

Bettye Myers Middle School

We Enter To Learn, We Leave To Achieve

131 Garza Road ~ Shady Shores, TX 76208
940-369-1500

Established 2013



Enter to Learn,
Leave to Achieve

Student Handbook
2016 ~ 2017

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to Bettye Myers Middle School. We are excited about the traditions that we have established our school. As a member of Bettye Myers Middle School's community, I hope that the information provided in this agenda will help you to make the very best decisions for yourself and your child. In addition to this agenda, please review and be familiar with the contents of the Denton Independent School District Student Code of Conduct which is available online.

Students and parents, the best way to maximize students' academic performance as well as enhance the overall Middle School experience, is to establish positive relationships with the faculty and staff of Bettye Myers Middle School. The communication between home and school is essential to student academic achievement. Our dedicated and committed staff can be reached via telephone at (940) 369-1500 or by accessing the Bettye Myers Middle School website at <http://www.dentonisd.org/Domain/6104>. In addition, please take advantage of the many ways that we use to connect with students and their families, BMMS communicates using Twitter, Facebook, weekly email blasts and all-calls, and through our campus and teacher webpages. We also encourage you to access student assignments, grades and overall academic progress made available to you through Home Access Center (HAC) which can also be accessed through our campus website. Another important strategy for success is to get involved. There are many ways for students and parents to become involved at Bettye Myers Middle School.

As we look forward to what this new and exciting year has in store for us, I expect that as we partner with teachers, staff, and parents to educate the students of Bettye Myers Middle School, growth will be our goal – growth in academic achievement, growth in communication with home, growth in student character development, and growth in establishing the traditions that will make Bettye Myers Middle School a campus where excellence is the norm. *"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act, but a habit."* –Aristotle

Research shows that active involvement in the community and school lead to higher student achievement, positive attitude toward school, higher attendance rate, increased graduation, and continued education for these students. When parents are also involved, this increase is more significant, so students and parents.....GET INVOLVED! Bettye Myers Middle School believes that education is a team effort, and we know that students, parents, teachers, and all staff members working together WILL make this a fun year where EVERYONE experiences SUCCESS EVERYDAY.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Angela Ricks ~ BMMS Principal

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

August 22, 2016 ~ First Day of School

September 5, 2016 ~ School Holiday

October 10, 2016 ~ Staff Development/Student Holiday

November 21, 2016 – November 25, 2016 ~ Fall Break

December 15 - 16, 2016 ~ Early Release Days

December 19, 2016 – December 30, 2016 ~ Winter Break

January 2, 2017 ~ Staff Development/Student Holiday

January 16, 2017 ~ School Holiday

March 13, 2017 – March 17, 2017 ~ Spring Break

April 14, 2017 ~ **Possible** Snow Day

April 17, 2017 ~ **Possible** Snow Day

May 29, 2017 ~ School Holiday

May 30 – June 1, 2017 ~ Early Release Days

June 1, 2017 ~ Last Day Of School

June 2, 2017 ~ Campus Staff Development

ARRIVAL

Due to lack of supervision, parents are expected to drop students off at school no more than 30 minutes before the 1st bell rings (7:45 am). Students arriving before school should wait in the cafeteria, library, or grade level hallway (by team). The building will be open for tutorials, breakfast, and visits to the library during this time.

ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is essential for a student to make the most of his/her education, to benefit from teacher led and school activities, to build each day's learning on the previous day, and to grow as an individual. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student's mastery of the instructional materials; therefore, the student and parent should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences. If a student is absent from school for any reason, the parent or guardian must provide a note for their student to bring that explains the absence when the student returns to school. This includes late arrivals and early departures. **All absences for which no note is received within 72 hours of your return to school are recorded as unverified (i.e., unexcused).**

Two state laws—one dealing with compulsory attendance, the other with attendance for course credit—are of special interest to students and parents, and should be further reviewed in the District Student Code of Conduct.

A violation of compulsory attendance is when a child has unexcused, voluntary absences on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period; or three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period. Whenever a student falls out of compliance with the Compulsory Attendance Law, the attendance clerk will file truancy papers with the court.

To receive credit in a class, a student must attend at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. A student who attends at least 75 percent, but fewer than 90 percent, of the days the class is offered may receive credit for the class if he or she completes a plan, approved by the principal, which allows the student to fulfill the instructional requirements for the class.

BULLYING OR HARASSMENT

Bullying or harassment of any kind, on school property, in school buildings, on school buses, and at school-sponsored events and/or activities whether occurring on or off campus will not be tolerated at Bettye Myers Middle School. **Any parent or student, who believes that bullying or harassment has occurred, should complete a bully report form and turn it in to a counselor.** Once this form has been received, an investigation will begin to determine which course of action should be taken. The most important

strategy to ending the bullying cycle is to **REPORT** the behavior immediately to a teacher, counselor or administrator. All complaints of bullying or harassing behavior made by students and/or parents will be promptly and thoroughly investigated by counselors and ALL actual incidents of bullying will be referred to administration. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken for students who are found to have bullied or harassed others.

BUS RIDERS

Students will load and unload the bus in the back of the school. Students are to go to the cafeteria or library when they arrive to school. Students who ride a bus should report to the bus lane by 3:30 pm to avoid missing the bus ride home. Parents are responsible for providing transportation for students who miss the bus. Denton ISD Transportation manages all behavior and student discipline on the buses. Please contact them at 940-369-0300 for questions or concerns related to your child and the bus. All school rules are enforced at bus stops or loading areas. Due to the large number of student bus riders at BMMS, **students who are not riding a bus may not be in the bus lane during dismissal. Students who repeatedly refuse to comply with this request will face disciplinary action.**

CAFETERIA BEHAVIOR

- ✓ **There will be NO cutting in line.** Students are to go through the line only once, buy their own food, and proceed to the table. **Students are not to make purchases for one another.**
- ✓ Student ID's will be scanned for all purchased lunches. To ensure students are moved quickly to purchase their food, any student without a student ID will have to wait at the end of the line to purchase their items.
- ✓ With permission from a lunchroom monitor, students may use the restroom by the cafeteria, except for the last five minutes of lunch.
- ✓ No electronic devices, including cell phones, will be allowed during lunchtime.
- ✓ Students are responsible for cleaning their area during breakfast and lunch, including their own trash and tray. After lunch has ended, students will be released for class by lunch room monitors according to safety procedures in place. Students are to remain seated at all times until permission to get out of their seat is given by a lunch room monitor.
- ✓ **Due to nutrition guidelines issued by the state, parents may not bring food for anyone other than their own child.**
- ✓ Students who do not follow the cafeteria rules may be subject to disciplinary action.

CELL PHONES & OTHER WEB ENABLED DEVICES

For safety reasons, the district permits students to possess cell phones and other web enabled devices; however, these devices may not be disruptive to the learning environment. While we encourage the use of personal electronic devices for learning, the school reserves the right to collect any cell phone or web enabled device that is not being used appropriately or that is not being used for an approved academic purpose determined by the principal. Confiscated cell phones or other web enabled devices may be returned to the parent after a payment of a \$15.00 administrative fee. In the event of repeat offenses, the device will be returned at the end of the semester after a \$15.00 administrative fee. Confiscated devices that are not retrieved within 10 days after the end of each semester will be disposed of. The school assumes no responsibility for lost, stolen or broken telecommunication devices confiscated in accordance with district policy.

CLOSED CAMPUS

Bettye Myers Middle School is a closed campus. Students may not bring guests to school. Once a student arrives on campus for school, they may not leave campus at any time without first seeking the appropriate permission. Students leaving campus without the appropriate permission will be considered truant. Should it be necessary for a student to leave campus, a parent is responsible for entering the building and checking the student out in the attendance office.

COUNSELORS

School counselors at Bettye Myers Middle School are equal partners in the educational process and have strategies designed to make positive contributions to help meet the individual needs of the students. They work in a variety of ways to assist students with educational and career planning and specific personal needs. Students are asked to report to class and obtain a pass from their teacher to see their counselor. Students may also make an appointment, before school or during passing periods, and the counselor will send a pass when it is time for their visit. Students will be responsible for getting to class on time and for making up any missed assignments.

DANCES

School dances sponsored by Bettye Myers Middle School will be held periodically. **These dances are open only to Bettye Myers Middle School students who are in good standing in academics, attendance, and discipline.** In order to attend future dances, students must be picked up no later than 20 minutes after the dance ends. Students are not allowed to leave prior to the end of the dance unless picked up by their parent or guardian. Appropriate school attire, as specified in the student code of conduct, is to be

worn to all dances (there will be an amended dress code for the 8th grade formal). Parent chaperones are always welcome.

DETENTIONS

Supervised detentions will be held at Bettye Myers Middle School. Students are assigned to detention for disciplinary purposes due to their poor choices. For detentions assigned outside the normal school day, the student and parents or guardians will be notified 24-hours in advance as to what day and time the detention is assigned. Administrators and teachers work hard to contact parents of students assigned to detention, but also feel it is the student's responsibility to inform their parent. Transportation after detention hall will be the responsibility of parents or guardians. Students who do not attend an assigned detention hall will be subject to additional disciplinary action. Students are encouraged to keep disciplinary consequences at the lowest level possible.

DISMISSALS

Students are dismissed from school at 3:20 pm. Students are expected to leave the school premises within 20 minutes after the last bell rings unless they are supervised by a staff member in an organized school activity. Because we are concerned about the safety of all students, parents are required to promptly pick their child up from all after school activities.

DRESS CODE

The Bettye Myers Middle School dress code is established to teach hygiene, instill self-discipline, prevent disruptions, promote safety, and provide an environment for learning. The responsibility for adhering to the dress code begins with the student and parents of the student. Enforcement of the code is the responsibility of the classroom teachers and administrators. The Denton ISD dress code will be enforced at Bettye Myers Middle School. Information about this dress code can be found in the district's Student Code of Conduct. Bettye Myers Middle School administrators will have the final say as to the appropriateness of any dress code question. When appropriate, students will be allowed the opportunity to correct their dress code violation before receiving disciplinary consequences.

DRUGS, ALCOHOL, & TOBACCO

Bettye Myers Middle School is committed to providing a drug and alcohol free learning environment for all students. It is illegal for students to possess, use, or be under the influence of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol. In addition, paraphernalia associated with drugs, alcohol, and tobacco will not be permitted on school property or at school sponsored or school related activities. Any student found in violation of the districts drug, alcohol,

and/or tobacco laws will be subject to the consequences outlined in the Denton ISD Student Code of Conduct.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extra-Curricular activities are school-sponsored activities, which directly relate to some area of curriculum. Participation in athletics and extracurricular activities is a privilege and educational opportunity. To be eligible to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities at Bettye Myers Middle School, students are expected to maintain appropriate behavior, citizenship, and acceptable academic standards. Students who are assigned to in-school or out of school suspension may not participate in extracurricular activities until that suspension has been completed. Because we are concerned about the safety of all students, parents are required to promptly pick their child up from all after school activities. If a parent or guardian consistently fails to pick up their student within 20 minutes after the end of an activity, students may be asked not to attend the next few upcoming after-hours events.

GRADING GUIDELINES

Denton ISD has developed a new grading system that allows parents and students to understand if students are learning and mastering the content, while not penalizing the students for behavioral issues. The program's goal is to measure what a student knows and understands. A student's grade should reflect his/her mastery of the content. Allowing students to retake an exam or test, lets students reflect on what they have learned and demonstrate their increase in knowledge of the content covered. All end-of-semester exams are final and will not fall under the same standards as course work issued during the 9-week grading periods. Any tests or exams that students try to retake must be completed during the 9-week grading period. Additionally, retests will only be allowed once the student has worked with the teacher to prove that new learning has taken place and that they have a better understanding of that content. Students can qualify for the opportunity to retake a test or exam by demonstrating that new learning has occurred and that they have a better understanding of that content. Examples of this process include but are not limited to; Attending tutorial sessions, Completing new work or previously assigned work, discussing with the teacher the necessary improvements to achieve content mastery. Zeroes indicate that no content mastery has been achieved. Using zeroes for missing or incomplete work gives an inaccurate reflection of a student's knowledge or improvement toward mastery of content.

HEADPHONES / EAR BUDS

To maintain safety and security during transition times, lunchtimes, and to ensuring learning is a priority in the classroom, students may not wear headphones/ear buds during these times. Students wearing headphones/ear buds (other than in the classroom **with teacher permission**), will have these items taken up and turned into the main office. Repeated non-compliance of

this policy will require a parent to come to BMMS and pick these items up from the main office.

HEALTH ROOM

If a student becomes ill or injured during the school day, they should ask their teacher for a pass to the health room. The nurse or office staff will contact parents when it appears that the student may need to be picked up for health reasons. Students who directly text or call their parent due to illness, should be encouraged to contact the school nurse. Students who are ill and are going home will wait in the front office or nurse's area to be picked up.

HOMEWORK

Homework is an important part of the learning process at Bettye Myers Middle School and will always be meaningful and only assigned for the reinforcement of skills and concepts taught in class. Homework will also be used as a method to provide students with specific feedback on their performance of tasks that are assigned. If a student fails to do homework as assigned, Zero's Aren't Permitted program measures may be implemented. All assignments should be written in the student's agenda. Parents and teachers should routinely check this agenda, along with Home Access Center (HAC), and communicate if there are any concerns. Homework is the responsibility of the student. Failure at Middle School is usually the result of missing assignments and/or attendance, not the lack of ability. **When a student misses a class, it is the students' responsibility to get all missed assignments from the teacher in a mutually agreed upon time, then complete and turn in the work assigned.**

I.D. CARDS AND HALL PASS

For safety reasons, students are required to wear their ID card above the waist at all times. Students may only be in possession of their personal ID card, and it must be free of markings, stickers, etc. ID's are also required to check out books, eat lunch, to attend extra-curricular activities and to leave class. Replacement ID cards may be purchased in the Library from 7:30 am to 8:15 am. A \$3.00 fee will be charged for each replacement ID card, to cover the cost of materials. A lanyard replacement fee is \$1.00. Students will not be permitted to leave the classroom without a visible ID card and agenda (hall pass). The only exception would be an emergency situation involving a student going to the health room. There will be disciplinary consequences for students who repeatedly fail to display their ID card. Each student agenda has several hall pass pages included. These pages will serve as the students hall pass, and must be completed by teachers who are sending students to or from any area in the school.

INTERNET AND COMPUTER USE

At Bettye Myers Middle School, we are happy to provide access to the Internet for all of our students. We believe that technology offers our students valuable resources for learning and communicating with others, as well as support for learning and enrichment of instruction. At the same time, we are aware that some material on the Internet is uncensored and we can make no guarantees that information found on the Internet will be valuable, reliable or inoffensive. However, we firmly believe that the vast amount of information available and the interaction with other people made possible through technology provides educational benefits to our students that far outweigh the risks. Access to the Internet is a privilege for students and not a right. We expect students to use the Internet in a responsible manner for educational purposes and to be considerate of all other users. Inappropriate use may result in cancellation of that privilege and may also result in further disciplinary actions. The purpose for using the Internet at school is to support research and educational goals, any student internet use must always support these goals. All students are responsible for appropriate behavior on the Internet just as they are when involved in any school activity. General school rules and policies apply to all Internet activity and communication.

LIBRARY

Library Hours before school begin at 7:30 AM. After school Library hours end at 4:30 PM. Students may check out books or access the computers during these hours.

Circulation of Materials: Books are circulated for two (2) weeks and may be renewed one (1) time for an additional two (2) weeks. A maximum of four (4) items may be checked out at one (1) time. There are no **overdue fees**; however, students are responsible for lost or damaged books. They must pay a replacement cost equal to the value of the book that is lost or damaged. Some materials (such as encyclopedias and reserve materials) are in such high demand that they may be circulated overnight only. Magazines are checked out overnight only.

LOCKERS

All lockers are the sole property of Bettye Myers Middle School. As a result, the administration has the right and privilege to open, inspect, and confiscate contraband of any type which may be in violation of district policy or state law. All students will be issued a locker at the beginning of the year. Students should not share their combination or locker with anyone.

LOST AND FOUND

Students should not bring valuable items to school, unless they have the level of maturity to appropriately monitor their valuable belongings. Bettye Myers Middle School is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Lost items, which are turned in, will be returned to its rightful owner. Unclaimed items will be stored in the lost and found receptacle in the main office, or locked in a secure place in the office area. Items not claimed within 10 days after the end of each semester will be donated to charity or disposed of. Please permanently write your child's name in any items you would like to have returned to you should it be found and turned in.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students are given the number of days absent plus one additional school day to make up all work assigned in their absence. Students will be responsible for obtaining and completing the make-up work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher. In instances when a student is absent for an extended period of time (i.e., 3 days or more) parents may make arrangements to obtain the missed work. Teachers will need to be given at least a 24-hour notice to gather the missed assignments.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Students are allowed to carry 1 day's dosage of **over-the-counter** medications, in the original container, for personal use only. **Students are never allowed to share medications.** Prescription medications are to be stored in the nurse's office upon arrival to school and administered through the nurse's office only. Written permission is required for any medication that must be distributed by the school nurse.

PHONE MESSAGES AND OTHER DELIVERIES

To keep class interruptions to a minimum, messages to students will be delivered in a time convenient for the campus. For this reason, we ask that parents allow at least 30 minutes for messages to be delivered to students. We will make every attempt to deliver emergency phone messages as soon as they are received. Students will not be called to the phone to receive personal messages. In addition, no deliveries for students such as flowers, balloons, etc., will be made during the school day. **Due to nutrition guidelines issued by the state, parents may not bring in food for anyone other than their own child.**

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Items that would disrupt the learning environment are not permitted, at any time, on the campus, or at school sponsored or school related activities. The following items are illustrative, but are not exclusive, of the items not allowed at school or at school sponsored or school related activities:

weapons of any type, cigarette/fireplace lighters, knives (of any size), tools, fireworks (including, but not limited to, sparklers, stink bombs), sharpies, permanent markers, inks or dyes, balloons, water guns (or any water projecting instrument), cap guns, any flammable substance (including solids, gases, and liquids), lasers and light emitting devices, chains, electric shock devices, or anything else that could cause disruption of the learning environment. The principal or the principal's designee reserves the right to determine the permissibility of an item.

REPORT CARDS AND PROGRESS REPORTS

Report cards are issued on the Friday following the end of each nine week grading period. The last report card of the year will be mailed home.

Progress reports are issued to students after the 4th week of every grading period. Progress reports are to be signed by the student and parent and returned to the issuing teacher. We also encourage parents to register for Home Access Center (HAC). You can find a link to HAC on our campus webpage. HAC gives parents the ability to access their child's grades, assignments and attendance via the internet.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Students are expected to arrive for each class on time, with all of their required class supplies. At a minimum, students should come to class prepared, which includes having paper, pen/pencil, and any assigned homework completed. If any student needs assistance with purchasing any of the required school supplies, please contact their assigned counselor.

SIGNING OUT STUDENTS

When a student is picked up, a picture ID must be presented in the main office. Anyone other than the parent or guardian must have advance written permission or be listed on the student's registration information card. The student will then be signed out and asked to come to the office. In an effort to maximize classroom instruction, we will not call students to the front office until after you have arrived and presented a picture ID. Parents please remember to write an excuse note, and turn it in, for any missed class periods.

TARDIES

We currently have a 4-minute passing period between classes, which provides ample time for students to move from class to class. Bettye Myers Middle School has an expectation that all students will get to all of their classes on time. In an effort to reduce the amount of class instruction that students miss due to tardies, disciplinary measures will be implemented for students who fail to arrive to any class on time.

TEXTBOOKS

Student textbooks are provided by the district and are issued at the beginning of each school year to students who request a copy. It is Bettye Myers Middle School's expectation that students will give their books the best of care, including putting their name in the front of each book, and keeping each book covered with an appropriate book cover at all times. Should a student lose or damage a book, the parent will become financially responsible for the cost of replacing that lost or damaged book.

TUTORIALS

Tutoring is provided to improve and ensure individual academic success for all students. For this reason, all students whose class average is 75 or below, will be encouraged to attend tutorials. It is the responsibility of the parent and student to take advantage of the tutoring opportunities and to make arrangements for transportation.

VISITORS

Because the safety of our students and staff are a top priority, ALL visitors (including parents) must sign in at the main office and obtain a visitors badge. All visitors will be asked to provide a photo ID when signing in. We also ask that you sign out in the same manner, prior to leaving the building. **Visitors are not allowed to be inside the school without a visitor's pass at any time, which includes dropping off and picking up students. Anyone without a pass will be directed to the main office to obtain one.** Visitors are not allowed to interrupt class during instruction time. If you wish to have a conference with a member of the school staff, please call (940)369-1500 for an appointment.

ZERO'S IN THE GRADING PROCESS

Students are not permitted to opt out of learning. A MSG will show up in the teacher's gradebook to signify that a student has failed to complete and/or turn in homework assignments on time. Missing work involves the entire teaching staff at Bettye Myers Middle School, and this policy reinforces the belief that homework/projects are meaningful and must be completed and turned in, and as a result, will increase student achievement levels. The no zero policy does not mean that your child cannot receive a failing grade or a zero for an assignment, but it does mean that our staff is committed to helping your child to complete their homework rather than simply not doing the homework and choosing to take a zero. When a student fails to do a homework assignment both the teacher and the student lose. The student misses valuable academic practice and the teacher is unable to evaluate the student's mastery level.

Bettye Myers Middle School

2016 ~ 2017 Bell Schedule

1st Period ~ 8:20 am – 9:05 am

2nd Period ~ 9:09 am – 9:54 am

3rd Period ~ 9:58 am – 10:46 am

6th Grade

4th Period

10:50 am – 11:35 am

Lunch

11:35 am – 12:05 am

5th Period

12:08 am – 12:53 pm

7th Grade

Lunch

10:46 am – 11:16 am

4th Period

11:19 pm – 12:04 pm

5th Period

12:08 pm – 12:53 pm

8th Grade

4th Period

10:50 am – 11:35 am

5th Period

11:38 am – 12:23 pm

Lunch

12:23 pm – 12:53 pm

6th Period ~ 12:57 pm – 1:42 pm

7th Period ~ 1:46 pm – 2:31 pm

8th Period ~ 2:35 pm – 3:20 pm