

Cheek Middle School

Student & Parent Handbook

2025-2026



CHEEK
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Charger Students and Families,

Welcome to Cheek Middle School. This year promises to be a great one for all of us! The experiences we have are dependent upon how we approach each day. The expectations, as indicated in our handbook, are meant to provide us with the best educational experience possible. Our Cheek handbook is a supplement to the Denton ISD Code of Conduct. We have made every effort to outline school policies, procedures, and expectations. However, if we need to amend any part of the handbook this year, I will communicate the amendment to students, staff, and our families. I encourage our students and families to review this handbook together.

I am so looking forward to serving our Cheek Middle School students, staff, and families!

Proudly,

Dr. Beth Kelly

Principal

Cheek Middle School

Students are expected to follow the rules and policies established for the welfare of the entire student body and staff. Students are expected to comply with the policies and procedures in the Denton ISD Student Code of Conduct, Cheek Middle School handbook, communication from the assistant principal or principal, the campus School Resource Officer and any Denton ISD employee upholding the district and campus expectations.

Accidents

Students are required to report all accidents to the teacher immediately. If an accident occurs outside of the classroom, it should be reported to the nearest available staff member. In the event of an injury, a staff member will communicate with our school nurse, who will assess the injury and contact parents/guardians if the injury is serious or needs further attention.

After School

Students are not to remain after school unless they are under the direct supervision of a school staff member. Unless they have prior arrangements with a staff member (tutoring, practices, etc.) students must arrange to be picked up within 15 minutes of the end of any activity. The times will be announced in advance. All students attending sports activities after school must be accompanied by a parent or adult family member assuming responsibility for the student. Unaccompanied students will be denied entry into any Denton ISD sporting events. For any event after school that does not require the presence of an accompanying adult, the student must be picked up within 15 minutes of the event. Failure to follow the expectation may result in refusal of participation for that student for future events.

Attendance

Regular school attendance is an essential part of school success. State law requires that all students attend at least 90% of the days in a semester to receive credit for courses. If a student is absent from school for any reason, the parent or guardian must submit the absence form to notify the school of the absence. The parent or guardian must submit a note explaining the absence upon returning to school, even if a call was made. Notes may also be submitted using the following link: <https://forms.dentonisd.org/Forms/absence-note>. All absences are recorded as unverified (unexcused) if the student does not turn in a note.

If your student is absent, they are responsible for making up any missed work. Students are responsible for obtaining the assignments from their teacher immediately upon return to school. Students are responsible for completing any previously assigned work/tests on the day of return to school.

Athletics/PE Dress Code

PE: PE will not dress out but wear clothes that allow you to stretch and be active. All students are required to wear tennis shoes. No jewelry will be worn during class.

Sports & Skills: All students are required to wear the Sports & Skills uniform every day in class and wear tennis shoes. No jewelry of any kind will be worn during class. All possessions must be secured in their locker issued to them.

Athletics: All students are required to wear the athletic uniform every day in class. No jewelry of any kind will be worn in class, practice, and games. Athletic shoes will be worn during class and activities. All possessions must be secured in their locker issued to them. Athletes must follow the expectations set by the coaching staff.

Bicycles

Right now, there are no safe routes for students to ride bicycles to school. However, in the event a student does ride a bike to school, we want to encourage bicycle safety to always be practiced when riding a bike to and from school. First, wear a bicycle helmet. Once you are on campus, please walk your bike to the bike stand. Bikes must be securely locked at the bike stands. Owners assume all responsibility for the security of their bicycles and helmets. Motorized vehicles, skates, scooters, shoes with wheels, hover boards and skateboards are not allowed on campus at any time.

Buses

Bus service is provided to all Cheek Middle School students who are zoned for Cheek Middle School. If you have any questions about buses, call the district transportation office at 940-369-0300. Students are expected to always behave properly on the bus. There is a "zero tolerance" for any kind of threatening behavior at bus stops or on the bus. Please understand any behavior on the bus that is distracting or endangers safety for others may result in suspension from the bus. Our transportation department will make that decision.

Buses will depart within 5 minutes of school dismissal. If a student misses his/her bus, they must report to the office and call a parent or guardian for transportation. Buses will not return for a student who misses his/her bus. The school is not responsible for driving students home in the event they miss their bus or lose access to the bus due to behavior.

Cafeteria

Students must report to the cafeteria quietly and calmly each day. Students will follow all instructions given by staff members in the cafeteria. At times, students may be told to refrain from talking so staff can communicate with students. Because student safety is paramount, students must be compliant. Those who do not follow the rules may lose the privilege of eating with their classmates in the cafeteria. Students who want to eat breakfast must report directly to the cafeteria to eat. Students may not report to the cafeteria in the morning to socialize. No food may be taken out of the cafeteria.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices

- Texas HB 1481 Personal Communication Devices are prohibited during the instructional day.
- HB 1481 dictates the district must have a plan of action regarding student consequences if they violate HB 1481.

- Students must have their devices OFF and secured in their backpacks.
- If a student refuses to give a school official their device when directed, consequences will address noncompliance.

1st Offense

- Device confiscated by administration; student may pick up device at the end of the school day, after the dismissal bell, in the office.
- Warning is documented.

2nd Offense

- Detention (lunch, before-, or after-school)
- Device confiscated by administration; parent may not pick up device before the end of the school day. Parent may pick up the device after the dismissal bell, in the office.
- Office referral is documented
- The student must complete a behavior contract to confirm their understanding and future adherence to the policy.

3rd Offense

- ISS
- Device confiscated by administration; parent may not pick up device before the end of the school day. Parent may pick up the device after the dismissal bell, in the office.
- Office referral documented is documented
- In-person conference with the administrator, parent, and student; campuses may hold device until after meeting occurs.

4th Offense and Beyond

- 3+ days ISS, OSS, or DAEP
- Device confiscated by administration; parent may not pick up device before the end of the school day. Parent may pick up the device after the dismissal bell, in the office.
- Office referral is documented
- In-person conference with the administrator, parent, and student; campuses may hold device until after meeting occurs.

Closed Campus

Like all middle schools in the Denton ISD, Cheek Middle School is a closed campus. This means that the students may not leave the school grounds from the time they arrive on campus until the time they are dismissed or signed out by a parent/guardian listed at registration. Leaving the school grounds is considered truancy and will be addressed through a discipline referral. Additionally, students may only be in the area to which they are assigned or designated by the school.

Conduct

Cheek Middle School students are expected to behave in a safe, appropriate, and responsible manner always, in all places, and in all situations. It is the expectation students comply with staff directives, with respect. If for some reason a student chooses not to make the appropriate choices, Cheek Middle School will follow the district Student Code of Conduct for student behavior.

Counselors

The counselors on staff at Cheek Middle School are here to assist students with educational planning and related needs. Students may request an appointment by signing into the Google form on the counseling website. The counselors will call the classroom teacher for the student when it is time for the visit. In an emergency, the student may ask their teacher for an emergency pass to the counselor's office.

Deliveries at School

The school will not accept non-school related items to be delivered to students. This includes flowers, balloons, cookies, cakes, etc. on student birthdays or other occasions. Please have these items delivered to your home. Additionally, we will not accept student food deliveries on campus from restaurants or delivery drivers. We will turn them away, thus students won't receive the order. Student athletes will coordinate with their coaches for food drop off on game days.

Detention

Any member of the faculty or administration may assign detentions for violations of the student code of conduct, campus rules/regulations, or classroom rules. After other corrective measures have failed, teachers may assign before school detentions (7:45-8:15AM), after school detentions (3:35-4:00PM), or lunch detentions. In the event a student is assigned before or after school detention, parents and students shall be responsible for transportation. Student detention assignments are enforced for minor infractions. Persistent infractions can result in elevated consequences such as in-school suspension or out of school suspension.

District Electronic Devices

Every student is expected to comply with district and school rules when using any electronic device. If a student damages, vandalizes, or destroys a school issued device, the student will be responsible for the full cost of replacing or repairing (if possible) the device.

Students are expected to bring their charged Denton ISD issued Chromebook and charger to school every day.

Dress Code

The administrative staff will have the final say as to the appropriateness of any dress code item. Any dress code violations will be sent to an administrator. The administrator will ensure that the matter is handled appropriately and will offer the following solutions:

Allow the student to change into other clothes.

Allow the students to call home to get a change of clothes brought to them.

Allow the students to exchange their clothes for an appropriate item provided by Cheek Middle School, if available.

If the solutions provided do not rectify the dress code violation, the student may be assigned to ISS.

DRESS CODE

The Cheek Middle School dress code has been adapted from the Denton ISD dress code.

The Denton ISD dress code is established to teach hygiene, instill self-discipline, prevent disruptions, promote safety, prepare students for life after high school, and provide an environment for learning. When there is a question on the dress or appearance of a student, the building administrator and school staff will use discretion concerning the dress code.

Please note that multiple violations of the dress code will result in disciplinary consequences.

The following items have been determined to be **unacceptable** for wear at school:

Accessories that create a disruption

Accessories applied to the facial area, tongue, or body such as safety pins to the eye area, studs, or rings through the nose

Any headgear other than part of approved school uniform

Bandanas

Bare midriffs

Chains or accessories which can be used as a weapon (such as spiked collars/bracelets)

Display of undergarments

Flip-flops (except in high schools, or as determined by administration on all campuses)

· Cheek MS allows flip-flops and slides

Garments containing offensive or obscene words or phrases, pictures, symbols, or images

Garments which promote or advertise alcohol, tobacco or other prohibited products

Halter tops or tank tops

Mesh/net clothing

Pajamas or house shoes

Ragged or intentionally cut-torn clothing as determined inappropriate by the campus

principal or designee

Saggy/baggy pants

See-through apparel, including leggings

Cheek allows leggings to be worn as pants if they are not see through, and the top worn stops at the midthigh or lower.

Shirts open at the sides (excessively large armholes)

Short shorts/skirts must not be shorter than mid-thigh.

Steel-toed shoes (except in identified CTE classes)

Strapless dresses/blouses/shirts

Sunglasses

Unnatural cosmetics contact lens colors (considered distracting)

Inappropriate hairstyles that cause a disruption

Cheek allows unnatural hair color provided it is not a distraction

Visible tattoos and body art which promote nudity, obscenity or gang activity are unacceptable and must be covered.

Once distributed, Cheek issued student ID badges must be on their lanyard, around their neck and visible

Elevator Use

The elevator is not for general use. If you have a special circumstance that makes it necessary for students to use the elevator for health reasons, you may obtain an elevator pass from the school nurse or an assistant principal. Anyone caught using the elevator or playing with the controls will be subject to disciplinary action.

Eligibility

To participate in extracurricular activities, students must maintain passing grades in all subjects. If a student receives less than a 70 in any class, they are ineligible for the three weeks following the failure. Cheek MS follows the UIL eligibility calendar. Citizenship and behavior may also be factors in determining ability to participate in events.

Food, Drinks, and Gum

Water is permitted in the classroom and in the hallways in a clear bottle. Food is not permitted in the classroom unless there is a 504 or IEP accommodation. Also, **this is a gum free campus. Gum is not allowed on campus.** Students, staff, and visitors must make every effort to keep our campus beautiful and clean.

Hall Passes

Students must have a staff assigned hall pass to go anywhere in the building. Students in the halls without passes will be returned to class and receive consequences consistent with the student code of conduct.

ID Cards

School issued IDs must be always visible on and worn around the neck on a lanyard at all school activities. There may be no markings or stickers on the ID. Students may not possess an ID other than their own. There will be consequences for improper use of the cards. Students who repeatedly do not wear their ID will be subject to disciplinary consequences. Students must replace lost or damaged IDs immediately. If students do not have their ID on properly, the following procedures will be followed:

1. First offense is a warning. These students will receive a sticker ID so teachers aren't reporting 7 violations for 1 day.
2. Second offense is a detention, issued by an administrator. Again, students will receive a sticker ID for the day.
3. Third offense is an ISS (in school suspension) assignment. At this point, parents will be notified via email. Also, a \$5.00 fee will be incurred in Intouch, and a replacement ID will be issued. The student or parent can pay the Intouch fee in person or the parent can pay online. Students and parents always have the option of paying for the ID in cash before an InTouch fee is assigned.
4. Further offenses will result in an ISS or OSS (out of school suspension). Parents will be notified via email. Also, a \$5.00 fee will be incurred in Intouch, and a replacement ID will be issued. The student or parent can pay the Intouch fee in person or the parent can pay online. Students and parents always have the option of paying for the ID in cash before an InTouch fee is assigned.
5. This process will start over each grading period.

Please note, students are expected to use their IDs for transportation and in the cafeteria line. Ultimately, we count on students wearing their IDs at all times for safety reasons. We need to be able to immediately identify our students and easily ascertain when someone is on campus who

is unauthorized.

ISS and OSS (In School Suspension and Out of School Suspension)

Students completing a disciplinary consequence in ISS or OSS will not be allowed to attend any school-related activity during the time assigned to ISS OR OSS. These students are not allowed to be anywhere on campus at any time unless under the direct supervision of the ISS teacher, school counselor, or administrator. Students who are assigned ISS or OSS on the day of an event are not allowed to participate in or attend any Denton ISD event.

Leaving During the Day

Students cannot leave campus once they have arrived unless a parent/guardian signs them out through the attendance office. Students will not be released to anyone not listed by the parent/guardian who completes the registration process. When arriving on campus all parents and other visitors must enter and exit through the front entrance, and have valid photo identification for verification (state issued ID or passport).

Library

The library is available throughout the day and before and after school. Passes may be obtained from the library staff. Students are encouraged to use the library. Rules for the library are posted in the library. Students are responsible for any lost or damaged materials they use, borrow, or check out.

Loitering

Students cannot arrive on campus before 7:45AM unless they are participating in a directly supervised activity such as athletics or fine arts sessions. Students must be picked up by 3:45PM.

No adult supervision is available before 7:45AM or after 3:45PM unless prior arrangements have been made.

Lost and Found

Students should not bring valuable items to school. Lost items turned in to the office will be placed in the lost and found area located in the cafeteria. Items not claimed in a reasonable time will be donated to charity. It is helpful to label coats and other expensive items to more easily route to the owner. If a student needs to report a lost or stolen item, he/she must make a report to our School Resource Officer (SRO).

Make-up Work

Students who are absent have a period equivalent to the number of days missed plus one to complete all make-up work. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain the assignments from

the teacher immediately upon his or her return to school. The office will not collect assignments for students who are absent. An absence does not excuse a student from being responsible for previously assigned work or tests on the day of return to school.

Markers/etc.

No permanent markers, "white-out" products, Marks-A-Lots, or paint pens are allowed in the building. These items will be taken up by the staff and will not be returned to students. Only water-based markers may be used in school, unless directed and supervised by staff.

Medications

Refer to medication policy in the Denton ISD Student Code of Conduct. These policies are strictly enforced on campus.

Nurse's office

Students who become ill or injured during the school day must report to the nurse's office. All students must have a pass to come to the nurse's office. All calls made to parents regarding illness/injury must be made by the nurse. Make sure that the nurse has current home, work, and emergency contact phone numbers. If no parent/guardian can be contacted in an emergency, the student will be transported by ambulance at the parent's expense.

Prohibited Items

The following items are not allowed at school or at school sponsored activities: weapons of any kind, trading cards, tobacco products, toys, lighters/matches, fireworks, stink/smoke bombs, e-cigs, toy guns or anything that could cause a disruption of the learning process.

School Cancellations

If school must be closed due to weather or other emergency conditions, announcements will be made on the local TV and radio stations. Announcements will be posted on the district and campus website.

Tardy Policy

- After one to three tardies to any class, the student will receive a warning and reminder of tardy expectations.
- After the fourth and fifth tardy, the student will receive a lunch detention.
- After six tardies, the student will write an office referral.
- Chronic tardies may result in additional disciplinary actions.

- Impromptu TARDY SWEEPS may occur at any time during the school day. Disciplinary action will be taken with students caught in the tardy sweeps.
- Notification will be communicated to parents.
- Tardies start over every 9 weeks.

Telephone

Students have access to the telephone in Student Services only when they have a pass completed by a staff member. Please make all transportation and social arrangements prior to coming to school. There are no pay telephones available.

Textbooks

The district provides some textbooks in print and in electronic versions. Every student is expected to take care of the books. All textbooks have two identifying barcodes. If these barcodes are removed or defaced, the student will be held responsible for the book's full cost. Students who lose or damage a book, while it is checked out to them, will be expected to pay for it.

Vandalism

Vandalism of school property or the property of another individual is serious and may be costly. Depending on the severity of damage, along with school consequences, legal consequences may be warranted and pursued. Defacing, breaking or destroying property will result in appropriate consequences. We should take pride in our beautiful campus and maintain it.

Vending Machine

The product companies own the vending machines located on campus. The school cannot give refunds. Students should also be aware that stealing from the machines or tampering with any of the products is against the law and will be dealt with by the school and law enforcement. Vending machines may not be used between classes and those vending machines that are in the Teachers' Lounge and are off limits to students.

Visitors

Approved adult visitors are welcome at Cheek Middle School. When arriving on campus all parents and other visitors must enter and exit through the front entrance, and have valid photo identification for verification. All visitors must sign in at the main office desk upon arrival, wear a visitor's badge for the visit and sign out when leaving. Parents are welcome to have lunch with their students in the cafeteria. Students are not allowed to have non-adult guests or friends attend classes or lunch. Only those individuals identified by the parent/guardian who registers the

student may visit or have access to the student while at Cheek. These rules are vital to the safety of the students, and we appreciate your cooperation.

If a parent requests to observe a classroom, they must be granted approval from their student's assistant principal at least 24 hours in advance. Additionally, the teacher must agree to visitors in the classrooms. Requests for observations may not be granted if it is determined it is not in the best interest of the classroom environment.

Traffic Pattern

