



PARENTS GUIDE

TO

BCAE

FFA

WHAT EVERY PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW TO HELP THEIR CHILD
SUCCEED IN THE FFA PROGRAM

Parents,

The FFA organization has so much to offer your student. FFA is an intracurricular leadership organization for students interested in agriculture, leadership, and personal growth. We encourage parents to become familiar with the opportunities available so they can help their child take full advantage of everything FFA provides. This guide is designed to help families navigate the FFA program at the chapter level, answer common questions, and spark meaningful conversations at home.

Agricultural Education (formerly known as *Vocational Agriculture*) is a college-preparatory program. All agriculture courses — especially science-based courses — are A–G approved for both high school graduation and college credit. Students must first enroll in, or take concurrently, the *AFNR (Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources)* course before advancing into other agriculture classes.

The Agriculture Education program is built on the three-circle model, which consists of:

- Classroom Instruction – 75%
- Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) – 12.5%
- FFA – 12.5%

When your student enrolls in an agriculture course at Bakersfield Christian High School, they automatically become a member of BCHS FFA.

FFA is a student-led organization, meaning activities and events are organized and carried out by students. Our Ag Advisors are here to guide and mentor, helping students develop premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. Through FFA, students gain communication and life skills that will prepare them for success in any path they choose.

FFA members are tomorrow's farmers, chemists, veterinarians, government officials, entrepreneurs, bankers, international business leaders, teachers, and professionals in countless other fields.

BCHS AG INSTRUCTORS / FFA ADVISORS

Dani Hastin
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AGRICULTURE STUDENT LINGO

TERMS YOU MAY HEAR AGRICULTURE STUDENTS USE

CDE (CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS) – FFA/Agriculture Competition Teams

LDE (LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS) - FFA Speaking Competitions

CREED –The FFA Creed is a 5 paragraph document taught to all members.

DEGREES – Awards that recognize students progress and success in Leadership, Ag Education, and their SAE.

Greenhand - 1st year members, Chapter- 2nd year members, State - 3rd & 4th year members, American - graduates

PROFICIENCY - Award recognition for students with an outstanding SAE project.

SECTION – Our South Valley FFA Section is made up of 14 different high schools: Centennial, BCHS, Frontier, Independence, Liberty, Ridgeview, West, Delano, El Tejon Middle, Frazier Mountain, Gorman Elementary, Shafter, Taft, and Wasco.

REGION - The San Joaquin Region consists of ___ chapters from Frazier Mountain to Firebaugh.

FFA MOTTO – Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to live, Living to Serve

FFA MISSION –Premier Leadership, Personal Growth, and Career Success

SAE- (SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE) – Individual learning that takes place outside the classroom and is agriculture based.

AET – The official record of a student's SAE, done online through www.theaet.com

PARENT BOOSTERS - A booster club that raises money to support BCHS FFA students.

Bakersfield Christian FFA Student Leadership

BCHS FFA events and activities are organized and executed by the FFA Officer Team and committee members. Any FFA member can become a member of an FFA committee. Eligible FFA members can run for office.

We have an Executive Committee (Chapter Officer Team), along with several special and standing FFA committees. Committees include Strengthening Ag, Growing Leaders, and Building Communities.

FFA advisors (teachers) advise and supervise student leaders and FFA members. Each April, Chapter Officer applications are made available to students who wish to serve as a Chapter FFA Officer.

2025–2026 Chapter Officer Team

President: Maddison Misuraca

Vice President: Tristan Leach

Secretary: Lynndsie Downing

Treasurer: Jillian Smith

Reporter: McCade Flanagan

Sentinel: Luke Fisher

Chaplain: Wyatt Wheeler

FFA Official Dress (OD)

As FFA members, we have the opportunity to impact many people who may or may not be familiar with the organization — community residents, business leaders, sponsors, guests, and parents. First impressions are crucial, and that includes the way we dress. All FFA members are required to wear **Official Dress** while participating in official activities.

Official Dress Includes:

- Black pants or skirt (ladies): Skirt must be at least knee-length, hemmed evenly across the bottom, with a slit no longer than 2 inches above the knee (excluding the kick pleat). Skirts are usually recommended for professional events such as conferences and speaking competitions.
- Black slacks or jeans (gentlemen): May be appropriate for traveling and outdoor activities.
- White collared dress shirt or blouse
- Official FFA blue scarf or tie
- Black dress shoes with a closed heel and toe (boots may or may not be recommended depending on the event)
- Skintone nylon hosiery or black socks
- Official FFA jacket zipped to the top

Where to Purchase:

Students can check out most of these items from the Agriculture Department for one- to two-time use. Lost or stolen items belonging to BCHS FFA must be replaced by the student.

Items may also be purchased at:

- Amazon, Walmart, Nordstrom, or other department stores (search “FFA uniform”)
- Official FFA Store: www.shopffa.org/products

The Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE)

SAE: Learning by Doing

A Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program is a key component of agricultural education. While working on an SAE project, students learn to apply the concepts and principles taught in their agriculture classes to real-world problems and scenarios.

A student selects an SAE project based on his or her interest in one of four areas:

- Research/Experimentation and Analysis – Conduct research and analyze information to discover new knowledge.
 - Ownership/Entrepreneurship – Plan and operate an agriculture-related business.
 - Placement/Work Experience – Work for a business or individual, either for pay or for the experience.
 - Grading guide can be found on Google Classroom or the AET
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FFA

This course serves as a starting point for all Agriculture pathways at BCHS. All agriculture classes follow the Three-Ring Model: FFA/ Leadership, Classroom/Laboratory and SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience (your project)). **Students enrolled in an Agriculture class are automatically enrolled into FFA membership.**

The California Association FFA is a high school youth leadership and career development organization that is a state association of the National FFA Organization. The California Association currently serves over 108,000 student members in 366 chapters, from urban schools in Los Angeles and the Bay Area to rural schools all across the state. The California FFA Association is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through Agricultural Education.

****Involvement in FFA activities is mandatory for our members. Each student is required to attend 4 FFA activities PER SEMESTER to receive full credit.**

Career or Leadership Development Events (CDE or LDE)

For students who ask their teachers, *"When will I ever use this in the real world?"* — Career Development Events (CDEs) and Leadership Development Events (LDEs) are the answer.

Since 1928, FFA has worked to create CDEs that demonstrate the meaningful connections between classroom instruction and real-life scenarios. CDEs build on what is learned in agricultural classes and through FFA. The events are designed to help prepare students for careers in agriculture.

Classroom instruction comes alive as students demonstrate their skills in a competitive setting. CDEs test the abilities of individuals and teams in over 30 major areas of agricultural instruction.

Events Members Can Participate In

Chapter, Sectional, & Regional Activities

- Chapter FFA Meetings
- Community Service
- Sectional Activity Nights
- Regional Meetings
- Kern County Fair
- Fundraisers

Speaking Contests (LDE's)

- Creed
- Impromptu
- Prepared Public Speaking
- Extemporaneous
- Job Interview
- Parliamentary Procedure

Career Development Contests

- Cooperative Marketing
- Best Informed Greenhand
- CA Water Quality

- Novice Record Book
- Banking
- Vet Science
- Small Engines

Conferences

- Greenhand Leadership (GLC) - 9th Grade
- Made for Excellence (MFE) - 10th Grade
- Advanced Leadership Academy (ALA) - 11th Grade
- CA State FFA Conference - All grade levels
- National Convention - Graduates
- Sacramento Leadership Experience (SLE) - 12th Grade
- Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) - 12th Grade

FFA Degrees

Greenhand Degree

The Greenhand Degree is for first-year (typically freshmen) high school students. Students will receive this degree in January at our award ceremony.

To earn the Greenhand Degree, members must have satisfactory plans for a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) and demonstrate knowledge of:

- The FFA Creed
- Code of Ethics
- Motto
- Salute
- Emblem
- Official Dress
- Important dates in FFA history
- Students must handwrite application and hand in to advisors. (No electronic handwriting accepted)

The Greenhand Degree pin is made of bronze, symbolizing strength and durability.

Chapter Degree

The Chapter Degree is the highest award a local FFA chapter can bestow upon its members. It is usually earned in the second year of agricultural education. Students will receive this degree in January at our award ceremony.

Requirements:

- Have a quality SAE
- Earned and invested \$150 or worked 45 unpaid hours outside of class
- Lead a 15-minute group discussion
- Maintain a good scholastic record
- Must have earned the Greenhand Degree
- Students must handwrite applications and hand in to advisors. (No electronic handwriting accepted)

The Chapter Degree pin is made of silver.

State FFA Degree

The State Degree is the highest award a state FFA association can bestow upon its members. For this degree students will be awarded their degree at a county award ceremony.

Requirements:

- Must have received the Chapter FFA Degree
- Be an active FFA member for at least three years
- Have an active SAE with:
 - Detailed records
 - \$1,000 earned/invested or 500 hours worked
- Give a 6-minute presentation on an agriculture or FFA-related topic
- Complete 25 hours of community service

American FFA Degree

The American FFA Degree is the highest honor any FFA member can receive. Less than 1% of all FFA members earn this degree. For this degree students will travel to Indianapolis, Indiana to receive their degree.

Requirements:

- Must have earned the State FFA Degree
- Students must inform advisors if they are planning to earn this degree

- Completed at least three years of agricultural classes
- Active FFA membership for at least three years
- Must have graduated high school one year prior to receiving the degree
- Have an ongoing SAE with:
 - \$10,000 earned/invested
- Complete 50 hours of community service

*Disclaimer: All degree applications are exempt from all school accommodations. If help is needed please contact your advisors.

BCHS FFA PARENT BOOSTERS CLUB

An FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapter helps rally the local community around agricultural education and FFA activities. These chapters also provide valuable support to FFA advisors by assisting with fundraising and coordinating activities for the local FFA chapter.

Our Parent Boosters Club meets once a month on campus to discuss the ongoing activities of our FFA chapter. The Boosters host two major fundraisers each year—Caesar's Dinners and our Annual Plowers Dinner. All proceeds from these events go directly to our students. Through these efforts, the Boosters help send students to conferences, cover fair expenses, and award over \$30,000 in scholarships to FFA members annually.

We highly encourage you to join us at our monthly meetings!

What Can Parents Do to Ensure Success in the BCHS Agriculture Program?

- Ask about your child's SAE: What are their goals? How many hours are they working? Are their record books up to date?
- Encourage your student to reach out to their agriculture teacher with any questions. Our Ag Advisors strongly promote student–advisor communication, as FFA and Agricultural Education are student-led organizations. If direct student communication does not resolve the issue, parents are encouraged to reach out to the agriculture teacher

Communicate with the agriculture teachers about any concerns or questions you may have.

- Keep FFA events on your family calendar.
- Encourage your child to attend FFA activities.
- Parents are also encouraged to attend family FFA activities.
- Encourage your child to compete in contests — no experience necessary.
- Return all permission slips so your child can attend field trips.
- Share agriculture-related newspaper or magazine articles, or other media with your child.
- Keep an eye out for emails and text messages about upcoming events and important dates.
- Encourage speaking and reading at home.
- Attend parent conferences.
- Join the Ag Boosters
- Encourage your child to apply for FFA Degrees.

SAMPLE OF AG DEPARTMENT SYLLABUS

Grading Policy:

Classroom work= 75% of grade

- Classwork - 10% (Listed as Classwork in Veracross)
- Responsibility - 5% (Listed as Daily in Veracross)
- Labs/Projects - 25% (Listed as Labs in Veracross)
- Tests/Quizzes - 25% (Listed as Tests in Veracross)

FFA (4 Activities per semester- Mandatory) **12.5%** of your grade- Listed as Other 1 in Veracross
SAE/Record Book 12.5% - Listed as Other 2 in Veracross

Gradebooks are updated weekly, with the exception of late work. Any late work will be posted after assignments that were turned in on time have been graded and entered. Any late work from an unexcused absence will have to wait until the following week to be posted, will be marked late in the gradebook and a deduction in points will be reflected.

1. **FFA Activities** and involvement is **mandatory** for this course. FFA comprises 12.5% of your total grade, per semester.

Activities include, but are not limited to the following items:

Chapter meetings/activities,

Fundraisers,

Committees,

FFA Community Service,

Field trips,

Competition teams,

Conferences, (GLC , ALA/MFE, SLE, WLC, State and National Conventions Sectional, State, and National activities.)

*All activities are listed in the Chapters POA (Program of Activities) and on the chapter website.
bakersfieldchristianffa.org*

Please note that most FFA activities are not during the school day. You may experience activities that occur after school, in the evenings, on weekends or on school vacations. (Weekends, school holiday activities are usually team competitions and conferences) Chapter Meetings are always scheduled on Thursdays at 6PM once a month. - See your Chapter POA for details.

You are required to attend **4 FFA Activities PER SEMESTER** to receive full credit. It is your responsibility to ensure you are completing this requirement. **NO exceptions or substitutions for these requirements will be made.** Remember that if you do not participate in FFA activities or complete a SAE project, the highest grade possible is 50% (F) and you will not be let back into the program for the remainder of your high school career.

2. **SAE Component is 12.5%** of your grade per semester. You are required to complete an SAE project and keep your record books up to date. Failure to do so could result in a loss of 12.5% of your grade. Freshman will complete a Foundational Project semester 1 in class.

Semester 2, students will be responsible for finding a new project on their own.

Students participating in a fair project are mandated to keep grades at a minimum of 2.0 in order to show at the fair. Failure to keep the minimum GPA will result in loss of privilege to show. All entries will be pulled from the fair. This is a National FFA requirement as well as school policy. Grade checks will be installed leading up to any major FFA event.

3. **Makeup work** is also your responsibility. If you are absent, then you must seek out what you have missed. Having excessive absences can and will impact your grade. If you have one *excused* absence you will have one day to make up the work and so on. If work is turned in late, without an excused absence, you will automatically receive a 10% reduction for every day it is late. If you are absent and miss a test, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to make an appointment to take the test before/after school. **Your test must be scheduled within 2 days of your return!**

4. **Labs: Labs can be made up for excused absences only.** Please keep in mind that if the lab uses perishable goods, there is a chance you might not be able to make up the original lab. An alternate assignment will be given to you with the same point value and topic. Labs are an integral part of this course! Failure to miss lab days can negatively affect your final grade as labs are 25% of your total grade.

5. **Supplies/Materials:** Pens, pencils, basic calculator, and folder.

6. **Extra Credit:** Due to the amount of work this class provides throughout the year, **NO extra credit will be given to increase your grade.** Please do not ask for extra credit. .

Field Trips and Competitions

Students will not be allowed to attend Field Trips and FFA Competitions if their current GPA is below a 2.0 or they have below a 70% in an Ag Class. Grade checks will be given out 2 weeks leading up to the event and will be due to Ms. Bayne or Mrs. Hastin 3 school days prior to leaving for the event. If your grade check does not indicate the above criteria the student will not be allowed to participate in the event and a phone call will be made to parents indicating as such.

Communication

Students are expected to communicate with Ms. Bayne if they need help, have questions, or are facing challenges related to the class. Open and respectful communication is essential for success. Mrs. Hastin is committed to supporting all students and will make herself available to those who reach out. Whether you need clarification on an assignment, extra time to complete work, or additional academic support, please don't hesitate to ask. Help is always available—you just need to ask for it.

Class Expectations and Rules

Students are expected to uphold the following standards at all times—both inside and outside the classroom:

1. Be Respectful

Treat others and their belongings with courtesy, maturity, and consideration. Cooperate with classmates and staff, raise your hand to speak, and ask for permission before moving around the room.

2. Academic Integrity

Cheating and plagiarizing will not be tolerated and result in a zero score. Cheating and plagiarism include but are not limited to:

- Copying text directly from a source without using quotation marks and proper citation.
- Paraphrasing someone else's ideas without giving credit.
- Submitting work completed by someone else.
- Using someone else's creative work (art, music, etc.) without permission or attribution.
- Failing to properly cite sources in any form of academic work.
- Collaborating on work when it is not permitted.
- Giving or receiving unauthorized help on assignments or exams.
- Using ChatGPT or any other AI to complete assignments, exams, labs, papers, etc.

3. Be Responsible

Arrive on time, be prepared, and ready to learn. Take initiative, maintain a positive attitude, stay attentive, and complete all assignments on time. Make up missed work promptly and use the restroom outside of class time.

4. Stay on Task

Engage in class activities, give your best effort, and avoid distracting others when finished. Listen actively, communicate respectfully, and demonstrate good citizenship.

5. Practice Safety

Follow all safety procedures. No horseplay or inappropriate behavior will be tolerated.

6. Limit Distractions

Keep all electronic devices silenced and out of sight unless otherwise instructed by Hastin. Improper use of phones will result in confiscation. *Note: No phones in class is a school-wide policy.*

7. Pursue Academic Excellence

Work to improve your academic performance. Complete quality work and stay on pace with the class.

8. Seek Support When Needed

Students requiring extra help will receive support tailored to their individual needs.

Contact Bayne to schedule a time for additional assistance.

9. **Dress Code Reminder**

Hats are not allowed in the classroom. This is also a school-wide rule.