DREW CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2026 - 2027

Bell Schedule

1st Bell	7:46
1st Period	7:50 - 8:41
2nd Period	8:45 - 9:36
3rd Period	9:40 - 10:31
4th Period	10:35 - 11:26
5th Period	11:30 - 12:26
7th Grade Recess	12:26 - 12:53
7th Grade Lunch	12:53 - 1:20
6th & 8th Lunch	12:26 - 12:53
6th & 8th Recess	12:53 - 1:20
6th Period	1:24 - 2:15
7th Period	2:19 - 3:10

A Message from the Principal

Dear Drew Central Middle School Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year at Drew Central Middle School!

I am honored to serve as the principal of DCMS and excited to begin this journey with our incredible Pirate family. This year, our theme is **Setting Sail Toward Success**, and I truly believe that every student has the ability to learn, grow, and thrive when we work together.

At DCMS, our mission is simple: to create a school where students feel known, supported, challenged, and celebrated. We are committed to providing engaging instruction, building strong relationships, maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment, and preparing every Pirate for future success. Whether in the classroom, on the field, on the stage, or in our community, we want every student to take pride in being a Drew Central Pirate.

Parents and guardians are essential partners in your child's education. We encourage you to stay connected with us throughout the year. Together, we can help our students develop not only academically, but also as responsible, respectful, and confident young people.

As you review this handbook, please pay close attention to our attendance expectations, student conduct guidelines, and the district's electronic device policy. Arkansas law requires schools to follow the Bell to Bell, No Cell Act, meaning students may not use personal electronic devices during the school day. These expectations are in place to maximize learning, minimize distractions, and ensure a positive school environment for everyone. If you ever need to reach your child during the school day, please contact the school office, and we will gladly assist you.

Regular attendance is one of the greatest predictors of student success. We ask families to make school attendance a priority and to schedule appointments or vacations during school breaks whenever possible. When students are present, engaged, and supported, they have the greatest opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child each day. I am excited about all we will accomplish together as we build a positive school culture, celebrate growth, and continue **Setting Sail Toward Success**.

Here's to a fantastic school year!

With Pirate Pride,

Kelsey Tucker
Principal
Drew Central Middle School
870-367-5235
kelsey.tucker@pirates.drewcentral.org

Drew Central Board of Education

Rene' Knowles, President

Curley Jackson, Vice President

Tyler Griffin, Secretary

Bruce Hackett, Member

Gary Lucas, Member

Nancy Chapman, Superintendent
nancy.chapman@pirates.drewcentral.org

Cindy Luper, Special Services
cindy.luper@pirates.drewcentral.org

Kelsey Tucker, Principal
kelsey.tucker@pirates.drewcentral.org

Chris Bussell, Assistant Principal
chris.bussell@pirates.drewcentral.org

Drew Central School District Website
http://www.drewcentral.org

Telephone Numbers/Fax:

Drew Central Elementary Office	870-367-6893
Drew Central Middle School	870-367-5235
Drew Central High School	870-367-6076
Superintendent's Office	870-367-5369
Special Education LEA Fax	870-367-4339
Superintendent's Fax	870-367-4330
Drew Central Gym & Cafeteria	870-367-6011
Bus Shop	870-367-4150

Table of Contents

6 Consequences For Handbook Infractions
6 Tier 3 Offenses
6 Fighting
6 Student Fees, Fines, & Charges
7 Parent Meeting Request Form
7 Report Bullying
8 DCMS Staff Roster
10 4.9 Tardies
11 4.10 Closed Campus
11 4.19 Conduct To & From School & Transportation Eligibility
11 4.21 Student Assault or Battery
11 4.23 Tobacco, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, Vape/Vape Pens & Related Products
12 4.24 Drugs and Alcohol
12 4.25 Student Dress & Grooming
13 4.43 Bullying
14 4.43 Social Conflict
14 4.47 Possession & Use of Cell Phones & Other Electronic Devices
14 4.7.1 DC Attendance Policy
15 4.8 Make-Up Work
16 4.10 Closed Campus
16 4.17 Student Discipline
16 Detention Hall
16 Academic Recognition
17 Dismissal Of Student To Custodial & Non-Custodial Parent
17 Equity Policy
17 4.64 Student use of Artificial Intelligence
19 Grade Forgiveness Policy for Accelerated Courses
21 Grading Policy
21 Home Access Center (HAC)
21 Inclement Weather Playground Policy
21 Money & Student Property
22 Deliveries
22 The DCMS Way
23 The DCMS Way Behavior Matrix
24 Student Dismissal
24 Thad Smith Memorial Award
24 Jr. Beta Club
25 Video Cameras
26 School Calendar 26-27

Handbook policy numbers not listed in this table of contents are available in the Drew Central School District handbook. This table of contents includes policies most applicable to DCMS.

Consequences For Handbook Infractions

** The Student Handbook policies were approved by the Drew Central School Board on July 30, 2026.*

The policies listed below are located in the Drew Central School District handbook. Consequences for any infractions listed in the student handbook can be, but not limited to, any combination of the following at the administrator's discretion.

- warning
- student conference with an administrator, counselor, and/or teacher
- parent conference with an administrator, counselor, and/or teacher
- before school, lunch, or after school detention
- loss of recess
- in school suspension (ISS)
- out of school suspension (OSS)
- reverse suspension
- corporal punishment
- mental health support recommendation
- law enforcement contact
- expulsion
- confiscation
- retention
- FINS
- fine

Tier 3 Offenses - behavior that poses a significant threat to safety, involves repeated or severe misconduct, or disrupts the learning environment may result in more intensive interventions and disciplinary actions; including, but not limited to suspension, expulsion, or law enforcement involvement.

Fighting

When students fight or incite a fight, it may be difficult to determine who is at fault. When a cooling off period is needed, both students may be immediately suspended until effort to determine fault is established. If a student is found to have not initiated the fight, that student should not be suspended. Alternative punishment may apply with regard to actual involvement. The consequence for fighting will be suspension up to **ten (10)** days with the possibility of expulsion at the administrator’s discretion.

In keeping with Act 1243 of 1997, all felonies or other violent criminal acts committed against a teacher, school employee or student will be reported to the appropriate local law enforcement agency and school district.

Student Fees, Fines, & Charges.

The Board of Education shall hold every student responsible for every textbook and other educational materials issued. It shall be understood that the parent or guardian of any student to whom textbooks or other materials are issued shall be held liable for any loss, abuse, or damage in excess of that which would result from the normal use of such materials. This is also applicable to other infractions.

Parent Meeting Request Form

Parent(s)/guardian(s) who desire a meeting with any Drew Central Middle School staff member must complete a Parent Meeting Request Form. Parent(s)/guardian(s) who fill out the Parent Meeting Request Form will receive a response soon.

DCMS Parent Meeting Form

Report Bullying

To report bullying, the student should inform a teacher, the counselor, or an administrator. The parent/guardian may also report bullying by using the QR code below.

DCMS Bullying Reporting Form

DCMS Staff Roster 26-27

Name	Position
Simone Adair	6th-8th Paraprofessional
Chris Adams	8th Grade Mathematics & Algebra 1
Amanda Bliss	6th - 12th Grade Master Teacher
Sheila Borse	8th Grade ELA & Strategic Reading
Chris Bussell	Assistant Principal and 504 Coordinator
Morgan Bush	Gifted & Talented Coordinator and Testing Coordinator
Meranda Cater	6th Grade Social Studies
Tim Collier	7-12 Career & Technical Education
Casandra Collins	ISS Paraprofessional
April Cruce	K-8 Dyslexia Interventionist
Morgan Deal	Library Media Specialist
Nicole DelTour	6th-8th Paraprofessional
Janine Eubanks	5th & 6th Grade Choir
Miranda Eubanks	6th Grade Science
Annagail Ferrell	Head Junior High Cheer Coach
Trent Fisher	6th-8th Paraprofessional
Jessica Forrest	8th Grade Science
Michael Goad	Head Senior Girls Basketball Coach & Athletic Director
Rebecca Greenwood	8-12 Career & Technical Education
Ashley Griever	7th Grade Social Studies
Kami Griffin	6th-12th Grade Nurse
Sarah Gustafson	Special Education Paraprofessional
Lindsay Harris	LEA Supervisor & SPED Coordinator

Jolene Hammock	7th Grade Science
Erika Herman	5th & 6th Grade Art
Aalexus Jones	Junior High Basketball & MS EAST Facilitator
Ashley Kelnhofer	Speech & Language Pathologist
Lauren Kendig	6th-12th Grade Nurse
Karen Kendig	Behavior Interventionist
Amy Lawson	Administrative Assistant
Britany Link	5th-8th Grade Math Special Education
Cindy Luper	Special Programs Coordinator
Katie Meier	7th & 8th Grade Art
Osmara Mondragon	7th Grade Mathematics
Madison Phillips	7-12 Choral Music and Careers
Special Sanders	7th Grade ELA & Strategic Reading
Henry Shifflett	5th-8th Grade English Special Education
Jarred Singleton	7th Grade Football
Amanda Smith	6th Grade Math and After School Site Coordinator
Joe Spatafora	ALE Director & Head Football Coach
Shawna Tilley	Counselor
Kelsey Tucker	Principal
Casey Walker	6th Grade English and Other Electives
CJ Watson	Health, PE, and Head Boys Basketball Coach
Haylee Williams	Intro to Survey of Agriculture Systems
Heather Wilson	6th Grade English
Jake Wright	8th Grade Arkansas History & Head Softball Coach
Brian York	6th - 12th Grade Band & General Music

4.9 Tardies

Prompt arrival at school and to each class is expected of all students. Middle School students are not allowed to gather with high school students during morning recess or during the school day at any time. Late arrival disrupts class and causes loss of instructional time. Students arriving after the tardy bell will be marked tardy. Consequences will be assigned to students who arrive late to their assigned location. Students who miss 15 minutes of class are considered absent.

A student will not be counted tardy due to the arrival of a late bus on which the student is riding.

Students who are tardy for 1st period must come by the Middle School Office to check-in and pick up a tardy slip to present to their teacher. Student attendance will be tracked per period. Students are expected to be present for class on time and prepared with all necessary materials to participate in class.

Concerning the 3:10 bell that signals the end of 7th period, students have until 3:14 to be at their next location. Student groups and their assigned locations after the 3:14 bell are listed below.

Car Riders	car rider line behind DCMS
Bus Riders	assigned seat on the bus or sidewalk at bus if bus driver is not present
Tutoring	after school tutoring teacher. Do not go outside at 3:06.
Student-Athletes	athletic facility with coach(es)

For students whose bus driver is present at 3:10, their assigned seat is on the bus. For students whose driver is not immediately present, their assigned seat is a designated spot on the sidewalk. Students not at their assigned location at 3:14 will be assigned a tardy and serve recess detention the following school day. Students in after school tutoring must go straight to after school tutoring at 3:10 without going outside. Students staying after school for extracurricular activity practice must be with their coach or sponsor by 3:14.

Consequences for violation of this policy from a 2nd period to 7th period tardy within a nine-week grading period will result in:

- One (1) Tardy: One (1) day of Detention Hall
- Two (2) Tardies: Two (2) days of Detention Hall
- Three (3) Tardies: Three (3) days of Detention Hall, Office Referral, Parent Conference & Behavior Contract
- Four (4) or More Tardies: Additional Detention Hall, In-School Suspension (ISS), Parent Conference, Referral to the Behavior Support Team, and/or Notify Legal Authority (FINS)

4.10 Closed Campus

Drew Central Middle School is a closed campus. In order to ensure the safety of our students, all parents and other visitors must report to the office upon arrival, sign in, and pick up a visitor's pass before going to any area of the campus. Upon leaving, the visitor must return to the office and check out. Students are to remain on campus and to leave only with the permission of the principal and the student's parents.

Students are not to be in the parking lot at any time or to visit with persons in parked cars in the parking lots or on the streets. Detention assignments and possible suspension will result in students choosing to violate this regulation.

Students are not to invite, encourage, or bring visitors/pets to school for any reason without permission from the principal or his/her designee. Any person needing to see a student during the school day must check through the principal's office for permission to be on campus. No loitering on campus by unauthorized visitors.

All schools in the District shall operate closed campuses. Students are required to stay on campus from their arrival until dismissal at the end of the regular school day unless given permission to leave the campus by a school official. Students must sign out in the office upon their departure.

Notice: The doors to the Middle School will be locked between 7:46am and 3:10pm each day to help ensure the safety of our students and staff. Please enter the middle school at the front entrance and immediately sign in at the office any time you visit our school. Safety of our students is our first and foremost concern!

4.19 Conduct To & From School & Transportation Eligibility

The District's Student Code of conduct applies to students while traveling to and from school or to and from a school activity to the same extent as if the students were on school grounds. Appropriate disciplinary actions may be taken against commuting students who violate the District's Student Code of Conduct.

4.21 Student Assault or Battery

The principal or principal designee will have discretion in administering other consequences for the student's conduct, based on the severity of the situation.

4.23 Tobacco, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, Vape/Vape Pens & Related Products

Smoking or use of tobacco or products containing tobacco in any form (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and snuff) in or on any real property owned or leased by a District school, including school buses owned or leased by the District, is prohibited. Students who violate this policy may be subject to legal proceedings in addition to student disciplinary measures.

With the exception of recognized tobacco cessation products, this policy's prohibition includes any tobacco or nicotine delivery system or product. Specifically, the prohibition includes any

product that is manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pips, or under any other name or descriptor

4.24 – Drugs and Alcohol

An orderly and safe school environment that is conducive to promoting student achievement requires a student population free from the deleterious effects of alcohol and drugs. Their use is illegal, disruptive to the educational environment, and diminishes the capacity of students to learn and function properly in our schools. Therefore, no student in the Drew Central School District shall possess, attempt to possess, consume, use, distribute, sell, buy, attempt to sell, attempt to buy, give to any person, or be under the influence of any substance as defined in this policy, or what the student represents or believes to be any substance as defined in this policy.

This policy applies to any student who: is on or about school property; is in attendance at school or any school sponsored activity; has left the school campus for any reason and returns to the campus; or is on route to or from school or any school sponsored activity. Prohibited substances shall include, but are not limited to: alcohol, or any alcoholic beverage; inhalants or any ingestible matter that alter a student's ability to act, think, or respond; LSD, or any other hallucinogen; marijuana; cocaine, heroin, or any other narcotic drug; PCP; amphetamines; steroids; "designer drugs"; look-alike drugs; or any controlled substance.

The sale, distribution, or attempted sale or distribution of over-the-counter (OTC) medications, dietary supplement or other perceived health remedy not regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration, or prescription drugs is prohibited. The possession or use of OTC medications, dietary supplement or other perceived health remedy not regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration, or prescription drugs is prohibited except as permitted under Policy 4.35 - Student Medications.

4.25 – Student Dress & Grooming

The Drew Central Board of Education recognizes that dress can be a matter of personal taste and preference. At the same time, the District has a responsibility to promote an environment conducive to student learning. This requires limitations to student dress and grooming that could be disruptive to the educational process because they are immodest, disruptive, unsanitary, and unsafe, could cause property damage, or are offensive to common standards of decency. Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-18-502(c)(1) A.C.A. § 6-18-503(c) APPROPRIATE DRESS FOR SCHOOL:

1. Shorts, skirts or dresses which have no holes, slits, tears that show skin and have a hemmed bottom edge(s) no shorter than three inches (the height of a $1 bill horizontally) from the top of the knee when standing; no spandex will be allowed. 40

2. Pants/slacks with no holes, slits, tears that show skin three inches (the height of a $1 bill horizontally) from the top of the knee.

3. "NO SAGGING". Sagging is defined as wearing the waistband of slacks, pants, shorts or skirts below the natural waistline. Sagging will be determined by the outermost layer of clothing. A belt is required for oversized pants.

4. Tops must have at least two-inch-wide straps, no sagging armholes, and a body length which

will cover the waist. Tank-type tops, halter tops, Crop tops, Tube tops, and/or spaghetti strap tops are not acceptable for school wear.

5. Clothing with no vulgar, obscene, suggestive or offensive messages or which advertise or support drugs, alcohol or tobacco.

6. Caps, hats, visors, scarves, bandannas, bonnets, sunglasses, or any other type of headgear are not to be worn in any school building by either boys or girls. Those items worn inside any building will be confiscated and kept in the office.

7. Blouses and shirts must cover the buttocks when worn with leggings and meet the requirements of #1 above.

8. Shoes will be worn at all times while at school.

9. Jewelry depicting drugs or other inappropriate symbols will not be allowed.

10. Any see-through, low-cut, or extremely tight clothing which makes underclothing visible, or is suggestive, will be prohibited.

11. All clothing must be properly worn. (Snaps snapped, buckles buckled, buttons buttoned, zippers zipped, etc.)

12. House shoes, pajamas, blankets and bath robes are not to be worn at school.

13. Students are prohibited from wearing, while on the grounds of a public school during the regular school day and at school-sponsored activities and events, clothing that exposes underwear, buttocks, or the breast of a female.

4.43 - Bullying

“Bullying” means the intentional harassment, intimidation, humiliation, ridicule, defamation, or threat or incitement of violence by a student against another student or public school employee by a written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that may address an attribute of the other student, public school employee, or person with whom the other student or public school employee is associated and that causes or creates actual or reasonably foreseeable: Physical harm to a public school employee or student or damage to the public school employee's or student's property;

To report bullying, the student should inform a teacher, the counselor, or an administrator. The parent/guardian may also report bullying by using the QR code below.

DCMS Bullying Reporting Form

Social Conflict

Social conflict is a written, verbal, electronic, or physical disagreement, stated or implied, between two or more individuals. Social conflict, if not handled properly by parent(s)/guardian(s), can result in name calling, pushing, shoving, fighting, spreading rumors, and/or other inappropriate behaviors. It is the parent(s)'/guardian(s)' responsibility to correct social conflict for their own student.

4.47 Possession & Use of Cell Phones & Other Electronic Devices

Students are responsible for conducting themselves in a manner that respects the rights of others. Possession and use of any electronic device, whether district or student owned, that interferes with a positive, orderly classroom environment does not respect the rights of others and is expressly forbidden.

To view the DCMS cell phone and electronics policy, please click the link below.

DCMS Cell Phone & Electronics Policy

Consequences For Possession & Use Of Personal Electronic Devices Infractions

Possession of and use of personal electronic devices will be considered a Tier 3 behavior. **Tier 3 behaviors**—behavior that poses a significant threat to safety, involves repeated or severe misconduct, or disrupts the learning environment may result in more intensive interventions and disciplinary actions, including, but not limited to suspension, expulsion, or law enforcement involvement.

1st Offense: 1 day ISS and parent conference
2nd Offense: 3 days ISS
3rd Offense: 5 days ISS and will be reported to legal authorities
4th Offense will result in Out of School Suspension (OSS)

4.7.1 DC Attendance Policy

Students shall not be absent, as defined in this policy more than eight (8) days in a semester. When a student has four (4) absences, his/her guardian, or person in loco parentis shall be notified that the student has missed half the allowable days for the semester. Notification shall be by telephone by the end of the school day in which such absence occurred or by regular mail with a return address sent no later than the following school day. Upon his/her return to school, the student will provide documentation regarding the absence.

Whenever a student exceeds eight (8) absences in a semester, the district shall notify the prosecuting authority and the parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis shall be subject to a civil penalty as prescribed by law.

Students with eight (8) absences in a course shall not receive credit for that course. If the student fails to receive credit for a sufficient number of courses and at the discretion of the

principal after consultation with persons having knowledge of the circumstances of the absences, the student may be denied promotion or graduation. Excessive absences, however, shall not be a reason for expulsion or dismissal of a student.
** Refer to the Drew Central School District policy for detailed information.*

ADMITTANCE PROCEDURES FOLLOWING AN ABSENCE

1. Students must have a note from a parent/guardian or a doctor containing the student's first and last name, date of the absent and the reason for the absence, a parent/guardian's signature, a phone number where parent/guardian can be reached for verification on the day he/she returns to school or the absence may be considered unexcused.
2. Students who arrive on campus any time after the first period tardy bell must sign in at the office window and receive a pass before reporting to class.
3. Students and/or Parents must make arrangements for any missed assignments with their teachers.
4. A student shall not forge or falsify any note.

4.8 Make-Up Work

Work may not be made up for credit for unexcused absences unless the unexcused absences are part of a signed agreement as permitted by policy 4.7.1 - absences.

Students who miss school due to an excused absence shall be allowed to make up the work they missed during their absence under the following rules:

1. Students are responsible for asking the teachers of the classes they missed what assignments they need to make up.
2. Teachers are responsible for providing the missed assignments when asked by a returning student.
3. Students are required to ask for their assignments on their first day back at school or their first-class day after their return.
4. Make-up tests are to be rescheduled at the discretion of the teacher, but must be aligned with the schedule of the missed work to be made up.
5. Students shall have one class day to make up their work for each class day they are absent.
6. Make-up work which is not turned in within the make-up schedule for that assignment shall receive a zero.
7. Students are responsible for turning in their make-up work without the teacher having to ask for it.
8. Students who are absent on the day their make-up work is due must turn in their work the day they return to school whether or not the class for which the work is due meets the day of their return.
9. As required/permitted by the student's Individual Education Program or 504 Plan.

4.10 Closed Campus

Drew Central Middle School has a closed campus. Students are expected to remain on campus throughout the school day. No student will be allowed to leave the campus without permission from the office. Parents or approved adults are required to check out students, in person, through the office. Identification will be required before the student can checkout if the person is not known. Emails or phone calls will not be accepted to check out a student.

Parents are discouraged from checking students out of school for reasons other than medical appointments or emergencies. Students who check out of class during any part of a class period will be marked absent from that class period.

Checkout Procedures

1. All students must check out through the office when leaving campus for any reason. Students must be checked out by a parent, guardian or approved designee. If a student returns, he/she must be “signed in” when returning to campus. Students may not be checked out by text message, telephone call, or email.
2. Parents/Guardians must have names listed on the student account of who can authorize their child permission to leave campus.
3. Transportation changes must be made by 2:00pm.

4.17 Student Discipline

The District’s administrators may also take disciplinary action against a student for off-campus conduct occurring at any time that would have a detrimental impact on school discipline, the educational environment, or the welfare of the students and/or staff.

DETENTION HALL (D-Hall)

Detention Hall: During Recess Time
6th and 8th Grade: 12:53 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.
7th Grade: 12:24 p.m. - 12:53 p.m.

Students assigned to D-Hall will report to the assigned room by their assigned start time. If a student arrives more than 2 minutes after the scheduled start time, according to the clock in the room, he/she will be considered late and will have to serve an extra day of D-Hall. If a student fails to report to detention hall, he/she will receive a write up with consequences assigned by administration and parent contact. A student showing up late for D-Hall, or is disruptive in D-Hall, will be required to serve one extra day in D-Hall.

Academic Recognition

Students in grades sixth through eighth will be eligible for academic recognition based on the following criteria:

Principal’s List	4.00 GPA
Pirate’s Pride List	3.00 - 3.99 GPA
Pirate’s Merit List	2.50 - 2.99 GPA or growth according to the most recent

assessment.

Any student who receives a U (Unsatisfactory) in conduct or a D or F in any subject will not be eligible for any academic recognition or achievement lists.

Act 390 of 2005 - Any parent or student who does not want to have their student identified as an honor student or listed on the honor roll shall submit a written request to the principal of the school requesting that the student not be identified. The school and school district shall not identify any student (achieving honor roll status), who has submitted a written request.

Dismissal Of Student To Custodial & Non-Custodial Parent

Section 1. (a) In order to avoid continuing child custody controversies from involving public school personnel, and to avoid disruptions to the educational atmosphere in our public schools, the transfer of a child between the child's custodial parent and non-custodial parent, when both parents are present, is prohibited from taking place on the property of a public elementary or secondary school on normal school days during normal hours of school operations.

Section 1. (b) The provisions of this act shall not prohibit one parent (custodial or non-custodial) from picking the child up from school at pre-arranged times on pre-arranged days if prior approval has been made with the school's principal.

Come to school, meet us, talk to us and volunteer your time and energy. Your involvement will show your children that you value their education. Parents count! Let's work together!

Equity Policy

It is the policy of the Drew Central School District to provide equal opportunities without regard to race, *color, national origin, sex, age, qualifying disability or veteran status in its educational programs and* activities in accordance with state and federal laws. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, educational services, financial services, financial aid and/or employment. Inquiries concerning this policy should be directed to: Randy Luper, Equity Coordinator, 250 University Drive, Monticello, AR 71655 (870-367-5369)

4.64—STUDENT USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Definitions

"Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools" means Software applications or platforms that utilize machine learning algorithms to perform tasks typically requiring human intelligence, such as generating content, providing recommendations, or solving problems. For purposes of this policy, AI tools does not include the use of spell check or grammar check.

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the responsible use of AI tools by District students. The policy applies to all students enrolled in the District and covers the use of AI tools when completing District assignments or projects.

The district shall provide teachers and students resources and education on AI literacy and digital citizenship. The District shall establish a committee who shall be responsible for the review and selection of AI tools that shall be available for students to use. All AI tools selected by the committee shall comply with applicable state and federal data privacy laws. Students

shall only use AI tools that were approved by the District committee for classroom assignments or projects.

Teachers are responsible for providing instructions on when and how AI tools may be used for classroom assignments. Students may use AI tools as approved by their classroom teacher to enhance learning and develop future-ready skills.

Students should use AI tools ethically and responsibly, aligning with the district's educational objectives, and in a manner that does not harm themselves or others. As part of using AI tools responsibly, students should be cautious about the information they provide to AI tools and consult with a teacher if unsure. At no time shall Students share personal, sensitive, or confidential information with AI tools, especially AI tools requiring data input.

When a student uses AI tools, a student shall:

1. Review and verify the accuracy of content that is generated by an AI tool;
2. Cite AI tools used as part of an assignment or project as a source, following District citation guidelines; and
3. Be transparent about their use of AI in completing assignments.

Students must ensure all submitted work is their own and properly acknowledge or cite any assistance from AI tools. Students are encouraged to ask questions if they are unsure about the acceptable use of AI tools.

The following actions regarding AI tools are strictly prohibited:

· Misuse of AI tools for cheating, plagiarism, or any form of academic dishonesty, including the submission of assignments that were fully generated by an AI tool and presented as original student work;
· Altering or falsifying academic documents or records using AI tools;
· Using AI tools to:
o Gain unauthorized access to District systems; or
o Bypass District security measures;

· Using AI tools to produce misleading or false information, imagery, or any form of false outputs about themselves, other students, or staff members.

Students should report any inappropriate content or security concerns encountered while using AI tools to a teacher or administrator.

Violations of this policy shall be handled in accordance with the District's disciplinary procedures.

Cross References: 3.58—LICENSED PERSONNEL USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
4.13—PRIVACY OF STUDENTS' RECORDS/ DIRECTORY INFORMATION
5.10—ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
7.16—INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECURITY
Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-2601 et seq.
A.C.A. § 25-1-128
15 U.S.C. § 6501
20 U.S.C. § 1232g

34 C.F.R. Part 99
Date Adopted:05/22/2025
Last Revised: 05/02/2025

Grade Forgiveness Policy for Accelerated Courses

Drew Central School District Board Policy

Grade Forgiveness for Middle School Students Earning High School Credit

(Effective 2026–2027 and Beyond)

1. Purpose

The Drew Central School District adopts this Grade Forgiveness Policy to encourage academic risk-taking and to ensure that middle school students enrolled in high school credit courses are not negatively impacted on their permanent academic record or grade point average (GPA).

2. Definition

Grade Forgiveness is the process by which a student's original grade in a high school credit course taken during middle school is replaced on the high school transcript after successful completion of an approved retake of the same course.

3. Eligibility

A student is eligible for grade forgiveness if:

- The student completed a high school credit course (e.g., Algebra I, Physical Science, English I, Biology, EAST, Agriculture, or other district-approved high school credit courses) while in middle school; and
- The student earned a final grade of **D or F** in the course.

4. Grade Forgiveness Process

Course Retake Requirement:

- The student must retake the same course during high school.
- The course must be retaken at the next available opportunity, typically during the student's first year of high school.

Grade Replacement:

- If the student earns a final grade of **C or higher**, the new grade will replace the original grade.

- If the student earns below a C on the retake, the original grade will remain on the transcript.

5. Transcript and GPA Regulations

- Only the forgiven (replacement) grade will appear on the official high school transcript.
- Only the replacement grade will be used in the calculation of the student's GPA.

6. Request Procedure

- A Grade Forgiveness Request Form must be submitted to the high school counselor's office no later than June 1 following the school year in which the course was completed.
- The principal or designee will provide a written response within 10 school days of submission.

7. Limitations

- Grade forgiveness may be applied once per course.
- Grade forgiveness applies only to high school credit courses taken in middle school.
- Grade forgiveness **does not apply** to:
    - Non-credit courses
    - Grades impacted by violations of attendance policies
    - Grades resulting from disciplinary actions, where applicable

8. Communication

The district will communicate this policy through:

- Student and parent handbooks
- Course registration materials
- Student Success Plan (SSP) meetings

9. Legal Reference

This policy aligns with guidance from the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regarding honors and accelerated learning, which requires districts to adopt and communicate grade forgiveness policies.

10. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every three (3) years or upon the issuance of new state guidance.

Grading Policy

The numeric grading scale (percentages) is used for students in grades 6-8. Grades assigned to students reflect only educational objectives and are consistent with laws and regulations.

Numeric Grading Scale
A = 90 - 100
B = 80 - 89
C = 70 - 79
D = 60 - 69
F = 59 & below

Home Access Center (HAC)

Home Access Center (HAC) is a web application which allows students and parents to view registration, class assignments, report cards, discipline, attendance, and scheduling information. A letter will be mailed home to students and parents that will include their secure login and password to access HAC records.

With HAC: http://hac23.esp.k12.ar.us.

- View demographic information
- View address information
- View interim progress reports and report cards for the current grading period
- View attendance information in calendar format with color-coded absence types
- View current schedule
- View class work and assignments
- View discipline infractions
- Access teacher and counselor email

Inclement Weather Playground Policy

The Weather Channel application will be consulted for the temperature and heat index and chill factor for our area.

- if the temperature is 38 degrees or above and the wind chill factor is above freezing, the students will go outside for recess
- if the temperature (heat index) is 97 degrees or higher, students will remain inside during the recess period.
- the principal will determine any exception to the above policies.

Money & Student Property

Students should not bring large amounts of money to school at any time. Students may bring money to spend during the two scheduled book fairs and snack days within the year.

Parents should label all items, including coats, hats, lunch boxes, etc. with the student's first and last name. Students should not bring items, such as toys, prohibited electronic items, etc. that are not needed for school work. Teachers have the right to confiscate such items and take them to the office for parents to pick up. The school can not accept responsibility for such items that are lost, stolen, or damaged.

Deliveries

Non-educational deliveries will not be allowed at any part of the school day. This includes balloons, flowers, food (lunch), etc. We recognize that school supplies, extracurricular items, and other educational materials may need to be delivered. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) may bring educational items to school, but will be asked to leave them in the office to be delivered to the student at a time that is least invasive to instructional time.

The DCMS Way

Setting Sail Toward Success

At Drew Central Middle School, we believe that every student deserves a safe, respectful, and engaging learning environment where they are known, supported, and challenged to grow. The DCMS Way is our schoolwide framework for building a positive school culture by teaching, modeling, practicing, and recognizing the behaviors that help every Pirate succeed.

Rather than simply expecting positive behavior, we intentionally teach students what those expectations look like in every area of our school. From classrooms and hallways to the cafeteria, bus, and assemblies, students learn how to demonstrate respectful, responsible, ready-to-learn, and safe behaviors each day.

Our faculty and staff are committed to creating consistent expectations, building positive relationships, and recognizing students who make choices that contribute to a strong school community. By working together, we foster an environment where students feel connected, valued, and motivated to do their best.

The DCMS Way focuses on developing the habits and character that prepare students for success both inside and outside the classroom. Our goals include:

- Creating a safe, positive, and welcoming school environment.
- Building respectful relationships among students, staff, and families.
- Increasing student engagement and academic growth.
- Promoting responsibility, accountability, and positive decision-making.
- Encouraging regular attendance and active participation.
- Recognizing and celebrating students who consistently demonstrate positive behaviors and leadership.

Students will be recognized throughout the year for demonstrating **The DCMS Way** through classroom celebrations, grade-level incentives, schoolwide recognition, and special events. While academics, attendance, and behavior are all important measures of success, we also believe that character, effort, growth, and leadership deserve to be celebrated.

Our schoolwide behavior matrix outlines the expectations for every area of campus. Teachers will explicitly teach, model, and reinforce these expectations throughout the year to ensure every student understands what it means to live **The DCMS Way**.

At DCMS, we are committed to helping every Pirate set sail toward success by creating a culture where respect, responsibility, readiness, and safety guide everything we do.

THE DCMS WAY

★ *Setting Sail Toward Success* ★

OUR PIRATE EXPECTATIONS

Our Pirate Expectations guide how we learn, lead, and treat one another.

AREA	RESPECTFUL *We show kindness and respect.*	RESPONSIBLE *We own our choices and actions.*	READY TO LEARN *We come prepared and do our best.*	SAFE *We keep ourselves and others safe.*
CLASSROOM	• Listen to others. • Use kind words. • Respect materials.	• Complete your work. • Follow directions the first time. • Be accountable for your choices.	• Arrive on time with materials. • Participate and ask questions. • Do your best every day.	• Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself. • Use materials appropriately.
HALLWAYS & TRANSITIONS	• Use quiet voices. • Respect classrooms and displays.	• Walk directly to your destination. • Follow directions the first time. • Be accountable for your choices.	• Be on time. • Stay with your class.	• Walk at all times. • Keep hands to yourself. • Stay to the right.
CAFETERIA	• Use good manners. • Include others. • Speak respectfully.	• Clean your area. • Follow cafeteria procedures.	• Stay seated until dismissed.	• Walk at all times. • Report spills immediately.
RESTROOMS	• Respect privacy. • Keep facilities clean.	• Flush, wash hands, and return promptly.	• Use the restroom efficiently and return to class.	• Report problems to an adult. • Keep water in the sink.
ASSEMBLIES & PROGRAMS	• Give speakers your attention. • Applaud appropriately.	• Follow staff directions. • Represent DCMS well.	• Be engaged. • Participate when appropriate.	• Stay with class. • Remain seated. • Keep aisles clear.
BUS	• Speak respectfully. • Follow driver directions.	• Stay seated. • Keep the bus clean.	• Be ready to load and unload quickly.	• Keep hands, feet, and belongings to yourself. • Stay seated while the bus is moving.

★ THE DCMS WAY ★

WE RESPECT. We treat everyone with kindness and dignity.

WE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY. We own our choices and actions.

WE COME READY. We are prepared to learn and grow every day.

WE STAY SAFE. We create an environment where everyone can succeed.

★ TOGETHER, WE LEARN. TOGETHER, WE LEAD. TOGETHER, WE SUCCEED. ★

SETTING SAIL TOWARD SUCCESS

Student Dismissal

Definite procedures are followed to assure the safety of children who are released during the day. Parent permission in writing or by telephone is required before a child will be allowed to leave during the day. The parent (or other named adult in the note or telephone conversation) should come to the office and sign for the child.

All students MUST be signed out in the office. Students will remain with the teacher until notified by the office that they have been checked out. The student will then report to the designated office to be picked up by the authorized person.

If your plans change during the day, please call the school no later than 2:00 p.m. to assure that your child receives the message. No one will be permitted to check out a child directly from the classroom.

If any person other than the parent or guardian is to pick up the child, the school must have a statement from the parent specifying necessary information.

Thad Smith Memorial Award

Qualifications

- 8th grade boy at Drew Central Middle School
- nominations may be made by any teacher at Drew Central
- the award may be granted annually and be a tribute for the “best of the best”
- self-motivated “artist” with natural, not mechanical, talent
- uses talent - writing and/or art - for self-gratification
- cooperation - uses his talent for the benefit of others (stage scenery, programs, etc.)
- ability to write in any genre to communicate ideas through the written word
- ability to relate to and with people
- unconscious compassion and kindness through actions
- self-discipline - appropriate behavior with teachers and peers
- grade point is not a deciding factor
- the award will be presented at the awards assembly

Selection Process

1. The selection committee has sole discretion in selection of the recipient.
2. Nominees will be evaluated by standards set by the above criteria.

Responsibility of the Winner

Thad’s family requests a sample of the student’s work along with a picture of the award winner be given to them once the award is made.

Drew Central Middle School Jr. Beta Club

Membership is open to all students in 6th through 8th grade who meet eligibility

requirements as follows:

Academic:

- ❖ Maintain a 3.00 GPA or Higher
- ❖ Score a Level 3 or 4 on two of the tested areas
- ❖ Any student who receives a D or F in any subject will not be eligible.

Behavioral:

Zero office referrals and no more than 1 lunch detention

Note: Any student who receives a U (Unsatisfactory) in conduct in any subject will not be eligible.

A member of this National Junior Beta club may be put on probation for the following reasons.

- ➢ If he/she is absent without a justifiable reason from 2 regular consecutive meetings.
- ➢ If his/her academic record falls below 3.0
- ➢ If he/she fails to attain at least 5 service hours without a justifiable reason.
- ➢ If he/she has an office referral

A member of this National Junior Beta Club may result in a **loss of membership** with **no refund** for the following reasons:

- ➢ One (1) assignment of ISS or suspension
- ➢ Corporal punishment

Video Cameras

…under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws, the parent may only view the video if his or her child is the only student in the video. - *Drew Central School District Handbook Page 44*

School Calendar 2026 - 2027

Date	Event
July 30, 2026	Teacher & Staff Safety Professional Development Day #5
August 3-6, 2026	Teacher & Staff Professional Development Days #6-9
August 6, 2026	Open House – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
August 10, 2025	First Day of School for Students
September 7, 2026	Labor Day – No Students or Staff
September 11, 2026	End of 4-Week Grading Period
September 17, 2026	Parent-Teacher Conferences (Progress Reports) – 2:00-7:00 p.m., 1:30 Early Dismissal
September 18, 2026	Staff Work Day (No Students)
October 9, 2026	End of 1st 9 weeks; End of 1st Quarter; Report Cards Issued
October 12, 2026	Columbus Day – No Students or Staff
November 13, 2026	End of 4-Week Grading Period
November 20, 2026	Progress Reports Go Home
November 20, 2026	Early Dismissal 1:30 PM
November 23-27, 2026	Thanksgiving Break
December 18, 2026	End of 2nd 9-Weeks; End of 2nd Quarter; Early Dismissal 1:30 PM
December 21-31, 2026	Christmas Break
January 1, 2027	Christmas Break
January 4, 2027	Staff Work Day (No Students)
January 5, 2027	Students return
January 8, 2027	2nd 9-Week Report Cards; 1st Semester Awards Assembly
January 18, 2027	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No Students or Staff
February 5, 2027	End of 4-Week Grading Period
February 11, 2027	Parent-Teacher Conferences (Progress Reports) – 2:00-7:00 p.m.; 1:30 Early Dismissal
February 12, 2027	No School- No Students/Staff
February 16, 2027	Presidents' Day – No Students or Staff
March 12, 2027	End of 3rd 9-Weeks; End of 3rd Quarter
March 19, 2027	3rd 9-Week Report Cards Issued
March 22-26, 2027	Spring Break
March 29, 2027	Easter Monday- No Students/Staff
April 16, 2027	End of 4-Week Grading Period
April 23, 2027	Progress Reports Go Home
May 17, 2027	8th Grade Promotion at 9 am.; Awards Assembly for Grades 6-7 10:00 am
May 20, 2027	Last day for students; end of 4th quarter; end of 4th 9 weeks; Early Dismissal 1:30 PM
May 21, 2027	Professional Day #10