

Dardanelle Middle School

Student Handbook – 2025/2026

<http://www.dardanellepublicschools.org>

- INCLUDES A STAFF EMAIL DIRECTORY -

GRADES 6 / 7 / 8

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IMPORTANT: Video surveillance is used on and around school property, including school busses.

Disclaimer

The policies outlined in the Dardanelle Public Schools K–12 Student Handbook serve as the foundation for district-wide regulations. However, due to the unique needs and facilities associated with different grade levels, it is sometimes necessary to adapt district policies to address the specific requirements of individual school buildings. As such, the Dardanelle Middle School building-level handbook may include variations of the core district policies. These adaptations have been reviewed and approved by the Dardanelle School Board.

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WELCOME TO PARENTS

We are pleased to welcome you to Dardanelle Middle School. This handbook has been prepared by the administration to help students and parents become familiar with the policies, procedures, and traditions that define our school community. It is the responsibility of each student and their parent or guardian to review and understand the information contained within this handbook. It outlines student responsibilities and expected conduct, and is aligned with the policies of the Dardanelle School District Board. A printed copy is available upon request in the principal's office.

MISSION STATEMENT

Dardanelle Middle School's mission is to create lifelong learners and globally responsible citizens through a partnership of students, families, staff and community. We want to inspire all students to apply the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to become creative problems solvers, to achieve personal success and to contribute to our diverse and dynamic world.

DMS MOTTO

Lizards LEAD
Lifelong Learners
Empower and Inspire to Apply Knowledge
Achieve Personal Goals
Develop Responsible Global Citizens

BELL SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE A		SCHEDULE B	
Period 1	7:55 – 8:50	Period 1	7:55 – 8:50
Period 2	8:55 – 9:45	Period 2	8:55 – 9:45
Advisory	9:50 – 10:15	Advisory	9:50 – 10:15
Period 3	10:20 – 11:10	Period 3	10:20 – 11:10
Lunch	11:10 – 11:40	Period 4	11:15 – 12:05
Period 4	11:45 – 12:35	Lunch	12:05 – 12:35
Period 5	12:40 – 1:30 TM	Period 5	12:40 – 1:30
Period 6	1:35 – 2:25	Period 6	1:35 – 2:25
Period 7	2:30 – 3:25	Period 7	2:30 – 3:25

NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY NOTIFICATION

It is the policy of Dardanelle Middle School to provide equal opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, qualified handicap or veteran status in its educational programs and activities. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, educational services, financial aid and employment. Inquiries concerning application of this policy may be referred to the Dardanelle School District Equity Coordinator

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Every effort is made by Dardanelle Middle School to schedule students into the classes that they have requested. If a schedule change is desired, the principal and counselor must receive a written statement from the student's parent or guardian. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

ADVISORY PROGRAM

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION AND CONFERENCES

Parents are urged to contact the school whenever a need arises. Parents may contact teachers by note, telephone or email. If you call during the school day, the office will leave the teacher a note to return your call. If you wish to have a conference with one of your child's teachers, please call ahead to make an appointment. Office hours at DMS are from 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. The office phone number is 479.229.4550. If you wish to contact a teacher via email, the district email directory can be found at the following address: <http://dardanellepublicschools.org>.

- Report cards will be issued every quarter.
- Interim progress reports will be issued at the midpoint of each quarter.
- Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on designated dates in the first and third quarters.
- Teachers will initiate more frequent communications with the parent/guardian of students not performing at the level expected for their grade.

- Parents are encouraged to monitor their students progress using the Home Access Center (HAC) provided by the district.

Communication regarding student behavior will be provided by the principal or assistant principal on a Student Discipline Referral. In each case, parents are asked to discuss the incident with their child, sign the form and return it to the school. Signing this form **does not** admit that your student was at fault, it simply provides a record that the referral was received and reviewed by the parent. Please contact the office if questions arise.

ENROLLMENT AND TRANSFERS

All children age five (5) through seventeen 17 years on or before August 1st, must be enrolled in school. Students who move to the district from a school accredited by the Arkansas Department of Education shall be assigned to the same grade as they were when attending their previous school or as they would have been assigned in their previous school. Home-schooled students and students transferring from a school that is not accredited by the Arkansas Department of Education shall be evaluated by district staff to determine appropriate grade placement. Prior to admission, the parent, guardian or other responsible person shall furnish the child's social security number, or if the request, the district will assign the child a nine (9) digit number designated by the Arkansas Department of Education. Proof of the child's age shall be provided with one (1) of the following documents:

- A Birth Certificate
- A statement by the local registrar or a county recorder certifying the child's date of birth
- An attested baptismal certificate
- A passport
- An affidavit of the date and place of birth by the child's parent or guardian
- Previous school records
- Military ID

ATTENDANCE

It is vital for your child to be at school every day, but we understand that absences can and do happen. Excessive absence from school may affect our child's eligibility for semester test exemption and/or ability to retain credit for the semester.

REPORTING YOUR CHILD ABSENT

Parents are asked to report their child's absence to the principal's office by 8:30 a.m. on the day of the absence by phone (479.229.4550) or in person. Notes will be accepted on the day following an absence if a parent is unable to call. After a student has missed 10 days in a semester, a doctor's note will be required for an absence to be considered excused. Student's should bring the note to the office before reporting to first period.

MAKEUP WORK

Arranging for makeup work is the student's responsibility. The student has one school day for each day absent to make arrangements for makeup work with his/her teacher. The student may receive an incomplete (M or I) from a teacher for students who have three or more consecutive excused absences. The grade of "M" will be considered a 0% until the student completes the assignment. If your child is absent and you need to pick up homework, please notify the school by 8:30 a.m. Assignments will be available for pick up between 3:00 and 3:45 daily.

TARDIES

Promptness to class is very important. Students are to be in their seats and ready to work when the bell rings. A student's tardiness to class may result in assignment to lunch detention. More serious consequences may be assigned for habitual tardiness.

SIGNING A STUDENT OUT OF SCHOOL

Dardanelle Middle School is a closed campus. Students may leave campus only in unusual circumstances and only with permission of the principal. Before a student may sign out, the parent or legal guardian must make personal contact with the middle school office. For the safety of the student, he/she will not be released to a person other than their parent/guardian unless the middle school has written or verbal permission from the parent/guardian in advance to release the student to that specific individual. Parents are asked to try to schedule doctor and dental appointments after school or during a student's lunch hour.

VISITORS

Parent/guardians are invited to visit the school at any time during regular operating hours. However, the law requires that all visitors check in at the office before going to other parts of the building. Parents/guardians are required to wear a visitor's nametag that will be provided by the office. This is so that you are easily identifiable as an authorized visitor.

USE OF THE OFFICE TELEPHONE

The school telephone is for emergency calls only. Children are not called to the telephone except in extreme cases.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Each student should have current emergency numbers on file in the principal's office. Ill or injured students are not sent home without contact with an adult who will accept responsibility for the student. In the case of a significant illness or injury, every effort is made to contact the family. As soon as the parent/guardian has been notified, the responsibility for care or treatment rests with the family. In the event that a parent/guardian cannot be contacted when the student's medical condition requires immediate medical attention, the student will be transported to Dardanelle Regional Medical Center for treatment.

STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The District Wellness Policy does not restrict what parents may provide for their own child's lunch or snacks. Parents may provide "Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value" or candy items for their own child's consumption, but they may not provide restricted items to other children at school.

REPORTING INJURIES AT SCHOOL AND SUPPLEMENTAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The Dardanelle School District provides supplemental accident insurance to cover all students during the school day. Accidents involving students are reported by the school on an insurance claim form, sent to the parents for filing. It is the student's responsibility to notify the supervising teacher of any injury as soon as it occurs.

STUDENT HEALTH INFORMATION

It is important for parents to bring to the school's attention any medical problems or allergies that might affect the student. A Health Information Form must be filled out by the parent/guardian at the beginning of every school year. This is included in the student school packet that parents fill out at the beginning of the year or when a student is enrolled in Dardanelle Middle School. This form communicates health information to the school nurse.

MEDICATION – PRESCRIPTION AND OVER THE COUNTER

Parents, with the cooperation of physicians, are requested to schedule the dispensing of all medication to children, if possible. Prescriptions are those prescribed by a physician. No medication of any kinds will be administered at school except when:

- A specific medication is prescribed to be given during the school day
 - It is to be brought by the parent/guardian and left in the nurse's office. It must be in the original bottle, labeled with the student's name, doctor's name, date of prescription, name of the medication, dosage and directions by the pharmacist and kept in a locked place.
- A medication administration release form must be completed by the parent/guardian. This is kept on file with the nurse.
- Students are not permitted to keep any medication (over the counter or prescribed) with the exception of those emergency medications approved by the Arkansas Department of Education, on their person while at school, on campus or at a school sponsored activity
- Medication to be given three times daily or less will not be administered at school if it can be administered before and after school without interfering with the therapeutic effect
- Over the counter medication will not be stocked by the school. Any medication needed by a student must be brought by a parent in an unopened container with specific instructions from the physician, including the diagnosis

- Over the counter topical medication approved for first aid by the Arkansas School first Aid Guidelines will be used through the Health Office unless the student is allergic to it as indicated on the Student Health Form (filled out at the beginning of the year or when the child is enrolled)
- All medication will be dispensed through the health room unless it is a medication that is allowed for a student to self-carry/self-administer. Forms for these emergency medications are kept with the nurse and will need to be filled out and signed by nurse, parent and prescribing health care provider
- All medication will be kept in a locked cabinet and under the supervision of the nurse except for those medications that the state allows to be self-administered
- ALL MEDICATIONS MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE SCHOOL BY THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN AND MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION RELEASE FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED
- Emergency first aid medications such as epinephrine should be administered in accordance with a "standing order" from a physician authorizing administration of the medication in the event of an anaphylactic emergency

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PARASITES

Students with communicable diseases or with parasites shall demonstrate respect for other students by not attending school while they are contagious. In some instances, a letter from a health care provider may be required prior to the student being readmitted to school. The parents or legal guardians of students found to have live lice will be asked to pick their child up at school immediately. The parents/guardians will be given information concerning the eradication and control of head lice. Before students may be readmitted following an absence due to head lice, the school nurse or designee shall examine the student to ensure that they are free of any lice. Each school may conduct screenings of students for head lice as needed. The screenings shall be conducted in a manner that respects the confidentiality of each student.

IMMUNIZATIONS

The requirements for entry into school are:

- Four doses of DTP vaccine
- One dose of Tdap for ages 11 (as of 9/1 each school year) and older
- Three doses of polio vaccine
- Two doses of MMR vaccine
- Three doses of Hepatitis B vaccine
- Two doses of chicken pox vaccine
 - A letter from a doctor is needed if the student has already had chicken pox
- 7th Graders will need one dose of Meningococcal vaccine. A second dose is required for anyone 16 years of age, regardless of grade

If necessary, documentation of immunizations is not provided, the student must be excluded from school until proof is provided to the school nurse.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Fire Drills: The fire alarm will emit a buzzing sound and the fire emergency lights will flash. Students are to leave the classroom quickly and quietly. Students must stay in the designated area with their class until the return signal is given.

Tornado Drills: An announcement will be made over the intercom system directing students and teachers to proceed to the safe room.

SCHOOL DISMISSAL PROCEDURE

As soon as a decision is made to dismiss school due to inclement weather or any other reason, media (KCJC 102.3 FM, KARV 610 AM, KARK, KFSM, KATV and KTHV) will be notified. Closing/dismissal information will also be available on Facebook. Finally, an autocall will be sent out informing all stakeholders of a closing/dismissal.

FOOD SERVICE

Student meals are available free of charge for the 2025-2026 school year. This includes either breakfast or grab-and-go and lunch. Students may purchase additional items with cash. Breakfast is served daily from 7:30 until 7:50. No charging of any kind will be permitted.

INTERNET AND COMPUTER USE

Students will be required to know and follow the district policy for Internet and Technology use. The current version of this policy is available in

the School Board Policy sections 4.29 and 4.29F and is considered part of the student handbook. The opportunity to use the District's technology to access the internet is a privilege and not a right. Students who misuse electronic devices or internet access in any way will face disciplinary action including, but not limited to losing access to these resources or being required to use a restricted account. The signature of students and parents/guardians signifies that all parties agree to abide by school policies regulating computer and network usage in Dardanelle Schools as listed in the above school board policies.

DARDANELLE SCHOOL DISTRICT: STUDENT INFORMATION SHARING POLICY

The Dardanelle School District uses Google Workspace for Education and other educational software companies to provide technology-based resources for instructional and administrative purposes. This district shares personally identifiable information with qualified partners to enhance classroom teaching, improve the quality of instruction, facilitate communication and streamline administrative processes. The Google Student Privacy policy can be found on the Dardanelle School District's website under the Technology link. The Dardanelle School District maintains a list of school service contract providers with whom it contracts for services that include or make available personally identifiable information. This list is updated at least twice a year and is available upon request.

TEXTBOOKS AND CHROMEBOOKS

Students will be issued free textbooks and Chromebook will be made available to checkout for home use. Students will be responsible for payment of lost or damaged textbooks and/or Chromebook.

LOCKERS AND VALUABLES

Students are required to rent a locker at Dardanelle Middle School each year at a cost of \$5.00 per year. Lockers shall be locked at all times when not in use. Students shall not use lockers other than the one assigned to them. Students are cautioned not to bring valuables or large amounts of money to school that are not necessary during the school day. Articles of clothing and personal belongings should be

marked with the student's name. Students, not the school, are responsible for their personal property.

STUDENT SEARCH AND SEIZURE

In the assignment of school property (locker, desk, books, etc) to a specific student, the school retains ownership of such property and the right to inspect it or reclaim it. General searches of school property may be conducted at any time in accordance with school district policy.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

The school library media center is well equipped and vital to the quality of the educational program. Students are encouraged to use all materials and to check out books. Reference books may be checked out overnight and library books may be checked out for a two-week period. Students are responsible for the care and return of all books checked out to them. If lost or damaged, students will be required to pay a charge equal to the current replacement price of the book. This includes books checked out from classroom libraries.

HOMEWORK

Homework is expected to supplement and reinforce classroom teaching and learning. Rules for homework may vary by grade level and will be communicated by individual teachers.

CHROMEBOOKS

Every classroom at DMS is one to one with student computers. At the beginning of the school year, devices will be made available for checkout for home use. These devices are to be used exclusively at home and not carried back and forth between school and home. A student/parent contract will be required before a device will be issued.

BACKPACKS AND BOOK BAGS

Students are permitted to carry backpacks and/or other book bags while at school. These bags must be of reasonable size so that they will fit in the lockers. Any bag displaying obscene, offensive or vulgar statements or drawings will be confiscated. Wheeled bags are not permitted.

Teachers may request for backpacks to remain in the hallway outside of classroom to limit the risk of tripping.

TESTING AND STUDENT PROGRESS

All students at Dardanelle Middle School are required to take state mandated assessments throughout the school year. The results of these tests are used to assess a student's ability and to evaluate his/her progress in relation to state content standards.

SEMESTER TEST EXEMPTIONS

There are no exemptions for Nine Weeks Tests. All students are required to take them. Students are eligible for semester tests exemption if they meet the following requirements:

- The student's average grade the 1st and 2nd nine weeks (fall semester) or 3rd and 4th nine weeks (spring semester) is either an A or B.
 - This is an all or none policy. If a student has any grade that averages to a C or below, they are not eligible for exemption.
- No more than 35 missed class periods for the semester. Excused or unexcused is not a determining factor for semester test exemption.
- The student has not served In School Suspension or Out of School Suspension at any time during the semester.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

Promotion or retention of students shall be based on an evaluation of academic, physical, social and emotional growth. The primary reason for considering retention are:

- Indifference or lack of effort of the part of a capable student
- Physical or social maturity
- Frequent or long-term absences

Determination will be made by the time of the third quarter parent-teacher conferences whether retention should be considered. A conference will be held with parents, teachers and administration to discuss reasons to consider retention. The final decision to promote or retain shall rest with the principal. Students who do not score proficient or above on their grade level Atlas exams shall be required to participate in an individualized

Academic Improvement Plan (AIP). Each AIP shall be developed by school personnel and the student's parents and shall be designed to assist the student in attaining the expected achievement level through mandatory remediation during or after school. The AIP shall also state the parent's role as well as the consequences for the student's failure to participate in the plan, which shall include the student's retention in their present grade. Promotion or retention of students with an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) shall be based on their successful attainment of the goals set forth in their IEP.

GRADING SCALE

The following uniform grading scale is used in all public schools in Arkansas:

A = 90-100	C = 70-79
B = 80-89	D = 60-69
F = 59 or Below	

Each letter grade shall be given a numeric value for the purpose of determining grade point average as follows:

A = 4.00	C = 2.00
B = 3.00	D = 1.00
F = 0.00	

Grades assigned to students for performance in a course shall reflect only the extent to which a student has achieved the expressed objectives of the course.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES

The opportunity to represent Dardanelle Schools in any interscholastic activity is a privilege. The final determination of eligibility rests with the school. The coaches/sponsors of each team or organization will determine eligibility. Any students who meets the eligibility requirements may try out for the interscholastic competition. Students must meet all requirements stated below to qualify:

- A student promoted from 6th grade to 7th grade automatically meets the academic eligibility requirements.
- A student promoted from the 7th grade to the 8th grade automatically meets the academic requirements for the first semester of their 8th grade year.

- The second semester 8th grade student and the first semester 9th grade student meets the academic eligibility requirements for junior high by successfully passing four (4) academic courses the previous semester. Three of these courses shall be in the core curriculum areas specified by the Arkansas Department of Education Standards of Accreditation.

In addition, student must also:

- Students must present a properly completed Parent-Consent form.
- Students must pass a physical examination to attest the student's good health if deemed necessary for the activity.
- Students must agree to abide by the philosophy and principles governing Dardanelle Schools.

Training rules for each team will be set by the coaches/sponsors. They will also determine penalties for violations. More specific rules for athletics are contained in the athletic handbook that each student receives. A student may be declared temporarily or permanently ineligible by the school administration for breaches of discipline in the classroom or elsewhere or for failing grades. No extracurricular involvement may interrupt the classroom time of any student to the extent that it jeopardizes his/her academic education.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM GOALS

All students of the Dardanelle School District, eligible to participate, will be encouraged to be part of a team. The Dardanelle Athletic Program will create an atmosphere in which every athlete is treated with respect and dignity. Fundamentals will be stressed to all athletes at all levels. Participation of all athletes will be a high priority of the Dardanelle Athletic Department. Since extra resources are provided to athletic programs, participants will be held to a high standard of behavior and academic achievement. These standards will apply while participating in the event or practice, at school and within the community.

ATHLETE TRANSPORTATION TO/FROM ACTIVITIES

Students participating in any school activity, academic or extracurricular, must travel by district authorized transportation. Such transportation

will be a school bus or superintendent designated alternative transportation. A parent may go to a coach/sponsor in person to receive approval to transport his/her child home from an event.

STUDENT AWARDS AND HONORS

At the end of each grading period, students earning a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and having no grade lower than a "C" are named to the appropriate Honor Roll. Students with perfect attendance for the quarter are also recognized. These lists are published in local newspapers. Students are recognized through various means including certificates, parties, awards assemblies and/or special activities.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is responsible for planning and conducting special activities for the students at Dardanelle Middle School. Each advisory group elects one representative to serve on SAC. SAC officers and representatives must have no grade lower than a "C" on any middle school report card prior to candidacy or during the term of SAC membership. Should they earn a grade lower than a "C", they shall be removed from membership.

OFF-CAMPUS EVENTS

Students at school sponsored, off-campus events are governed by the school district rules and regulations and are subject to the authority of school district personnel.

REQUIREMENT TO IDENTIFY SELF

All persons must, upon request, identify themselves to proper school authorities in the school building, on school grounds or at school sponsored events.

STUDENT RIGHTS/RESPONSIBILITIES

To ensure that the rights of all students are protected, the following will not be permitted.

- Actions or activities that disrupt or obstruct the operation of the school, provoke disorder or invade the rights of others.
- The public use of obscenities, falsehoods, innuendoes, public displays of affection or other expressions can be

harmful to the normal development of the younger and less mature students, or offensive to the reasonable sensibilities of students, faculty or other school personnel.

- Advertising on campus. Exceptions may be made by the principal for charitable purposes by school sponsored organizations.
- Written or visual material involving the use of school equipment and property unless with the prior approval of the faculty sponsor concerned or the principal. All copies of any written materials, posted or circulated, shall indicate the sponsoring school organization or student group or individual students and be of a standard 8.5 x 11-inch size.

It is important that parents, school staff and students work together to maintain a positive educational atmosphere. The rules and discipline procedures at Dardanelle Middle School have been established for the protection of students. Students are expected to respect these rules as well as the people responsible for carrying them out. The staff needs the support of parents in promoting acceptable behavior. The overall goal is for each student to learn to be responsible for his/her own actions.

DARDANELLE MIDDLE SCHOOL RULES

- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
- Treat others with respect.
- Students must stay in their assigned areas at all times.
- Take care of your school. Keep classrooms, hallways, restrooms and grounds free of litter. Keep walls and desks free of pencil marks. Report vandals or vandalism to an adult.
- Toys and collectibles are to be left at home. Items with no school purpose will be confiscated and held until a parent or guardian picks them up.

CAFETERIA RULES

- Students are to enter the cafeteria and go directly to the food line to get their meal.
- Students will enter his/her lunch number, then go directly to a seat at one of the tables, sit and eat their meal.
- When finished, all trash is to be placed in an appropriate waste barrel. Then the

student will return to their original seat until time to return to class.

At no time is food to be thrown, kicked, pushed or flicked. At no time are students allowed to wander around the cafeteria. Violation of these rules may result in assignment to a cleaning detail or loss of cafeteria privileges for a period of time. If a student loses cafeteria privileges, he/she will be assigned an alternative area to eat lunch.

6. Excessive behavior/fighting toward a staff member

In cases of these incidents, the student may be suspended immediately by building administration and a determination will be made as to whether or not to schedule a board hearing. Failure to appear before the board may result in expulsion.

MISCONDUCT

The following serious violations will result in disciplinary action and may result in suspension or expulsion (refer to the district policy for a detailed list):

1. Fighting/Assault
2. Failure to submit to the authority of adults
3. Destruction of property or theft
4. Habitual profanity
5. Chronic truancy or tardiness
6. Chronic disruptive behavior
7. Threatening behavior toward staff or students and/or bullying
8. Gang Association
9. Sexual Harassment

MAJOR MISCONDUCT

The following are examples of serious violations that may be referred to the board of education for expulsion:

1. Substantial destruction of property, or theft of any item(s) of significant value
2. Possession of dangerous objects, weapons, vapes, drugs, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol
3. Violent episodes of fighting
4. Use of profanity or threats directed at other students and school personnel
5. Bullying or Cyberbullying

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Students and staff require a safe and orderly learning environment that is conducive to high student achievement. Certain student behaviors are unacceptable in such an environment and are hereby prohibited by the board. Prohibited behaviors include, but shall not be limited to the following:

- Disrespect for school employees and failing to comply with their reasonable directions. This may be considered insubordination.
- Disruptive behavior that interferes with orderly school operations. Consequences range from warning through Out of School Suspension.
- Willfully and intentionally assaulting or threatening to assault or physically abusing any student or school employee. Consequences range from OSS to referral for expulsion and police notification.
- Possession of any weapon that can reasonably be considered capable of causing bodily harm to another individual. Consequences range from OSS to referral for expulsion and police notification.
- Possession or use of tobacco or any vaping device and/or substance used to vape in any form on any property owned or leased by any public school. Consequences range from In School Suspension and police notification to levied tickets and/or fines.
- Willfully or intentionally damaging, destroying or stealing school property. Consequences range from ISS to referral for expulsion and police notification.
- Use of any paging device, cellphone or similar electronic communication device on the school campus during normal

school hours unless specifically exempted by the administration for health or other compelling reasons. Consequences range from warning to ISS. The item may be confiscated.

- Possession, selling, distributing or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, any illegal drug, unauthorized inhalant or the inappropriate use or sharing of prescription or over the counter drugs, or other intoxicants or anything represented to be a drug. Consequences range from OSS, last chance program to referral for expulsion and police notification.
- Inappropriate displays of affection (PDA). Consequences range from warning to ISS.
- Cheating. Consequences range from 0% credit to ISS.
- Gambling. Consequences range from warning to ISS.
- Inappropriate student dress (dress code). Consequences range from warning and correcting the violation to ISS.
- Use of vulgar, profane or obscene language or gestures. Consequences range from warning through ISS.
- Truancy. Consequences range from warning to OSS.
- Excessive tardiness. Consequences range from warning to ISS.
- Engaging in behavior designed to taunt, degrade or ridicule another person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex or disability. Hazing or aiding in the hazing of another student. Consequences range from warning through OSS and police notification.
- Gangs or gang-related activities, including belonging to secret societies of any kind. Consequences range from warning through OSS and police notification.
- Sexual harassment. Consequences range from warning through OSS and police notification.
- Bullying and cyberbullying. Consequences range from warning through OSS and police notification.
- Students are not allowed to congregate in bathrooms for any reason. There is to be only one person in a stall at a time

CONSEQUENCES FOR MAJOR MISCONDUCT

In these cases, the student may be suspended immediately by building administration and a determination will be made as to whether or not a board hearing is necessary. Failure to appear before the board may result in expulsion. A last chance probationary plan may be utilized for misconduct. The last chance program may be used for first-time offenders whose incident breaks the law and at the discretion of the building administrators. Directives and conditions will be communicated via a conference with the student and legal guardian. For major misconduct, discipline reports may be turned over to the school resource officer and a police report may be filed.

- Fighting/assault
- Repeated or especially violent episodes of fighting
- Failure to submit to the authority of adults
- Destruction or theft of property (substantial or otherwise)
- Habitual profanity
- Chronic truancy or tardiness
- Chronic disruptive behavior
- Threatening and/or bullying behavior toward staff or students
- Use of profanity or threats directed at school personnel
- Gang activity and/or association
- Bully/harassment including cyberbullying
- Sexual harassment
- Possession of dangerous objects, weapons, alcohol, drugs or drug paraphernalia

DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL

Disordly activities by any student or group of students that adversely affect the school's orderly educational environment shall not be tolerated at any time on school grounds or at school sanctioned activities. The principal and assistant principal have the authority and duty to initiate disciplinary action whenever the behavior of any student(s) disrupts or interferes with classroom instruction or other parts of school.

FOOD AND GUM

Gum chewing by the student is at the discretion of the individual teacher. Those who bring their lunch are required to eat it in the cafeteria or on the playground unless other prior authorization

has been given. Student are not to consume any food item, including beverages) while in the middle school building without the expressed permission of a teacher. Bottles or cans of liquid other than water that have been opened are not allowed in the lockers or the middle school halls and will be confiscated and disposed of.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY (CHEATING)

Cheating is defined as using/claiming the words or work of another person as one's own in order to complete a quiz, test, assignment or project. This includes providing answers or doing work for someone else to claim as their own. The first offense shall result in an office referral and 0% credit assigned to all students who knowingly participated in the incident. Subsequent offenses may result in 0% credit on the assignment/test, three days of ISS or OSS and a parent conference with the student's teachers.

BUS RULES AND POLICIES

The school district provides bus transportation to and from school and the student's home. Written permission from the office is required for a student to ride a different bus than the one that they have been assigned. Students are to board the school bus from the middle school campus in the afternoons and are not permitted to walk to the high school to board the bus unless prior arrangements have been made with the office.

- At no time are open containers of food or beverages permitted on the bus.
- Students are not permitted to consume food or beverage while on the bus.
- Students are required to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with established standard for classroom/school bus behavior. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action up to and including loss of bus riding privileges.

The progression of consequences for middle school students who violate bus rules is:

- Warning
- Lunch detention or ISS
- Loss of bus privilege for 3 days
- Loss of bus privilege for one week
- Loss of bus privilege for two weeks
- Loss of bus privilege for one month
- Loss of bus privilege for one semester
- Permanent loss of bus privilege

The administration reserves the right to modify these consequences as needed to address misconduct on the bus and at bus stops. It is important to remember that riding a bus is a privilege and not a right.

SKIRTS AND SHORTS

Short shorts, body shorts and spandex shorts are never to be worn at school. All shorts and skirts must be no shorter than 6 inches above the knee.

PROHIBITED DRESS AND APPEARANCE

Examples of dress and appearance that are prohibited on campus include, but are not limited to the following.

- Pants/Jeans with holes above the knee if they are deemed excessively high by the administration or their designee
- Tights and yoga style pants unless accompanied by a garment that covers the buttocks
- Hats, bandannas or any other head covering
- Sleeveless shirts
- Clothing with handwritten messages
- Spaghetti straps, tank tops or low-cut and revealing necklines
- In accordance with Arkansas State Law, no undergarments or any kind should be visible
- Pants must be worn at or above the natural waistline
- Shirts that expose the midriff when the student raises their hands overhead
- Any item that advertises alcohol, drugs, tobacco or suggest gang activity
- Any item displaying vulgar, obscene, morbid, violent, offensive themes or any which can be interpreted as being racial in nature or having the potential to incite racial/ethnic tension
- Hair of unusual style that disrupts the learning of other student while at school
- No more than one visible piercing aside from the ear. Piercing must be removable at the principal's discretion. Items not normally considered to be earrings may not be worn

Items of clothing that are prohibited will be confiscated. The student will be required to change into an acceptable clothing item and the incident will be reported. Repeated offenses may result in disciplinary action up to and including

OSS. The final decisions on the appropriateness of attire rest with the principal or his designee and will be based upon the level of disturbance caused by the infraction.

BULLYING-HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

It is the policy of Dardanelle Middle School And the Dardanelle School District to maintain learning and working environments that are free from bullying and/or harassment.

Bullying-Harassment is defined as repeated targeting of a victim in a negative way such as malicious gossiping, spreading rumors, antagonizing an individual or physical abuse.

Cyberbullying (AR 5-71-217) is defined as the transmission, sending or posting of communication by electronic means with the purpose of frightening, coercing, intimidating, threatening, abusing, harassing or alarming another person and is the furtherance of severe, repeated or hostile behavior towards that person. Such offenses are considered Class B misdemeanors and may be prosecuted.

Sexual Harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other inappropriate oral, written or physical conduct of a sexual nature when made by another person. Any conduct that has the effect of interfering with an individual's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

Students are not to take matters into their own hands. Students are expected to report to school personnel any action or rumored incidents of aggressive, harassing or sexual behavior.

Bullying-Harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- Verbal or written (including electronic) harassment or abuse
- Repeated remarks or actions to a person with sexual, demeaning or insulting implications
- Inappropriate patting or touching
- Pressure for sexual activity
- Suggesting or demeaning sexual involvement accompanied by implied or explicit threats
- Intentionally brushing against a person's body
- Any sexually motivated unwelcome touching

The school district will discipline any individual who is found guilty of harassment. The district

will also discipline any individual who retaliates against a person who reports harassment or testifies during a harassment investigation. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to any form of intimidation, reprisal or verbal/written communication.

FIGHTING/THREATENING BEHAVIOR (ASSAULT)

Fighting is defined as one or some combination of the following:

- Exchanging taunts (name calling or other insults) to the point of violence
- Exchanging verbal or written comments intended to provoke violence, including threats
- An intentional exchange by either the aggressor or the victim of physical contact for the purpose of inflicting pain or provoking a violent response (punching, slapping, kicking, hair pulling, etc)

Any fighting on school grounds, school transportation or at off-campus functions may result in suspension of all students involved. Students identified as having instigated a fight (encouraging a fight by saying or writing things that result in others fighting) shall face consequences for contributing to disorder and the promotion of violence on school property or at a school event. Students are expected to report to school personnel an actual or rumored incident of violence, written or verbal threats of violence, aggressive behavior or harassment. Arkansas law requires that this information be reported to the police.

LASER POINTERS

State law prohibits minors from possessing hand-held laser pointers. Violations shall result in the confiscation of such devices. Further consequences may occur.

INAPPROPRIATE ITEMS

Items that may disrupt or interfere with the educational process may be removed from a student's possession. Because of the potential for causing disruptions, the list of inappropriate items includes, but is not limited to:

- Water Pistols

- Nerf-style guns
- Toy guns
- Video Games
- Fireworks
- Other objects determined to be inappropriate by school officials

School personnel will confiscate such items and will hold them at the school until picked up by a parent or guardian.

COMMUNICATION DEVICES AND CELL PHONES

Students are permitted to use cell phones when they arrive on campus until the 7:50 bell rings. At 7:50, cell phones are to be powered off and stored in a secure place until the dismissal bell at the end of the school day. Smart watches are permitted, but are to be used only as a timepiece. Any use of a watch to communicate or access the internet is strictly prohibited. Any student found to be using a smart watch in any manner other than as a timepiece, will be subject to the same consequences as they would if they had been caught using a cell phone. Failure to comply will result in the following sequence of consequences:

- First Offense – Cell phone or watch will be confiscated. Device will be returned to the student at the end of the day. Student will be assigned two days of Lunch Detention
- Second Offense – Cell phone or watch will be confiscated. Device will be returned to the student at the end of the day. Student will be assigned five days of Lunch Detention.
- Third Offense – Cell phone or watch will be confiscated. Device will be returned to the student at the end of the day. Student will be assigned a minimum of 5 days of Lunch Detention. Student will remain in Lunch Detention until an in-person meeting with parent/guardian is held.
- Fourth Offense – Administration Discretion will be used.

The principal and/or assistant principal reserves the right to change this policy at any time to a no use policy if circumstances occur where a change is needed. The student and/or parent is solely liable for any theft, loss or damage that may occur to a device while at school.

WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

No student shall possess a weapon, display what appears to be a weapon or threaten to use a weapon while in school, on or about the school property, before or after school, in attendance at school or at a school sponsored activity. "Weapons" shall include, but not be limited to the following items:

- Any firearm, BB or pellet gun or other device designed to launch a projectile capable of inflicting injury. Any student in possession of or proven to having possessed a firearm on school campus shall be recommended for expulsion for a period of not less than one year. All such matters shall be reported to the school resource officer and other appropriate law enforcement entities.
- Any realistic facsimile of a gun
- An ice pick-type tool
- Lead pipes
- Throwing stars
- Brass knuckle-type devices
- Chains (Length > 8"; Width > 1/4")
- Blackjacks or any type of club
- Explosives, including fireworks
- Chemicals
- Any knife, whether is is displayed, brandished or used to threaten someone or vandalize property or not

GRADE LEVEL DISCIPLINE AND REWARDS

Each grade-level team of teachers will establish a system to manage and reward student behavior. The team leader and advisors will communicate procedures to students and parents in writing at the start of each school year. Good communication and the development of a trusting relationship between home and school are essential for success.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The building principal and assistant principal assign consequences for violations of school rules, policies and procedures. Refusal of discipline shall result in immediate out of school suspension and a mandatory parent conference before the student will be permitted to return to class. Participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities may be affected by the assignment of detention or suspension.

Disciplinary actions range from a minimum of a conference to a maximum of expulsion. Consequences for inappropriate behavior may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Student Conference
- Removal from the Classroom
- Lunch Detention
- Morning or After School Detention
- Loss of Privilege
- Parent Conference
- In School Suspension
- Out of School Suspension
- Alternative Learning Environment
- Expulsion
- SRO/Police Involvement

If a student is reported for misconduct, an administrator or teacher will hold a conference with that student to discuss the issues surrounding the incident. "Conference" is defined as a period of time during which the student explains his/her side of the incident.

REMOVAL FROM THE CLASSROOM

Arkansas law requires a mandatory conference for any student removed from the classroom for failure to adhere to the guidelines set forth in that classroom and/or DMS. The purpose of this conference is to determine the source of the disruption and to reach a solution that will allow the student to be successful in the classroom. The parent/guardian of the student must be notified of the conference and shall comply with one of the following scenarios before the student will be permitted to return to the regular classroom:

- Parent/Guardian will attend a conference in person
- Parent/Guardian will appoint a representative to attend a conference in person
- Parent/Guardian will attend a conference by phone.

Student will remain in ISS or OSS until the scheduled conference is completed.

LUNCH DETENTION

Lunch Detention will be held daily. Students assigned to lunch detention must report to the assigned detention area immediately upon dismissal for lunch and before eating lunch. Failure to comply may result in more severe consequences.

MORNING AND AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION

Morning Detention may be assigned to students who, before and/or during breakfast violate the cafeteria rules or disrupt some other part of school. After School Detention will be held as needed for one hour. Students may be assigned to after school detention by the principal or assistant principal for infractions of school rules. Students are required to spend the hour studying and should bring all needed books and materials to the designated detention room.

IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION

An alternative classroom is provided for those students referred to ISS. Students are supervised and must complete all assignments from their regular classes. The ISS teacher will closely monitor the student's progress on these assignments and the student's behavior. The ISS teacher will determine if the student's performance on the assignments and their behavior is acceptable or needs to be improved upon. Assignments are returned to the individual classroom teachers. Failure of a student to comply with the rules may result in additional days in ISS or OSS. Students assigned to ISS are considered present for attendance purposes. Students must report to the office immediately upon arriving at school and will be escorted to the ISS facility. They may not be on any other part of the school campus until they have completed their time in ISS. Students may not participate in or attend co-curricular or extracurricular activities during assignment to ISS.

OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION

For serious offenses, the principal, assistant principal or superintendent may assign Out of School Suspension. A student who is suspended out of school may not be on the school campus or attend any school activity until his days in OSS are completed. Student assigned to OSS are permitted to complete all class assignments while suspended. If a situation should arise that a particular assignment cannot be completed at home, the student will be offered an alternative assignment.

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

A student who is unable to function in the regular school environment may be assigned to ALE.

EXPULSION FROM SCHOOL

Expulsion is the dismissal from school for a specified period of time, determined by the school board, that exceeds ten days. Expelled students are not allowed to attend any Dardanelle School activity either on or off campus. They are not permitted to be on any school grounds. School Board action is required for expulsion. In these cases, the student shall be suspended from school immediately by the principal, assistant principal or superintendent and a determination made by school administration and the board president as to whether or not proceed with an expulsion hearing. If so, a school board meeting will be called. Failure to appear before the board may result in expulsion. The superintendent shall recommend the expulsion of any student from school for a period of not less than one (1) year for the possession of any firearm or other weapon prohibited on school campus by law. The superintendent shall have discretion to modify such expulsion requirement for a student on a case-by-case basis. Parents, guardians or other persons in loco parentis of an expelled student are required to sign a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand current laws regarding the possibility of parental responsibility for allowing a child to possess a weapon on school property. The statement shall be signed by the parents, guardian or other persons in loco parentis prior to readmitting a student or enrolling a student in any public school immediately after the expiration of an expulsion period. A second chance may exist for a first-time offender accused of major misconduct. If the second chance option is applicable, the principals will explain the option to the student and parents. If the family applies with the superintendent for this option, is admitted to Second Chance and follows all requirements of the program, the Second Chance option may forestall or make unnecessary the expulsion hearing before the Board of Education.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

A student or parent with a grievance should:

1. Initiate the grievance process at the level at which the grievance occurred by first

discussing the problem with the immediate teacher or principal involved.

2. If the problem is not resolved to the satisfaction of the student or parent, he/she may file a written grievance with the superintendent.
3. If the superintendent is unable to resolve the situation, the student or parent may request that the superintendent schedule a hearing before the Board of Education.

A copy of the formal school district grievance procedure is available upon request.



2025 – 2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 11	First Day of Class
September 1	Labor Day (No Classes)
September 5	Fair Day (No Classes)
September 10	PD (1:30 Dismissal)
October 8	End of 1 st Quarter
October 8	PD (1:30 Dismissal)
October 14	Parent/Teacher Conferences (1:30 Dismissal)
October 15-17	Fall Break (No Classes)
November 12	PD (1:30 Dismissal)
November 24-28	Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)
December 19	End of 2 nd Quarter
December 22 – January 5	Christmas Break (No Classes)
January 5	PD (No Classes)
January 6	Classes Resume
January 19	MLK Day (No Classes)
February 4	PD (1:30 Dismissal)
February 12	Parent/Teacher Conferences (1:30 Dismissal)
February 13	Winter Break (No Classes)
February 16	President's Day (No Classes)
February 17	Winter Break (No Classes)
March 11	PD (1:30 Dismissal)
March 13	End of 3 rd Quarter
March 23 – 27	Spring Break (No Classes)
April 3	Good Friday (No Classes)
April 8	PD (1:30 Dismissal)
May 16	Commencement
May 21	Last Day of Classes



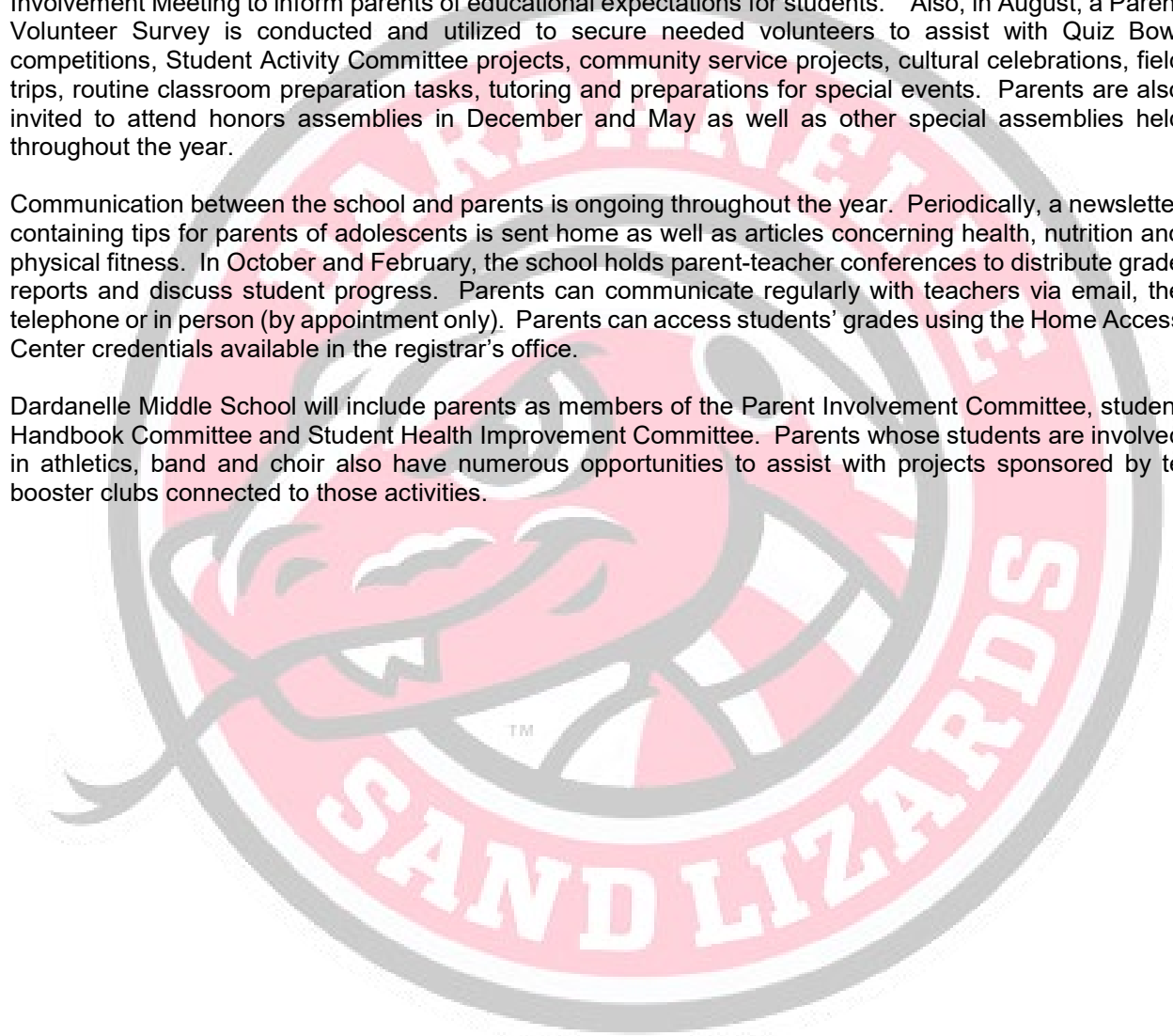
PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AGREEMENT

Dardanelle Middle School Parental Involvement Activities and Opportunities

Dardanelle Middle School, in partnership with parents, strives to improve the social, emotional and academic growth of our students. Parents are encouraged to visit the school and to assist in numerous ways throughout the school year. An annual Open House is held each August along with a Parent Involvement Meeting to inform parents of educational expectations for students. Also, in August, a Parent Volunteer Survey is conducted and utilized to secure needed volunteers to assist with Quiz Bowl competitions, Student Activity Committee projects, community service projects, cultural celebrations, field trips, routine classroom preparation tasks, tutoring and preparations for special events. Parents are also invited to attend honors assemblies in December and May as well as other special assemblies held throughout the year.

Communication between the school and parents is ongoing throughout the year. Periodically, a newsletter containing tips for parents of adolescents is sent home as well as articles concerning health, nutrition and physical fitness. In October and February, the school holds parent-teacher conferences to distribute grade reports and discuss student progress. Parents can communicate regularly with teachers via email, the telephone or in person (by appointment only). Parents can access students' grades using the Home Access Center credentials available in the registrar's office.

Dardanelle Middle School will include parents as members of the Parent Involvement Committee, student Handbook Committee and Student Health Improvement Committee. Parents whose students are involved in athletics, band and choir also have numerous opportunities to assist with projects sponsored by booster clubs connected to those activities.



**SUMMARY OF DARDANELLE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

The Dardanelle School District is committed to building stronger parent, family and community engagement to help students become successful, productive citizens that are well prepared for the future. Parents, family and community members play a critical role in the success of their children. The school district encourages parents, family and community members to be full partners in the education process and seeks to develop and maintain meaningful communication between all parties to better help students succeed. The district-level family and Community Engagement plan, along with each school's plan can be found under the state-required information tab on the district website.

By law, we are required to have the documentation that a parent has received a copy of the student handbook. A digital copy of this document and the district handbook is accessible on the district website.

If you would prefer a paper copy, please check here: _____

I have received or know where to access the building or district handbook, which includes the parent-friendly summary of the district-level Family and Community Engagement plan.

Your signature signifies that you are familiar with the policies found within this handbook.

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

_____ **You have my permission to publish my child's name and picture on the district or school website and social media account.**

_____ **You do not have my permission to publish my child's name and picture on the district or school website and social media account. *If you object to publication in any directory information, please complete the form in the district student handbook labeled 4.13F.**

