

INSTRUCTION

General Education Goals

Introduction

We, the citizens of the Berryessa Union School District, desire high quality school services dedicated to meeting a broad range of student and community needs.

We believe the District should recognize, as a primary responsibility, both the general and special education programs for all students.

We believe the general education programs and special education programs should reflect the following: a well-defined curriculum, a competent staff, and a sound evaluation system for students, programs, and employees.

As a guide to the development and implementation of high quality services through each school in the District, the Board hereby establishes the following goals:

INSTRUCTION

A program of general education for kindergarten through eighth grade students is recognized as the central purpose for public education in the Berryessa Union School District. The District Staff will use the following goals in the planning and implementation of the general education program:

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

The ability to use the English language to listen proficiently, speak fluently, to read efficiently, and to write creatively is essential in becoming full functioning members of our society.

READING: Berryessa students will learn to decode and comprehend what is read. They will be able to read aloud and silently with fluency and efficiency. Students will develop a large vocabulary and be able to unlock pronunciation and meaning of unfamiliar words. They will be motivated to read a wide variety of good literature for pleasure as well as to read for information important to their growth in knowledge.

LISTENING: Berryessa students will learn to listen attentively, remember detail, and concentrate on speaker ideas.

SPEAKING: Berryessa students will learn to organize their thoughts, speak clearly, use correct grammar, and master the technical skills of intonation, articulation, and phrasing.

COMPOSITION: Berryessa students will learn to write their thoughts, ideas, and feelings clearly and concisely. They will use good grammar and construct sentences and paragraphs that follow good form. Students will learn the process of writing, including gathering information, outlining, initial draft, revising, editing, and proofreading.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS (continued)

SPELLING: Berryessa students will learn to spell words accurately and develop the habit of using the dictionary to verify correct spelling and word form.

ENGLISH-SECOND-LANGUAGE: Berryessa students who have a primary language other than English will receive instruction in the primary language while they receive special instruction in learning English.

COMPUTER LITERACY: Berryessa students will develop a basic core of skills needed to ethically use computers. Students will be able to use computers as a tool of our information-based society to enhance learning.

MATHEMATICS SKILLS

Berryessa students will develop competency in mathematics through the mastery of basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division operations. They will develop an understanding of the concepts involved in problem solving, conventional and metric measurement, fractions, geometry, statistics, and probability. Students will develop the ability to apply these skills to everyday situations.

SCIENCE

Berryessa students will acquire knowledge about life, earth, and physical sciences; the need to conserve the world's resources; and the interdependence of people with their natural and physical environment. Berryessa students shall acquire basic skills in the scientific processes.

PERSONAL/SOCIAL AWARENESS

Berryessa students will develop an awareness of personal motivation and behavior and be willing to be responsible for their own behavior. Students will develop skills in observing behavior and be able to communicate feelings and observations directly and honestly. They will have knowledge of the complex multicultural society in which they live. Students will learn to value and appreciate that every person is unique in appearance, family and cultural background, experience and personality. Students will learn to observe their own social environment and be able to act effectively within it.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Berryessa students will acquire knowledge about the ethnic diversity of the Berryessa and world community, the Bay Area, California, the United States, and the world. They will be knowledgeable of history, geography, government, economics, and enhance their capacity to understand and help resolve the problems in our society. Students will appreciate and respect their heritage as citizens of the United States and the heritage of others. Students will develop citizenship skills of committee and group participation, responsible leadership, respect for the rights and feelings of other people, respect for the law, and respect for public and private property, and respect for the democratic process.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Berryessa students will develop an understanding of their social, emotional, and physical needs. They will understand and value their body, practice healthful living and personal grooming, and will work for the development of efficient movement and skills which are a basis for a life-long physical fitness program.

ART

Berryessa students will be introduced to varied types and styles of creative expression to develop the ability interpret and appreciate various art forms. Students will develop abilities which are required to plan, produce, and comprehend visual aesthetic form. Students will acquire knowledge and appreciation for the role of art and artist, both historically and today, in our culture.

MUSIC

Berryessa students will be provided the opportunity to develop skills in enjoying, understanding, creating, and performing music. Students will develop an understanding and appreciation for the structure, variety, and history of music.

SAFETY

Berryessa students will acquire knowledge about safety. They will develop knowledge that will enable them to protect themselves and others from injury or death through a reduction in the frequency and severity of accidents. Students will have knowledge about natural and man-made disasters and be prepared to act effectively to minimize danger to self and others when danger exists.

Policy

Adopted: July 28, 1977

Revised Policy

Adopted: July 28, 1983

Revised Policy

Adopted: February 27, 1986