

Denair Middle School

Student Handbook

2023-2024



“Home of the Coyotes”
#webleedpurple

DENAIR MIDDLE SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

At Denair Middle School, we provide a personalized learning experience for our students where relationships are our focus. We prepare our students with the skills to continue their education by encouraging and developing students' love of learning. Denair Middle School empowers all students through exemplary instruction and innovative programs.

COVID-19 Information

While COVID-19 was declared endemic by health officials in 2022, the Denair Unified School District Governing Board and Administration continue to monitor COVID conditions and health guidance published by the California Department of Public Health. Our highest priority is keeping our students and staff safe.

At this time, we anticipate that all DUSD schools will continue with full-time, in-person instruction for the 2023-24 school year. The first day of school is scheduled for August 9, 2023.

Families who are not comfortable with returning to campus should contact the Denair Charter Academy (DCA) school office to discuss long-term Independent Study options. Additionally, students who are in quarantine due to COVID should participate in short-term Independent Study in order to stay current with their studies.

Staff Directory

DMS OFFICE STAFF

Gabriela Sarmiento	Principal	gsarmiento@dusd.k12.ca.us
Rosaura Contreras	Counselor	rcontreras@dusd.k12.ca.us
Melissa Oei	Campus Supervisor	moei@dusd.k12.ca.us
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Terri Hodges	School Nurse	thodges@dusd.k12.ca.us
Chantrea Brown	Health Clerk	cbrown@dusd.k12.ca.us
Gayle Schell	Librarian	gschell@dusd.k12.ca.us

DMS TEACHING STAFF

Gabrielle Bennett	7 th /8 th ELA	gbennett@dusd.k12.ca.us
Lisa Brasil Mancebo	SDC/Resource	lbrasilmancebo@dusd.k12.ca.us
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Taylor Dykzeul	7 th /8 th History	tdykzeul@dusd.k12.ca.us
Kristen George	7 th /8 th Science	kgeorge@dusd.k12.ca.us
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Roxanna Lagos	8 th Math/AVID	rlagos@dusd.k12.ca.us
Luz Magdaleno	DLI History/ELA	
Clayton McDonald	CoEd P.E./Leadership	cmcdonald@dusd.k12.ca.us
Emma Mendes	6 th ELA/Math/Science	emendes@dusd.k12.ca.us
Edith Orozco	DLI/Spanish	eorozco@dusd.k12.ca.us
David Rodriguez	6 th Math/Science	droduiguez@dusd.k12.ca.us
Gavin Souza	6 th History/CoEd P.E.	gsouza@dusd.k12.ca.us
Steven Ward	7 th Math/STEM	

DMS SUPPORT STAFF

Kim Anderson	Food Service Coordinator	kanderson@dusd.k12.ca.us
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Cherish Griffis	Special Ed Paraeducator	cgriffis@dusd.k12.ca.us
Henry Johnson	Noon Aide	hjohnson@dusd.k12.ca.us
Carlos Mendoza	Intervention Paraeducator	cmendoza@dusd.k12.ca.us
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Margarita Vieyra	Custodian	mvieyra@dusd.k12.ca.us
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Lina Maria Villegas	Mental Health Clinician	lvillegas@dusd.k12.ca.us
Brent Webster	Custodian	bwebster@dusd.k12.ca.us



2023-2024 School Calendar

July 2023		January 2024 16 Days	
4	Holiday- Fourth of July	S	1
10-21	Summer Meal Service	M	2
19	School Office Staff Return	T	3
		W	4
		T	5
		F	6
		S	7
		S	8
		M	9
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		W	11
		T	12
		F	13
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Denair Middle School Bell Schedules 2023-2024

Regular Schedule

Period 1	8:30-9:20
Period 2	9:24-10:14
Period 3	10:18-11:08
Period 4	11:12-12:02
Lunch	12:02-12:33
Period 5	12:37-1:27
Period 6	1:31- 2:21
Period 7	2:25-3:15

Minimum Day/Collaborative Day

Period 1	8:30-9:02
Period 2	9:06-9:38
Period 3	9:42-10:14
Period 4	10:18-10:50
Period 5	10:54-11:26
Lunch	11:26-11:56
Period 6	12:00-12:32
Period 7	12:36-1:08

Rally Schedule

Period 1	8:30-9:15
Period 2	9:19-10:04
Period 3	10:08-10:53
Period 4	10:57-11:42
Flex/Rally	11:42-12:17
Lunch	12:17-12:48
Period 5	12:52-1:37
Period 6	1:41-2:26
Period 7	2:30-3:15

STUDENT INFORMATION

Knowledge of the Rules

Students at DMS are expected to know and obey the rules and regulations of the school (see Denair Unified School District Student Conduct Code Grades 6 - 12). It is the student's responsibility to know what is expected of them. A careful review of this handbook and the Student Conduct Code explains the expectations for all students.

School Hours

Students are under the authority of school officials and are responsible for obeying the school rules while at school, while at a school activity, while at lunch, and while going to or from school or a school activity.

Courteous Treatment of Others

Students are entitled to dignity, courtesy, and respect from others. Students also have a responsibility to treat others with courtesy and respect. This would include refraining from rowdy behavior, making rude or derogatory remarks, or otherwise interfering with the rights of others.

Behavior

A student's behavior may impact their ability to participate in extracurricular activities such as: dances, sports, and reward field trips. Behavior expectations and consequences will be outlined in an additional section of the student handbook. It is the philosophy of the faculty and administration of Denair Middle School that teachers have the right to teach and students have the right to learn. When problems occur, every reasonable effort will be made to rectify them to the mutual satisfaction of all concerned. Those who behave irresponsibly, however, must expect to be held accountable for their behavior. Students who repeatedly or seriously violate the rights of others will not be allowed to remain at Denair Middle School.

Success Cards

All faculty members will receive "Success" cards at the beginning of the school year, which they can distribute at any time they wish to students whom they believe best exemplify a "Commitment to Excellence" in the classroom. Students earning a success card may enter it into the grand prize drawing held at the quarterly rallies.

Daily Announcements

Daily announcements are made at the beginning of 1st period. Any individual or organization wishing to place an announcement in the daily bulletin must submit the information to the principal's secretary via email or in person by 4pm the day before the announcement is needed.

Dances

The Associated Student Body (ASB) and other organizations hold dances throughout the year and are open to DMS students only. Admission prices vary. Students who purchase student body cards will receive discounts to ASB sponsored dances. Dances are a privilege, not a right. The privilege may be taken away if a student's behavior merits such consequence. Students must present their current student body card upon entry. Dances are held in the **Coyote Center from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.** Students are not admitted later than 30 minutes after the dance begins, and are not released early without a parent present or prior written permission given by the parent. Students or groups that choose to not follow rules or directives given by supervisors are subject to removal

without refund and/or school consequences. All students must be facing each other while dancing. No exceptions. The school discipline policy and dress code will be enforced.

Library

The Library is open during school days. A quiet, productive atmosphere is expected.

Students must have a Student ID card in order to check out Library books.

Fines:

Lost Books	Full replacement price
Totally Damaged (not reusable)	Full replacement price
Water Damage	Half price not less than \$10.00
Minor Damages	\$5.00
Book Jackets & Lost Bar Codes	\$5.00 if removed from Library
Overdue Books	\$0.25 per day; per book or full replacement cost of the book

Technology Devices:

- Chromebooks are provided for all students.
- Students and parents must sign a Technology Use Agreement.
- Students and parents assume responsibility for the device they have checked out.
- An insurance policy is available for purchase.

Internet Usage:

- All students and their parent/guardian must sign an Acceptable Use Policy.
- Students must have an assignment from a teacher in order to use the internet.
- E-Mail and chat room usage, as well as inappropriate websites, are not permitted.
- The district monitors internet activity. Failure to follow the internet usage rules will result in loss of privilege.

Textbooks and Materials

All necessary texts and supplemental materials are provided through the classroom teachers. When a book is issued, please check it immediately for damage or marks. If such problems are detected, immediately return the book so a written record of the problem can be made.

- **Please protect these books at all times. Students and Families will be billed for the full replacement price if they are lost, stolen, or damaged.**

Fines:

Chromebooks	Full Price
Lost Books	Full Price
Totally Damaged Books/Chromebooks (not reusable)	Full Price
Water Damaged Books/Chromebooks	Full Price
Damaged Books/Textbooks (rebinding/minor)	\$12.00
Minor Damages (writing/drawing scribbling/defacing)	Half Price

Visitors

Visitors must check in at the DMS Office and obtain a visitor's pass before they can move about campus.

Lunch

School lunch is provided at no cost to students in the cafeteria for all students to enjoy. Students may choose to bring their lunch to school; a healthy lunch is recommended. DUSD also provides breakfast and an after school snack at no charge to the students. **All lunches being dropped off for students must be delivered to the office.** The office staff will deliver the items to the student. The office staff reserves the right to inspect any items dropped off for delivery to students. Any items found to be inappropriate will be removed and handled accordingly. Any food that is dropped off in the office must only be for an individual student. Food being dropped off for multiple students will not be allowed. Energy and/or sugary drinks are not allowed on school campus. The privilege of having fast food dropped off can be revoked at the discretion of the school administration.

Student ID Cards are distributed during the first quarter. Students must carry their ID cards at all times. ID cards will be used to check out books and for general identification purposes.

Cost of a replacement ID card is \$3.00 for the first one, \$5.00 for cards thereafter.

Associated Student Body

All Denair Middle School Students are eligible for membership in the Associated Student Body of Denair Middle School by simply purchasing a Student Body Sticker. The cost of the sticker is \$10.00 and will be available for purchase during Coyote Call and in the office thereafter. By purchasing an ASB sticker, students receive a discount on yearbooks, sporting events, dances, and clothing. No student will be denied membership due to financial hardship. If a student cannot afford an ASB sticker, please inform the Activities Director.

REASONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN STUDENT GOVERNMENT AND SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

- Develop new friendships.
- Make school more interesting.
- Facilitates tolerance and understanding of others.
- Teaches good sportsmanship.
- Gives students a voice.
- Creates greater interest in regular school activities.
- Increases self-confidence.
- Provides an opportunity to influence school policies and procedures.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Benevolent Bunch Club

This club hopes to encourage positivity throughout our school and community. The goal is to raise awareness on the importance of kindness towards peers, staff and community. Students will understand the impact that

kindness has on themselves and others. Students will demonstrate the goals through on-campus activities, community service work, and self reflection.

FFA

FFA is the national organization that makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. It is open to all students enrolled in an agricultural class.

Gardening Club

This club will engage students in gardening practices as they apply to biology, earth system, and engineering methods to promote campus beautification and planting management.

JR PHAST Club

The PHAST Club strives to educate students and their peers on the dangers of tobacco use. They also strive to counter pro-tobacco influences in our community.

Library Club

This club will help maintain the Denair Middle School Library with updated informational resources, supplies, and equipment. Also, students will have the option, if funds are available, to read books (vote yearly) as a group, or with young children at the elementary school. The club meets monthly, or every other month as needed. The club also fundraises for books, supplies, and other equipment, as well as helps to select new books to purchase for the library.

Softball Club

This club's purpose shall be to engage students in developing the necessary skills to succeed in a high school softball program. Students will have the opportunity to build skill together and play scrimmages against each other to aid them as they transition into a high school setting for the sport of softball.

Volleyball Club

This club's purpose shall be to engage students in developing the necessary skills to succeed in a high school volleyball program. Students will have the opportunity to build skill together and play scrimmages against each other to aid them as they transition into a high school setting for the sport of volleyball.

World Languages Club

The goal of the DMS World Languages Club is to enrich the personal lives of students through enhancing awareness, acceptance and appreciation of other cultural behaviors and mindsets of other cultures. Students will be exposed to different educational experiences to acquire an open mind regarding other cultural perspectives and cultures.

Yearbook

The DMS Yearbook is produced annually in conjunction with the Yearbook class. To ensure that all deadlines are met, students meet as needed before and after school.

Programs

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

AVID trains educators to use proven practices in order to prepare students for success in high school, college, and a career. AVID brings research-based strategies and curriculum to educational institutions in elementary, secondary, and higher education.

Dual Language Immersion Program (DLI)

The Dual Language Immersion Program is a way to learn academic content while acquiring another language at the same time. Students receive social studies and Spanish language arts instruction in the target language of Spanish. Students learn the concepts and skills for the subject area and develop the ability to read, write, speak, and listen in another language. The goals are for the students to develop literacy skills in both English and Spanish while attaining academic achievement and cultural sensitivity.

RTI/Multi-Tiered Systems of Support

Response to Intervention (RTI) is a multi-tier approach to the early identification and support of students with learning and behavior needs. The **RTI** process begins with high-quality instruction and universal screening of all children in the general education classroom. DMS uses the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores to place students in intervention. If a student scores below the 40th percentile in Reading or Math, they will be recommended for intervention. The DMS Intervention team reviews multiple measures such as grades, classroom data and NWEA MAP scores to determine if a student requires additional academic support.

STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics)

STEM is an elective class open to all students. This elective course allows students to develop their higher order thinking skills by accessing technology as well as completing hands-on projects.

Classes and Class Schedules

Changing Class Schedule

In order to maximize the continuity and consistency of students' school days, program changes are kept to a minimum and are allowed for academic or administrative reasons only. **No class changes are to be made after the first full week of school, unless approved by the administrator.** Class changes will not be made for teacher preference and elective choices are not guaranteed.

If a student's counselor approves a schedule change, the student will receive a notice to report to the counselor's office to pick up his or her new schedule. The student is responsible that all textbooks for the class(es) dropped are returned to the teacher.

Emergency Drills

State Law requires periodic fire drills, lockdown drills, disaster drills, and bus-evacuation drills. Students are expected to obey the instructions of administrators, teachers, supervisors, and/or bus drivers during these drills.

ATHLETIC POLICIES

Sportsmanship

The district is committed to providing students, coaches, and spectators a positive sportsman-like environment.

Sportsmanship involves: (1) Taking a loss or defeat without complaint, (2) Taking a victory without gloating, and (3) Treating opponents with fairness, courtesy and respect.

The following behavior is **unacceptable** at all school contests: (1) Berating an opponent's school or mascot, (2) Berating opposing players, (3) Obscene cheers or gestures, (4) Negative signs, (5) Painted faces, (6) Use of noisemakers, (7) Words or gestures of complaint about official's call, and (8) Obscene, vulgar or foul language.

Eligibility

To be eligible for participation in athletics at Denair Middle School, as mandated by the California Interscholastic Federation, a student must maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average ("C" average) and must be passing all classes. All graded classes shall count towards the determination of the grade point average. An "incomplete" grade will not be averaged. However, as the "incomplete" grade is changed to an academic grade eligibility will again be determined the Monday following the conclusion of the quarter. Students at Denair Middle School must be passing 100% of their classes with a "D" or higher to be eligible to practice and play. All coaches will be responsible for checking grades on a weekly basis.

Athletes must pass an annual physical examination by a school-approved physician prior to the season.

Dismissal From The Squad

It is the responsibility of the student, parent, and coach to monitor the athlete's eligibility. The Principal or designee may waive the consideration of incomplete grade for purpose of eligibility for cases of extreme and documented illness and will establish an academic probationary period for such students. The Principal or designee shall also consult with the student's counselor who will coordinate suggested program(s) of remediation that will assist the student in reversing their academic deficiency.

Athletes should feel free to choose any sport they want to participate in without undue pressure. Athletes are not allowed to participate in two sports during the same season, unless prior permission has been granted by the Administration, the Athletic Director, and both Head Coaches. Once the athlete begins official practice for a sport, he/she is expected to finish the season in that sport unless cut by the coach. Anyone cut from a squad may try out for another team during that season.

Anyone dropped from a squad for any reason other than being cut will be ineligible to participate in any other sport for the remainder of the season.

Anyone may transfer from one sport to another in the same season ONLY with the permission of the Athletic Director and the head coaches of the two squads involved. Anyone quitting a sport may not participate in another sport until the season is over.

Game Conduct

- Players are expected to conduct themselves in a respectable manner at all times.
- No foul or profane language at any time, as determined by the coach.

- No arguing with an official. If there is a question concerning the official's call or conduct, the coach will deal with it.
- Any team concerns should be first addressed with the team captains, followed by the coaching staff.
- The coach may hold a team meeting at any time to bring resolution to any conflict(s), as well as clarify any situation that may arise.
- Parent concerns will be addressed on campus, by appointment, with the Coach and Athletic Director. Parents, family members, or friends associated with a player are not to approach the coaching staff before, during, or after a game. Only authorized personnel are allowed on the field, court, or dugout during a game. Violators will be asked to leave the game and, depending on the severity, may be restricted from all Denair Middle School athletic events.

Disciplinary Policies

1. Any misconduct by a team member may result in suspension from the squad for an indefinite period by the coach. Campus, community, and classroom misconduct can result in suspension from the squad. An athlete can also be removed from the team for insubordination to any coach, lack of cooperation, or for the best interest of the squad.
2. If any athlete physically assaults a coach, game official or school official at or during an athletic contest, the athlete will be suspended from athletics for one calendar year from the date of the infraction. Other disciplinary action, such as expulsion, may also be pursued.
3. If any athlete actively competing in an athletic contest is involved in an altercation or is ejected from the contest as a result of that altercation, he or she will be suspended from the next contest--possibly more.
4. An altercation is any action outside of the normal conduct of an athletic contest by which a student athlete causes or attempts to cause physical injury to another or by which, in the judgment of a school or game official, could lead to another person's physical injury.
5. If any athlete leaves the bench/sidelines to go on the playing area during an altercation and, in the judgment of school officials, engages in behavior that serves to perpetuate the altercation, he or she will be suspended from the next game. Any athlete who willfully defies the order of a game or school official to remain on the bench/sideline area during an altercation will be suspended from the next contest.

<p>The consequences listed in the section "Disciplinary Policies" are the minimum disciplinary action that will take place. Additional disciplinary action may take place at the discretion of the school administration.</p>

Equipment

The coaching staff will issue all equipment. At no time will a player or student, other than a manager, be admitted to the equipment room unless under the direct supervision of the coach.

Any player who abuses equipment will be dealt with and shall be held financially responsible for unnecessary damage to equipment.

An athlete who loses school equipment will not receive an award or grade until the lost article is recovered or paid for in full. The school is not responsible for personal items brought on campus.

Transportation

Athletes must travel to and from contests in school-approved transportation provided for the team, unless permission is obtained from the administration (Board Policy 6143).

Parents have the option, after the contest, to transport **their child and their child ONLY** (unless prior approval has been granted via proper school documentation) home, after signing a release form, from the driver of the school vehicle or the coach.

ACADEMICS AND INSTRUCTION

Student Materials:

All students at DMS are recommended to have the following materials while at school. In the case of economic hardships, these items may be available in the school office for students in need :

1. Notebook paper - Each student should have a supply of three-hole, standard-ruled paper.
2. Writing Materials - Each student is expected to have at least two #2 pencils and an eraser. **Students should NOT bring permanent markers to school (i.e. Sharpie).** If required, teachers will provide these items for classroom use.
3. Physical Education Uniforms and Locks - A P.E. uniform is required of all students. DMS shirts, shorts, and sweats may be purchased through the Physical Education Department. Locks may also be purchased through the Physical Education Department. It is strongly recommended to use a lock purchased through the DMS physical education departments. Students who are not prepared with a uniform each day will be issued a clean loaner uniform and will follow responsibility consequences as outlined in the Physical Education Handbook.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and may result in a failing grade on a test, paper, or project. Disciplinary action will be administered by the teacher for the first offense. Flagrant or repeated incidents will be referred to the administration for appropriate action. Parents will be notified in writing of all incidents involving cheating.

GRADING POLICY

Class grades are determined by the teacher of record according to the grading criteria established by that department. The teacher will explain the criteria at the beginning of the course. Letter grades will reflect the following:

A	4 - Exemplary
B	3 - Proficiency
C	2 - Progressing
D	1 - Approaching
F	0 - Does not meet standard

INC Incomplete - to be replaced by the final mark later. An Incomplete that is not cleared within two weeks will become an F.

Report cards are mailed to parents approximately 10 days after the close of each quarter.

The only grades recorded on students' permanent transcripts are those which are awarded at the end of both semesters (January and June). However, the quarter grades (October and March) are taken into account in determining the final semester grade.

Students and parents will be notified whenever it becomes evident by the teacher that the student may fail. Normally the student and parents shall be notified by the midpoint of a grading period, except in those situations when there is a sudden decline in a student's performance later than the midpoint.

Aeries Online Grades

Parents/guardians and students may access the Aeries platform from any computer or mobile device. Aeries provides parents/guardians and students real-time access to academic grades, attendance, and discipline. Parents/guardians and students may receive information about grades, assignments, and progress by visiting the middle school website and clicking the link for Aeries. Parents/guardians will be registered and given login information upon registering for school. All students will be signed up for Aeries access.

HONOR ROLL

Honor Roll will be calculated and given on a Semester basis.

AWARDS

DMS prides itself on maintaining high academic standards and seeks ways to publicly recognize students who meet or exceed these standards. Academic awards are based upon semester grading periods. All students are eligible for a variety of awards which includes the following:

Academic Excellence: This honor is given to students who maintain a GPA of 4.0.

Principal's Honor Roll: This honor is given to students who maintain a GPA of 3.5 to 3.99.

Honor Roll: This honor is given to students who maintain a GPA of 3.0 to 3.49.

OTHER AWARDS

Students have the opportunity to receive other awards throughout the school year.

Perfect Attendance: The award of perfect attendance is given to a student that has not missed any class time for any reason. Any tardiness or missed class throughout the year will cause the student to miss perfect attendance eligibility.

HEALTH

Nurse/Office Visits

Except in the case of emergency, all students **must have a pass from their teacher** to visit the Nurse.

Communication with the middle school office is extremely important. No student will be allowed to leave school with another person (even a relative) unless that person is listed on the emergency form in the middle school office.

Medications

In compliance with Education Code Section 49423, no medication will be accepted or administered at school without meeting the following requirements:

- Physician and parent/guardian “Request For Administration Of Medication At School” form filled out completely, including both physician and parent signature. No medication will be administered without detailed physician instructions.
- Medication taken to school must be furnished in a pharmacy labeled bottle or in the original pharmacy labeled injectable medication kit.
- As a parent/guardian, you have the right to bring a medication to school and administer said medication to your child. If your child requires prescription medication, a doctor’s note will be required.

Insurance

Injury insurance is available to Denair Middle School students for a nominal cost through Myers-Stevens Company. Policies for school-time coverage and full-time coverage are both available. No other school insurance is provided to students for accidents, which may occur while at school or during a school activity. Check with the middle school office for detailed information brochures.

ATTENDANCE and DISCIPLINE

Section 35291 of the California Education Code requires that written communication is provided to continuing students at the beginning of the school year and to transfer students at the time of their enrollment at Denair Middle School regarding all attendance and discipline related policies and procedures. The following material is included in the DMS Student Handbook and DUSD Student Conduct Code Handbook as a means of fulfilling this requirement.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is important to succeed in your classes. Credit is often given for class participation because it promotes social and study skills, critical thinking skills, and teacher-student dialogue about the course content. Your teacher will explain his/her expectations about attendance and how it can affect your participation grade. State law requires students to attend school until they have graduated or are eighteen.

The following is a list of legally excused absences:

- Personal illness or injury
- Medical, dental, optometrical, or chiropractic services rendered
- Attendance at funeral of immediate family member
- Jury Duty
- Exclusion for failure to present evidence of immunizations
- Parent of the student is ill or has a medical appointment.

Missing school for any reason not listed above will be considered an unexcused absence/truancy.

Teachers are required by law to let students make up work for **excused** absences. Students with extended absences for illness usually are placed on home health study. See an administrator if you are in this situation. (Ed. Code 46010, 46300, 48205)

**STUDENTS WILL NOT RECEIVE MAKE UP WORK FOR
UNEXCUSED ABSENCES OR CUTS.**

Clearing Absences

Students should have their parents call the attendance office to verify all absences. **Please call 632-2510 each day they are absent.** Clearance must be a phone call by the legal guardian.

This must be done before class starts. If a student comes to get an Admission Slip during class time he or she will receive a tardy. False verification to clear an absence on behalf of a student either in writing or by phone will be dealt with from a disciplinary perspective. The absence will also be viewed as truancy.

Student Illness

All students are required to have a current Emergency Information Card completed by a parent/guardian and on file in the office. If you should become ill during the school day, you should report to the office after obtaining a pass from class. **Students may not leave campus for illness without first checking with the office.** Parents or the designated emergency contact will be notified by the office and will be asked to pick up ill students as soon as possible.

Unexcused Absences/Truant

Any absence that is not a legally excused absence will be an unexcused absence. Students shall be classified as truant if absent from school without a valid excuse three full days in one school year, or tardy or absent for more than any 30-minute period during the school day without a valid excuse on three occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof (Education Code 48260).

5-Day Drop Policy

Students are discouraged from taking extended leave from school. If a student accumulates five consecutive days of unexcused absences without any communication from legal guardian, he/she will be dropped from Denair Middle School.

Leaving Class

Students may only leave class with the teacher's permission. Students leaving class without permission or who go somewhere other than where they received permission to go, will be considered to have "cut" (unexcused

absence) that class and will receive significant consequences at the administrator or campus supervisor's discretion.

More than 30 minutes late to class-Unexcused Absences/Cuts:

Students who are habitually tardy will be recommended to the School Attendance Review Board.

**STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO REPORT TO EVERY PERIOD
ON TIME.**

Detention

Detention is assigned in an effort to teach students and help them improve their behavior. Denair Middle School runs a formal School Detention Center from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. DMS follows all district Board policies; please also refer to the District Handbook.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

Discipline Philosophy

It is the philosophy of the faculty and administration of Denair Middle School that teachers have the right to teach and students have the right to learn. If a student's behavior impacts their ability to learn or impacts the ability of others to learn, consequences are in place to help students learn what is expected from them.

Classroom Hierarchy of Consequences (each step is treated as its own individual consequence)

1st consequence:	Verbal Warning
2 nd consequences:	30 Minute After School Detention
3 rd consequence:	60 Minute After School Detention
4 th offense:	Office Referral

Office

(in a 20 day period)

- 1st Consequence: Parent Conference with Administration and Behavior Contract Signed
- 2nd Consequence: Parent Conference with Administration and Student + Saturday School
- 3rd: Parent Contact by Administration and 1 day Out of School Suspension
- 4th: Parent Contact by Administration and 2 day Out of School Suspension
- 5th: Parent Contact by Administration and 3 day Out of School Suspension

Please see the District Handbook for Suspension Information

During suspension the student may not be on any campus of the Denair Unified School District at any time and may not attend any school-sponsored activities.
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Overt Affection

A middle school campus is not the place for overt displays of physical affection between students. Students at Denair Middle School are expected to demonstrate appropriate restraint. Those who choose not to follow this rule will have their parents notified of this specific type of behavior. Continued displays of “overt affection” will be considered an act of defiance.

Defiance

Defiance is the refusal to obey authority. Students at Denair Middle School who defy any member of the school staff may receive consequences. The teachers and other members of the staff are required by district policy and state law to provide proper supervision over students. It is essential, therefore, that students adhere to the school rules. If students feel there is an unresolved issue, they should speak with the staff member, counselor, or administrator to resolve the issue.

Dress Regulations

The Board of Education has determined that a student may not remain at school or at a school function dressed in a manner that creates a safety hazard for said student or for other students at school, and/or when the dress constitutes a serious and unnecessary distraction to the learning process or tends to disrupt campus order.

Student Appearance: Students are expected to keep themselves well groomed and neatly dressed at all times. Any form of dress or appearance that is distracting or disruptive and detrimental to the purpose or conduct of school will not be permitted. Remember, school is your workplace; come dressed appropriately for the job.

Any violation of the dress code will result in a warning to the student. Students may be sent home to dress properly or change into appropriate attire at school. Continual infractions will result in other alternative consequences and/or suspension for defiance of authority (Education Code 48900 (k)).

Parents are asked to ensure that their students follow the **dress code** outlined below:

- 1) Students must dress appropriately for educational activities in which they will participate so as not to endanger their health, safety or welfare.
- 2) Students must be cleanly dressed so as not to promote unhealthy or unsanitary conditions.
- 3) Skirts, dresses, and shorts must be mid thigh length or longer. Skirts and dresses should not ride up when walking. Tops must cover the short, skirt or pants waistline; the abdomen or back may not be exposed, whether a student is in a standing or sitting position. Clothing must cover the chest and undergarments at all times.
- 4) Pants and shorts must fit at the waist, hips, crotch, and thighs. Belts must be in loops.
- 5) Students shall not wear attire that advocates, advertises, denotes (e.g., names, colors, symbols, numerals, etc.) or is recognized as gang affiliation or activity.
- 6) Students shall not dress in an obscene manner or display obscene material that portrays sexual content, suggestive, derogatory, violent, morbid or insulting pictures or writing or references to drugs, advertisements for alcohol or tobacco, or the companies that produce these items.
- 7) Students shall not display any material which is libelous or slanderous.
- 8) Students shall not display any material which incites students as to create a clear and present danger or the commission of unlawful acts on school premises or the violation of school policies and rules.
- 9) Students shall not wear chains or any kind such as wallet safeguards and/or chain chokers, nor wear metal stud belts, wristbands, or chokers. Any items worn as accessories including safety pins and items with spikes may not be worn.
- 10) Shoes must be worn at all times; **slippers and backless shoes are not permitted.**
- 11) Non-prescription sunglasses may not be worn indoors.
- 12) Hats and hoods are to be removed when indoors.

Sexual Harassment

The Governing Board prohibits unlawful sexual harassment. Any student who engages in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action and/or expulsion. Any student who feels that he or she is being harassed should immediately contact the administration.

Prohibited Items

Electronic signaling devices, laser lights, and any other item a school administrator deems to be disruptive to the educational process shall be subject to consequences unless the student has obtained prior written permission from an administrator to possess the item.

Other prohibited items include but are not limited to:

- chewing gum;
- caffeinated and sugary beverages;
- permanent markers, unless deemed necessary by the classroom teacher;
- the use of bluetooth headphones, unless deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher during independent work time.

Skateboards/Roller blades/Bicycles

Skateboards, scooters, roller blades/roller skates, and bicycle riding is not permitted on campus during school hours. Skateboards are to be checked in at the office upon arrival at school.

Tobacco

Students are not permitted to either smoke or be in possession of cigarettes or any other form of tobacco and/or substances which contain nicotine while at school or a school sponsored activity. Violation of this rule will result in disciplinary action. *All look-alike and imitation substances/devices will be treated as being in possession of the real substance.

Closed Campus

Students must remain on campus until their school day is completed. School is in session from 8:30 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. Monday thru Friday. On minimum days school is in session from 8:30 a.m. until 1:08 p.m., please reference the academic calendar for these dates.

Cell Phone Policy

Denair Middle School's goal is to ensure that 100% of our student population is academically engaged 100% of the day while still being able to communicate in a neutral and/or positive conversation with peers, family and teachers.

The following clearly outlines the 2023/2024 Cell Phone Policy:

- A DMS Cell Phone Agreement must be on file in the school office.
- Phones, smart watches, and bluetooth headphones may be used before or after school.
- Phones, smart watches, and bluetooth headphones must be silenced during class unless otherwise stated by the classroom teacher for academic purposes.

If a student is using their cell phone or smart watch in a way that abuses safety or privacy it will be immediately confiscated and consequences will be administered accordingly. When a cell phone is confiscated, they must be picked up at the end of the instructional day by the student and/or parent/legal guardian per administration approval.

PROMOTION ACTIVITIES (8th grade students only)

Denair Middle School certificates are awarded to eighth grade students upon the satisfactory completion of the requirements of the State Board of Education, the Stanislaus County Department of Education, and the Denair

Unified School District's Governing Board of Trustees. The awarding of a certificate should in no way be construed as automatic. A student must show genuine effort to receive a certificate. "Genuine effort" is defined as maintaining an accumulative GPA of a minimum of 2.0, not receiving more than three failing grades in all grading periods combined, having no more than five days of suspension in the eighth grade in all grading periods combined. A promotion ceremony will be scheduled at the end of the year for eighth grade students who have met the required participation criteria. There is an appeal process for those students who do not meet the above requirements. Please see Board Policy on the DUSD website for further details.

Promotion Ceremony Attire: Students must wear graduation gowns. Clothes worn underneath the gowns are to follow the DMS Dress Code.

Sixth Grade Outdoor Education:

Sixth grade students will have the opportunity to attend Outdoor Education at Foothill Horizons near Sonora. Students receive instruction in environmental education, forestry, natural science and biological science. Dates of attendance to be determined. More information will be available through the sixth grade teaching staff.

Lost and Found:

The Lost and Found is located in the Physical Education locker rooms and in the school's main office. Unclaimed items will be donated to a charitable organization at the end of the year. **It is recommended that students mark their name on all personal items.**

Parent Participation Opportunities:

DMS encourages parents to be active participants in their child's education. There are a number of ways that parents can be involved on campus. All volunteers for events that involve students must complete a district volunteer packet. Fingerprints may be required for certain events. Check with the office for more details.

- School Site Council (SSC)
- Denair English Learner Advisory Council (DELAC)
- Chaperones (trips, dances)-requires district volunteer packet/fingerprinting
- Classroom volunteer (teacher and Principal approval) – requires district volunteer packet/ fingerprinting
- Cafecito-Weekly Coffee Hour every Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
- LCAP Stakeholder Meetings
- Parents Supporting Education (PSE)



Denair Middle School Progression of Consequences

The following is an outline of the progressive discipline steps students will be subjected to if their behavior merits such:

2 hours of detention accrued:

Behavior Contract Conference- Student meets with school counselor/campus supervisor/behavior intervention support staff or school principal and is notified of possible upcoming consequences should behaviors continue. Also, student will possibly be counseled to see if there are any issues influencing behavior. Student signs acknowledgment of awareness of future consequences during the conference.

5 hours of detention accrued: 1 Day of In School Suspension (will count as 5 hours of Detention) + student may not attend an extra-curricular sporting event/dance until In School Suspension or Detention Hours are served.

8 hours of detention accrued: Saturday School (will count as 4 hours of Detention) + student may not attend an extra-curricular sporting event/dance until Saturday School and remaining Detention Hours are served.

10 hours of detention accrued in a quarter and consecutive quarters: Student may be ineligible for end-of-year reward trips

*If a student cuts any of their assigned detention time, they will not be permitted to attend any extra-curricular games or sporting events until their Detention Hours are served.



Denair Middle School Extra-Curricular Eligibility Guidelines

End of the Year Reward Trips/Sports Teams Eligibility/Attending Dances:

Denair Middle School may hold an end of the year trip for each grade level and/or clubs. Participation should not be construed as automatic. Students must maintain the following ***Student Participation Standards:***

- Have no more than 5 hours of detention per Quarter
- Maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher ***and*** no more than one (1) “F” in a Quarter
- Have no more than five (5) days of suspension in the school year (this includes in-school suspension for behavior infractions)

If a behavior pattern exists from Quarter to Quarter, this may impact eligibility. There will be no refunds for students that become disqualified after the sale of the tickets. Teacher and/or Principal discretion will be used in cases where a student has shown improvement in the areas of deficiency. Students will be asked to write a request for special consideration.

Report to Parents:

All rules and regulations have been approved by the Denair Unified School District Board of Trustees as well as reflect the Education Code of California and the policies of the Denair Unified School District.

Parent/Guardian Signature Form

Please complete this form by signing in the space indicated, tear it out from the handbook and return it to school with your student. Students will return this form to their first period teacher.

I have read the entire DMS handbook and have discussed its contents with my child.

I have also explained to my child that I will cooperate with the school by:

1. Recognizing achievements and awards.
2. Communicating with teachers and the counselor concerning academic and behavioral progress.
3. Following through at home when my student breaks school rules and receives consequences.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Email Address _____

Student's First Period Teacher _____