GEORGE
WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

2026-2027 | STUDENT AND FAMILY HANDBOOK

Last Edited: Sep 4, 2026

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Welcome Message from the Principal

Dear GWHS Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year at George Washington High School! Whether you are joining us for your freshman year or stepping onto campus for your final high school chapter, our commitment remains the same: to foster an inclusive, high-achieving environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

This handbook serves as your practical roadmap for the year ahead, outlining our schedules, academic standards, and campus expectations. At the heart of our community are the Patriot Principles: Be Present, Be Prepared, Be Engaged, Be Positive, and Be a Patriot. Guided by these values, we are prioritizing student focus and personal well-being. In alignment with district policy, we are fully implementing DPS expectations for all personal communication devices (PCDs) throughout the school day. This step ensures our classrooms remain vibrant, distraction-free spaces dedicated to active learning and authentic interpersonal connections.

We encourage our students to take direct ownership of their success by tracking progress in Schoology, maintaining strong attendance, and advocating for themselves through office hours and enrichment time. To our families, thank you for your continued partnership and active engagement. Together, we create a supportive network that equips our students for college, career, and beyond. Let's make this an incredible school year!

Warm regards,

Dr. Dackri Davis
Principal, George Washington High School
dackri_davis@dpsk12.net

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SCHOOL CALENDAR

Below is a list of school closures for the 2026-2027 school year.

DATE	DETAIL
Sep 7, 2026	**Labor Day** *No School*
September 10	**Activities Fair** *Back to School Night*
Sep 28, 2026	**PD Day - No Students**
October 5 -9	**Homecoming Week**
Oct 12, 2026	**No Students**
Oct 13	**PSAT/NMSQT (grades 10 and 11)** *No school for grade 9 or grade 12 students*
Oct 14	**PSAT 9 (grade 9) and Accuplacer (invited grade 12 students)** *No school for grade 10, grade 11, or grade 12 students who have previously demonstrated competency*
Oct 28th and 29th	**Parent Teacher Conference**
Oct. 30	**PD Day - No Students**
November 23 - 27	**Fall Break** *No School*
December 14 -17	**Final Exams:** **December 14th (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Period Finals)** **December 15th (4th and 5th Period Finals)** **December 16th (6th and 7th Period Finals)** **December 17th Course Competency Day (invitation only)**
December 21 - January 4	**Winter Break** *No School*
January 4	**Teacher Workday** No school for students
January 11	**ACCESS TEST** No school for non-testers
January 18	**MLK JR. Day** No School

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February 15	**Presidents' Day** No School
March 29 - April 2	**Spring Break** No School
April	**CMAS Science and P/SAT Testing** *SAT April 15th, PSAT (9th and 10th) April 16th* *No school for certain grade levels* **April 18: Teacher Workday** No school for students
May	**Graduation, 12:00 pm on May 28, 2027 at Denver Coliseum** **Memorial Day** No School
June	**Final Exams:** **June 1st (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Period Finals)** **June 2nd (4th and 5th Period Finals)** **June 3rd (6th and 7th Period Finals)** **June 3rd Course Competency (by invitation only)**

BELL SCHEDULE

GWHS runs on a seven-period modified block schedule. This means students attend all seven of their classes on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays, their odd-period classes on Wednesdays, and their even-period classes on Thursdays. Additionally, students have a late start on Thursday mornings.

7 PERIOD DAY | MONDAY / TUESDAY / FRIDAY

PERIOD	START TIME	END TIME	LENGTH
Period 1	8:25 AM	9:15 AM	50 Minutes
Period 2	9:21 AM	10:11 AM	50 Minutes
Period 3	10:17 AM	11:07 AM	50 Minutes
Period 4	11:13 AM	12:03 PM	50 Minutes
Lunch	12:03 PM	12:48 PM	45 Minutes
Period 5	12:54 PM	1:44 PM	50 Minutes
Period 6	1:50 PM	2:40 PM	50 Minutes
Period 7	2:46 PM	3:36 PM	50 Minutes
Student Enrichment	3:40 PM	3:55 PM	15 Minutes

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ODD-BLOCK DAY | WEDNESDAY

PERIOD	START TIME	END TIME	LENGTH
Period 1	8:25 AM	9:50 AM	85 Minutes
Period 3	9:56 AM	11:21 AM	85 Minutes
Lunch	11:21 AM	12:11 PM	50 Minutes
Period 5	12:17 PM	1:47 PM	90 Minutes**
Period 7	1:53 PM	3:18 PM	85 Minutes
Student Enrichment	3:25 PM	3:55 PM	30 Minutes

EVEN-BLOCK DAY | THURSDAY

PERIOD	START TIME	END TIME	LENGTH
Staff Meeting	8:05 AM	9:20 AM	75 Minutes
Teacher Planning	9:20 AM	9:50 AM	30 Minutes
Period 2	9:50 AM	11:15 AM	85 Minutes
Lunch	11:15 AM	12:05 PM	50 Minutes
Period 4	12:11 PM	1:41 PM	90 Minutes**
Period 6	1:47 PM	3:12 PM	85 Minutes
Student Enrichment	3:20 PM	3:55 PM	35 Minutes

THE TOOLS

- Schoology will be used in every class to share assignments and resources, and to record grades. It is imperative that students check their DPS Google email daily for class updates.
- Link for Parent Portal
- Schoology, office hours, email, telephone, text messaging, and Google Meet video conferencing are the primary communication tools our staff will use to connect with students.
- Teachers may be using various tools, including recorded lessons, videos, Khan Academy, Screencastify, and others, to enhance students' learning and support assignment completion.

COMMUNICATION

- **Community Expectations:** All members of the GWHS learning community (students, parents, and staff) are expected to interact with each other in a professional and courteous manner. This includes using appropriate language, being solution-oriented, assuming positive intent, and avoiding hang-ups and the avoidance of communication.
- **Monthly Newsletters:** GWHS will send a monthly newsletter with important information. Please continue to check our website regularly for updates in real-time.

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- **Thrillshare:** All GWHS faculty have a DPS Thrillshare communication tool that allows for emails and text messages to be sent.
- **Email:** Staff members will be available via email. Please allow for 24 to 36 hours for a response.
- **Schoology:** Assignments, classroom resources, and class messages will be posted in Schoology.

ATTENDANCE AND TARDY POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is vital to your academic success, and all students are expected to maintain at least 90% attendance throughout the school year. Missing 10% or more of school days—roughly equivalent to missing just one day every two weeks—is considered chronic absenteeism and directly impacts your course standing. If you are absent, a parent or guardian must report and excuse it via the Parent Portal or by calling the school within two school days, or it will be recorded as unexcused. Keep in mind that medical documentation from a doctor is required for absences lasting three to five consecutive days, while extended absences require approval from the Principal (6+ days) or the District (10+ days). To help you stay on track, our

Attendance will be taken daily at the start of each class period. Students not present in the classroom at this time will be marked absent. Students who arrive late to class will be marked tardy. The accumulation of excessive tardies will lead to disciplinary action, including but not limited to the potential for lunchtime detention, in-school suspension, or off-campus lunch privileges to be revoked for individual students and/or entire grade levels.

Attendance Team monitors attendance closely: reaching a 5% absence rate triggers an individual meeting to build an improvement plan, while hitting 10% results in an official Truancy Warning Letter and a mandatory parent conference to establish a formal attendance contract. If absences reach 15%, severe consequences will apply, including disciplinary action—such as detention, loss of extracurricular privileges, or referral to a truancy officer—and potential academic impacts like loss of course credit or grade retention.

Any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Attendance coordinators; Gabe Jarammillo and Jen Sculley.

DPS ATTENDANCE

FULL-DAY EXCUSED ABSENCES

An absence is defined as non-attendance in class. A student attending any portion of a class period will be considered present in class. An absence will either be “excused” or “unexcused” as outlined below. Individual teachers may also have additional tardy policies that students will be made aware of.

All absences and releases should be reported using My Parent Portal.

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A student's parent/guardian must email attendance_georgewashington@dpsk12.org within TWO days of the student's return to school. Phone calls, even though a courtesy, are not considered official documentation.

The following reasons constitute an excused absence:

- Illness (including COVID-related quarantine)
- Medical/dental appointment
- Court date
- Funeral
- Religious holiday
- Personal reasons/Extenuating circumstances

All emails and notes must include:

- Student's full name and ' number
- Date(s) and reason for absence
- A valid parent/guardian name
- A daytime phone number where the parent/guardian can be reached

Students have two days from the date of each excused absence to make up their missed classwork. The student or family is responsible for initiating make-up work.

An absence becomes unexcused after two days without an acceptable excuse from a parent. Work missed due to an unexcused absence will be marked as missing in Infinite Campus, and make-up work will be permitted only at the teacher's discretion.

PARTIAL ABSENCES

Please provide 24 hours notice. All partial- day absences must be confirmed by a parent/guardian before a student can be dismissed. If you will be returning from your partial-day absence, please remember to check back in with the attendance office.

All absences and releases should be reported using My Parent Portal.

A student's parent/guardian must email attendance_georgewashington@dpsk12.org

All emails/notes must include:

- Student's full name and Student ID number
- Time the student must leave
- Reason for partial-day absence
- A valid parent/guardian name
- A daytime phone number where the parent/guardian can be reached

The note will be confirmed by calling the parent/guardian. The student is responsible for returning to the attendance office to pick up a pass to leave the building.

For early release, please call at least one hour before pick-up time. Your student will receive a pass to present to the teacher to be released. The latest a student can be called out is 3:15 p.m.

Leaving school without checking out through the attendance office is considered an unexcused absence. One or two days later, bringing an excuse note does not apply to excused tardies and partials. These must be excused on the day they occurred.

TARDY TO CLASS

Students are expected to be on time! Students arriving after the bell has rung are considered tardy. Any student arriving late to class will receive a classroom-assigned consequence. Repeated defiance of the tardy policy will result in progressive disciplinary action.

Any student that arrives late to class and has missed **50% (half) or more** of the scheduled instructional period, without a reason that constitutes an excuse, will be marked **absent.**

Tardies to school will be excused with a note or phone call from the parent/guardian at the time of arrival. Please check in with the Attendance Office.

ABSENCES FOR SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES

School-related activities will include those covered under Colorado law and district policy, such as suspensions and school-sponsored activities. Teachers will allow credit for make-up work if it is completed within the teacher's parameters.

ABSENCES FOR SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

In any school-sponsored activity, an administrator will initiate a list of those students participating and give it to the attendance secretary. Additionally, out-of-school activities require a School Excursion Notification form that is completed and signed by the sponsoring teacher. The student must obtain each of his/her teachers' signatures and return the School Excursion Notification form to the sponsoring teacher by that sponsor's due date. The sponsoring teacher then turns this form to the Attendance Office. On this form, a classroom teacher can recommend that a student not participate in the activity. It is the classroom teacher's responsibility to notify the sponsoring teacher(s) of any students they feel should not participate in the activity. (Large groups, i.e. ROTC, instrumental/vocal music, etc. may be exempt from the School Excursion Notification Form). Following any school-related/sponsored activity, the Attendance Secretary will be informed of students absent from the activity.

PARTICIPATION IN THE GRADUATION CEREMONY

It is the student's responsibility to continually monitor student progress, grades, and graduation status. A student may only participate in the GWHS graduation ceremony if he/she has completed DPS graduation requirements and earned the minimum of 240 credits/24 unit hours, including all required courses. Students must also meet the statewide competency demonstration requirements, complete all questions within their ICAP, pay outstanding student fees, and return their DPS-issued Chromebook. Students are urged to stay in close contact with their counselor for current progress and status information.

CLASS SCHEDULES

VIEWING YOUR YEAR-LONG CLASS SCHEDULE

You can view your schedule in Infinite Campus (IC) for all both semesters quarters of the school year. It is critical that you look at your schedule in IC first so that you can see your schedule in its entirety. Should you have a

semester-long course, you might not see your full yearlong course load in Schoology. Log in to Student Portal by clicking HERE.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

We recognize that you may find mistakes in your schedule, and we are happy to get those fixed. While we spend many hours auditing schedules, having all of your eyes on the schedules is the final step to making sure we got it right!

Additionally, we will consider schedule change requests for the following reasons:

- Graduation requirement (short on core classes)
- College requirements
- Strengthening of schedule (level changes)

We cannot accommodate requests to switch which term you are taking a course, switch a period you are taking a course, or switch for teacher preference.

Please watch for communication from our counseling team at the start of each semester regarding the process for requesting a schedule change or fix.

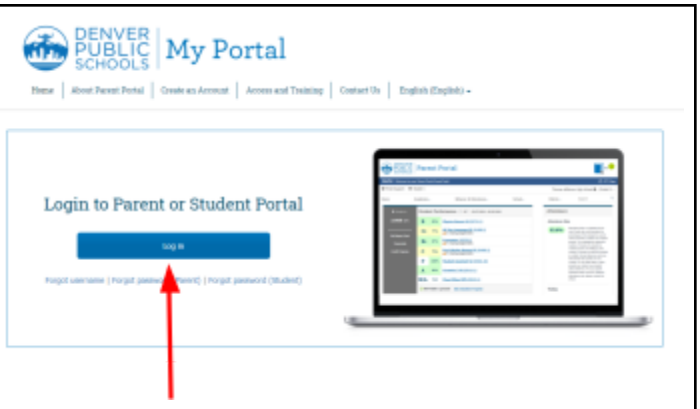
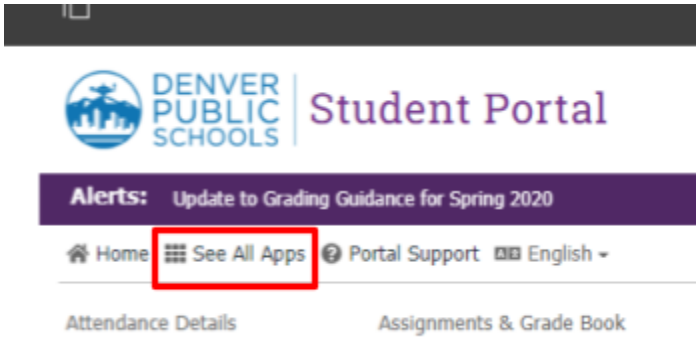
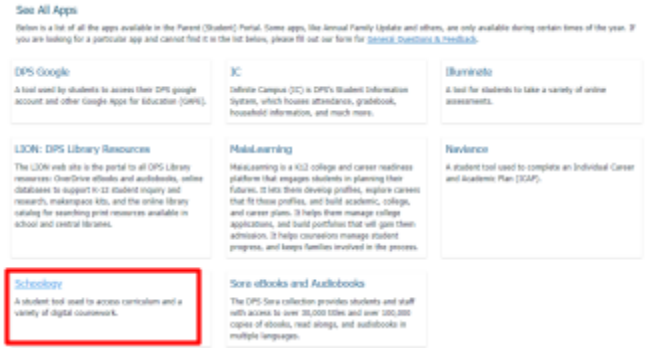
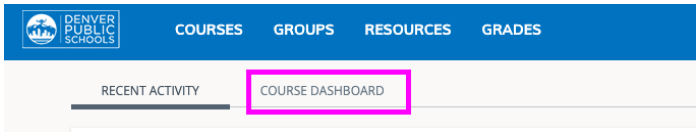
NUMBER OF CLASSES

- Students can take a maximum of seven classes. Our school budget is based on students taking a maximum of seven classes, and to maintain small class sizes, we cannot extend the option for students to take additional courses. There are two exceptions to this rule:
    - For our emerging bilingual students who are enrolled in a year-long English Language Development support class that must be attended all year in order to maintain compliance.
    - Students who are seeking the IB Diploma are enrolled in a single semester of Theory of Knowledge in order to be eligible for the IB Diploma. However, we do not encourage students to take eight courses in this case and advise IB Diploma students to take six classes in addition to their TOK class.
- Freshmen and Sophomores should have seven classes per semester over the course of the school year.
- Juniors and Seniors should have no fewer than five classes per semester over the school year.

ACCESSING COURSEWORK THROUGH SCHOOLOGY

STEP 1 Log in to the Student Portal at portal.dpsk12.org • **The username** is 6 digit Student ID/Lunch Number • **Password** is 8 digit birthday MMDDYYYY *example: If your birthday is March 5, 2005, your password would be 03052005*	

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STEP 2 Click on the blue LOGIN button	
STEP 3 **Click on SEE ALL APPS**	
STEP 4 Click on **SCHOOLOGY**	
STEP 5 Click on **COURSE DASHBOARD**	

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STEP 6

Organize your courses

Each course number is followed by a three-digit number:

- The first number is the semester the course is being held
  - S1 = 1, S2 = 2
- The second number is the period during which the class is held
  - Ex: 1st Period = 1
- The third number is the "Section" number that identifies your specific section of that course

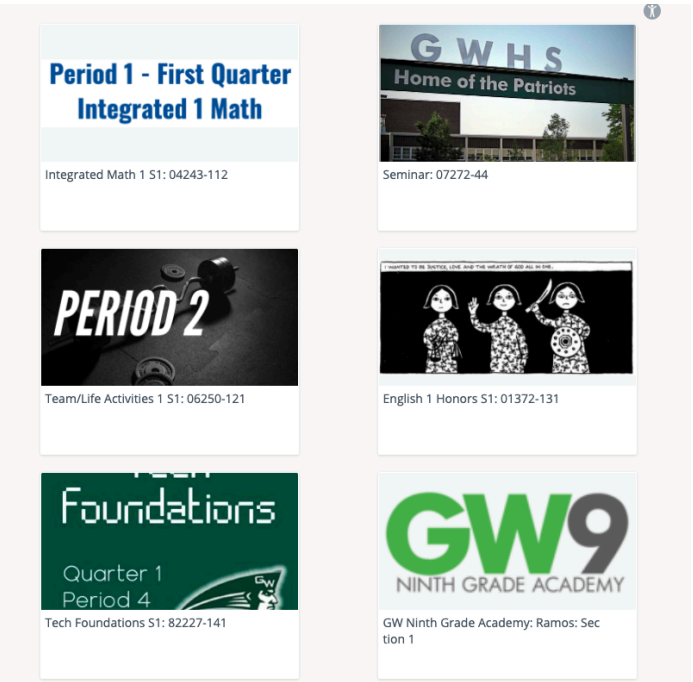
Let's put it into action. For example:

- 03148-131 is a course held S1 during Period 3

Community Learning Seminars don't follow this numbering pattern. CL Seminars are held on Thursdays immediately following Period 4.

To organize your course in the Course Dashboard, click on a course and drag it to the location you'd like it to be.

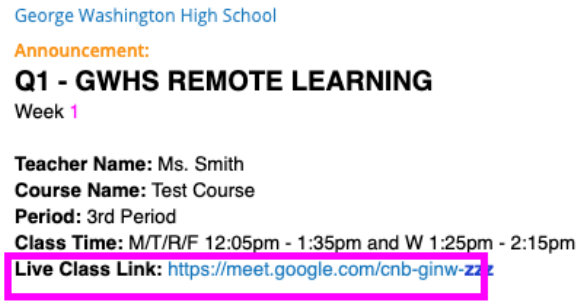
We suggest that you organize courses in the order you will attend them each day. As a reminder, HERE is a copy of our bell schedule.



STEP 7

Click into a course.

At the top of the page will be a course overview that includes the teacher's name and the class period.



GRADING

GRADEBOOK

- All teachers will use continuous grading in Schoology.
- Grades will consist of Process and Product grades that are weighted consistently within each content area. (Process is 20% and Product is 80%)

- Process: homework, labs, classwork, warms-ups, exit tickets, etc.
- Product: assessments, quizzes, projects, essays, final performance, etc.; be creative in assessing.

ASSIGNMENTS

- Each class will have a minimum of **two posted grades each week** in either the Process or Product category, subject to professional judgment.
- Grades will be a reflection of a student's demonstration of district-identified competencies and standards.
- Grades will not include scores and practices that disproportionately or artificially reward or penalize students. No grade should exceed 100%.
- Rubrics and/or proficiency scales should be utilized with all common summative assessments when appropriate.
- Content teams should align points for assessments and assignments.

ASSIGNMENT COMPLETION AND GRADING TIMELINE

- Communication to students and guardians should be very clear on the purpose of a graded assignment; therefore, assignments will be checked for understanding with feedback given.
- Grades in all classes should reflect what students know and/or can do.
- All grades will be posted in Schoology within five school days of an assignment's due date for standard assignments and within ten school days for major assignments.
- Each assignment's due date will be communicated to students in Schoology by attaching a due date to each posted assignment.
- Late work for product assignments must be completed within two weeks of when the assignment was given.
- Students have until the end of the unit to submit process assignments.
- All assignments in the grade book will have a grade or notation entered. There will be no blank values.
  - If an assignment is missing, teachers can leave it as a zero
  - If an attempt to demonstrate mastery is made, DPS recommends that the lowest the grade be no lower than 50% per DPS policy.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

OVERVIEW

- Students will practice the Patriot Principles:
  - Be Present
  - Be Prepared
  - Be Engaged
  - Be Positive
  - Be a Patriot
- Students will track their progress in Schoology and advocate for success in every class.
- Students will engage in all learning with academic honesty and integrity.

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- Students will reach out to their teachers through office hours or scheduled one-on-one meetings if they have questions or need support.
- Students will follow all GWHS classroom behavior expectations and school rules.
- Students will not participate in cyberbullying. DPS is committed to providing a safe and secure school environment for all students. We believe students should be able to learn in an environment that is free from threat, harassment and any type of bullying behavior, including cyberbullying. Students who engage in any act of bullying are subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion, and referral to law enforcement.

MAKING A WORK PLAN

- **Access all of your coursework through Schoology.**
  - All courses and assignments can be accessed at schoology.dpsk12.org. Log in every day to check your current and upcoming assignments, check your email and Schoology messages, and complete your classwork.
  - **Students are expected to arrive at school each morning with their fully-charged school-issued Chromebook**. Though students may use personal devices rather than school-issued Chromebooks, it is important to remember many of our assessments are accessible only through the app kiosk installed on school-issued Chromebooks. Students are required to check out a school-issued Chromebook for assessment purposes even if they plan to use a personal device for accessing classwork and assignments.
  - Schoology only lets you log in with your DPS school email. If you are having difficulty logging in, make sure you are logged out of all other email accounts.
  - If you need more help accessing Schoology, use the resources below.
    - Parent Login - English | Spanish
    - Guide for Using the App - English | Spanish | Arabic | Arahmaic | Vietnamese | French | Somali | Nepali | Dari
    - Schoology FAQ - English | Spanish

WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

A course, assignment, or resource	Contact the relevant teacher
A technology problem or issue	Dale Embleton, GWHS's School Technology Representative
A personal, academic or social-emotional concern **For any concerns you may have about yourself, another student, or your child reach out to:** • When risk is imminent, please call 911 • Anonymously report the situation to Safe2Tell by phone or text at 1-877-542-7233, via safe2tell.org, or using the Safe2Tell App	**Khari Wallace** Academic Advisor | Last Names A - Da khari_wallace@dpsk12.net **Alea Griffin** Academic Advisor | Last Names De - Ha alea_griffin@dpsk12.net **Sarah Ozee** Academic Advisor | Last Names He - Mc sarah_ozee@dpsk12.net **Gina Subudhi** Academic Advisor | Last Names Me - Sa gina_subudhi@dpsk12.net

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• Colorado Crisis Services at 1-844-493-8255 or Text TALK to 38255 • Contact DPD Non-emergency line at 720-913-2000 to request a welfare check and/or to report the threat/concern.	**Suzi Stein-Shevell** School Psychologist susan_stein-shevell@dpsk12.net **Stacey Bennington** 504 Coordinator stacey_bennington@dpsk12.net **Edward Prout** School Nurse edward_prout@dpsk12.net
Other issues	**Dr. Dackri Davis** Principal dackri_davis@dpsk12.net **Najah McFarland** Assistant Principal | Administrative Services najah_mcfarland@dpsk12.net **Linwood Washington** Assistant Principal | Academic Services linwood_washington@dpsk12.net **Brendan Netherton** Assistant Principal | Athletics and Activities brendan_netherton@dpsk12.net
	Brandon Le'Noir Dean of Culture | 9th Grade Rep gregory_lenoir@dpsk12.net **Gabriel Jaramillo** Dean of Culture | 10th Grade Rep gabriel_jaramillo1@dpsk12.net **Dwight Swift** Dean of Culture | 11th Grade Rep dswift@dpsk12.net **Jen Sculley** Dean of Culture | 12 Grade Rep jeanette_sculley@dpsk12.net

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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ID CARDS

In order to comply with DPS policy and provide a safer school environment, all students and staff must have an ID on their person at all times. The ID must be available to present at all times upon request when on the premises and must be shown at all doors and whenever requested. If a student does not have an ID, they will be directed to the main office for a reprint. Each re-print is $5 and will be added to the student's account.

DOOR/ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE

All students must enter through either door 1 off of Monaco or door 3 off of the south courtyard prior to 8:15. After 8:15, door 8 on the west side near the south courtyard is available. **North Lobby and door 25, near north parking is not available to students or visitors. Please use the main entry vestibule on Monaco**

Students are not permitted into the school building until 8:00am. Before this students may be allowed into the vestibule during inclement weather after 7:30. If a student has business prior to 8am, the coach or staff member must provide the access.

Student drop-off and pick-up is available at the front of the school off Monaco Parkway, the North Lot off Virginia Ave, and the Lower South Lot off Leetsdale Drive.

- **7:30AM** During inclement weather Monaco entrance to Vestibule (door 1). Remain in vestibule until 8 AM
- **8:00 AM** Entrance to Monaco Door 1 and Pikes Peak Door 3 available
- **8:15AM** Door 8 access available
- **4:00PM** All students must exit unless with a staff member.

Student pick-up and drop off is available at the front of the school off Monaco Parkway, the North Lot off Virginia Ave, and the Lower South Lot off Leetsdale Drive.
Doors are plentiful at GWHS and we have a color-coded system for all doors.
RED DOORS SIGNS NO student entry (Exit for emergencies only)
YELLOW DOORS SIGNS Only used during passing time (door 8 west side)
GREEN DOORS SIGNS Entrance or Exit at all times (Doors 1 and 3)
Using or allowing students through restricted doors is a serious safety violation.

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES (PCD's)

We understand that cellphones and other electronic devices are an important part of daily life. However, academic success and personal well-being take priority at school. Starting at the beginning of the 2026-27 school year, all DPS students in all grades (ECE-13) will be expected to turn off and put away all personal communication devices (PCDs) during the entirety of the school day. PCDs include, but are not limited to:

- Cellphones.
- Smart or electronic wearables (such as smart watches or smart glasses).
- Wireless earbuds and earphones.
- Personally owned tablets and laptops.
- Non-district-issued computing devices.
- Any other personally-owned, portable electronic communication device.

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This policy was carefully developed using community engagement and is based on research on how cellphone use can distract from learning, impact students' grades and test scores, and negatively affect mental and emotional well-being.

GWH's expectations are:

- PCDs are not allowed to be used on our campus during school hours.
- All PCDs must be turned off and securely stored out of sight in a bag or back pack. **PCDs cannot be stored in pockets**. The school and district are ***not responsible for lost, theft or destruction of PCDs on school property.***
- Students are responsible for storing their devices in bags or lockers that are securely locked. Lost or stolen PCD's are the responsibility of the student. Reports of stolen property can be made to the school Resource Officer but will not be investigated by school staff.
- Failure to follow this policy will result in disciplinary action, which may include device confiscation and additional consequences.

We ask that you review these expectations and help out by not texting or contacting your student during the school day. In the event of a personal emergency, **please call GWHS's main office at (720) 423-8600 and our staff will get a message to your student** as soon as possible. If a student needs to contact a guardian, they may ask for a hall pass to use the phone in the front office.

Enforcement

When a student breaks the policy, a staff member will first direct the student to turn off the device and put it away. If the student breaks the policy more than once within the same school year, the school will follow the four steps from administrative policy JICJ.

Step One: First Violation

- The first time a student violates the policy, a staff member will direct them to turn off and put away the device in their bag or backpack. **PCD's should not be put into pockets.** The student will be reminded of the reasons behind the policy and its expectations, then the school documents the incident.
- Refusal to follow the redirection will result in an automatic notification to admin for follow up.

Step Two: Second Violation

- The second time a student violates the policy, the PCD will be turned off and taken by the teacher to be stored securely in room 105. The device is returned to the student at the end of the school day, and a guardian is informed by the teacher about the violation. Students must present an ID to collect property.
- Refusal to follow the redirection will result in an automatic notification to admin for follow up.

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Step Three: Third Violation

- The third time a student violates the policy, the PCD will be turned off, taken by a staff member and stored securely in room 105. The device will be returned only after a conference with the guardian, student and the teacher. They will review the policy and come up with a plan for the student to follow. Guardians may collect the device from room 105. ID must be presented to collect property.
- Refusal to follow the redirection will result in an automatic notification to admin for follow up.

Step Four: Fourth Violation

- The fourth time a student violates the policy, school administration will step in for accountability and support. It will include a conference and may include daily device check-in, the loss of the privilege to bring a PCD to school, searches, a behavioral contract, chances to reflect or other interventions.
- Responses will take into account the student's age and situation, and shall place returning to learning over exclusion.
- An administrator or dean may conduct searches on students for a hidden PCD for the fourth violation.

Exceptions

Students can use their personal devices during the school day only if they have an official plan that allows it. This includes students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP), a Section 504 Plan, an Individual Health Plan or to meet the needs of a Multilingual Learner. Also, students can wear prescription smart glasses as long as the glasses are turned off and disconnected from cellphones or other devices.

Communications Between Students and Guardians

Students will still be able to get in touch with guardians, employers and others during the school day. With permission from staff, students may go to the main office at any time to contact home and will be provided numbers and support as needed.

Students will **not be allowed to use their cellphones, smart watches and other PCDs during school emergencies. In these situations, using a PCD can put students and staff at risk,** get in the way of police and emergency workers and spread false information. **During a lockdown or active-threat emergency, the school and/or district will contact families with official updates as soon as they can and will share new information as soon as possible.**

Students should follow regular safety procedures and keep their PCDs turned off. If they see something, they need to tell an adult or make a Safe2Tell report on their Chromebook or district-issued device.

How Families Can Help Students Adjust to the New Policy

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- Call the school's front office at (720) 423-8600 to leave a message for your student when you need to reach them during school hours. Staff will ensure communication is handled as swiftly as possible by contacting students and informing them of any concerns and allowing return communication as needed.
- Read A Parent's Guide to Healthy Screen Time for Kids as an example of how guardians can work with their students to build healthy screen habits.

If you have questions, please contact the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Helpline at 720-423-3054 or facehelpline@dpsk12.net, or read the FAQ for Families and Staff (Google Doc).

Thank you for your partnership in supporting our students' academic success and bright futures.

FOOD DELIVERIES
All deliveries are to be picked up outside on the sidewalk in front of school on Monaco. No deliveries will be accepted at any door.

LUNCH AND OFF-CAMPUS PRIVILEGES
PCD's are not allowed on campus. GWHS has one lunch period, and students with off-campus lunch privileges must return to class on time. Our community supports us, and we need to support them by being respectful when in their stores, restaurants, and shared spaces. Excessive reports of community concerns or tardies will result in loss of lunch privileges. Lunch detention will be held in the cafeteria during lunch with assigned seating. Please note that off-campus events are handled by the Denver Police Department.

STUDENT PARKING
Students must purchase a new 2026-27 parking decal by September 1st. Any questions can be directed to Jen Sculley.

HALL PASSES
PCD's are not allowed in the halls. Hall passes are for EMERGENCIES only!
ALL students must have a hall pass to be in the hall during instructional time.
Students must request a pass from the teacher, write their name and time on the board, take a lanyard and return within 6 mins. Upon return, the student returns the lanyard and erases their name from the board. Passes to the nurse will be written passes provided by the teacher.

No-Fly Zone: To protect learning, no passes are issued during the **first and last 10 minutes** of class

STUDENTS REPEATEDLY IN HALLS WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE VIA LUNCH DETENTION AND TIME MANAGEMENT INTERVENTIONS WITH POTENTIAL ISS/OSS.

OFF PERIODS
PCD's are not allowed in the building during off periods. Off periods are reserved for upperclassmen who are on-track to graduate. Off periods are considered study periods and should be treated accordingly. Acceptable off-period locations include the library and Pikes Peak Lobby.

Pep Rallies and Auditorium
PCD's are not allowed. Students are expected to attend and behave in a respectful manner. Check in with the teacher for attendance and seating charts. There is no in and out. Students are expected to remain until the end of the event. No food or drinks are allowed.

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FIELD TRIPS

PCD's are not allowed. Field trips are a privilege for students who are passing all classes, have at least 90% attendance, and have no behavior referrals. Students must turn in a parent permission form and a teacher permission form. This form includes a report from your teachers that includes attendance, grades, and behavior.

LIBRARY USAGE

PCD's are not allowed. Students with a valid pass from their teacher are welcome to use the Library Media Center from 8:45am to 4:00pm. Students need a valid student ID to check out books or use any of the library equipment. Books are checked out for three weeks and can be renewed once. Students are not allowed to bring food or drinks into the library.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found items can be turned in or claimed in the Main Office. Valuable items can be turned in or claimed in the Treasurer's Office. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

LOCKERS

Students must request a locker during lunch, from Ms. Cordova in the Athletics Office (located in the main office), otherwise students will not receive a locker assignment. A student's locker, while intended as a repository for some personal belongings of the student, shall remain the property of the District, and the District reserves the right to inspect both without notice to the student. The District prohibits the display of pornographic pictures or drug/alcohol promotions in the student lockers. A student's locker, desk, or vehicle on school property may be opened, and the contents thereof inspected, only upon approval of the Principal or a designee. GWHS is not responsible for replacing stolen items. Money or expensive items should not be brought to school or left in lockers. Lockers must be cleaned out at the end of each school year. Any items left in lockers will be donated to charity.

POSTERS AND FLYERS

The Activities Director must approve and initiate any poster or flier before it may be hung or circulated anywhere on campus.

RTD/SCHOOL BUS INFORMATION

RTD Transportation (Zero Fare for Youth) The Zero Fare for Youth program has been voted on by the RTD board to continue moving forward. This means students in the Denver metro area will continue to ride for free.

To board RTD transportation, students will need to show one of the following:

- Current School ID/Valid government-issued ID
- Alien registration/permanent resident card
- Military ID/dependent card with DOB
- RTD-issued youth special discount card
- **Click here to learn more about RTD's Zero Fare for Youth Pilot Program**

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Fire drills are done to ensure the practice of safe and expedient evacuation from the building. Routes for evacuation of the building are posted in every room. Follow emergency procedures for a safe and expedient exit from the building and stay with your class. Follow any additional directions from your teacher or staff members. Everyone must move at least 300 feet from the building. In the event of serious storms, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, severe air pollution, or other emergencies, an announcement over the PA system will be made with procedures for you to follow. If there is a power outage, students and faculty should remain in their classrooms. Emergency generators will provide lighting for stairwells and exits. Discipline will be implemented to students who interfere with emergency procedures and processes.

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FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS
The school district will provide chromebooks for use in the classroom for required courses. Students are charged an annual fee of $30 to cover general classroom expenses and materials. A student may be charged for the cost of the Chromebook, workbooks, and instructional or informational materials that have been lost, damaged, or destroyed. In some courses, there may be a cost for materials used on projects or assignments that become the personal property of the student. These costs vary from course to course. In other courses, students are expected to purchase, with their own funds, paperback books, materials for projects, etc. All students are expected to pay their financial obligations by the **sixth week** of each semester.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SCHEDULE CHANGES
Schedule change requests are conducted according to policies and procedures issued by the counseling department. There will be no schedule changes for teacher or period requests.

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING POLICY
Plagiarism is stealing. Cheating is unfair. A student must never take credit for another student's work or ideas, and a student must never give his or her work to another student to copy.

Whenever you employ some other writer's **information** or **insight**, you must give that writer credit.

Certain information need not be cited. For example, if you learn that the Earth is 5 billion years old or that Babe Ruth hit 714 home runs, you do not have to mention where you learned these facts. Such information is easily available in hundreds of publications. It is considered common knowledge. However, if you find information that says sportswriters protected Babe Ruth by concealing his bad habits, that fact is not generally known and a citation is required.

The following situations constitute plagiarism and must always be avoided:

- Turning in another student's work as your own—this includes papers, worksheets, lab reports, etc. **This includes utilizing Artificial Intelligence ("AI") to create work.**
- Copying a part of another student's paper and incorporating it into your own paper.
- Quoting a source word for word without using quotation marks and a citation.
- Paraphrasing, adopting or summarizing a source's ideas without giving a citation.
- Claiming an Internet translation of a foreign language as your own.

Resolution:
When a student is caught cheating or committing plagiarism, the student will receive a zero on that assignment. The assignment cannot be made up later. The teacher will also notify the student's parents of the violation. Note: giving work for someone to copy is just as much a violation as copying someone else's work—both acts earn the same penalty of a zero on that assignment. Further violations will result in a referral to the administration.

From Harvard University's Plagiarism Code: How to Avoid High-Risk Situations

Students who misuse sources usually don't set out to; they usually plan to write a thoughtful paper that displays their own thinking. But they allow themselves to slip into a situation in which they either misuse sources out of negligence or come to believe that they have no choice *but* to misuse sources. Here are some suggestions for avoiding such situations, based on Harvard records of students who did just the opposite.

- ***Don't leave written work until the last minute***, when you may be surprised by how much work the assignment requires.

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- ***Don't use secondary sources for a paper unless you are asked or explicitly allowed to.*** Especially, if you feel stuck or panicked, don't run to the library and bring back an armload of sources that you hope will jump-start your own thinking. Chances are they will only scatter and paralyze your thinking. Instead, go to your instructor.

- ***Don't rely exclusively on a single secondary source for information or opinion*** in a research paper. If you do, your paper may be less well-informed and balanced than it should be, and moreover, you may be lulled into plagiarizing the source.

- ***When you take notes, take pains to distinguish the words and thoughts of the source from your own,*** so you don't mistake them for your own later. Adopt these habits in particular:

- ***Take notes actively, not passively.*** Don't just copy down the source's words or ideas, but record your own reactions and reflections, questions, and hunches.

- ***Don't try to sound more sophisticated or learned than you are.*** Your papers aren't expected to sound as erudite as the books and articles of your expert sources, and indeed, your intelligence will emerge most clearly in a plain, direct style.

GOOGLE ACCOUNT

Students are expected to activate their DPS Google Account by going to: http://googlesupport.dpsk12.net/home/students. Students are expected to check their DPS Google email account daily for important updates.

Students will have access to Google Apps, which includes Gmail, Google Docs and document storage on Google Drive. This is an excellent way for students to communicate with teachers and staff, receive updates, and read important announcements.

DPS-ISSUED CHROMEBOOK

Do not share passwords or devices. All content on a school device is the responsibility of the student it is assigned to. All students are expected to check out, use and maintain a DPS-issued Chromebook and charging cord. Several important assessments (including the P/SATs, ACCESS testing, CMAS Science and several AP exams) are pre-loaded into the DPS Chromebook App Kiosk, which are necessary for students to access. Students are expected to bring a laptop or iPad-type device to school each day. When required by GWHS, students must bring their DPS-issued Chromebook to school. When not required, students may bring either their DPS-issued Chromebook or a personal laptop or iPad-type device to school.

INFINITE CAMPUS PARENT/STUDENT PORTAL

The Parent Portal is the primary tool for families to stay informed and manage their student's school experience.

- **Student Information**: All parents and students are expected to maintain an account to monitor grades, assignments, schedules, and behavior.
- **Reporting Absences**: Families should use the Parent Portal to report and excuse absences within two school days.
- **Portal Access**: Login to Parent Portal | Account Registration Support.

CREDIT RECOVERY

It is an expectation that students enrolled in Credit Recovery will self-monitor their progress. It is imperative that students enrolled in Credit Recovery stay on track. Failure to do so can result in students having to forfeit their spots in Credit Recovery.

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ELIGIBILITY FOR VALEDICTORIAN OR SALUTATORIAN

A student must be enrolled at GWHS for a minimum of six semesters to be considered a candidate for ranking as a salutatorian or valedictorian designee. The final grade report to determine the valedictorian and salutatorian will be calculated after final grades Fall semester (December).

GRADE REPORTS AND TRANSCRIPTS

Grade reports are updated weekly and can be viewed in the parent portal. The official transcript grade is issued at the end of each semester. Report Cards and unofficial transcripts may be obtained through Student Portal.

BEHAVIOR POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

OVERVIEW

Schools exist for educational purposes. Teachers have the right and responsibility to teach and students have the right and responsibility to learn. The discipline system is designed to provide prompt and effective consequences for students who choose to interfere with the rights of either teachers or other students. Students, teachers, administrators, and parents/guardians must cooperate to maintain this atmosphere.

Students are expected to follow the policies, procedures and rules of each classroom teacher. Teachers are expected to follow the DPS Student Discipline Policy J-K. The Matrix is used to guide decisions around behavior and discipline. You can see more in detailed information in the Family and Community matrix

CONFLICT RESOLUTION/FIGHTS

Conflicts are a part of life. Fighting does not have to be. As a member of the GWHS community, you are expected to refrain from fighting. We must keep our school and community as safe as possible, and it takes all of us working together to achieve this goal. We have an excellent team of Deans who provide restorative interventions to help solve disagreements. As such, choosing to fight instead of resolve in a responsible way will not be tolerated.
ALL involved in fights will be held accountable for actions before, during, and after a fight. This includes help in planning, joining in by being present, filming, posting to social media, or an inability to de-escalate themselves. The restorative coordinator is Gabe Jarammillo.

DRUGS/ALCOHOL/TOBACCO

The use or possession of alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, or any other harmful substances, or the illegal use of prescription medication is forbidden to staff and students. Disciplinary and/or court action will be taken against any student involved in the use, possession, distribution, or sale of drugs or alcohol. DPS Policy J-K applies in these situations. GWHS is a smoke-free environment. Students, staff, and visitors are not permitted to use tobacco or vaping products in any form in the school building, on school grounds, at school activities, in school vehicles, or within 1000 feet of the school campus.
ALL drugs, alcohol and tobacco products (vaping) are not allowed on school property. Paraphernalia including: Lighters, Papers, Cartridges, Vapes etc, will be confiscated and **NOT returned**. Consequences will range from,Classes and Interventions, ISS/OSS and or Referral to Law Enforcement. Students suspected of being under the influence will be referred to the school nurse for observation. If we cannot determine a student's health risk, 911 will be contacted. The coordinator for these programs is Dwight Swift.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Searches within the school or on school grounds will be authorized by the Principal when there are circumstances which would cause a reasonable person to believe that there is a concern for school safety. The Principal or designee may request the assistance of a law enforcement officer to:

- Search any area of the school premises, any student, or any motor vehicle on the school premises.

- Identify or dispose of contraband found in the course of a search conducted in accordance with this policy.
- All searches conducted of student(s), lockers, automobiles, etc. will be done at the discretion of the Administrator based on reasonable suspicion, as stated earlier in this section.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR AT ACTIVITIES

School-sponsored activities include any situation where students are under the direct supervision of a coach, teacher, or sponsor and represent GWHS in some capacity. The administration and staff at GWHS will not tolerate behavior that is adverse to the welfare, safety, and morals of other people. Any unlawful act taking place on or off school grounds or excursions not only makes the students subject to penalties that the courts may prescribe but also will result in disciplinary action by GWHS. **All school activities, games, etc., both home and away, are subject to school policy**. This includes all students, not just participants.

INTIMACY – NO PDA (PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION)

Gestures of congratulations such as embraces and handshakes, are examples of appropriate behavior. Sitting on laps, kissing, and embracing of an intimate nature between students is not acceptable behavior on GWHS's campus.

LOITERING/TRESPASSING

Any person found loitering/trespassing on school grounds may be cited by the police and removed from the premises. In addition, students at GWHS are not permitted to loiter on campus after the school day. Students must vacate the building by 4:00 pm, unless supervised by a staff member. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in progressive disciplinary action that can include a city citation by the Denver Police Department and loss of after-school and extracurricular privileges.

DRESS CODE

The purpose of the dress code is to help provide a safe and respectful atmosphere for education. The following outlines clothing that are not appropriate for school:

- Clothing that promotes alcohol, illegal drugs, marijuana or violence
- Clothing that displays profanity or obscenities

Students who choose to ignore the dress code will be asked if they have a change of clothes. If the student does not have a change of clothes, they will be provided a change of clothes (depending on availability) by the Dean's Office. If they refuse to change, a phone call will be made to a parent to request a change of clothing be brought to the school. Repeated failure to adhere to this policy will result in progressive disciplinary action

BULLYING

Bullying will not be tolerated. Bullying includes but is not limited to actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose. This includes Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter or any other form of social media both during and outside school hours.

GAMBLING

Gambling and possession of gambling materials (dice, cards when used for gambling) are not permitted at GWHS school activities, events, or on school transportation. Violation may lead to suspension and citation by police.

DISCRIMATION PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (DPR)

The District has an obligation to discipline those who engage in harassing or discriminatory behavior. Students who are determined to have engaged in harassing or discriminatory behavior of one or more students will be subject to suspension and/or expulsion as defined by Board of Education Policy J-B. Students who believe that they have been the victims of harassing or discriminatory behavior are strongly encouraged to report the conduct to a teacher, counselor, mental health support person, or administrator in order to receive support. All DPR concerns are reported to the DPR coordinators Jen Sculley or Dr. Dackri Davis.

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THEFT

Theft, larceny, or breaking and entering will result in disciplinary action, restitution, and citation by police. GWHS is not responsible for the loss of personal property. Police can be made with our school resource officer in room 103.

TOYS/FACSIMILES

Toys, such as water guns, BB guns, air guns or any object that is a facsimile of a weapon, skateboards, water balloons that are disruptive to the educational environment or become a potential safety hazard will be confiscated and **will not be returned.** Offenses related to these concerns will be processed using the DPS Matrix and JK Board policies.

GANGS – ZERO TOLERANCE

Both the laws of Colorado and the DPS School Board prohibit students from belonging to ANY fraternity, sorority, club, society, or gang. School Board policy defines "gang" as a group of individuals with a common interest, bond or activity characterized by criminal, delinquent, or disruptive conduct. No activities associated with these organizations, including pledging, hazing, initiations, or any other acts disruptive to school operation, are permitted on school grounds or at school activities. Gang membership and gang-related activity, including the display of gang affiliation through attire, will not be tolerated in schools, on the school grounds, in school district vehicles, or at school activities or events.

WEAPONS

Safety is the right of every student and Denver Public Schools is clear in its resolve to have a weapon-free environment. Pursuant to the provisions of DPS Policy JK-R, possessing or using any weapon will result in immediate proceedings for the suspension and expulsion of the student(s). This "weapon" definition is not limited to the obvious list of guns and knives but also includes any item that can be construed as a weapon. **DPS students have been expelled for possession of such items as Ninja stars, screwdrivers, ball bats, mace, water and toy guns, items intended to cause harm when used in a fight against another person, starter pistols, firecrackers, chains, and more.** The incident will result in the appropriate law enforcement authorities being notified and charges being filed. (This policy shall not be construed to prohibit the supervised activities of students involved in authorized training in the JROTC Program.)

SUSPENSION

Suspension, both in-school and out-of-school, is a disciplinary measure used to point out to a student the seriousness of their misconduct, to inform the student's parent/guardian of the misconduct, and to ensure parental cooperation in dealing with the problem. Suspension is not a punishment in and of itself. It is a temporary measure to protect staff and students, school property, and the orderly functioning of the school. Students who break school and district policies are subject to out-of-school suspension for a period of up to fifteen days. School authorities determine the length of suspension and reflect the seriousness of the offense committed. In addition, **a parent/guardian conference is required to reinstate a suspended student.** A suspended student may not loiter, be on school property, or attend any school-sponsored activities during the days of suspension.

HANDBOOK CLOSING STATEMENT

As you finish reviewing the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook, please keep in mind that every guideline exists to maintain a safe, structured, and equitable learning environment. Clear standards create the space for high achievement, mutual respect, and strong community trust.

We ask all students and families to keep this handbook accessible throughout the 2026–2027 school year for easy reference regarding bell schedules, attendance protocols, and academic timelines. Should any questions arise, our administrative team, counselors,, deans, and faculty stand ready to support you. Thank you for your dedication to upholding the Patriot Principles and contributing to a positive culture across our campus.

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