

GINNINGS ELEMENTARY



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JAGUARS***

PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK 2021 – 2022

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ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS: TANIA SEDA & GENNIFER SMITH

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To Students and Parents of Ginnings Elementary:

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! Education is a team effort, and we know that working all together; students, parents, teachers, and other staff members, can make this a wonderfully successful year for our students.

Please be aware that the term “the student’s parent” is used to refer to the parent, legal guardian, or any other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student. Both students and parents should become familiar with the DISD Student Code of Conduct and the DISD Student & Parent Handbook. The DISD Student Code of Conduct is a document adopted by the DISD Board of Trustees and intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. Both documents may be found on the District’s Website

The Ginnings Elementary Parent/Student Handbook is a document in addition to the DISD Student & Parent Handbook and is designed to be in harmony with board policy and the DISD Student Code of Conduct. Please be aware that it is not a complete statement of all policies, procedures, or rules that may be applicable in a given circumstance.

In case of conflict between board policy (including the DISD Student Code of Conduct) and any provisions of the Ginnings Elementary Parent/Student Handbook, the current provisions of board policy and the DISD Student Code of Conduct are to be followed. Also, please be aware that the handbook is updated yearly, while policy adoption and revision may occur throughout the year. Changes in policy or other rules that affect the Ginnings Elementary Parent/Student Handbook provisions will be made available to students and parents through newsletters or other communications.

If you or your child has questions about any of the material in this handbook, please contact Dr. Claudia Calvo-Montes, Principal of Ginnings Elementary.

At Ginnings Elementary, we are looking forward to welcome back all of our students and we are looking forward to work alongside you to ensure the success of our students.

Dr. Claudia Calvo-Montes

School Principal

This first page has been inserted into our traditional Parent/Student Handbook, to provide specific information related to new Ryan Zone and Ginnings protocols/procedures, as well as the published “DISD

Student and Staff Safety Protocols” as we begin the 2021-2022 school year. The below statements are also included throughout this entire handbook, but the bulleted statements will alert our families to important “need to know” elements that begin on August 12, 2021, when returning face-to-face.

New Campus Procedures/Protocols:

- All elementary campuses will provide face-to-face instruction for students this year. The only virtual option will be for those who committed to the DISD Virtual Academy.
- **Following the advice of officials at Denton County Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) beginning Thursday, Aug. 26, face coverings or masks are required for students, employees and visitors inside all Denton ISD buildings where physical distancing is not possible. This temporary requirement will remain in place until local hospitalization access and community spread of COVID-19 slows.**
- Campus volunteers will be permitted this year. We will, however, be designating specific areas and days for our volunteers while on campus. This will aid in limiting additional individuals entering the learning spaces with children during the school day.
- Breakfast visitors will not be permitted this year; however, lunch visitors will be permitted this year on a designated day. In addition, we will continue to reinforce our standing campus practices that other students may not join families eating at the designated visitors’ tables, nor may parents sit at the student lunch tables.
- Parents will be permitted to walk students down to classrooms for the first 12 days of instruction this year. This will allow the opportunity for families to see their child’s classroom, as well as help them become initially acclimated to the school year. Beginning Monday, August 30th, car riders will only be dropped off in the front car tag line beginning at 7:10 a.m.
- This school year lunch visitors will be permitted. We will, however, be designating specific areas for our visitors while on campus. The day designated for lunch visitors will be Fridays.
- In order for students to get acquainted with the cafeteria and have time socializing, we ask that there are no lunch visitors the first 7 days of school. This is a crucial time in learning procedures and gaining independence. This time builds confidence and makes them the “expert” of their lunch time.
- Campus performances, field trips, and large campus gatherings (Grandparent’s Day, Meet the Teacher, etc.) will be permitted this year. Staggering of schedules for these may occur in order to limit the number of individuals in the hallways and learning spaces.
- Students will be able to switch classes and be combined with others within the grade level this year (Orchestra, Choir, PE, etc.)
- 504 Meetings, IEP Meetings, and Parent Conferences may still be held virtually during the school year.

****Please note, should there be any protocol changes within the school year for DISD, families will be notified in a timely manner****

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Arrival Procedures

Student drop-off is at the front of the school. Bus/Daycare drop-off is at the back of the school.

School building opens at 7:10 a.m. Students may not arrive at school before 7:10 a.m., as there is no adult supervision until that time, and they will not be permitted to enter the building. Students arriving by bus/daycare will enter through the back doors. Students arriving by car between 7:10 a.m. – 7:40 a.m. are to enter through the door #10, located at the front of the school.

Under no circumstances should a student be dropped off in the bus lane or in either of the parking lots and allowed to walk across to the front entrance of the building. This is an issue of safety because of cars, buses and day care vans unloading.

Under no circumstances are vehicles allowed to park in the bus lane or in an area of the parking lot that is not designated as a parking spot for handling daily needs within the school building.

All students should report to the following designated areas:

Students eating breakfast will report to the cafeteria. There will be designated areas per grade level for students to eat their breakfast.

All other students in K – 2nd grade should report to the gym. Their homeroom teacher will escort them to their classrooms.

All other students in 3rd to 5th grade should report directly to their hallways.

Starting on Monday August 30th, 2021, for students arriving later than 7:40 a.m., their parent or guardian must walk them to the front office, as no adults will be outside supervising the area.

Dismissal Procedures

Car Riders – Parents will need their child’s number displayed. Students will begin loading at 3:00 p.m. Students remain in the gym until their name is called and then a staff member will walk the students to the cars as

they arrive at the loading zone. **Please do not park your car in the driveway or in the parking lot and come to get your child.** Students will only be released to those in vehicles and with visible car tags. In addition, parents will not be permitted to obtain their children via the front office in order to avoid the car tag procedures. Should this occur, the driver will be asked to return to the vehicle and follow dismissal procedures set in place for the campus. It is extremely important to note that during the first 2 weeks of school, car tag dismissal will take several minutes due to the high volume of car riders and students learning the procedures. This time frame will decrease significantly as we move beyond the first 2-week period.

Bus Riders – The transportation department communicates with parents about pick up and drop off times and locations. Students will be receiving an ID badge for the bus. Buses riders going home will load buses Sun Valley Dr. Students may not ride home on the bus unless they are registered for bus transportation. In addition, students are only permitted to ride the bus to which they have registered.

Walkers: Based on parent information to teachers, these are students that can go home by themselves since they live close by.

Parent Pick Up: You need your child’s number for this method. Students will exit to the second blue door of the gym. Parents are lined up against the cafeteria wall. Once our staff records your number, please move against the gym wall. A staff member will bring them to you.

Daycare – Students that go to a daycare afterschool, report to the cafeteria and wait until they are picked up.

Extended Day – These students report to the commons area and once all extended day students arrive, they move to the cafeteria.

Changes in dismissal method: If your child needs to go home in a different method than what you have informed the teacher, you need to contact the office to inform us about the change. All changes requests should be made by 2:30 pm. to ensure that the child’s classroom teacher can be notified before students begin their dismissal procedures. As a safety precaution, school personnel will NOT take a child’s word for dismissal

changes. Without notification from you, your child will go home via their “normal” mode.

If a student is leaving early for an appointment, parents or guardians must provide a note from the doctor or dentist verifying the appointment upon their return to school. Office staff members have the obligation of asking for the reason why a child is being picked up before 3:00 p.m. due to the fact that attendance policies apply to students who consistently leave early without any medical documentation.

For students in elementary school, a parent or otherwise authorized adult (as designated on the emergency contact list) must come to the office and sign the student out. Please be prepared to show identification. Once an identity is verified, a campus representative will then call for the student or collect the student and bring him or her to the office. For safety purposes and stability of the learning environment, we cannot allow you to go to the classroom or other area unescorted to pick up the student. Both parents/legal guardians will have the right to pick up their children unless the school has legal documentation that designates otherwise.

Absences and Attendance

Parents may access the DISD Attendance page throughout the year at this link:

<https://www.dentonisd.org/Page/100909>

All information below remains accurate per the DISD Parent/Student Handbook - www.dentonisd.org.

Compulsory Attendance

State law requires that a student between the ages of six and eighteen attend school, as well as any applicable accelerated instruction program, extended year program, or tutorial session, unless the student is otherwise excused from attendance or legally exempt. State law requires attendance in an accelerated reading instruction program when kindergarten, first grade, or second grade students are assigned to such a program. Parents will be notified in writing if their child is assigned to an accelerated reading instruction program as a result of a diagnostic reading instrument. A student will be required to attend any assigned accelerated instruction program, which may occur before or after school or during the summer, if the student does not meet the passing standards on the state assessment for his or her grade level and/or applicable subject area.

It is important to note that all enrolled Kindergarten students are also required to attend school and are subject to the compulsory attendance requirements as long as they remain enrolled.

Documentation after an Absence

When a student is absent from school, the reason for that absence must be provided within 3 days after the

student’s return to the school in order to make appropriate documentation. All absence notes must be submitted through LaserFiche using the link below:

<https://forms.dentonisd.org/Forms/absence-note>

Phone calls and emails will not be accepted as documentation.

The campus will document in its attendance records for the student whether the absence is considered by the district to be excused or unexcused. Please note that, unless the absence is for a statutorily allowed reason under compulsory attendance laws, the district is not required to excuse any absence, even if the parent provides a note explaining the absence.

Doctor’s Note after an Absence for Illness

Upon return to school, a student who is absent for 5 or more consecutive days because of a personal illness, must bring a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student’s extended absence from school. Otherwise, the student’s absence may be considered unexcused and, if so, would be considered to be in violation of compulsory attendance laws.

In order for an absence to be coded MED (Medical Absence), the student must begin classes or return to school on the same day of the appointment. The appointment should be supported by a document, such as a note or fax from a healthcare professional. This documented medical appointment applies to any absence for the student or the student’s child.

Failure to Comply with Compulsory Attendance

School employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent without permission from school; from any class; from required special programs, such as additional special instruction, termed “accelerated instruction” by the state; or from required tutorials will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action. The Ginnings Attendance Committee will review all absences.

Tardiness

Prompt arrival at school is expected of all students. Late arrival causes a loss of instructional time for our students. Any student who arrives at school after 7:40 a.m. is considered tardy and must enter through the front office. Excessive tardiness will be reviewed by the Ginnings Attendance Committee for further action.

Denton ISD will implement the following truancy prevention measures:

Truancy Prevention Measure	When it will be Initiated
Student & Parent Handbook (page 51-56) Attendance Guidelines (Parents acknowledge receipt with digital signature)	Provided to ALL Parents During Enrollment (InfoSnap)
Compulsory Attendance Law; It's the Law Flyer; TASB's Attendance Requirement Flyer (Parents acknowledge receipt with digital signature)	Provided to ALL Parents During Enrollment (InfoSnap)
Automated Phone Call and Email with Every Absence	Every time Student Is Marked Absent (includes POD's)
Warning Letter Emailed Home AND Online Truancy Class Assigned	3rd Absence in 4 Week Period OR 4th Absence in a Semester
Ginnings Attendance Committee will contact parents/guardians	5th Absence in 1 Year
Behavior Plan Implemented AND In-Person Truancy Class Assigned	6th Absence in 1 Year
School Counselor Outreach. Mrs. Polly will contact parents/guardians	7th Absence in 1 Year
Campus Assigned Intervention or Consequence	8th Absence in 1 Year
Refer Student to Attendance Officer	10 (+) Absence in 1 Year

For any questions about student absences, parents should contact the campus attendance clerk/liaison or the campus administrator. (Mrs. Seda, Ginnings Elementary Assistant Principal) or can access the Attendance website at: <https://www.dentonisd.org/Domain/12541> Mrs. Seda may be reached at 940.369.2702 or by e-mail at: tseda@dentonisd.org

Change of Address, Telephone Numbers or Emergency Contacts

It is very important that every student maintain an up-to-date address, telephone number and emergency contact list in the front office. The names provided

during registration are the ones who are authorized to pick up children from school. If that information changes, the front office must be notified so that the

appropriate items can be updated to reflect that change. The phone numbers that are provided are the only means of contacting you in case of an emergency. It is your responsibility to make sure that the school has the most current information. If you move, new proof of

address must be provided and if needed a transfer application must be completed in a timely manner, should the new address be located outside the Ginnings Elementary attendance zone.

Discipline

Our goal at Ginnings Elementary is to be a positive learning environment. Our staff members implement a school-wide behavior management program called CHAMPS. Through this program, students have universal expectations for behavior and teachers utilize common language so that students clearly understand what the expectations are across settings (classroom, cafeteria, special areas, hallway, etc.). Additionally, all staff members implement the use of restorative practices. These practices promote conflict resolution, communication, and empathy. Each classroom creates respect agreements and they teachers use "R" Time (**R**elationships **t**o **i**mprove **e**ducation) program. R time is a program that enable students to learn the skills of making and sustaining friends and relationships. Mrs. Polly, our school counselor, assists in the implementation of this program in addition to her guidance lessons and circles.

Every classroom has general expectations for student behavior, that they share with parents. If a student is disrupting the learning environment on a regular basis or exhibits inappropriate behavior, this may result in an office referral. If your child visits the office for discipline, you will receive communication either through a phone call or written documentation. Repeated violations for misconduct could result in larger consequences such as in-school suspension, out of school suspension, or mandatory removal from campus to an alternative campus.

Per the DISD Student Code of Conduct, General Conduct Violations include, but are not limited to:

- Failure to comply with directives given by school personnel (arguing, yelling, ignoring, leaving class)
- Using profanity or vulgar language
- Making obscene gestures
- Fighting
- Assault to a student or to an adult
- Disobeying rules for conduct on DISD vehicles
- Defacing or damaging school property
- Stealing

Disruptions of School Operations

Disruptions of school operations are not tolerated and may constitute a misdemeanor offense. As identified by law, disruptions include the following:

- Interference with the movement of people at an exit, entrance, or hallway of a district building without authorization from an administrator.
- Interference with an authorized activity by seizing control of all or part of a building.
- Use of force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent participation in an authorized assembly.
- Use of force, violence, or threats to cause disruption during an assembly.
- Interference with the movement of people at an exit or an entrance to district property.
- Use of force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent people from entering or leaving district property without authorization from an administrator.
- Disruption of classes or other school activities while on district property or on public property that is within 500 feet of district property.

- Class disruption includes making loud noises; trying to entice a student away from, or to prevent a student from attending, a required class or activity; and entering a classroom without authorization and disrupting the activity with loud or profane language or any misconduct.
- Interference with the transportation of students in vehicles owned or operated by the district.
- Interference with any school related matters involving other students while on campus. Interactions/Investigations with students about conduct or behavior related concerns are the responsibility of school personnel, without exception.

School Resource Officer

Strickland Middle School is staffed with a School Resource Officer (SRO) who conducts regular visits to Ginnings Elementary. School Resource Officers are police officers licensed by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) assigned to the schools in the Denton Independent School District. Each officer is a direct, full-time, employee of his or her respective Departments. As certified police officers, they have arrest powers endorsed by the State of Texas and are authorized to use the force necessary to effect arrests and protect third parties and themselves. They may be authorized by their department to carry the following equipment: firearms, Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray, impact batons, Tasers, handcuffs, and portable radios and body cameras.

School Resource Officers are responsible for promoting a safe environment for students, faculty and staff, reducing criminal offenses committed by juveniles and young adults by diversion or detention/arrest, and establishing rapport with students, faculty, administrative staff and parents.

Further information regarding behavior may be found at: <https://www.dentonisd.org/documents>

Conferences

Because we believe that frequent, positive communication is vital to the success of our students, parent/teacher conferences are encouraged! At Ginnings Elementary we expect that 100% of families participate in parent teacher conferences in person or by phone. A parent may schedule a phone or virtual conference with their child’s teacher at any time during the school year. You may call a teacher or provide a written request via note/e-mail. Conferences may be scheduled with a teacher or team either before/after school or during the teacher’s daily conference period.

Counseling

Our school counselor, Mrs. Polly, works with students on an individual basis, in small groups, and in the classroom setting. Ginnings counseling program focuses on meeting your child’s academic and emotional needs by working on personal/social skills, career awareness, guidance, and responsive services. If there are special circumstances about your child that you think are important for the school to know, for example, a recent divorce, death in the family, etc., please contact Mrs. Polly. We want to do everything we can to support your child at Ginnings Elementary. Our school counselor, Mrs. Polly, may be reached at 940.369.2705 or by e-mail: bpolly@dentonisd.org

Court Documents

Any court documents pertaining to educational rights, custody or visitation rights of a child must be provided to the front office. All documents presented to the front office must be original. Office personnel will make a copy and will return the originals to parents. Without official signed documentation on file (CPS, Court Orders, Restraining Orders, etc), the school will not be able to enforce any aspect of a decision made by a local/state agency.

Dress Code

If a student is improperly dressed, he or she may call home for a change of clothes. If a change of clothes is not available, the school office will provide a change of clothes, if possible. Otherwise, a student may be sent home for improper attire. Denton ISD has determined that the following items are considered to be inappropriate to wear:

- Halter Tops/Exposure of Mid Area
- Short Shorts
- Strapless Shirts/Dresses
- Short Skirts
- Saggy/Baggy Pants
- Garments with excessive rips, tears or holes
- Pajamas (with the exception of a campus-wide “themed” day with prior approval by the principal)
- Any make-up or hair color which create a disruption or distraction for student learning
- Garments containing obscene words or phrases, pictures and/or symbols
- Garments that promote/advertise alcohol or tobacco

Further information can be found in the DISD Student Code of Conduct and Student & Parent Handbook at: <https://www.dentonisd.org/documents>

Technology - Electronic Devices and Technology Resource

Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Mobile Telephones

For instructional and safety purposes, the district permits students to possess personal mobile telephones; however, these devices must remain turned off during the instructional day, including during all testing, unless they are being used for approved instructional purposes. The use of mobile telephones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event.

Except when being used for principal/teacher-approved purposes, telecommunications and electronic devices shall not be visible, audible, or used during school hours as determined by the principal. Campuses may require students to store these devices in a secured location.

If a student violates this policy, the device will be confiscated. The parent may pick up the confiscated telecommunications/electronic device from the principal's office for a fee of \$15.00. Confiscated telecommunications devices that are not retrieved by the student or the student's parents will be disposed of after the notice required by law. The school assumes no responsibility or liability for lost, stolen, or confiscated electronic or telecommunications devices.

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, authorized personnel may search a student's personal telecommunications device.

Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Possession and Use of Other Personal Electronic Devices

Except as described below, students are not permitted to possess or use personal electronic devices such as video or audio recorders, DVD players, cameras, games, e-readers, or other electronic devices at school, unless prior permission has been obtained through the teacher. Without such permission, teachers will collect the items and turn them into the principal's office. The principal will determine whether to return items to students at the end of the day or to contact parents to pick up the items.

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal electronic device may be searched by authorized personnel.

Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. The district is not responsible for any damaged, lost, or stolen electronic device.

Instructional Use of Personal Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices

In some cases, students may find it beneficial or might be encouraged to use personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for instructional purposes while on campus. Students must obtain prior approval before using personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for instructional use. When students are not using the devices for approved instructional purposes, all devices must be turned off and placed into backpacks during the instructional day. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources

To prepare students for an increasingly technological society, the district has made an investment in the use of district-owned technology resources for instructional purposes; specific resources may be issued individually to students. Use of these technological resources, which include the district's network systems and use of district equipment, is restricted to approved purposes only. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources

Students are prohibited from possessing, sending, forwarding, posting, accessing, or displaying electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition also applies to conduct off school property, whether the equipment used to send such messages is district-owned or personally owned, if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment.

Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content, commonly referred to as "sexting," will be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct, may be required to complete an educational program related to the dangers

of this type of behavior, and, in certain circumstances, may be reported to law enforcement.

In addition, any student who engages in conduct that results in a breach of the district's computer security will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, and, in some cases, the consequence may rise to the level of expulsion.

Bring Your Own Device

Denton ISD will grant all students permission to bring a personal web-enabled device from home to campus for their academic use (at the approval of the teacher). Student use of personally owned devices in the classroom setting will be at the discretion of campus administration and/or classroom teachers.

When students are using web-enabled devices at school they will be required to use the DISD or DISD filtered wireless network but will not have access to any district printers or district drives such as network folders. Network drives can only be accessed via district machines. (This does not include cloud-based storage such as Google Apps and Office 365)

BYOD in Denton ISD is for educational purposes only. Students are not to capture, record, or post digital media (including video files, audio files, pictures, etc...) for non-educational purposes.

Denton ISD is not liable for any loss or damage incurred. Denton ISD will not provide maintenance, nor can it load any software onto any personal, non-district device.

Users should not loan their device to someone else. The user is responsible for any content on the device regardless of how it originated. Denton ISD is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen devices.

Any dispute involving Acceptable Use of district or personal resources will be settled at the discretion of District personnel.

All technological devices brought onto a Denton ISD campus are subject to search and seizure. Improper or non-educational use could result in loss of privileges for the on-campus use of such devices.

Cafeteria

Our cafeteria provides breakfast and lunch for students daily. Each student has an individual lunch account. Money may be placed in a child's account by sending cash or checks made out to the Ginnings Elementary Cafeteria, or by paying online at <https://www.schoolcafe.com/> As part of the online registration process, the option to fill out a Free or Reduced Lunch application was provided. Additional information regarding the Free or Reduced Federal Lunch Program can be accessed through the Denton ISD Home Page www.dentonisd.org.

Additional Helpful Cafeteria Information

- Breakfast begins at 7:10 a.m. and will be eaten in the cafeteria.
- Individual students arriving tardy will get their breakfast and will eat in their classroom.
- Students should not bring drinks in glass bottles.
- Students are discouraged from bringing soda/soft drink type beverages to the cafeteria.
- Students who bring their lunch may not share their food with others due to the risk of germ spreading and food allergies.
- Please try to cut fruits and vegetables into pieces that students can chew with ease.
- Food brought from home will not be warmed up for students by staff members.
- All dietary needs should be addressed directly through the school nurse and/or cafeteria manager.

Lunch Visitors

Lunch visitors will be permitted on campus this year. As this is a special time for your child, parents are asked to eat at the Parent Tables provided on stage. If you come to enjoy lunch with your child, additional students will not be allowed to come up on stage and join you. In addition, due to health and allergy concerns, parents should not bring in food for students during lunch other than their own. Students are asked to rejoin their classmates for the appropriate pick-up time from the cafeteria and not stay on stage for extended lunch with families and/or other siblings. The day designated for lunch visitors are Fridays.

Please know that if you have more than one child on campus and you wish to have lunch with them, that will take place at their scheduled lunch time and the time allotted for lunch per class is 30 min.

Celebrations

There will be three classroom celebrations during the year: Winter Holiday, Valentine's Day and End of the Year. At this time, we will not have parents attend these celebrations with the students. Classroom parties are always under the direction and discretion of the classroom teachers. For student birthdays, if students wish to provide treats for classmates as a birthday celebration, please clear it with the classroom teacher ahead of time. Pre-packaged treats only may be provided after lunch. Balloon bouquets, birthday baskets, etc., will not be delivered to the classroom in order to not disrupt the learning environment. Birthday celebrations, once clear by the teachers can be held the last 20 - 30 minutes of the instructional day.

Field Trips

Field trips are an extension of classroom academics. The Student Code of Conduct is to be followed and appropriate conduct shall be required at all times. Only those parents on the district approved chaperone list and selected by the school as a chaperone for each field trip may attend the trip with the school. A chaperone's duties include supervision of students and enforcing school rules and teacher directives. Siblings and other children are not permitted to attend the field trip with approved chaperones. Due to limited bus space, adult chaperones will not be able to ride the bus with the students. Any fees from the students or chaperones for each field trip will be due prior to the day of departure. Because of student confidentiality issues, all chaperones are expected to refrain from posting on Facebook or social media sites any stories, photos, comments, etc. related to the event they are chaperoning. Chaperones are expected to report any

concerns during the event to the teacher or administrator in charge. Campuses must follow strict guidelines in maintaining student privacy and confidentiality.

Health-Related Matters

Ms. Shannon Meador is our School Nurse. Please notify her of any health-related matters concerning your child. Nurse Meador may be reached at 940.369.2706 or by e-mail at: smeador@dentoinisd.org

First Aid/School Exclusion for Health Reasons

In case of serious illness or injury:

A parent will be called at once. It is critical that school officials have the names and the current home, work, and cell phone numbers for all parents and guardians. Students must be excluded from school according to state law for signs and symptoms associated with certain contagious diseases. The campus registered nurse will make that decision based on his/her assessment and observation of those signs and symptoms.

If neither parent can be reached, an emergency contact will be made. Please make sure the school has the phone number of your doctor and three other names and phone numbers of neighbors or relatives who have agreed to be contacted.

If neither parent nor emergency contacts can be reached, the student will be taken by ambulance to the emergency room written on the health card. The nurse or someone designated by the principal will stay with the student until a responsible adult arrives to be with the student. The parent is responsible for incurred costs.

A student may not leave school or be taken home by any school personnel unless an adult has been contacted or will be at home to receive the student. Any exception to this policy will be approved by the principal. School nurses cannot provide transportation.

Food Allergies

The district requests to be notified when a student has been diagnosed with a food allergy, especially those allergies that could result in dangerous or possibly life-threatening reactions either by inhalation, ingestion, or skin contact with the particular food. It is important to disclose the food to which the student is allergic, as well as the nature of the allergic reaction. Please contact the

school nurse or campus principal if your child has a known food allergy or as soon as possible after any diagnosis of a food allergy.

The district has developed and annually reviews a food allergy management plan, which addresses employee training, dealing with common food allergens, and specific strategies for dealing with students diagnosed with severe food allergies. When the district receives information that a student has a food allergy that puts the student at risk for anaphylaxis, individual care plans will be developed to assist the student in safely accessing the school environment. The district's food allergy management plan can be accessed by contacting your campus nurse.

Head Lice

Head lice, although not an illness or a disease, is very common among children and is spread very easily through head-to-head contact during play, sports, or nap time and when children share things like brushes, combs, hats, and headphones. If careful observation indicates that a student has head lice, the school nurse will contact the student's parent to determine whether the child will need to be picked up from school and to discuss a plan for treatment with an FDA - approved medicated shampoo or cream rinse that may be purchased from any drug or grocery store. After the student has undergone one treatment, the parent should check in with the school nurse to discuss the treatment used. The nurse can also offer additional recommendations, including subsequent treatments and how best to get rid of lice and prevent their return. More information on head lice can be obtained from the TDSHS website at

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/schoolhealth/lice.shtm>.

Immunizations

A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for medical reasons or reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, the student will not be immunized. For exemptions based on reasons of conscience, the district can honor only official forms issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS),

Immunization Branch. This form may be obtained by writing the TDSHS Immunization Branch (MC 1946), P.O. Box 149347, Austin, Texas 78714-9347, or online at <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/exemptions.aspx>. The form must be notarized and submitted to the principal or school nurse within 90 days of notarization. If the parent is seeking an exemption for more than one student in the family, a separate form must be provided for each student.

The immunizations required are: diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis; measles, mumps, and rubella; polio; hepatitis A; hepatitis B; varicella (chicken pox); and meningococcal. The school nurse can provide information on age-appropriate doses or on an acceptable physician validated history of illness required by the TDSHS. Proof of immunization may be established by personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber stamp validation.

If a student should not be immunized for medical reasons, the student or parent must present a certificate signed by a U.S. licensed physician stating that, in the doctor's opinion, the immunization required poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or a member of the student's family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly unless the physician specifies a life-long condition.

Student Illness

When your child is ill, please notify the school that he or she will not be in attendance. It is important to remember that schools are required to exclude students with certain illnesses from school for periods of time as identified in state rules. For example, if your child has a fever over 100 degrees, he or she must stay out of school until fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications (Ibuprofen, Acetaminophen, etc).

In addition, students with diarrheal illnesses must stay home until they are diarrhea free without diarrhea-suppressing medications for at least 24 hours. A full list of conditions for which the school must exclude children can be obtained from the school nurse. If a student becomes ill during the school day, he or she must receive permission from the teacher before reporting to the school nurse. If the nurse determines that the child should go home, the nurse will contact the parent.

Medications at School

District medication policies are written with safety in mind and to help students become more self-responsible as they get older. Although following them may be inconvenient at times, we feel strongly that safe administration is important. Please discuss any medication concerns with the campus nurse, and make sure that the student health card reflects all medications your child is taking at home as well as during the school day. This information will help the school nurse monitor effectively for any side effects, any adverse reactions, and that the medicines are working to benefit your child as prescribed. No district employee shall give any student prescription medications, non-prescription medications, herbal substances, anabolic steroids, or dietary supplements of any type, except as provided below:

All medicines, including prescription, over-the-counter, self-administered, or those requiring administration by another party, brought to district campuses (including school activities) must be in the original, properly-labeled container, with the student's name, prescribed dosage, and dosing instructions.

Students may not share medicine with another student under any circumstances. Violations shall be subject to consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and discipline management program.

Dietary/herbal supplements are not regulated by the FDA to ensure quality standards, nor have they been tested for safety or effectiveness on school-aged children. This includes herbal and dietary supplements of any type, anabolic steroids, vitamins, weight reduction or enhancement supplements, muscle-building and performance enhancing aids; these are not considered essential during school hours or school activities and will not be allowed unless administered by a parent.

Elementary Medications

When a parent or guardian is unable to administer required medication, he or she may make arrangements with the nurse to administer the medication. The parent shall be responsible for bringing the medication to school and picking it up at the end of the school year.

Medication shall not be given unless it is in the original, properly marked container and the names and dosages on the labels of medicine containers and parent request forms match. Any change in the medication prescription shall require a newly-labeled container that reflects the change.

All prescription medications administered at elementary school by school personnel shall be accompanied by a doctor's order. Medication shall not be administered at school unless it is essential to the health of the child

and/or the student's ability to function successfully in the classroom.

Medication not picked up by parents at the end of the school year shall be discarded after parent notification.

Parents must come to the campus and fill out a medication form for the file in the nurse's office for any and all medications provided at school. If you have questions about a medication your child takes, please contact Nurse Meador.

Safety Drills and Planning

Ginnings Elementary follows the DISD Guidelines found in the district Emergency Management Plan that requires regular drills for student safety. Monthly drills include fire, weather, lockdown and evacuation. Due to the confidential nature of our drills, procedures are not publicly posted. However, parents are strongly encouraged to visit with your child and ask him/her to explain the specific drills we hold on the campus and their importance.

Should there ever be an emergency at Ginnings Elementary, the DISD Communications department will provide updates to parents via the DISD Home Page www.dentonisd.org, the DISD Twitter Page @dentonisd, press releases, and phone blasts. Campus staff members are not permitted to utilize social media during any safety drill or crisis situation to communicate to the public. In the event of a campus crisis, please do not attempt to phone the front office or come up to the campus. Please follow the procedures provided by campus or district personnel. Safety is a top priority for Ginnings Elementary, as well as DISD, and following the appropriate procedures will help everyone involved during a crisis situation.

Home Communication

Regular communication between home and school is essential. Ginnings Elementary will send a monthly newsletter to parents and weekly reminders of important dates or events happening at Ginnings. Printed information for parents will be sent home weekly each Wednesday and other school/district flyers will be sent electronically. Additionally, each grade level is required to create a newsletter so that parents are informed of upcoming curriculum and events. Classroom teachers maintain a method of communication with parents via Class Dojo, Seesaw, or Remind applications as well as email blasts from School Messenger. Parents may also access school information via the Ginnings Elementary Web Page <https://www.dentonisd.org/ginningses> and access to district information via the Denton ISD Home Page <https://www.dentonisd.org/dentonisd>.

Progress Reports/Report Cards

Report cards for all grade levels are generally available for viewing on the Wednesday following the close of each nine-week grading period. All elementary students in Denton ISD receive standards-based report card. Parents of students in any grade may also access their child's grades/progress at any given point by logging onto the online monitoring system (HAC). If you have not registered for a HAC account, information may be obtained through the Denton ISD Home Page www.dentonisd.org.

Social Events

School rules apply to all school social events. Guests attending these events are expected to observe the same rules as students, and a student inviting a guest will share responsibility for the conduct of his or her

guest. Students seeking to bring a guest to a social event should follow the guidelines established by the campus.

PTA

Our PTA is a very involved and essential component of the Ginning Elementary community. They provide services and support to students, parents and staff. The PTA also conducts fundraising each year to enhance various aspects of your child's educational experience. This ranges from providing additional supplies in the classrooms, assisting with funds for transportation to field trips and 5th grade camp, providing funds for electronic databases in the library, and assisting with larger upgrades on the campus. Each family is encouraged to become members of this organization. The PTA holds regular meetings during school events throughout the school year so that parents can be active in decision making to benefit our school and student body.

Visitors

Visitors are welcome at Ginnings Elementary. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors must first report to the main office and must comply with all applicable district policies and procedures. All visitors must display their "visitor" label during the time on campus. We will have designated areas for volunteers to be stationed this year while assisting with projects (Library, Science Lab, Campus Workroom, etc.) When arriving on campus, all parents and other visitors should be prepared to show identification. Due to confidentiality, visitors may not walk through the office area into someone's office, as meetings may be occurring with staff members, students or other parents. Please wait for the school receptionist to contact the person that you are visiting to ensure that he/she is available. Visitors will not be able to enter the building from the back parking lot area. All visitors must come in the school via the front door only.

Visitors may eat lunch with their child on our stage at the provided parent tables. Please note, however, no visitors are allowed on the playground area with the students. Additionally, parents who come to eat lunch with their children may not use this time to interact with other students in the cafeteria. These can be violations of student safety.

All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct; disruptive behavior will not be permitted. Behavior including yelling, threatening, slander, and/or using profanity will not be tolerated by any visitor and could prevent further access to the Ginnings campus. The principal or her designee may refuse to allow persons with no legitimate business to enter school grounds and/or may eject any undesirable person(s) from school grounds if that person refuses to leave peacefully upon request.

Volunteer Forms & Background Checks

Although we did not have volunteers to begin the year, it is our hope that this will change moving into the second semester of the school year. We would highly encourage all to move forward in completing their background checks.

We are indebted to our volunteers at Ginnings Elementary. If you would like to become a volunteer for your child's class, visit with the classroom teacher or you might contact our PTA president Mrs. Anna Braudrick via e-mail at abraudrick@dentonisd.org. As a safety precaution, background checks are to be completed each school year for any parent/guardian who wishes to volunteer in the building or chaperone field trips. Without a current background check (2021-2022 school year) on file, you will not be able to attend any events with students. Annual background checks are to be completed online and may be obtained via the Denton ISD Home Page www.dentonisd.org

Transfer Requests and Transfer Students

Students who have moved outside the Ginnings attendance zone during the school year must complete a Transfer Application if he/she wishes to remain at Ginnings for the duration of the semester/year. These applications must be completed in a timely manner, so that we have the most accurate information on file for your child. Transfers are approved at the district level, but the revocation of a student transfer may occur at any time at the campus level for attendance concerns, discipline concerns or for parental behavior that is unacceptable within a school setting. This includes, but is not limited to: threatening, yelling, slander, libel and/or using profanity toward a school employee. Further information about this can be found below in the "Visitors" section of this handbook.

Calendar for DISD

2021

School Hours:

ES Day 7:40 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MS Day 8:15 a.m. – 3:35 p.m.

HS Day 8:50 a.m. – 4:10 p.m.

July 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

August 3-11 PD / Workdays
 August 11 Freshman Day
 August 12 First Day
 / Grading Period Begins

September 6 Labor Day Holiday

October 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

October 8 Grading Period Ends
 October 11-12 PD / Workdays
 October 13 Grading Period Begins

November 22-26 Thanksgiving Break

December 16-17 1/2 Student Day / Grading Period Ends
 December 20-31 Winter Break

January 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January 3 Student / Staff Holiday
 January 4-5 PD / Workdays
 January 6 Grading Period Begins
 January 17 Student / Staff Holiday

February 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

February 18 Student / Staff Holiday
 February 21 Student / Staff Holiday

March 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

March 11 Grading Period Ends
 March 14-18 Spring Break
 March 21 PD / Workday
 March 22 Grading Period Begins

April 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

April 5-8 State Testing
 April 15-18 Possible Make-Up Days

May 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

May 3-6 State Testing
 May 10-13 State Testing
 May 25-26 1/2 Student Day / Last Day / Grading Period Ends
 May 27 PD / Workday
 May 30 Student / Staff Holiday

June 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

2022

Students do not attend school on the following days:

PD / Workdays

www.dentonisd.org

21_058_A_5/03/2021

The Value and Utility of Contributions of Parents



Parent involvement components are required in the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and in various federal and state education programs including Title I. Furthermore, the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act requires campuses that receive Title I to “educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school; (PL 107-110 Section 1118 (e)(3)).”

Because school age children spend 70% of their waking hours (including weekends and holidays) outside of school,¹ parental involvement and engagement is essential to the success of children in school. While volunteering at school is beneficial, and attending parent-teacher conferences, school events, and parent involvement activities are important, “the most significant type of involvement is what parents do at home. By monitoring, supporting and advocating, parents can be engaged in ways that ensure that their children have every opportunity for success.”²



“Do not confuse having physical presence with parental involvement. The research seems to indicate that when a parent provides support, insistence, and expectations to the child, the presence or absence of a parent in the physical school building is immaterial.”³

Involvement encompasses:

- setting goals with children and fostering achievement of those goals,
- accessing and using children’s academic scores to ensure they’re on track,
- frequently viewing the parent portal (or whichever tool their school uses),
- developing a relationship with children’s teachers and keeping in touch with them often, and
- advocating for improvements in the school building and with local school boards and state and federal government to ensure schools have the resources they need to provide a world class education to every student.”²



Extensive research demonstrates “a positive and convincing relationship between family involvement and benefits for students, including improved academic achievement. This relationship holds across families of all economic, racial/ethnic, and educational backgrounds and for students at all ages. The benefits for students include:

- higher grade point averages and scores on standardized tests or rating scales,
- enrollment in more challenging academic programs,
- more classes passed and credits earned,
- better attendance,
- improved behavior at home and at school, and
- better social skills and adaptation to school.”⁴

In 1997, the National Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) responded to the challenge of ensuring student achievement by issuing its national standards for parent and family involvement. Using the most recent research and working with national experts, PTA updated its national standards in 2007. When developed in 1997, the standards were called the National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs. With a shift in focus from what *schools* should do to involve parents to what *parents, schools, and communities can do together* to support student success, the updated standards were renamed the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships.⁵ The six standards include:



1. **Welcoming all families into the school community**—Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.
2. **Communicating effectively**—Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.
3. **Supporting student success**—Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students’ learning and healthy development both at home and at school and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.
4. **Speaking up for every child**—Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.
5. **Sharing power**—Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.
6. **Collaborating with community**—Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.⁶

Additional resources related to the value and utility of contributions include:

Harvard Family Research Project:

Successful Family Engagement in the Classroom: What Teachers Need to Know: <http://goo.gl/WUbjVV>

Classroom Family Engagement Rubric: <http://goo.gl/fAc1Vo>

Family Engagement Matters: <http://goo.gl/cx8wLp>

Most Effective Family Engagement: <http://goo.gl/gQ4mwy>

ESC Region 16 Title I Statewide School Support and Family and Community Engagement Initiative:

I SPY (Involvement Schools Parents, and You) Manual: <http://goo.gl/oWgVnh>

Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL):

Toolkit for Title I Parental Involvement: <http://www.sedl.org/connections/toolkit/>

Family Literacy Events: http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/toolkits/literacy/pr_family_literacy.html

Minority Community Outreach:

Minority Parent and Community Engagement Best Practices and Policy Recommendations for Closing the Gaps in Student Achievement: http://www.maldef.org/assets/pdf/mco_maldef%20report_final.pdf

Works Cited

¹ Clark, R.M. (1990). Why Disadvantaged Children Succeed. *Public Welfare* (Spring): 17-23.

² Payne, Ruby K., Ph.D. (2005) *Working with Parents—Building Relationships for Student Success*: 1.

³ <http://neatoday.org/2014/11/18/the-enduring-importance-of-parental-involvement-2/>

⁴ <http://www.sedl.org/connections/resources/evidence.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.pta.org/programs/content.cfm?ItemNumber=1813>

