

SCHOOL BOARD OF LEVY COUNTY

VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK

2024-2025





SCHOOL BOARD OF LEVY COUNTY

CHRISTOPHER A. COWART

Superintendent

WELCOME VOLUNTEERS!

CAMERON ASBELL
District 1

PAIGE BROOKINS
District 2

ASHLEY CLEMENZI
District 3

TAMMY BOYLE
District 4

DEVIN WHITEHURST
District 5

480 Marshburn Dr.
Bronson, FL 32621

PHONE 352-486-5231
FAX 352-486-5237

*An Equal
Opportunity Employer*

*The School Board of Levy
County does not discriminate on
the basis of race, color, national
origin, gender, age, disability,
religion, marital status or
genetic information in its
educational programs, services
or activities,
or in its hiring or employment
practices.*

We are thrilled to have you as a volunteer for the School Board of Levy County! Your involvement is a vital element in the overall success of our children's futures. Volunteers help the district to deliver valuable services to students and staff that would not be feasible without the support of the community.

We are proud of the scope of community involvement in our schools throughout the district. This means that students receive the individual attention that is vitally needed to help them succeed and teachers receive those "extra pairs of hands" that are so much appreciated. Volunteers also help with organizing and manning special events and extracurricular activities.

We hope you find your time with us an enjoyable and rewarding experience and we look forward to providing you with a positive experience for many years to come.

This handbook provides you with district standards and procedures regarding volunteers, as well as guidelines and tips to help in your role of a school volunteer. If you have any questions, feel free to contact your school's volunteer coordinator or myself at 352-486-5231 or heather.thompson@levyk12.org

As a volunteer you make a difference!

Sincerely,

Heather M. Thompson
Substitute Coordinator/Volunteer Coordinator

**PERSONS DESIRING TO APPEAL ANY ACTION OF THE BOARD MAY BE REQUIRED BY
FLORIDA STATUTES TO PROVIDE A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF SAID ACTION**

*Our mission is to educate all students in a safe environment and
to graduate them ready for college and career success.*

VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

As a volunteer, I agree to abide by the following code of conduct:

1. I will complete and submit a new Volunteer Application every year.
2. I will sign IN and OUT at the front office every visit.
3. I will wear a volunteer name badge at all times while on campus.
4. I agree never to be alone with individual students who are not under the supervision of teachers or school authorities.
5. I will maintain confidentiality of all school or classroom information.
6. I will share with teachers and/or school administrators any concerns that I may have related to student welfare or safety.
7. I will not supervise a class in the absence of a certified teacher.
8. I will not discipline or directly teach students.
9. I will not establish or make decisions about instructional objectives.
10. As a role model for the students, I will dress and act appropriately.
11. I agree only to do what is in the best interest of every child with whom I come into contact.
12. I will not bring other children with me while volunteering, whether on school campus or on field trips. I understand that in doing so I may be asked to leave.

**I agree to follow the Volunteer Code of Conduct at all times
or risk being dismissed from my volunteer placement.**



GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION

As a volunteer you will be assisting the staff at the school to provide an enhanced educational experience for the students. Your contribution is a vital one and will become an important part of the total instructional effort. Teachers and students will be counting on you. Be sure that you take seriously your responsibilities as a member of the educational team.

In Levy County, school volunteers must always work under the supervision of school staff members. Make sure that you are working in an open, visible area and do not allow yourself to be in a situation where your actions might be misconstrued. All volunteer activities take place on the school grounds during school hours under general supervision of school staff. Exceptions can include chaperoned field trips and "away from school" volunteer activities such as projects done at home and/or PTO activities. Young children should not accompany volunteers.

Volunteer Application

Individuals must submit a completed volunteer application EVERY school year. Applications are available at each school or online. Registered volunteers are covered by the School Board of Levy County worker's comp insurance program. In case of accident, please notify the school secretary or the principal immediately. Statements found false will be immediate cause for dismissal. The School Board of Levy County reserves the right to refuse volunteer placement to individuals with disqualifying criminal convictions. All volunteers are screened through the FDLE Sexual Predator web site.

School Volunteer Coordinators

There is a district level coordinator for the overall school volunteer program. In addition, each school has a designated volunteer coordinator. We recommend that you record your school's contact information on the back of this handbook.

Discipline

It is the teacher's responsibility to discipline the students, not the volunteer's. Discuss any discipline problems with the supervising teacher before they escalate.

Signing In-Out/Name Tags

All volunteers must provide their Driver's License the first time they sign in at a school. Volunteers are also required to sign-in and sign-out each time they come to the school. Records are maintained for security purposes as well as documentation of community involvement hours which may be used for recognition, grant proposals and insurance renewal.

We also ask that you keep a log of any volunteer time that is done away from the school site or after school hours. You may turn this log in each year to the school secretary or volunteer coordinator.

Confidentiality

Work with students is always confidential. A misplaced comment can be devastating to a student, family, and the volunteer program. If you have questions or concerns, talk with the teacher, the school-level coordinator, or call the district volunteer coordinator.

Reporting

Any volunteer who believes bullying or harassment has occurred should immediately report it to the school principal as per Board Policy 5.38. Volunteers must also report suspected child abuse to the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-962-2873.

Attendance/Punctuality

It is imperative that you be prompt, dependable and regular in attendance. Reliability is expected because teachers and staff plan for volunteer assistance. If you must be absent, call the school as soon as possible and ask that the teacher be told your absence.

Conduct/Dress Code

As a volunteer, you are considered to be a "paraprofessional." You are a role model for the students and should dress and act appropriately. Cell phones should not be visible or in use during your volunteer work. **Never take pictures of students or SBLC staff with your cell phone or show students pictures or videos on your phone. Do not engage our students on any social media sites, email or texts.** The district's Code of Student Conduct prohibits dress (including accessories such as jewelry and body piercings/body art) which would be a distraction to learning. Ask your supervising teacher or staff member what attire will be appropriate for your assignment.

Smoking and profanity is not allowed on any of our school campuses.

Volunteer Assignments

As a volunteer you may or may not be placed in your child's classroom. Placement is dependent upon the needs of the teacher and staff. The Principal at each school is responsible for the final decision. If you have questions regarding your placement contact the school volunteer coordinator or the district volunteer coordinator.



VOLUNTEER ROLES AND JOB DESCRIPTIONS

What do school volunteers do?

- Reinforce skills taught by the teachers.
 - Help teachers give students more individual attention.
 - Provide added enrichment to the curriculum.
 - Assist with career awareness, exploration, and preparation.
 - Assist teachers with instructional-related duties.
 - Help students develop a more positive attitude about themselves, school, and academic achievement.
 - Help prepare students to be productive citizens and lifelong learners.
 - Provide many support services to schools and school programs.
-

Classroom Assistants work closely with classroom teachers and staff, assisting in various projects, keeping records, preparing instructional materials, and interacting with students. Duties in elementary school may include reading/telling stories, listening to children read, and preparing instructional materials. Duties in middle and high schools may include working on special projects, performing clerical duties, making instructional materials, reviewing homework and assisting with testing.

Tutors work one-on-one with a student or with small groups of students who need help in academic subjects through reinforcement of basic skills.

School Advisory Councils (SAC) elect members to represent a broad cross section of the school's student population and the area in which the school is located. The SAC functions as a resource to the principal and members work as a team to develop the school improvement plan.

Mentors are needed to work with discouraged students on a regular basis. The main goal is to motivate the students to achieve and stay in school. Through establishing a one-on-one relationship, tutoring, setting short-term goals, and serving as a positive role model, mentors can provide encouragement and friendship to a student.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) give important support to teachers and classrooms while encouraging parent and family involvement.

Business Partners is a broad-based program which promotes business involvement in schools. It is an exchange of resources between a business/organization and a school: one-to-one tutoring, classroom presentations, student and/or teacher recognition, field trips, displaying student work, judging student competition, donating materials/money, or implementing a unique program designed by the business and the partner school.

Resource Speakers provide curriculum enrichment by sharing information on careers, hobbies, travel, and other areas of expertise with students in area classrooms.



TIPS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Emergencies

In case of emergency or when you have concern for students' safety, please report immediately to a school staff member.

If you need help

If you need more instruction in order to perform a task, just ask. Establish a method of communication with the teacher, either written or verbal. If you need to change your assignment, contact the school-level or district volunteer coordinator.

Checklist

Find out about:

- ✓ Days and times you're expected
- ✓ Volunteer procedures and practices of your school
- ✓ Building layout and parking facilities
- ✓ What is expected of you as a volunteer
- ✓ What to expect of the student(s)
- ✓ Discipline and classroom policies
- ✓ What to do if you are absent or student is absent
- ✓ What to do if supervising teacher is absent
- ✓ Fire drills and safety policies

What does the teacher expect of the volunteer?

Promptness	Courtesy
Dependability	Positive Attitude
Enthusiasm	Creativity
Initiative	Support
Flexibility	Tact
Patience	Non-disruptive influence
Discretion	Cooperative attitude
Concern for children	Sensitivity



WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Everyone knows that a little praise goes a long way in any classroom. But "a little praise" really should be something more than the same few phrases repeated over and over. Your students need more than the traditional "Good", "Very Good", and "Fine" if encouragement is the ultimate purpose. Here are some additional possibilities:

That's really nice.

This kind of work pleases me very much.

Thank you very much.

Now you've figured it out.

Wow!

Congratulations!

I'm proud of the progress you've made.

I like the way you're thinking.

I'm very proud of the way you worked today.

Now you've got the hang of it.

Marvelous!

That's a very good observation.

That's coming along nicely.

That's one way of looking at it.

Why don't you show the class?

Thank you for (sitting down, being quiet, getting right to work, etc.)

Thank you for raising your hand, (name).

Keep up the good work.

You make it look easy.

Good job.

What neat work.

That's clever.

Very creative.

Good thinking.

(name) got right down to work.

Terrific!

It looks like you put a lot of work into this.

Beautiful!

That's an interesting way of looking at it.

Excellent work.

It's a pleasure to teach when you work like this.

That's great.

I knew you could do it!

That's the right answer.

That's a good point.

Everyone's working so hard.

You must be proud of your work.

That's quite an improvement.

Very good.

Super!

I like the way (name) is working.

(Name) is really going to town.

I like the way (name) has settled down.

My goodness, how impressive!

You really outdid yourself today.

You're on the right track now.

That's right!

Nice going



VOLUNTEER LOG

Volunteer Name: _____

School: _____

Please use this log to track any hours that you volunteer that are after school hours (For example: fall festivals, sports, and/or at home projects). Turn in the form to the school office or volunteer coordinator each month.

Date	Teacher/Event	Time In	Time Out	Total Time
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1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

VOLUNTEER SIGNATURE: _____

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR SIGNATURE: _____



VOLUNTEER/MENTOR APPLICATION

Levy County School Board

Volunteer/Mentor Application

School Volunteer Program-480 Marshburn Drive, Bronson, FL 32621

352-486-5231 (Phone) 352-486-5249 (Fax)

We are delighted to process your application to volunteer with the Levy County School Board.

Please complete this application accurately and completely. You may submit this application to the school of your choice or to the district office at the address above for processing. You must fill out a new application each school year. Thank you for offering your time, talents, and skills to enhance the education of our students.

YEAR: _____ **SCHOOL:** _____

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE: Driver's License Number: _____ **Exp. Date:** _____

Ms./Mrs./Mr./Dr. _____

First Name

Middle Initial

Last Name

Former/Maiden Name(s): _____

Child(rens) Name(s)/Grades/Teacher: _____

Street Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Phone (Home) _____ **(cell)** _____ **(other)** _____

Gender: _____ **Male** _____ **Female** **Age:** _____ **18-20 years** _____ **21-61 years** _____ **62 years & over**

Email address: _____

Emergency Contact Person: _____ **Relationship:** _____ **Phone:** _____

VOLUNTEER WORK PREFERENCE: (Please check your greatest interest):

☐ **Classroom** ☐ **Chaperone Field Trip** ☐ **Library/Media Center** ☐ **PTO (Parent Teacher Organization)**

☐ **SAC (School Advisory Council)** ☐ **Office** ☐ **Mentoring** ☐ **Work from Home**

I understand that I am offering my services to the Levy County School Board without compensation. This registration is subject to a Florida Department of Law Enforcement check. I agree to abide by the policies and procedures of the School Board of Levy County and the individual school I serve. I understand the school system has the right not to place me or to discontinue the use of my services as a volunteer. Please note that some of the information on this form may be subject to Florida's Public Records Act pursuant to Chapter 119FS. In addition, I hereby acknowledge that I have received information regarding the Workman's Compensation Managed Care Program. I also acknowledge that a criminal background check will be performed.

Signature

Date

PLEASE COMPLETE THE SCREENING PORTION ON PAGE 2.

****School Board of Levy County employees stop here****

Revised: 11/2023 HMT

SCREENING

As part of your volunteer record, a criminal history check will be conducted. A prior criminal record may or may not result in your disqualification for volunteering, **but a failure to disclose your record WILL INVALIDATE this application. You must list all adult and juvenile misdemeanors, felonies or other criminal offenses other than non-criminal traffic violations (DUI and reckless driving are criminal offenses.)**

For the safety and protection of our students, please answer the following:

Have you ever been convicted, found guilty, entered a plea of nolo contendere (no contest), entered into a deferred prosecution or pre-trial intervention agreement, or had adjudication withheld in a criminal offense other than a minor traffic violation (DUI is not a minor traffic violation.) Are there any criminal charges now pending against you? Sealed or expunged records must be reported pursuant to S.943.0585 F.S.

⇒ PLEASE CHECK ONE: ☐ YES ☐ NO A "NO" check means "NO" to every statement above.

Where Arrested _____ Date(s): _____

Nature of Charges: _____

Disposition: _____

If YES, Principal approval will be required ☐ Approved ☐ Not Approved, Principal _____


Raptor system or FDLE Sexual Predator website checked by: _____

(http://www3.fdle.state.fl.us/sexual_predators/) _____ (Date)

APPROVED _____ NOT APPROVED _____

Principal or Designee _____

****Form to be retained in school office****



Please bring in driver's license or
Florida ID
for copying