DRAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL



12550 W. 52nd Avenue Arvada, Colorado 80002 Main: 303-982-1510 Attendance: 303-982-1517

Drake Website

Administration

Jill Kline, Principal
Brandon Rowland, Assistant Principal (8th Grade)
Megan Motley, Assistant Principal (7th Grade)
Sara Maddock, Assistant Principal (6th Grade)
Mona Morey, Principal's Secretary
Kristina Martella, Attendance Secretary
Brenda Clem, Financial Secretary
Shawna Rome, Registrar
Megan Lovato, Health Aide

Counselors

Rebecca Ewald (8th Grade)
Sean McLaughlin (7th Grade)
Mandy Hodson (6th Grade)
Taylor Berry- Social Emotional Learning Specialist

Student & Guardian Handbook 2025-2026

THE DRAKE WAY

The DRAKE Way is our positive behavior system. Positive Behavior Systems have been shown to be an effective way to help create a more positive and unified culture for the Drake student body. Our PBIS program is based on the acronym "DRAKE" which stands for **Determination, Responsibility, Attitude, Knowledge, and Empathy.** Students are expected to demonstrate these traits in all areas of our school. Staff will reward and recognize the positive demonstration of the traits throughout the year in their DRAKE Core Values grade as well as with 'Drake bucks'. Students will be able to use their Drake bucks to purchase rewards. **Please see the DRAKE Way for information on how students can demonstrate these traits for each core value.**

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS/LINKS

Drake Bell Schedule 25-26
Drake Major Events Calendar 25-26
Family Calendar 25-26
Drake School Supply List 25-26
Drake Clubs 25-26 **coming soon**
Drake Sports 25-26

DRAKE DISCIPLINE PHILOSOPHY

The Drake discipline philosophy is based on the Jefferson County Schools Code of Conduct: The conduct code is for parents and students. Students and parents are responsible for knowing and understanding Jefferson County Public Schools conduct code. You can obtain a copy of the Jefferson County Schools Student Conduct Code by going to our School website or http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/

No Student has the right to interfere with the learning of other students, and every student has the right to feel safe.

We understand students will make mistakes and we are here to help them learn and grow from the experiences in a positive and consistent manner. Students are expected to be responsible for their choices and their actions, both in the academic and social arena. Lastly and most importantly, students are expected to make choices that will support and maintain a safe environment for all at all times. Please see <u>Drake Guide to Discipline</u> for clarifications.

Drake's policies are organized alphabetically below

To effectively identify a topic or category, hit <u>Ctrl+F</u> to search the topic

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students caught being academically dishonest on any school work can receive a "0" for that assignment. This can include, but is not limited to:

Copying from the internet (without citing sources)

- Utilizing another student's work to pass off as your own
- Using sites such as "Chat GPT" or other artificial intelligence work generators.
 - ➤ 1st Offense Student receives a "0" and can redo the assignment for partial credit (Parent/Guardian notified)
 - 2nd Offense Student receives a "0", but will not be able to redo assignment (Parent/Guardian notified)
 - → 3rd Offense Student receives a "0" and can be dropped a letter grade (Parent/Guardian notified)

*Students in "honors" designated classes can have their performance reviewed by the teacher and administration to determine if they should be removed from the "honors" class.

ACCESS

Students can receive additional support at the start of the school day twice each week. Access is a time for students to seek out teachers in areas they need support. Teachers can also request students to come to their class for that support. Students being requested must report directly to the "requesting" teachers room after attendance is taken.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

State law requires attendance at school for all students under the age of seventeen. The primary responsibility for ensuring that such attendance takes place rests with parents or guardians. It is the Drake expectation and parent/guardian's responsibility to contact the school within 24 hours or the absence will remain unexcused. See the <u>Drake Attendance Framework</u> for attendance policy/procedures

- ❖ Excused Absence: Acceptable reasons for excused absences include temporary illnesses, injury or family emergencies, absences approved by a school administrator, absences for an extended period due to physical, mental or emotional disability, or absences due to being in the custody of court or law enforcement authorities.
- Unexcused Absence: Any absence from school or class without approval of the school, principal and parents will be considered an unexcused absence.
- ➤ A letter will be mailed home when a student has accumulated 10 or more absences or beginning of the day tardies. Further absences can lead to administrative contact, contact from the Student Engagement Office, and/or Truancy Court.
- ❖ Tardies: Students are to be in their first class by 9:00a.m. Excessive unexcused tardies (Starting at 3 per class) may be subject to review by administrators and result in being labeled "unexcused", placed on a "No Pass List", or detention.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURE

If an absence is necessary, have your parent or guardian call the attendance number—303-982-1517—to notify the school of the reason for your absence. Report absences within 24 hours or we will consider your absence to be unexcused.

- Parents will be notified via an automated phone system if their student is marked "unexcused" for any part of the school day.
- Make-up work for all absences is your responsibility. Assignments can be found on the teacher's google classroom. Please contact your teachers_if you cannot find the needed assignments.
- ❖ If you have an excused absence, you have 2 days for each day you were absent to turn in your work. Assignments turned in after that time will be considered late and will not

- be given full credit. Students who receive unexcused absences are expected to do the work missed.
- For extended absences or pre-arranged absences, please contact our attendance secretary to get an approval form.

Early Dismissal

- Guardians must come into the main office to sign the student out.
- Only adults whose names appear on the Infinite Campus/Jeffco Connect may pick up a student from school.
- Provide a valid photo ID.
- If the student returns before the end of the school day, they need to check back in through the office.

BACKPACKS

For safety reasons, all backpacks, purses, and phones are to be left in student lockers throughout the school day – including lunch and recess.

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Clubs, sports, concerts, events, socials and performances may be held after school into the evening at Drake. All school rules apply, and courteous and attentive behavior is required. A student must attend school during the day to participate in evening or after school activities. Guardians are responsible for picking up their child promptly at the end time of the event or activity. Any student that is suspended from school that day, will not be allowed to attend any event, club, or activity on the same day.

BICYCLES/SKATEBOARDS

Students who ride their bicycles to school should wear helmets and abide by the rules and regulations of the county and state. Bicycles are ridden to school at the owner's risk and should be kept locked at all times. A bicycle rack is provided for students and all bikes must be placed there. Skateboards, scooters, and inline blades should be brought to the office first thing in the morning. Skateboards, bicycles, and skates are not to be ridden in the parking lot, on sidewalks or in the driveway areas at any time.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The building and grounds at Drake must be taken care of properly. Please help keep it attractive by using courtesy and common sense. This is part of the DRAKE Way.

HALLWAYS

- ➤ Posters may be put up in the halls to advertise activities but must be pre-approved by the administration. Please use poster putty only. Respect these posters by not writing on them or tearing them down.
- ❖ OUTSIDE AREAS
 - > Keep this area clean.
- ❖ RESTROOMS
 - > Our restrooms are here for your use. Use them in a proper way. Please report any damage or misuse to the main office.

BUS INFORMATION

Bus riders are required to show their bus pass before boarding the bus. A replacement bus pass costs \$15 and can be ordered through transportation.

Click the link below

Jeffco Bus Information and Guidelines

CAFETERIA GUIDELINES

- Most necessary Food and Nutrition information is located on <u>Jeffco Food and Nutrition Services</u> webpage.
- ❖ The Healthy School Meals for All program allows public School Food Authorities participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs to provide free meals to all students beginning School Year 2024-2025. Please visit the Healthy School Meals for All program website for more information.
- Daily lunch selections are advertised monthly on the school website as well as being posted in the lunchroom.
- Students may bring a sack lunch if they so desire and may purchase milk.
- ❖ A la carte items and second portions are available at an additional cost depending upon the menu, the supply of food at any meal and the time remaining during the lunch period.

Students are expected to demonstrate DRAKE Way values in the cafeteria.

- Students may deposit advance lunch money into their personal lunch accounts.
- Students must have their student ID on them to scan at checkout.
- ❖ You may not take any food, cookies, bag of chips, etc. to other parts of the building to eat without a signed note from a staff member and administrative approval. (Students buying food that cannot be eaten during the lunch period will have to discard the item(s) in trash receptacles.)
- Each student will wipe his/her table area and throw away all trash. Students are expected to help maintain a clean lunchroom. A student may be asked to pick up trash or wipe down a table.
- Seating is one student per seat- No sharing of a seat.
- Cutting or saving places in the lunch line is not allowed.
- Students are encouraged not to share food or loan each other money.
- Popping of paper bags or juice/milk cartons is prohibited.
- Students are not permitted to use other students' ID numbers in the cafeteria.
- On most days students will go outside of the building for lunch recess. Students need to be prepared by bringing a sweatshirt or coat depending on the weather. Students are not permitted to go back to their lockers to get them. Unless announced differently, every day is an outside day. Please bring appropriate clothing in case of cold weather.
- School personnel are not responsible for articles lost or stolen during lunch/recess.
- Food or drinks are permitted only in the cafeteria.

Inclement Weather Days:

- Students will be notified before the lunch period begins if it will be an inside day.
- Students are to follow the lunch supervisor's directions.
- Inside days will factor in rain, snow, and/or the temperature being below <u>20</u> degrees to determine if it will be an "inside" day.

CELL PHONE & EARBUD POLICY

Students must keep their cell phones in their locker throughout the school day. They may check their phone at their locker during passing periods. Students cannot take their phones to classes or lunch.

Violation of Cell
Phone/Earbud
Policy

Students are no longer receiving warnings for cell phones or earbuds. If a student is observed with either electrical device away from their lockers, they can receive a lunch detention.

Students may bring their cell phones and keep them in their lockers and check their devices during passing periods or at the beginning/end of school.

CLINIC

- The clinic is located in the main office. Students checking into the clinic must have a pass from their teacher and report directly to the main office.
- If a student is too ill or injured to continue attending classes, parents will be notified to have the student taken home.
- PLEASE NOTE: The Drake clinic is able to handle only illnesses/injuries that occur at school. Questions and treatment regarding injuries that occur outside school hours need to be handled at home or with the student's professional health care provider.
- ❖ PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION: It is often necessary for students to take prescription medication at school. However, in order for it to be given in a safe manner, certain guidelines, <u>some of which have changed from previous years</u>, must be followed. Please see the Clinic Aide for a list of guidelines if you will be taking medication at school.
- ❖ The school will <u>NOT</u> supply medication of any kind. If you foresee a need to have any over-the-counter medication such as Advil or Motrin, cough drops, or allergy medication please bring it in the smallest original container, labeled with student's name, along with a, signed by the student's parent or guardian AND the student's professional health care provider. A note is **not** sufficient. Please use the <u>Medication Agreement Form</u>

Students distributing any type of medication - drugs, or other substances - to other students for any reason will be subject to suspension followed by possible expulsion from the Jefferson County school district.

CLUBS

- Students will be informed through daily announcements/Drake TV about activities. These announcements will be made well in advance in order to give the students time to make transportation arrangements. Here is a link to more information regarding Drake's Clubs 2024-2025
- Clubs will run from 7:45-8:45am most days of the week as assigned by the sponsor
- Participation in Drake Clubs or Skyhawks sports programs can be linked to weekly eligibility, mid-term, and final grades. Students failing 2 or more classes may not be allowed to participate.

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

The Counseling Department is an integral part of Drake's total educational program. The counselors work closely with students, faculty, administrators and parents. The counseling program is designed to address the needs of all students by helping them to acquire increased knowledge of themselves and others, academic success and career awareness.

What is a Counselor? School counselors assist students with making "Good Choices." They work with students individually, in small groups, as well as in the classroom.

What do Counselors Do? Counselors are actively involved in three main areas:

- 1. Personal and Social Counseling -- Counselors support students, faculty, and parents with issues that involve relationship issues, bullying, family dynamics, decision making, self-esteem, physical and emotional abuse, etc. They also offer opportunities for Growth Groups (i.e. Loss and Grief, Social Skills, Behavior, Academic Support etc.)
- 2. Academic Counseling -- Counselors meet with students, faculty and parents in order to offer academic supports.
- 3. Career Counseling Counselors share career information with students through Career Expos, Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAP), and high school options.

<u>How does a student arrange to see a Counselor?</u> The student comes to the counseling center and completes a request form. The counselor will send a pass for the student as soon as possible.

Why would a counselor make an appointment with you? Your counselor may send for you to get acquainted, to discuss your schedule, or offer helpful suggestions and support.

Refer to the Counseling Department link on Drake's Website for more information.

DISCRIMINATION INFORMATION

The Jefferson County School District R-1 does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicapping condition or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Title IX Compliance Officer and ADA/504 Coordinator Office of Employee Relations 1829 Denver West Drive, Building 27 P.O. Box 4001 Golden, Colorado 80401-0001

Phone: (303) 982-6544

In addition to the non-discrimination policy and in order to adhere to the Drake mission statement, the use of profanity or vulgar or threatening language will not be tolerated at Drake Middle School. Violation of this policy will result in actions based on the Code of Conduct, and possible contact with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department.

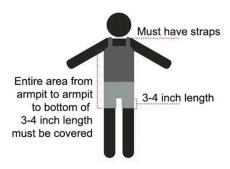
Sexual Harassment: In accordance with the district's policies prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex, the Board further acknowledges that sexual harassment of students is specifically prohibited as a form of illegal discrimination. Any student who violates Board policy by engaging in such conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action.

DRESS CODE

Students are to wear clothing that fits properly, is appropriate, safe, and maintains a style of modesty. If a student violates the dress code, the student will be asked to change, call their guardian for replacement clothes, or be provided a proper clothing item from the office.

The following items may **NOT** be worn at school or during school events.

- Caps, hats, bandanas, or trench coats
- Gang apparel, colors, signs, graffiti and any other gang-related items
- Slippers
- Clothing that is offensive or obscene, promotes death, suicide, murder, destruction, weapons, violence, hate, or prejudice, conveys a double meaning, or promotes drugs, alcohol or illegal activities
- Any clothes (t-shirts, shorts, jeans, skirts, etc.) with holes that expose skin in the image shown below
- Pants that sag excessively or show underwear or shorts
- No costume-like attire that distracts from the learning environment (tails, headbands, face paint, capes, etc.)



Food & Drinks

- Food and drink are not allowed in the hallways or classrooms (water bottles are allowed).
- Open containers are not allowed in hallways or classrooms.
- Breakfast and lunch are to be eaten in the cafeteria and food/drinks will not be taken from the cafeteria.
- ❖ Water bottles, with a lid, are allowed and encouraged.
- Only water is allowed (no Gatorade, coffee, soda, energy drinks, or anything with color) in classrooms and hallways

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Emergencies arise each year in which it is urgent that the school be able to contact parents or guardians. Therefore, parents/guardians will need to keep the emergency information current in Jeffco Connect. Please provide a working telephone number and email address that we can reach you with. Please also indicate an alternate number which may be called when a need arises. Please update Infinite Campus if there are changes that need to be made to the emergency information. Knowing your current phone number and address is of utmost importance should we have an emergency.

FEES

Fees are charged for exploratory classes, for student-owned supplies in Science and Math, and which is specific for Drake and is owned by the student. Exploratory classes include Art,

Technical Education, Computer Science, Honor Choir, Vocal Music, Robotics, Drama, Instrumental Music, Physical Education, Robotics, Health & Wellness, Family and Consumer Science (FACS), Digital Design and Spanish. The fees that are charged for these classes are participatory fees, meaning that in order to participate in the class, the fee must be paid. The fees charged for exploratory classes are used to pay for the supplies used by the student, which become the student's property when the project is finished. Jeffco Student Fees Information

FINES

During the school year, students often incur fines. Those students who have fines will receive a notification. The fine is expected to be paid as soon as possible after receiving notification.

GRADING

Drake Way (20% of overall grade)

- ❖ Grade will reflect student's efforts towards the core values in the <u>DRAKE Way</u>
- ❖ A grade should be entered bi/tri-weekly per semester

Content / Skills Grade (80% of overall grade)

- ❖ Department discretion on breaking up the 80% into sub categories such as:
 - > class work guided and independent work during the day
 - homework see explanation below
 - assessments to evaluate progress, determine course placement, or for course advancement
 - > Example: 40% Assessments, 20% Classwork, 20% Labs

A student's overall grade for any given course will be:

- 20% Drake Way
- ❖ 80% Core content knowledge within the subject.

Late Work

- All work that is submitted after the due date will be accepted for a maximum of 80% credit.
- Students have a reasonable amount of time for completion of a unit of study to turn in late work for that unit only (discretion of teacher). Please see individual teachers if your student has extenuating circumstances that make submission of late work within the appropriate time frame impossible.
- Students serving a suspension will have two days for every day of the suspension to make up missed work.

HALL PASSES

Students **MUST** have a pass with them when they are in the hallways during class time, lunch, or when they are going to the clinic.

HALLWAY EXPECTATIONS

See the "Drake Way"

HOME-TO-SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

Voicemail/Email should be used when a parent needs to contact a teacher, counselor, or administrator. Staff members will check their voicemail and email daily and respond within 24 hours. Homework assignments will be posted in Google Classroom.

HOMEWORK

Homework is a valuable tool which assists students' learning of content.

Drake staff uses it to:

- Boost overall retention of content or a skill that relates directly to classroom instruction for that week
- Access background knowledge before a new unit of study; boost student interest or engagement
- 3. Gain additional instructional minutes for re-teaching / spiraling of critical content or skill

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

All students and staff will be issued an ID card at the beginning of the school year. Students must bring their ID every day for lunch and Drake student identification. If a student misplaces or loses their card, there is a \$5.00 charge to print a new one.

Bus riders are required to show their bus pass before boarding the bus. A replacement bus pass costs \$15 and can be ordered through transportation.

LIBRARY

Hours: The library is open from 8:50 until 4:00.

Checkout Policy: Any materials checked out from the library will be for a period of TWO WEEKS. If more time is needed, please come in and renew the items. Books may be renewed any time during the school day and after school. Student IDs are required when checking out materials. Books may be reserved online through our Drake Catalog found under student resources on Drake's website.

Overdue Books/Fines: Lost or permanently damaged books will be replaced at cost. Late notices are given to your language arts teacher twice per trimester. Email notices of overdue books are also automatically sent. Please note that if a book is overdue, it means it has not been turned in so the monetary value of the book's replacement is listed on the notice. Once the item has been returned, the late notice will be erased.

Internet: Please read the computer policy guidelines stated in the Internet Agreement Contract. Students are expected to be Digital Citizens when using any electronic device at school.

Tech4Ed Chromebook Program: Students are expected to bring their Chromebook to school each day fully charged. There are no spare chargers available for checkout. Please bring any damaged devices to the library to be fixed.

Printing: Students may print to the black/white library printer at no cost. Color copies are only allowed if a teacher requires color for a project/assignment.

Library Info: Since 2012 Drake Dragon Library has been awarded Exemplary Performance by the Highly Effective Library Program created by the Colorado Department of Education. It is our endeavor to teach students to use technology to effectively show their learning, encourage literacy through reading, understand and employ digital citizenship, and support the research process by aligning learning to the International Society for Technology in Education standards.

LOCKERS

Lockers assignments and combinations will be available at registration.

- Each student will be assigned their own locker.
- Lockers are to be kept clean and there is to be no wallpaper, stickers, writing, or graffiti on the lockers.
- Students may decorate the inside of their locker. These items must be in good taste and removed by the end of the year without damage to the locker.
- Lockers will be examined at the end of the year and students may be charged if their locker has been damaged.
- ❖ To prevent damage from occurring, students should not kick or slam lockers.
- Students will be allowed to go to their lockers when the doors open at 8:50 a.m. and during each passing period.
- Students are not to switch lockers, nor are they to use lockers that are not their own.
- Students should not leave lockers set to open automatically or place anything in the locker to keep it propped open.
- Combinations are not to be given to other students for any reason. Personal property brought to school is done so at your own risk. The school is not liable for your property and does not carry insurance on such items. Locker use can be terminated at any time by the administration.

LOST AND FOUND

There are four lost-and-found areas in the building. One is in the main office and holds small items such as phones, money, purses, eyeglasses and jewelry. The other 3 lost-and-found areas for clothing items and larger items such as notebooks, planners and books are maintained in the 6th grade hall, the hall by the north entry door and in the apex of the 8th grade hall. Students are to check all areas for lost articles. It is advisable to mark any items you bring to school. The school district does not carry insurance to cover lost or stolen items, although students may purchase insurance coverage for their musical instruments. Students are discouraged from bringing valuable items to school, as the school is not liable for lost or stolen articles. Items from Lost & Found will be donated to charity the last week of each trimester.

REGISTRATION

Students will begin the registration process for the 2026-2027 school year during the month of January 2026. Information regarding registration will be posted on the website and can be found here: https://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/schools/enrollment/enrolljeffco

SAFE2TELL

Safe2Tell provides students, parents, and community members a safe and anonymous way to report information about any issues that concern their safety or the safety of others. Students can call to interact with a live, trained analyst or fill out a form on our website or mobile app. Information may be relayed to law enforcement and Drake Administration for the safety of our school.

Visit: https://safe2tell.org/

SCHOOL CLOSURE

There may be occasions that will necessitate the closure of school because of severe weather conditions. Notification of school closing will be sent out through Messenger when this occurs.

Announcements are also made on local radio and TV stations. Jeffco also has a late start option, if this occurs an announcement will be made over school messenger and on the local TV and Radio. In the event of a late start day Drake will have a 11:00 AM start time. Here is the Late Start Schedule for Drake

SCHOOL-TO-HOME COMMUNICATIONS

Drake will send the "Drake Deets" via a school messenger out at 6pm every Friday which will discuss upcoming events, informational items, and a general awareness of the ongoing events at Drake. Additionally, Drake may use the school messenger regarding other important messages for families regarding topics such as Outdoor Lab, modified schedules, testing, and other information important for students and guardians.

SCHOOL DAY

- The school day begins with the warning bell at 8:50 am and ends at 4:00 pm.
- Students are to be in their first class by 9:00 am.
- Students will enter the building at 8:50 am to go to their lockers.
- Students needing extra help from a teacher before school must get a pass from the teacher the day before.
- Students should not be on campus before 8:30am unless they are in a club or activity. Students will be allowed to enter the building at 8:50am.
- After school, students are expected to leave the building by 4:10 pm unless staying with a teacher or for a school-sponsored activity. "Hanging out" around the building or grounds unsupervised after school hours is not permitted.

SCHOOL SOCIALS

Drake has socials throughout the year. All school rules and Jefferson County policies remain in effect. Socials are for Drake students only. Students with 2 or more F's may not attend.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children gain and apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to deal effectively with daily tasks and challenges. Jeffco Public Schools has adopted the five core components of social and emotional learning outlined by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL).

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills
- ❖ Responsible Decision Making (CASEL, 2017)

SEL takes place within the context of safe and supportive school, family, and community environments that aids children's development and provides opportunities and recognition for successfully applying these skills. This approach promotes intrapersonal, interpersonal, and cognitive competence. This website is intended to serve as a resource for those implementing Social Emotional Learning as well as those investigating the evidence-based approach to implementation.

Drake students will engage in SEL lessons every Thursday from 9:00-9:35am. We will be using the <u>Second Step</u> curriculum.

TECHNOLOGY

Drake is a 1:1 Chromebook school. Please visit our school technology page for full information. <u>Here is a link to Drake's 1:1 policy</u>. See Jeffco Technology policy and fee structure. <u>Technology in the Classroom</u>

VALUABLES

Valuables, large sums of money, expensive jewelry, etc. should be left at home. Phones, purses, wallets and other personal possessions should be guarded closely. For this reason, we urge students **to NEVER** share their locker combination with anyone – even their closest friends! *The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or misplaced articles*. It is your responsibility to safeguard your own possessions.

VISITORS

Student visitors are not allowed during the school day at Drake Middle School. <u>Drake</u> <u>students may not bring non-Drake students to school for any reason without prior</u> <u>permission from their teachers and administrators</u>. Parents or other visiting adults or children are asked to check in at the main office and obtain a "visitor" pass. Unauthorized visitors will be asked to leave the building.