

Dear Parents or Guardians:

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year. We are pleased to have your child in the eighth grade and anticipate an exciting, challenging, and educational year. By working as a three-part team of parents, teachers, and students, your child will receive the best possible education. We look forward to working with you to accomplish our goal of a successful year for every child.

To help your child succeed in eighth grade while preparing him or her to be an independent learner at the high school level, there are certain policies across the grade level. These policies will help each student with self-motivation, responsibility, and reinforce the importance of polite behavior and good work habits in an educational setting. This also maintains consistency throughout your child's day and provides a pleasant and safe learning environment for every student. Information on each policy is as follows:

1. Class Rules:

Rules and consequences are posted in each classroom and explained the first week of school and reviewed as needed.

Individual teachers may have additional specific classroom rules as needed.

*****Serious discipline problems or classroom disruptions will be immediately referred to the office.**

For more information please access the student handbook at:

<http://www.dentonisd.org/cms/lib/TX21000245/Centricity/Domain/99/2014-15/1415codeofconduct.pdf>:

2. Identification Badges:

ID's should be worn at all times.

If your child does not come to school with an appropriate ID, he/she will be sent to the main office to get a sticker (substitute ID) for the day. There is a 25 cent charge and escalating penalties for each time a student comes to school without an ID. If they are given a sticker, there is an automatic lunch detention the same day.

3. Grading and Assessment

Denton ISD has adopted a Standards-Based Grading system. This means that reported grades will be based solely on student learning and mastery of course objectives, such as the TEKS. Student work will consist of three types.

Formative assignments - these include notes, written work, activities, etc. that teach new material and/or skills. Grades may or may not be taken but will not apply to the student's class average.

Minor assessments (30% on level, 20% Pre-AP) - these include quizzes or other assignments that measure student progress toward learning objectives as they move through the lesson cycle.

Major assessments (70% on level, 80% Pre-AP) - these include major exams, projects, or assignments to assess student mastery at the end of a lesson cycle or unit.

Home Access Center (HAC) Home Access Center is the **PRIMARY** place to know your student's grades. **Please check HAC weekly with your student.** He/She has a login and password given to them by the District. Parents can have their own access. Please contact Nicole Bradley at 940-369-3313 to gain access to HAC and update any email/phone or contact information necessary.

Grading periods are 9 weeks long. *During that time, students will have the opportunity to redo or retake assessments to improve their grades after they have done remediation of the content and shown evidence of new learning.* This can include redoing or revising formative work, tutoring, or outside study as verified by the teacher. ***No retakes will be accepted during the last week of the grading period.***

4. Student Success

Make up Work - Students need to talk to each teacher upon returning from an absence to get information about how best to make up work.

Assessments –Grading policies – The district grading policy can be reviewed in the student handbook. [Student Handbook](#)

Tutoring - It is the student's responsibility to schedule tutoring with each teacher. Please be aware that tutoring is not a make up or homework time. It is a time to assist students with specific classroom help. Tutoring is available in all subjects by appointment with each teacher. Parents are required to provide transportation for tutoring if necessary in most cases.

Progress reports and report cards - ***All grades are reported in HAC (Home Access Center) we do not send report cards home for signature. All parents need to have access to HAC. If you do not have access please contact Nicole Bradley at 940-369-3313.***

5. Passing periods/etc. - In the four-minute passing period, students should collect class materials and take care of personal needs. Students are to stay in the eighth grade halls during these times unless their class is in another hall. Only approved materials essential to core classes will be allowed in classrooms. Purses, backpacks and bags for athletics are not allowed in classrooms. Only **clear** bottled water in **clear** containers will be allowed in the classroom.

******GUM IS NOT ALLOWED IN CLASSROOMS, GYMS, OR COMPUTER LABS.**

6. Cell phones and portable electronic devices (including I-pods) may be used before and after the school day but must be turned off and stored in lockers from 8:20-3:20. If they are found in the classroom, these items will be taken up by the classroom teacher and turned in to the office. Cell phones will be returned to a parent/guardian after a \$15.00 fine has been paid. Campus wide or teacher directed “technology days” will be highly publicized and devices will be allowed on a limited basis on those days.

Any time you have questions or concerns, please call 940-369-3300, or we can also be reached at the email addresses below. Should you wish to meet with your child’s teachers, please contact the team leader, Ms. Phillips, and she will schedule a meeting. We look forward to working with you and your child this year.

Sincerely,

The Team 8-1 Teachers:

Ms. Harden	English	dharden@dentonisd.org	940-369-3381
Mrs. Reid	Reading	kreid@dentonisd.org	940-369-3380
Ms. Overton	Math	moverton@dentonisd.org	940-369-3378
Mrs. Phillips	Social Studies	nphillips@dentonisd.org	940-369-3379
Mrs. Wagemann	Science	awagemann@dentonisd.org	940-369-3377
Mrs. Newbrand	Spanish/Math Accel	dnewbrand@dentonisd.org	940-369-3376
Nancy Cortez	ESL Inclusion	ncortes@dentonisd.org	940-369-3320
Ruth Westbrook	ESL Inclusion	rwestbrook@dentonisd.org	940-369-3394

All teachers have web pages on the McMath site.

