

Denair Middle School

Student Handbook

2026-2027



“Home of the Coyotes”

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.



3701 Lester Road
Denair, CA 95316
(209) 632-2510

<https://dms.denairusd.org/>

Staff Directory

OFFICE STAFF

Gabriela Sarmiento
Rosaura Contreras
Melissa Oei
Kathy Wade
Chantrea Brown
Elvia Brizuela
Veronica Markle
Alyce Ford
Lina Maria Mateus

Principal
Counselor/MTSS Coordinator
Campus Supervisor II
Principal's Secretary
Attendance Secretary
Bilingual Secretary
Health Clerk
School Nurse
Mental Health Clinician

gsarmiento@dusd.k12.ca.us
rcontreras@dusd.k12.ca.us
moei@dusd.k12.ca.us
kwade@dusd.k12.ca.us
cbrown@dusd.k12.ca.us
ebrizuela@dusd.k12.ca.us
vmarkle@dusd.k12.ca.us
aford@dusd.k12.ca.us
lmateus@dusd.k12.ca.us

PROGRAM SUPPORT STAFF

Gavin Souza
Clayton McDonald
David Rodriguez

Athletic Director
ASB Activities Director
Outdoor Education Lead

gsouza@dusd.k12.ca.us
cmcdonald@dusd.k12.ca.us
drodriguez@dusd.k12.ca.us

Zenaida Moreno
Anajanzy Montoya
Amanda Silva

ELOP & Special Programs Manager
Learning Director & ELD Coordinator
Sr. Director of Student Support Services

zmoreno@dusd.k12.ca.us
amontoya@dusd.k12.ca.us
asilva@dusd.k12.ca.us

Kim Fuentez
Mark Hodges

Food Service Manager
Director of FCMOT

kfuentez@dusd.k12.ca.us
mhodges@dusd.k12.ca.us



Denair Middle School Bell Schedules 2026-2027

Regular Schedule

ELOP	7:30-8:15
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
ELOP	3:30-4:30

Minimum Day/Collaborative Day

ELOP	7:30-8:15
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
ELOP	1:15-4:30

Rally Schedule

ELOP	7:30-8:15
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
ELOP	3:30-4:30

Assembly/Activity Day Schedule

ELOP	7:30-8:15
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
Activity	1:15-3:15
ELOP	3:30-4:30

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.

Positive Student Behavior Supports, Involvement and Incentives

All faculty members will have access to **5-Star Students**, a web-based platform available to help educators and administrators promote student involvement in school activities and events. The platform allows us to use web, mobile and barcode technology to keep track of student participation, manage school-wide incentive programs and recognize students for their involvement, commitment to excellence in the classroom and positive behavior. Students will earn points which can then be used to purchase prizes and rewards.

Daily Announcements

Daily announcements are made at the beginning of 2nd 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 associated student body (ASB) 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 6pm - 8pm**. 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 leaving the dance may not re-enter. Students or groups that choose to not follow rules or directives given by supervisors are subject to removal without refund. The school dress code and discipline policy will be enforced, including the DMS cell phone policy.

Students must attend all class periods on the day of a dance in order to attend, unless prior clearance is obtained by the administration (Exception: Pre-scheduled medical or dental appointments with a doctor’s note clearing the absence).

Library

The Library is open during school days and students can check out books on Tuesdays and Thursday when the librarian is present or on scheduled library days. A quiet, productive atmosphere is expected at all times.

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 via Aeries at the time of registration.
- Students **must not** share chromebooks or passwords with other students.
- 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.
- 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

During school hours, authorized visitors must check in at the DMS Office with a valid ID and obtain a visitor's pass before they can move about on campus. DMS does not allow student visitors on campus during the school day.

Breakfast, Lunch and Supper

School breakfast, lunch and supper is provided at no cost to students in the cafeteria for all students to enjoy. The food services department works very hard to provide nutritious meals that taste good. Students may choose to bring their lunch to school. We encourage students to pack a healthy breakfast, lunch or supper for school.

All lunches being dropped off for students must be delivered to the office by the parent or a listed emergency contact only. Doordash, UberEats and meal delivery services are not permitted. 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. The privilege of having fast food dropped off can be revoked at the discretion of the school administration.

Outside Drinks

Energy drinks, caffeinated drinks, sodas, and glass bottles are never allowed on school campus.

Associated Student Body

All Denair Middle School Students are eligible for membership in the Associated Student Body of Denair Middle School by simply purchasing an Associate 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, and dances. No student will be denied ASB membership due to financial hardship.

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 \$5.00 for the first one, \$7.00 for cards thereafter.

REASONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN STUDENT GOVERNMENT AND SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

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

STUDENT CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

**** All clubs and organizations will be available based on staffing, student interest, and space availability.**

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.

Friday Night Live (FNL)

Friday Night Live is a mentorship program providing DMS students the opportunity to be mentored by DHS students. All students interested are required to complete the FNL application to be considered for participation.

JV PHAST Club

The Jv 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.

ROX

The Ruling our Experiences program is a social emotional learning group for girls that teaches girls to use their voice, rule their experiences and embrace their confidence.

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.

STUDENT ELECTIVE CLASSES & 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.

Learn more about AVID here: <https://explore.avid.org/what-avid-is/>

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.

Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP)

“Expanded learning” means before school, after school, summer, or intersession learning programs that focus on developing the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs and interests of students. ELOP serves as a complement to the regular classroom instruction provided in general education.

By law, priority for the Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELOP) will be given to students who are designated English Language Learners (EL), in Foster care, come from low income households, and did not meet English Language Arts and Math standards last year.

Leadership

The DMS Leadership class is designed for students who share a common vision towards supporting the student body and building school spirit. Students will be exposed to and learn a variety of soft skills including: communication, collaboration with peers and adults, and contributing to a team. Students are expected to demonstrate leadership attributes such as: positive attitude, productive work ethic, and the willingness to be involved in school events. With adult guidance, students in the Leadership class will be expected to plan and execute a variety of school events such as: school dances, school rallies, lunchtime activities, and school fundraisers.

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 district iReady scores to place students in intervention. If a student's iReady scores indicate that they are two or more grades below grade level in Reading or Math, they may be recommended for intervention. The DMS Intervention team reviews multiple additional measures such as grades, classroom data, and iReady scores to determine if a student requires additional academic support. SST meetings may be held to determine how to best support students in the classroom and beyond.

STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics)

STEM is an elective class open to 7th and 8th grade students. This elective course allows students to develop their higher order thinking skills by accessing technology as well as completing hands-on projects.

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.

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 week of school, unless approved by the administrator.** Class change requests must be made in writing and with parent approval. 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

MEDICAL: Athletes must pass an annual physical examination by a school-approved physician prior to the season. Students must have all clearances completed **BY THE FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE** (Physical Clearance, Proof of Insurance, Signed Athletic Agreement, Emergency Information card).

ACADEMIC: 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 regular basis.

BEHAVIOR: Any athlete receiving 2.5 hours of detention in any sports season will be removed from the team. Any athlete receiving 5 or more hours detention during the school year will forfeit all opportunities to play any DMS sport for the remainder of the school year.

ATTENDANCE: Students must attend all class periods on the day of a game in order to play in the game unless cleared by the administration. (Exception: Pre-scheduled medical or dental appointment with doctor’s note). Students must attend all class periods in order to practice unless cleared by the administration. (Exceptions: Pre-scheduled medical or dental appointment with doctor’s note).

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.

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.

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 shall 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. Students are required to use a lock purchased through the DMS physical education department. 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. Parents are asked not to “drop off” forgotten P.E. uniforms as this creates a disruption to the learning environment.

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 within 5 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 be at risk of failing. Normally the student and parents shall be notified by the midpoint of a grading period (via a progress report), except in those situations when there is a sudden decline in a student's performance later than the midpoint. Both students and parents are encouraged to monitor grades via the Aeries platform.

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 on a Semester basis and students will be recognized at the annual Awards Assembly in the spring.**

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. Excessive absences may affect student social/study skills, critical thinking skills, and teacher-student dialogue about the course content. 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 an email or 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 more than 30 minutes late to class will be issued an unexcused absence and will be considered to have "cut" that class. Students will receive significant consequences at the administrator or campus supervisor's discretion and may be recommended to the School Attendance Review Board.

The following consequences will be applied:

- First Incident: 30 Minute Detention + Conference with student + Parent Letter (1st Tardy Notice)
- Second Incident: 1 Hour Detention + Conference with student + Parent Letter (2nd Tardy Notice)
- Third Incident: 2 Hour Detention + Conference with student + Parent Letter (3rd Tardy Notice)
- Fourth Incident: Saturday School + SART Meeting

- Fifth Incident: 1-3 day(s) In-School Suspension + Parent Contact + DART Referral
- Repeated Offenses: 3-5 days In-School Suspension + Parent Contact + SARB Referral

Unexcused Tardies

If a student is not in the classroom getting seated when the bell is ringing, the student is tardy. This is the minimum standard. Tardies are disruptive for the teacher and other students in the class. When students are late, they miss initial instruction and assignments.

Tardies are cumulative throughout the day. There are no consequences for the first 2 tardies, after that the following consequences apply (per semester):

- Third Tardy: Verbal Warning/Conference with Student by Campus Supervisor
- Tardy #4-7: 30 Minute Detention + Parent Contact (for each tardy)
- Tardy #8+: Attendance Review for SART/ DART/SARB referrals + Further disciplinary action at the administrator or campus supervisor's discretion, including but not limited to 30 minute detention and/or loss of participation in extracurricular activities (includes sports, games, rallies, dances, etc).

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO REPORT TO EVERY PERIOD ON TIME.

Detention

Detention is assigned in an effort to redirect undesirable student behavior. Denair Middle School runs a formal school detention on school attendance days during lunch from 12:02-12:32 pm and after school from 3:30 - 4:00p.m. Monday-Friday. DMS follows all district Board policies; please also refer to the District Handbook.

**** 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.**

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 Behavior Hierarchy of Consequences

**** Each step is treated as its own individual consequence and resets daily and after each period.**

- Behavior Level 1: Verbal Warning/Re-direct
- Behavior Level 2: 30 Minute Detention
- Behavior Level 3: 60 Minute Detention
- Behavior Level 4: Office Referral - School administration will determine the appropriate consequence based on the severity of the behavior.

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 Consequence: Parent Contact by Administration and 1 day Out of School Suspension
- 4th Consequence: Parent Contact by Administration and 2 day Out of School Suspension
- 5th Consequence: 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.

Hands Off Policy/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 at all times and adhere to a “Hands Off” policy at all times. Those who choose not to follow this rule will have their parents notified of this specific type of behavior. Continued displays of “overt affection” and or “hands on” activities 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)).

Students must dress appropriately for educational activities in which they will participate so as not to endanger their health, safety or welfare. Students must be cleanly dressed so as not to promote unhealthy or unsanitary conditions. Parents are asked to ensure that their students follow the dress code outlined below:

DMS Students are Allowed to Wear the Following:

- Clothing that is neat, clean, and provides full coverage. Tops that fully cover the chest, back, and torso, and bottoms (such as pants, sweats, shorts, skirts, or dresses) that fit appropriately.
 - Shorts must cover the entire upper thigh and completely conceal the buttocks.
 - Skirts and dresses at least mid-thigh in length. Clothing should not ride up while walking.
 - Bottoms with rips (pants, shorts, skirts, etc.) must not have rips higher than the upper thigh. If rips are higher than the upper thigh, additional clothing must be worn underneath to cover the skin.
 - All tops must have straps, and the back must not be fully exposed. When standing, tops must not sit higher than one inch above the waistline of pants, skirts, or shorts.
- Hoodies, hats, and headgear (including beanies) may be worn on campus. However, all hats, hoods, and headgear must be removed or adjusted inside the classroom at the teacher's or staff member's request.
- Shoes must be worn at all times. Students may wear casual, backless shoes that offer support (such as Crocs or Birkenstocks) to class. However, they must bring or wear athletic shoes with a secured back to participate safely in PE and recreational sports/games at any time during the school day (including play before school, during lunchtime, and after school).

DMS Students are NOT Allowed to Wear the Following:

- Masks.
- Blankets.
- Bandanas and hair nets.
- Spandex bicycle shorts.
- Pajama tops and/or bottoms.
- Slippers, slides, and flip flops.
- Clothing that is sheer or see-through.
- Non-prescription sunglasses may not be worn indoors.
- Visible undergarments including, but not limited to: underwear, bralettes, bandeau tops, sports bras, tube tops, boxers, briefs, undershirts, and straps exposed by backless shirts.
- Clothing that reveals undergarments or private areas, including during normal movement such as sitting, bending, reaching, or walking is prohibited.
- Sagging or excessively baggy pants and shorts are prohibited. Clothing must fit properly at the waist or hips, and belts must be kept in loops.
- Any material that incites students to commit unlawful acts on school premises, violate school policies, or create a clear and present danger is prohibited.
- Clothing, accessories, or personal items are prohibited if they display images or language that are disruptive, obscene, suggestive, derogatory, violent, morbid, insulting, libelous, or slanderous. This includes any sexual content, as well as references to or advertisements for tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or the companies that produce them.
- Chains of any kind, including wallet safeguards and chain chokers, are prohibited. Additionally, students may not wear metal-studded or spiked belts, wristbands, chokers, or safety pins as accessories.
- Any clothing, headwear, or accessories that advocate, advertise, or denote gang affiliation or activity are prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Specific names, colors, symbols, or numerals recognized as gang identifiers.
 - Solid red or blue items, or any other colors determined by administration to be associated with gang activity.

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 headphones, including 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

At Denair Middle School, we understand the importance of responsible cell phone use for safety and communication. In accordance with state legislation, DMS allows students to carry cell phones on campus with the following expectations and guidelines in place.

Cell Phone Registration: Students may only bring cellphones to school **after** a signed copy of the Smart Phone & Mobile Communication Device Agreement is submitted to the DMS office.

Off During School Day: Smart phones and mobile communication devices shall be in backpacks, turned off or in Do Not Disturb (or equivalent) mode during the school day. The school day includes Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) time.

Academic Use Only (with Permission): Smart phones and mobile communication devices may be used during school hours only with the express permission of a teacher or staff member for approved academic purposes.

Before and After School Use: Students not attending ELOP before and after school, may use their smart phones and mobile communication devices before and after school hours. However, lending devices to others,

making non-emergency calls or sending non-emergency text messages is not permitted.

Student Responsibility: Students are solely responsible for the safekeeping of their smart phones and mobile communication devices. DMS will not be held liable for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

Prohibited Use: Smart phones and mobile communication devices are not to be used for:

- Browsing, sharing, and posting on social media.
- Taking photos and/or recording videos of others.
 - Students enrolled in Leadership, Yearbook, Journalism, Sports Management classes, and specific clubs may be authorized to take photos and/or record videos for school approved activities as directed by staff.
- Calling and texting parents during school hours without the consent of staff and for non-emergency circumstances. Students and parents are both asked to communicate specific needs via the DMS office staff.
- Other activities deemed disruptive to the learning environment.

Please note: Both California law and California Education Code prohibit recording others without their knowledge and consent. Students violating this school rule and state law can be subject to both school disciplinary action as well as civil consequences.

Any violation of this agreement will result in the following consequences:

- **1st Offense:** Confiscation of the mobile communication device, student conference with Campus Supervisor, cell phone returned to student at the end of the school day AND a 30 minute detention.
- **2nd Offense:** Confiscation of the mobile communication device, parent conference with Campus Supervisor, cell phone returned to student at the end of the school day AND a 60 minute detention.
- **3rd Offense:** Confiscation of the mobile communication device, parent notified to pick up the student cell phone, a 60 minute detention AND a reflective writing assignment.
- **4+ Offenses:** For repeated violations or more serious offenses, further disciplinary action may be taken, as outlined in the DMS/District Handbook, which may include daily student check-in of mobile communication device with Campus Supervisor/office staff, suspension or expulsion.

By adhering to these guidelines, we can ensure a safe and productive learning environment for all students. We believe that responsible use of smart phones and mobile communication devices can be a valuable tool for learning and communication. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us promote responsible use at Denair Middle School.

Please Note: Parents and guardians are encouraged to discuss these guidelines with their students to ensure they understand the expectations for smart phone and mobile communication device use at Denair Middle School.

If a student is using their mobile communication device in a way that abuses safety or privacy it will be immediately confiscated and consequences will be administered accordingly. When a cell phone or smart watch is confiscated, it 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 promotion 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 promotion 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 (in Quarters 1-3), and having no more than five days of suspension in the eighth grade.

A promotion ceremony will be held on May 27, 2027 at 7p.m. at Jack Lytton Stadium for eighth grade students who have met the required participation criteria. Academic eligibility for participation in eighth grade promotion will be determined following the 3rd Quarter grading period, which is March 11, 2027.

Students not eligible to participate in the 8th grade promotion ceremony will be notified by March 25, 2027. Unlike grades, behavior standards are monitored continuously; a student can lose eligibility immediately if they exceed behavior limits at any time. 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 and clothes worn underneath the gowns are to follow the DMS Dress Code. However, hoodies, hats, and headgear (including beanies) may NOT be worn for this occasion.

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 and Parent Information Nights.

Lost and Found

The Lost and Found is located in the Coyote Center. Unclaimed items will be donated to the DUSD Coyote Closet or 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.

- Cafecito (Coffee Hour)
- School Site Council (SSC)
- Parents Supporting Education (PSE)
- 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
- LCAP Stakeholder Meetings



Denair Middle School Extracurricular Eligibility Guidelines

Includes: Extracurricular Trips, Attending Games, Rallies, Dances, & Reward Activities

Denair Middle School may hold an end-of-the-year reward trip for each grade level and/or club; however, participation is a privilege, not a right. To participate in any extracurricular activities, students must meet the following academic and behavior standards:

- **Academics:** Maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher and no more than one "F" per grading period.
- **Quarterly Behavior Limits:** No more than 5 unexcused tardies, 3 hours of detention, or 1 day of suspension (including in-school suspension).
- **Yearly Behavior Limits:** No more than 15 total unexcused tardies, 8 total hours of detention, or 5 total days of suspension (including in-school suspension) for the entire school year.

Academic and behavior eligibility is evaluated at the end of each grading period, giving students a chance to regain eligibility for the next quarter. All students start the school year academically eligible until the First Quarter grading period is completed. Unlike grades, behavior standards are monitored continuously; a student can lose eligibility immediately if they exceed behavior limits.

Grading periods are as follows:

First Quarter:	10/08/2026	Third Quarter:	03/11/2027
Second Quarter:	12/18/2026	Fourth Quarter:	05/27/2027

Students who establish a continuous pattern of negative behavior from quarter to quarter may lose their eligibility for reward trips and extracurricular activities, even if they stay under the quarterly limits.

Please note: No refunds will be issued for students who become disqualified after a ticket has been purchased.

Administration and teacher discretion may be used if a student has shown significant improvement. In these cases, students may be required to submit a written 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.

DMS 2026/2027 Student Handbook **Parent/Guardian Signature Form**

During the first week of school, teachers will review this handbook with students in class. Students are required to review the handbook with their parents or guardians and return the signed acknowledgment form to their first-period teacher by **Wednesday, August 19, 2026**.

A digital copy of the 2026/2027 DMS Student Handbook can be located via your child's Google Classroom, on our school website, and via the Aeries data confirmation portal.

I have read the DMS Handbook and reviewed it with my child. I agree to partner with the school by:

- recognizing my child's achievements,
- maintaining open communication with school staff, and
- reinforcing school expectations and consequences at home.

Student's First Period Teacher: _____

Student's Name: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Email Address: _____

Ph: _____