the SCHOOL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP category, some of the activities necessary involve a limited number of students.



2. A student and his/her teacher and/or the principal may agree upon a school service project or task which will result in points in this category. A student may earn one (1) or two (2) points. The point value will be at the discretion of the teacher and determined at the time the agreement is made and based on: (1) significance of service; (2) effort required; and (3) time required. (Maximum of two (2) points)
3. In order to receive points in this category, a School Service Verification form must be completed and submitted with the Block "W" point verification paper at the end of the semester (only if the student is a candidate for the award). The form will include a description of the service, project, or task and the teacher's signature indicating satisfactory completion.
4. The nature of the project, or task is open; however, it must be based on a need and be of value to the school, the class, and/or the teacher. Independent projects or endeavors may be a single contribution or an on-going task or responsibility involving some specified performance schedule or time-line.
5. The teacher has the prerogative to award two (2) points to a student who has demonstrated outstanding LEADERSHIP in the classroom.

## **CITIZENSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY**

### **CRITERIA**

Based on classroom and school wide behavior for **CITIZENSHIP**.

The teacher will award **two (2) points** each quarter to a student who has demonstrated outstanding conduct in the classroom and throughout the school.

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

A. **One (1) point** will be deducted from the student's total points for each misconduct referral "pursued" through the administration's office. This is interpreted to mean a specific disciplinary referral to the office by a staff member as the result of serious and/or chronic misconduct where contacting the parent via telephone, a detention slip, accountability form, or a notification letter pending suspension from the school is deemed necessary.

B. If the student receives a bus citation issued by a bus driver for misconduct while on a bus or at a bus stop. The student will deduct one **(1) point** from his/her total points.

### **GUIDELINES FOR EARNING A BLOCK W POINT FOR CITIZENSHIP**

1. Consistent courteous conduct.
2. Always helpful and cooperative.
3. Makes good choices and decisions in the absence of close supervision.
4. Reaches out or extends self to be a constructive influence in all situations.
5. Accepts and learns from mistakes.
6. Accepts and abides by classroom and school rules.
7. No misconduct referrals to the principal's office.

### **GUIDELINES FOR EARNING A BLOCK W POINT FOR RESPONSIBILITY**

1. No more than 2 Accountability checks per quarter

**OPTIONAL POINTS** (*Points are NOT required in these categories*)

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CRITERIA**

1. Students may earn these points for participation in an activity, class, or organization not sponsored by the school. Two **(2) points** may be earned that may apply toward the total required points for the award.
2. Activities such as scouting, community sponsored clubs, instructional classes in fine arts or other genuine community sponsored activities promoting the involvement of children in worthwhile learning

activities qualify under this category.

3. In order to obtain these points the student MUST submit to his/her teacher a school form filled out and signed by the sponsor or leader of the non-school sport, activity, or class. This form will verify the student's involvement in the sport, activity, or class and certify that the student's participation meets with the spirit of our "CODE OF PARTICIPATION."

## **RATIONALE**

Optional points are available in this category for participation in community activities.

## **ATTENDANCE**

**Based on attendance for each quarter:**

1. Students with Perfect Attendance (no absences) all quarters will receive one **(1) point** per quarter or a maximum of three **(3) points**.
2. A student who **completes** an *Independent Study* contract for any days he/she is not in school will receive attendance credit for those days. The *Independent Study* contract must be in accordance with district policy.

## **SPECIAL NOTES**

- a. Attendance is one of the factors associated with being an exemplary WILDCAT. Points in this category are not mandatory, because certain absences may be beyond the control of the student.
- b. Students who have **chronic unexcused tardies** (3 times or more) to class and/or school activities where their attendance is required will be referred to the principal's office by the teacher. **In such cases, the one (1) point deduction provision outlined under "Attendance" will apply.**

## **PROCEDURE FOR CERTIFICATION OF AWARD RECIPIENTS**

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

1. All students in grades 4-6 will complete and maintain the Block W worksheet throughout the school year.
2. Each student will enter the points he/she has earned in each category.
3. Students registering points in the "Community Involvement" categories must turn in official form(s) with proper signatures.
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 and will review the students'/class' progress and goals on a periodic basis.
2. The teacher will verify all points, point totals, and sign the forms and will submit the forms of those who have met the criteria for the award to the Block W Certification Committee.
3. Students whose forms are submitted to the committee are considered candidates for the award.

### **BLOCK W CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE - STEP THREE**

1. The committee will consist of the principal, the G.I.S., and teachers and will review the forms of all candidates in order to verify accuracy and ensure consistency in interpretation among the classrooms.
2. The committee will consider all matters where points may be in dispute and make a decision. The committee will confirm Block W recipients and schedule the Block W Award Program.

## Block W Award Verification Form, 2017-2018

1. CURRICULAR AREAS	Possible Points	Points Earned
High Honor Roll	4 per qtr.	
Honor Roll	3 per qtr.	
3.0 GPA	2 per qtr.	
Grade Improvement	1 per qtr.	
Essay Contests	1 (2,3)	
Poster/Art Contests	1 (2,3)	
Math Cat/Super Cat	1 (2)	
Sparthenian Reader	3	
<b>Total Category Points</b>		
<i>Minimum of 10 points required in this area</i>		

2. CO-CURRICULAR AREAS	Possible Points	Points Earned
GATE	3	
Destination Imagination	1 (2,3,4)	
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Choir and Recorders	3	
Drama Production	3 (4)	
Instrumental Music (5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> ) or Concert Choir (5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> )	3(4) 3(4)	
Spelling Bee	1 (2,3)	
Robotics (4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> )	3 (4)	
History Day	3 (4)	
Science Fair	3 (4)	
Oral Interpretation	3	
Spanish Club	1	
<b>Total Category Points</b>		

3. RESPONSIBILITY/CITIZENSHIP "Personal Best"	Possible Points	Points Earned
Citizenship (Student Responsibility Reward Eligible)	6 (2 per qtr.)	

*Minimum of 4 points required in this area*

SUMMARY	Possible Earned	Points Earned
1. Curricular ( <i>Minimum of 10 Points</i> )		
2. Co-curricular ( <i>Minimum of 4 Points</i> )		
3. Responsibility/Citizenship ( <i>Minimum of 4 Points</i> )		
4. Athletics ( <i>Minimum of 4 points</i> )		
5. School Service/Leadership ( <i>Minimum of 4 points</i> )		
<i>Optional Points (Attendance/Community)</i>		
<b>Total BLOCK W Points</b>		

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

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

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

4. ATHLETIC AREAS	Possible Points	Points Earned
Fall Season	3 (4,5)	
Winter Season	3(4,5)	
Spring Season	3 (4,5)	
Track	2	
Community Athletic Program	2 (3)	
Sports Manager	2	
Physical Fitness	2 (3)	
<b>Total Category Points</b>		

*Minimum of 4 points required in this area*

5. SCHOOL SERVICE/LEADERSHIP AREAS	Possible Points	Points Earned
Cheerleader (Grade 5-6)	3 (4)	
Student Council	1 (2)	
Cafeteria Monitor / Server	1 (2)	
Library/Tech Monitor	1 (2)	
Wildcat Buddy	3	
SPECTRUM	2	
School Service ( <i>Teacher Discretion</i> )	1 (2)	
Garden Maintenance	1(2)	
<b>Total Category Points</b>		

*Minimum of 4 points required in this area*

OPTIONAL POINTS	Possible Points	Points Earned
Attendance	1, 2, 3	
Community Involvement	2	
<b>Grade 4 Total Points Earned</b> _____		
35 Points Needed		
<b>Grade 5 or 6 Total Points Earned</b> _____		
45 Points Needed		

REVISED 6/5/2017

Student Signature/Date \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature/Date \_\_\_\_\_

**BLOCK W DUE: Friday, April 27, 2018**

