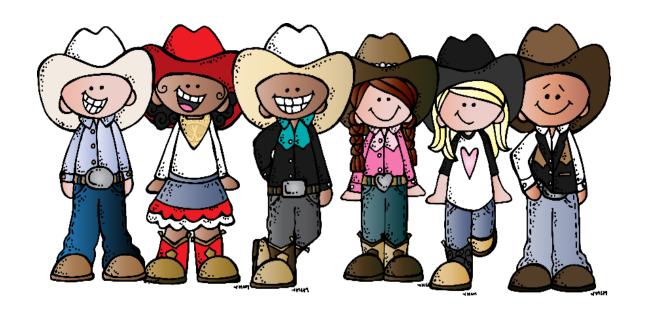
Welcome to Platt Elementary



Student Handbook 2023-2024

4680 Highway 80 East Haughton, LA 71037 318-549-5870 Fax: 318-549-5883

https://platt.bossierschools.org/

Cathy Turner Principal Jennifer Breedlove Assistant Principal

Bossier Schools Student Handbook

<u>Click here</u> to access the **Bossier Parish Schools Student Handbook**. This important resource includes guidelines that apply to all Bossier Schools and Students.

Vision and Mission

School Vision

Our **Vision** is for **Platt Elementary** to be a learning community centered around rigorous standards where teachers use benchmarks to ensure all learners experience academic growth and success.

School Mission

The mission of Platt Elementary School is to be committed to high achievement for all.

School Motto

Every Child, Every Day!

Attendance

Arrival

Classes begin at 8:10. For those students who ride with parents, we ask that they arrive <u>no earlier than 7:50</u>. Adult supervision begins at this time. Student morning drop off will be at the car line only. <u>Immediately before and after school, the front drive is designated for buses and daycare only</u>. If you have an appointment or need to come to the school, please wait until all buses have pulled away and then park in front of the school.

Tardies

Daily attendance is an essential part of your child being successful in school. Please ensure that your student is at school and on time each day. Students should be in their homerooms by **8:15** am to avoid being marked tardy. Any student arriving after 8:15 am must be checked in at the office by an adult before going to class. Students who check out before 2:45 will also receive a tardy. Please refer to the section in the handbook titled **Checking In and Out** and Section III of the Bossier Parish School Board Student Handbook for more detailed information on tardies.

Dismissal

Dismissal begins at 3:15 pm. If you are picking up your child, you may get in the line for car pick up **after 2:35**. The School Resource Officer will open the gate at this time.

Checking In and Out

Please present a picture ID each time when checking students out of school. Only people listed on this year's registration form will be allowed to check out your child. Students checking in between 8:15 and 9:45, will receive an AM tardy. Students checking out between 9:45 and 2:00, will receive a half-day absence. Students checking out between 2:00 and 2:45, will receive a PM tardy. **NO checkouts after 2:45 will be allowed.** Tardiness and early checkouts are disruptive to classroom instruction. Our instructional time with students is valuable, so please make every effort to get your child to school on time and limit early checkouts.

Attendance

Attendance guidelines can be found in Section III of the Bossier Parish School System Handbook. Refer to this section for a definition of excused absences. These guidelines are strictly administered and enforced by the school system as well as the Bossier Parish Truancy Office.

Students need to present an excuse when returning to school from being absent. The absence will be marked as unexcused until documentation is presented to school. We will not accept a copy of a doctor's excuse. If a doctor's office sends a fax, we must have a cover letter with a signature of the contact person at the office. Excuses must be turned in to the school office **within five days** after the student returns to school. After five days, the excuses will not be accepted. Excuses are posted daily in Illuminate, and the parent portal is updated within 24 hours after posting.

A letter will be sent home after three absences. A copy of this letter will also go to the Child Welfare and Attendance Office located at the Central Office for Bossier Parish School Board. You may get a call or letter from someone in the Attendance Office questioning absences. This is a way to make sure you are aware of the number of days your child has missed. The state requires a child to be in attendance 167 days. This means a child cannot have more than eleven unexcused absences per year.

Transfers

If your child is transferring to a different school, notify the office at least three days before his/her last day. This will give office personnel ample time to complete all necessary transfer forms. Your child will need to turn in all textbooks and library books, and any money owed must be paid.

Child Custody

If you have any special concerns regarding your child, such as family concerns, custody concerns, emergencies, etc. please alert the office staff so we can follow proper procedure. In the case of custody or legal guardianship, please provide copies of the CURRENT legal order, judgment, or decree signed by a judge to be filed with your child's records. A petition or transcript is not acceptable. Please understand that the natural mother or father may obtain their child or information from school at any time unless a court order is on file indicating otherwise.

Transportation

Changes in Transportation

If your child's method of transportation needs to change, you must send a note to the office that day or come to the school to make that change in the office. Without written notification, your child will follow his/her regular routine. **NO changes will be made by telephone, email, or by fax**. Car tags are necessary for car pickup, even if you write a note for transportation change. Students riding the bus will only be dropped off at their home address, **NOT** at homes of family members, friends, or a babysitter, per Bossier Parish Transportation Policy.

Car Line Policy

All students will be issued a car tag at the beginning of the year. You must have this in your window for school personnel to release your student in the afternoon. If you do not have a car tag, you will be asked to park and show identification to office personnel. If you need an extra car tag, they may be purchased through the front office for \$1.00. You must have a car tag displayed with the student's name visible. No child will be allowed to get in a car unless the car tag is displayed.

We have a designated area for students who will be picked up or dropped off by personal vehicle. You will come up Wrangler Drive to the gate and turn left. Follow the road

between Platt and T.L. Rodes. Teachers and our School Resource Officer will be on duty to direct traffic and facilitate drop off. You will be asked to turn off your engine while all students are being unloaded. Please wait for the teacher to instruct you to unload and to restart your vehicle. Please do not pull away until the teacher has directed you to do so. For the safety of all students, your undivided attention is necessary at this time! **Please do not use your cell phone during car line**. **This is a state law.**

Students may be dropped off in the morning between 7:50 and 8:10. Please do not drop off students before 7:50. There will be no one on duty before this time. Please do **NOT** get in the car line **BEFORE 2:35 p.m**. The School Resource Officer must go first through the car line to open the gate. Parents should not line up before this. Students should NOT be picked up or dropped off in the faculty parking lot, in front of the school, or on Hwy 80. The driveway should remain clear between 7:50-8:20 am and 3:00-3:30 p.m. for buses.



Bus Riders

School bus guidelines have been adopted by the Bossier Parish School Board in order to provide safe transportation to and from school. It is a <u>privilege</u>, not a right, to ride Bossier Parish school buses. All Board policies are strictly enforced on school buses. The bus operator, together with the principal, assumes full responsibility for the discipline of students who ride the bus. Should an infraction occur, the bus operator will notify the principal in writing. The principal has the sole authority to determine punishment, if warranted.

The responsibility for supervision of students begins at the bus stop in the morning and ends when students exit buses at the end of the day. On-time delivery and student safety are the primary goals of each bus operator.

When riding the school bus, every student will:

- Follow the Bus Transportation rules as directed by the bus operator and the student's principal.
- Report to the assigned bus stop at least 5 minutes before the scheduled arrival time; the bus stops will be assigned by your student's bus operator.
- Not bring on the bus objects that are too large to be held in the student's lap or to fit under the seat (including large band instruments, projects, and other large objects).
- Assist the bus operator in maintaining a clean and sanitary bus; students who damage/destroy buses are appropriately disciplined/assessed for damages.
- Not exit the bus at a different stop from their assigned stop without written authorization from the principal. The note must be presented to the operator at the start of the afternoon run.
- Remain seated with backs against the seat, backpacks in lap, facing forward in the student's permanently assigned seat, while the bus is in motion and during stops for other students. The bus operator is responsible for seat assignments.
- Only talk quietly to your neighbor. Vulgar language and bullying of other students will not be tolerated.
- Adhere to the dress code for each school.
- Not eat on the bus. (Students may carry water on the bus in plastic bottles)
- Not extend arms out of windows or doors; not throw objects out of windows.

NOTE: A violation of a bus rule may result in loss of bus privilege and/or disciplinary action. All buses are equipped with two video cameras that constantly monitor student passengers. Bus operators are permitted to make reasonable rules for the safe transportation of students.

See Transportation website for additional bus safety tips.

The parish transportation is to and from home only. We have several daycare centers in the area that provide transportation to and from school.

In the event of a bus breakdown, another bus will run the route, but it will be delayed. Parents will be notified by Platt if there is an accident during the morning run. We will allow your child to call you and let you know what has happened in the event that it is not an emergency. If it is an emergency, someone from the school will call you with information.

In the afternoon, if your child does not arrive at home at the regular time, please call the transportation office at 549-6770 or 549-6791.

Reporting Student Progress

Communication is an important part of the educational program. We believe it is important for parents and teachers to maintain close contact concerning student progress. One of the best ways to keep informed about how your child is progressing is through *OnCourse*. Parents may sign up here for this service at the beginning of the school year.

Between progress reports and report cards, students will receive weekly graded papers/tests for you to review, sign, and return the following day. You may also receive emails, notes, or telephone calls from the classroom teacher to discuss progress.

Report Cards and Progress Reports

In order to keep parents more informed about student performance, a progress report is sent home every four and a half (4 ½) weeks during each 9 week grading period. Report cards will be issued at the end of each nine weeks.

Visitations and Conferences

We hope you will attend your child's programs, assemblies, and become an active part of our school community. Strong parent-teacher communication is vital for student success. Teachers are expected to communicate with parents in helpful and appropriate ways through parent-teacher conferences. The conference should be arranged so it takes place before school, after school, or during the teacher's planning time.

The best way for the school to address a problem is to communicate directly with the teacher or an administrator. Please email or call the teacher/administrator directly. The teacher/administrator will respond at the end of the day or by the next morning. While social media is a good tool for communication, it is not the best way to address problems or concerns.

Remember with any school visit, everyone must sign in at the office before going to any room. You will be required to scan your state issued ID to receive a visitor's badge. Staff members will check to see your badge. This is for the safety and security of all students and faculty.

School Building Level Committee

The School Building Level Committee (SBLC) functions within the general education program. The team receives referrals from classroom teachers and parents who wish to explore strategies to enable a particular student to experience greater success in the classroom. The goal is to assist students to remain in and benefit from the regular classroom instructional program. The SBLC consists of the child's parents and classroom teachers, instructional coach, school counselor, school psychologist, educational diagnostician, and a school administrator.

Cafeteria and Payments

Platt Elementary participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Program. All students enrolled are eligible to receive one free breakfast and lunch at school at no charge for the 2022-2023 school year. If your child transfers to a non-CEP school, regular lunch fees and policies will apply.

According to Louisiana State Law, soft drinks (even in sack lunches) and outside food service foods (ex: restaurants, fast foods) in their original wrappings are not permitted in the cafeteria. A student may bring those items in their lunch boxes if they are in a thermos or wrapped in unmarked wrap. Family members who bring these items to students in original wrapping, bags, cups, etc. will be asked to remove them from the cafeteria.

According to federal regulations, concessions may not be sold until after school lunch is served. This policy will be adhered to at all times, including field day.

The cafeteria manager is Carla Lowery. If you need information regarding the lunch program, she can assist you. The cafeteria phone number is 549-5888.

Fees and Supplies

Basic supplies are necessary for a well-rounded education. In addition to the needed supplies, we are asking for a \$10 supply fee and a \$10 technology fee for each child to cover expenses with technology and materials. Platt teachers have made every effort to make our supply list as reasonable as possible.

These supplies, cafeteria purchases, lost/damaged textbooks, Chromebooks, and library books are the responsibility of each child and parent. All instructional materials are loaned to students for their use during the school year. Students are permitted to check out books through our library with a signed contract. Instructional materials and library

books are to be kept clean and handled carefully. Students are required to pay for lost or damaged books. Any lost or damaged books must be paid for before another book is issued. If the book is found, a refund is issued. Library books and instructional material refunds will only be made during the school year in which the book is lost.

Technology

Providing Chromebooks for our students is an important part of the instructional program at Platt. Our students will use these devices daily to support and guide learning this year. The guidelines for use of the Chromebooks can be found here to ensure that the Chromebook and the school network are protected during daily use. All students and parents must sign our Chromebook contract.

Medication/Illness

Medication

Please read our parish guidelines and policies concerning medication in Section III of the Bossier Parish School System Handbook found online. Due to state laws regarding medication guidelines, only prescription medication, accompanied by a prescription from a doctor, and completed medication forms will be administered during school hours. It is preferred, if possible, that all medication be given before and after school. If you need to bring medicine before 7:50 or after 3:30, please call ahead and make arrangements for someone to be available to check in the medicine. For the safety of all students, medication is not allowed on school grounds. This includes prescribed and over the counter medicine, cough drops, and chapstick.

Illness

If a child becomes sick or injured at school, the office will contact parents. Office personnel will attend to minor cuts and bruises. Parents should keep all alternate and emergency phone numbers up to date in the event of an emergency. **Please let the homeroom teacher and office know of any changes in address or telephone numbers.**

The following are helpful guidelines provided by the Bossier Parish School Nurses to consider when deciding whether your child should attend school:

- Fever: Fever is a sign of illness or infection. If your child has a temperature of 100 degrees or above, he/she should remain at home. Children should be fever free without medication for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Vomiting and Diarrhea: Both are often contagious. Your child should be free of vomiting and diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Head Lice: Bossier Parish has a lice free policy. A child sent home with lice should be treated. Upon returning to school, the parent must sign a form verifying that treatment was given.
- Chicken Pox: A child must be fever free and all of the chicken pox must be scabbed over with no blisters remaining.
- Rashes: A doctor should be consulted if a rash accompanies an illness, if the rash covers a large portion of the body, if the rash is spreading, or if the child is too uncomfortable (itching or pain). If it is necessary to consult a doctor, a letter is required when returning to school.
- Pink Eye: Symptoms include redness, itching, swelling, drainage, and excessive
 matter upon awakening in the morning. Do not send your child to school with
 these symptoms. Pink eye is contagious and must be treated with medication
 prescribed by a doctor. Students may return to school after being on medication
 for 24 hours and if symptoms have disappeared.
- Ringworm is a fungal infection of the skin and may spread from one child to another. Medical treatment is necessary 24 hours prior to a child returning to school.
- Life-Threatening Conditions: A life-threatening condition is "a health condition that will put the child in danger of death during the school day if a medication or treatment order and a nursing plan are not in place." Children with life-threatening conditions such as severe bee sting or food allergies, severe asthma, diabetes, severe seizures, etc., are required to have a medication or treatment order and nursing plan in place. These forms can be obtained through the school nurse.

Our nurse is Mrs. Gardner. She can be reached at 549-5910.

Severe Weather and Emergencies

In case of severe weather or other emergencies, please tune in to the local television stations/radio/website/apps. The School Board office will announce all information as soon as they make a decision. If we should dismiss early, your child will be put on their regular bus (unless you have directed otherwise) and taken to your home. If no one is there, the bus driver will return your child to the school. We will contact a parent.

After School Clubs & Events

Our PE, STEAM, and Art departments offer a variety of after-school clubs and events for our students throughout the school year. Information about these clubs and events, including dates/times and sign-up details, will be sent home in advance.

Lost and Found

Articles found around the school are placed in the gym. **Please mark your child's coats, jackets, sweaters, etc. with his/her name**. Items that are not retrieved at the end of the year will be donated to Goodwill or placed in the used uniform closet.

Fund Raising

Our school will do two major fundraisers each year. These are important to help support our students and our school.

Students will be allowed to purchase snacks on some Fridays. If your child owes money for lost textbooks, library books, or lunch he/she will not be allowed to purchase snacks.

We will take individual school pictures in the fall, winter, and spring as well as a class group picture. Uniforms must be worn for fall and class pictures. Winter and spring will be optional, and students may dress accordingly, if they are ordering pictures.

Dress Code

All public schools in Bossier Parish adopted uniforms as a mandatory dress code. A committee of parents, teachers, and school administrators chose the uniform for our students. Uniforms will be worn daily and should fit properly – no sagging or oversized clothes. All shirts will be tucked in the pants, shorts, or skirts.

The school colors are red, white, and navy and our mascot is the Platt cowboy. Platt t-shirts, sweatshirts, and jackets may be purchased throughout the year online through Oasis Printing, Inc. The students will be able to wear the Platt t-shirts daily and on field trips. Platt sweatshirts may be worn any day or over a uniform shirt.

The following guidelines will apply to all students. Parent help and cooperation will be greatly appreciated. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action from the administration.

Boys Uniforms:

- Tops Plain white, red, or navy polo shirts.
- Bottoms Navy or khaki pants or shorts in uniform style. <u>No cargo pants/shorts</u>.
 No jean type material, even if color is correct.
- Socks should be black, white, or navy.

Girls Uniforms:

- Tops Plain white, red, or navy polos or white sailor or peter pan collared shirts. No trim on collars.
- Bottoms Navy or khaki uniform style shorts, pants, skirts, capris, or skorts. No
 extra pockets, ruffles, or decorations. Bloomers/shorts should be worn under
 jumpers and skirts.
- Plaid #37 style 194 Royal Park may also be worn.
- Jumpers Navy or khaki with a round neck.
- <u>No cargo pants/shorts.</u> No corduroy. No jean type material even of color is correct.
- Length of skirts, shorts, and skorts may be no more than four inches above the knee.
- Socks and tights Solid red, white, or navy; Leggings must be plain white, navy, gray, or red.

Other Uniform Rules:

- Belts Must be worn every day if the clothing has belt loops. Belts should be brown, black, navy, red, or khaki.
- Shirts should be tucked in every day.
- Shoes must be closed toe rubber sole shoes. No flip flops, slip on shoes, crocs, sandals, cleats, or shoes with wheels. Students go to P.E. and recess every day.
- Sweaters red, navy, or white cardigans may be worn.
- Coats/Jackets ALL coats and jackets must be NAVY, RED, GRAY, or BLACK. Platt sells a uniform jacket early in the year.
- Sweatshirts/ Hoodies navy, red, or the current school sponsored sweatshirt. Sweatshirts may say Platt, Haughton, or BUCS.

- Undershirts Navy, red, or white long or short sleeved and may only be worn under a uniform shirt. Turtlenecks may not be worn alone.
- Earrings Girls should not wear dangly earrings to school.
- Platt spirit shirts Purchased through the office and can be worn any day of the week.
- Hair style and color should not cause distraction or disruption at school. <u>NO</u>
 <u>MOHAWKS or unnatural hair colors</u>. Hair accessories should be school colors.
 No bandanas, scarves, or feathers.

Toys and Electronics

Toys, collector cards, electronics, cell phones, ipads, etc. should not be brought to school. These items will be taken from the student, stored in the office, and only returned to an adult. Platt will follow the Bossier Parish policy concerning cell phones which is included in the Section III of the Bossier Parish School System Handbook found online. Equipment for recess is at the discretion of the teacher.

Celebrations

Class parties

We have two class parties each year — Christmas and end of the year. Party times will be set by the teacher. Other holidays are treat bags only. All edible items for the treat bags must be individually wrapped. **All food to be shared for a class party must be peanut free.**

Birthday Treats

Personal party invitations should only be sent to school if all students from the class are included. Please do not send balloons or flowers in glass vases to school for your child to bring home on the bus. If you plan to pick up your child at school, the delivery is fine. Birthday snacks may be sent on the child's birthday. Please check with your child's teacher to determine the best time for these to be shared with the class.

Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS)

We believe that every child should have the opportunity to learn in a safe, positive, and orderly environment. We strive for our classrooms to be engaging, hands-on, rigorous, and fun. In order for this to happen, clear expectations should be in place for our students. Through the Schoolwide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Program, students learn to develop positive behavior and appropriate social skills. Faculty members recognize the positive behaviors of students and negative behavior is redirected through restorative approaches.

Platt has formulated some basic expectations for each student that is known as the "Cowboy Code."

Be safe. Be respectful. Be responsible.

Students who follow the Cowboy Code may receive points and/or Cowboy Cash, which can be spent at the Cowboy Corral for a variety of prizes, treats, and privileges. Students with less than two infractions on all Weekly Expectation Charts for the 9 weeks will receive a very special reward.

Your child will bring home a Daily Expectation Chart, which reflects how well he/she followed the Cowboy Code. Teachers will record minor infractions on this chart, along with the intervention and/or consequence chosen, in response to the infraction. The chart allows you to see the day, location, and type of infraction. As you will see on the enclosed chart, parents are contacted on the 3rd offense, if not before, to keep a solid communication of your child's behavior at school. Recess detention may be a consequence in some cases. Any major infraction automatically results in an office referral. Each week, students will receive a new chart with a fresh start.

Students who continually fail to comply with the school's expectations, move into Tier II Interventions and receive targeted behaviors on which to focus. This program is called SPURS (Students Participating Ultimately Reach Success). Students are referred by either a teacher, parent, or administrator by filling out an RFA (request for assistance) form. This form can be found on our school website or you can <u>click here</u>. The PBIS team will meet and make decisions on the best support for the student. The PBIS facilitator will then contact the parent or guardian to discuss methods and supports needed to ensure success for the student. After six to eight weeks, student progress is monitored to determine next steps.

There is a list of Minor and Major Infractions, with explanations of each and an example of the Weekly Expectation Chart, on the following pages. Please read over each page carefully, and support us as we try to teach our students the rewards and responsibilities of positive behavior.

Minor Infractions

Teacher/Classroom Managed Behaviors

Minor infractions are discipline incidents that can be handled by the teacher and do not warrant a discipline referral to the office.

Minor infraction	Definition
Disrespect to authority	Student does not show proper respect to authority.
Excessive Talking	Student continues to talk without permission.
Off Task	Student does not take an active role in learning; disconnected. Student distracts himself and/or others.
Incomplete classwork	Student does not complete classwork within the allotted time.
Willful disobedience	Student refuses to obey adult requests.
Inappropriate language	Student engages in name calling and/or use of words in an inappropriate way.
Lying	Student delivers message that is untrue.
Missing or late homework	Student does not turn in his/her homework assignment or homework assignment is late or incomplete.
Other	Student engages in any other minor problem behaviors that do not fall within the above categories.

Major Infractions

Office Managed Behaviors

Consequence: These consequences may include but are not limited to a parent contact, detention, in-school suspension (GASP), and/or out-of-school suspension.

Major Infraction	Definition
Profanity	Student exhibits verbal and/or nonverbal forms of swearing.
Fighting/Physical aggression	Actions involving serious physical contact where injury may occur (hitting, hitting with an object, punching, kicking, hair pulling, scratching, etc.)
Theft	Student is in possession of, having passed on, or being responsible for removing someone else's property.
Forgery	Student has signed a person's name without the person's permission.
Harassment	Student delivers disrespectful or inappropriate messages to another person. Disrespectful messages include negative comments based on race, religion, gender, age, and/or national origin.
Bullying	Student who teases, picks on, threatens, or hurts another student.
Cheating	Student obtains or attempts to obtain, or aids another to obtain credit for work, or any improvement in evaluation of performance, by any dishonest or deceptive means.
Vandalism/Property Damage	Student participates in an activity that results in substantial destruction or disfigurement of property. Student deliberately impairs the usefulness of the property.
Weapon	Student is in possession of knives/guns

	(real or look alike), or other objects readily capable of causing bodily harm.
Drugs	Student uses/possesses controlled substance; violates medicine policy (OTC or prescription).
Other	Problem behavior causing this referral is not listed above. Staff using this area will specify the problem behavior above.

Weekly Expectation Chart

Students will bring home the Daily Expectation Chart for a parent to sign. Below is an example of what the behavior chart might look like.

		Platt Elementary Daily Expectation Chart Teacher:				22	
Student Name:			 Cowboy Code		Week	k of:	
Be Safe			Be Respectful			Be Responsible	
1st Offense:	A, Explain consequ	ence of next infract	ion. End with a posit	tive statement.	•		
2 nd Offense:				4th Offe	ense:		
3 rd Offense:	E,			Reoccurring or Office Re	infractions will result i	n one of the following: Counselor Referral, Parent Conference	
A: Re-teach Exp B: Loss of Privile		Extra Work Given : Seating Change	E: Parent	ons/Consequer t Contact elp/Tutoring	G: Time	e Out I: Other	
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Infractions:	
Homeroom P.E./Enrich ment						 1 – Disrespect for Authority 2 – Excessive Talking 3 – Off Task 4 - Incomplete Class/Homework 	
Recess						5 – Willful Disobedience6 – Inappropriate Language	
ELA						7 – Lying 8- Other	
S. Living							
Math						Comments:	
Science							
Restroom							
Hallway							
Cafeteria							

2023-2024 Student/ Parent Signature Form

Please complete this form and return it to your child's school, so we may have a record that you received this handbook.

Thank you, Platt Elementary

This is to certify that I have received a copy of the **Platt Elementary Student Handbook** for the 2023-2024 school year.

Student:	Homeroom:			
Parent/Guardian Signature	Student Signature			
Date:				