



Walker Elementary School
McKinney Independent School District
4000 Cockrill Drive
McKinney, TX 75072
469-302-4600

July 25, 2025

Dearest Walker Families,

What an honor it is for our administrative team to embark on the 2025-26 school year with all of you! Our passion for education is defined by our commitment to serving our students and teachers, and we couldn't be more thrilled to make a positive impact on your children's lives and the entire Walker community.

We can only strengthen our school and community relationships with your active involvement and input. We encourage all parents to dive into their child's educational journey! Help us elevate the voices of our parents, students, teachers, and the Walker community. You can do this by joining the **PTA**, attending special events, volunteering at school or from home, or even joining your child for breakfast or lunch. We truly value your partnership and welcome your feedback.

Get ready for an incredible year! On **Tuesday, August 12th**, the doors of Walker Elementary will open for a year filled with amazing teaching, vibrant learning, new friendships, and cherished memories. On that first day, after you drop your child off, please head to the library at **8:15 AM**. Our PTA is hosting their annual **"Tears & Cheers"** event and first meeting, with coffee and breakfast treats. It's the perfect chance to connect with other Walker parents and discover more ways to be involved!

Per MISD:

- Parents may walk their child to class on the first day only (August 12).
- Parents are required to bring a valid photo ID and sign in using a general sign-in upon arrival.
- Starting Wednesday, August 13, all visitors must check in through the front office and Hall Pass system before entering the building.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for **Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, August 7th, from 5:00-6:00 PM**. We can't wait to see you there!

With great respect,

Michelle Baumann

Michelle Baumann
Principal, Walker Elementary

Misty Young

Misty Young
Assistant Principal, Walker Elementary

[Walker Year At-a-Glance](#) [Google Calendar](#)

Walker Elementary - Home of the Stars

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

Procedures for Arrival:

First day of school - Doors will open at 7:40am. All students report directly to their classrooms upon arrival. Family members are welcome to walk students to class on the first day of school. Parents/Guardians must present a valid photo ID and sign in upon arrival. Announcements begin at 8:05am each day.

After the first day, please follow these procedures:

MORNING DROP OFF

7:40-8:05am

Students will report to grade level staging areas as assigned by teachers and follow grade level procedures. Teachers will review staging locations with students on the first day. If eating breakfast, students may go directly to the cafeteria upon arrival during this time. Breakfast is available for purchase each morning until 8:05am.

Each morning, Kinder - 4th grade students will be supervised in the cafeteria until 7:50am to allow teaching staff to prepare for the school day. Fifth grade students will report directly to class upon arrival at 7:40am.

Tardies – Students are considered tardy if they are not in the building at 8:10am. Please allow enough time to get through the carpool line so your child can be in their classroom, ready to learn by 8:10am. Ideally, they should be in their seat by 8:05am daily to participate in live video morning announcements.

STUDENT SAFETY

For safety and security reasons, never drop off your child unattended. If you must enter the building during drop off, you must enter through the front door (door #1) and sign in through the office.

Bike riders should place bicycles or scooters on the bike rack. Riding bicycles, scooters, or skateboards is not permitted on school property.

ARRIVAL



Arrival locations are at the **FRONT PARK AND ESCORT ENTRY** and **CAFETERIA CARPOOL ENTRY**.

CAFETERIA CARPOOL ENTRY: Continuous flow of traffic - swift drop-off is dependent on cars pulling up to the designated location and students exiting cars quickly. The cafeteria parking lot is designated for staff parking only. Adults should not exit their vehicle in the drop-off line. Students should be seated on the passenger side of the car for carpool safety.

FRONT PARK AND ESCORT ENTRY: If you choose to park and walk your child to the front door, please park in the front parking lot and use the crosswalk. If your child needs assistance unbuckling, please park in a spot

and use the crosswalk to escort them to the front entry. This area is to be used for parents wishing to escort their child to the front door.

DISMISSAL

Each family at Walker will be issued two carpool cards. These will be distributed at Meet the Teacher Night and/or the first day of school. This number will remain assigned to your family throughout your time at Walker. Parents requesting additional cards can contact the front office. **Please hang this carpool card on the rearview mirror so that it is visible to the staff on duty.**

Supervision is not provided for the playground areas after school including Hilltop. Please make arrangements with your students who are staying after dismissal. Staff escort students to each area and then students walk to their parents or parent designated meeting spot. Staff do not supervise students after escorting them to walk away doors.



Dismissal, continued

Inclement weather – If you wish to change your child's dismissal routine based on rain, storms, etc., you must call the front office and indicate the change in routine by 2:45pm. We value safety and want to honor your request. If you do not call prior to 2:45pm to change the routine, your child will be dismissed as per regular routine.

Call the front office if the regular dismissal plans need to change. Students will only be called from class between 2:45-3:20pm for early dismissal if there is an emergency

CARPOOL

The cafeteria is our designated area for car rider students. All car riders will be escorted to the cafeteria and dismissed at 3:20pm. Parents should stay in their car and have their carpool number hanging from the rearview mirror at all times.

Students will ONLY be released to cars with carpool numbers. If you do not have a visible car number from the 25-26 school year, you will be asked to park in the **VISITOR PARK & PICK UP AREA** before picking up your child from the front office. A valid photo ID will be necessary for student pick-up.

WALK AWAYS AND BIKE RIDERS

Students will be escorted and dismissed at the Lower Level Playground doors or Hilltop Playground doors. Siblings choosing to walk together need to decide on a meeting spot. Students should leave school premises using the crosswalk to cross the street. Students using bikes or scooters should walk them when on school property sidewalks, and when going through the crosswalk.

DAYCARE BUS

Students will be escorted by a staff member to the daycare bus.

CLUB 360

Students will be escorted to the gym at 3:20pm where they will be connected with the Club 360 staff. Parents will be asked to follow Club 360 procedures for dismissal after school hours.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

At 8:05am, live video announcements begin. Each classroom will have the announcements viewable. A variety of information is shared daily by principals. Any student is allowed to bring a recently earned reward or recognition (trophy/medal) to the announcement room to share their success with the campus. Students are invited to come receive a birthday pencil during announcements.

ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is essential for students to maximize their learning opportunities. Absences from class may result in serious disruption to the mastery of the knowledge and skills needed to progress to the next grade. Students and parents must make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences.

Student attendance is regulated by Texas law, the Texas Education Code and MISD Board policies, including:

- [Texas Education Code Chapter 25 – Admission, Transfer and Attendance](#)
- [Attendance: Compulsory Attendance](#)
- [Attendance: Attendance Accounting](#)
- [Attendance: Attendance for Credit](#)
- [Attendance: Attendance Enforcement](#)
- [McKinney ISD Student Handbook](#)

Students can be considered absent if they miss all or part of the school day, including late arrival and early pick-up. This includes all tardies.

[Under Texas law](#), a student must be present for at least 90% of the time a class is offered. Students who don't meet this requirement, regardless of the reason for the absence, will lose credit in the class. Completing a plan determined by the campus principal or attendance committee will be required to restore credit and avoid retention.

Official Attendance-Taking Time (All Grade Levels)

The District must submit attendance of its students to TEA reflecting attendance at a specific time each day. Official attendance is taken every day: elementary attendance is recorded at **9:30am**. A student absent for any portion of the day, including at the official attendance-taking time, should follow the procedures below.

Submitting Absence Documentation:

When sickness or other obligations necessitate an absence, notify the campus by going to the campus website and clicking ["Report an Absence"](#). If you don't have access to a computer, a written note signed by the parent/guardian with the date(s) and reason for the absence is required within three school days of the student returning. The absence will be considered unexcused if a student fails to submit a note within this period. A phone call does not excuse an absence.

If your student is absent due to illness, please include their symptoms in your email or note. This is particularly important as MISD tracks absences related to flu and flu-like symptoms to report to the health departments. Please let us know if your child has a fever, sore throat, cough, vomiting, diarrhea, etc. When a student's absence for personal illness exceeds four successive days, the student shall provide a statement from a physician or health clinic verifying the illness or other condition along with the date(s) the student should be excused from school.

If a student becomes ill during the school day and the school nurse or other district personnel determines that the student should go home, the nurse will contact the student's parent and document the parent's wishes regarding release from school.

BIRTHDAYS

We love recognizing each Walker student on their birthday by announcing their names on morning announcements as your child's FERPA form allows. Summer birthdays will be recognized in May.

As recommended by the MISD and Walker Coordinated Health Committee, food items for birthdays are not permitted (examples: cupcakes, cookies, ice cream, etc.). If you would like to distribute birthday party invitations at school, all homeroom children must be included. You are welcome to prepare non-food goody bags to share with the students – pencils, stickers, etc.

To protect the instructional environment, special deliveries (flowers, gifts, etc.) will be held in the office until the end of the day. Helium balloons are not allowed in the school building.

CHARACTER STRONG

At Walker, we believe in the importance of building character and promoting social and emotional growth in our students. **CharacterStrong** PurposeFull People curriculum is built upon these top 10 most-identified traits that thoughtfully combine social & emotional learning and character skills at the elementary level: Courage, Perseverance, Honesty, Respect, Gratitude, Kindness, Responsibility, Cooperation, Creativity, and Empathy.

We foster a growth mindset in our students and staff and we encourage everyone to develop and build upon his or her character strengths. Character strengths are discussed in the classroom during community circle, guidance, and during the morning announcements. Students are acknowledged for displaying character strengths in the classroom and every month at least one student is chosen from each class to be recognized at Walker's Star of the Month ceremony. If your child is selected, you will be notified in advance of the ceremony.

CLUB 360 – AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

Club 360 is an after school child care program developed by McKinney ISD. The program is located at most elementary campuses which eliminates the need for children to be transported to another location. This program runs during the school year and is open each regular school day from 3:20-6:30pm <https://www.mckinneyisd.net/childcare-after-school-programs/> 469-302-2300

EMERGENCY GUIDE FOR PARENTS & VISITORS

Safety and security remain our highest priorities, please use [this guide](#) to become familiar with MISD practices and procedures for school emergencies. Drills are conducted on a regular basis with support from School Resource Officers and the MISD Safety and Security team.

WALKER CAFE/FOOD SERVICE INFORMATION

Lunch Guests – We are so glad you are able to come to school to eat with your child. We will begin welcoming visitors August 25, 2025. As a special guest in our cafeteria, we ask that you and your child eat lunch at the guest tables on the stage and enjoy your time together. Thank you for understanding that only your child may dine at the guest table. You are welcome to bring food or buy from the cafeteria.

<https://www.mckinneyisd.net/page/school-nutrition>

GIFTED & TALENTED - ALPHA DAYS

Kinder – 2nd grade: MISD GT teacher will provide weekly services at Walker.

3rd grade: Monday mornings at Walker Elementary.

4th & 5th grade: Full days at Walker Elementary on Thursday & Friday.

HEADPHONES

As a result of the growing number of listening opportunities and variety of new devices students have available to them at school, we're asking that students bring a personal pair of headphones with a boom mic or earbuds to be kept at school.

Your child's equipment will be kept in a designated location in his/her classroom, stored in a plastic bag, and will NOT be shared. Note: Headphones are recommended for smaller students because their ear canals are typically not able to handle earbuds yet. Fit and comfort are key.

All students need to bring a pair of appropriately sized headphones with a boom mic or earbuds in a clear plastic zip top bag with their name, grade level and teacher's name written on it.

PTA

Walker has a strong and active parent organization, including a parent group just for dads (Walker Star LORDs - League of Responsible Dads). Please visit the PTA website to learn about volunteer opportunities and join our wonderful PTA. More Walker PTA information can be found at

<https://www.walkerstarspta.net/>

RECESS

Here in Texas, the weather is constantly changing from cold to warm. It's difficult to know what to expect unless you are watching the weather daily. Our expectation is for all students to attend recess every day as long as the weather conditions permit.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, it was discovered that recess was much more important than originally thought in years past. "We came to the realization that it really affects social, emotional and cognitive development in a much deeper way than we'd expected. It helps children practice conflict resolution if we allow them unstructured play, and it lets them come back to class more ready to learn and less fidgety."

Based on the above information, all students will go outside to recess every day as long as we are within the MISD recess weather guidelines. If your child has a reason not to participate in recess or you feel they do not need to run...they may sit outside in the shade during recess. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff to supervise students inside the building during recess. We hope you will continue to support this part of the day for all of our Walker students.

- Rocks, sticks, and other objects will remain on the ground.
- Slides should be used sitting up straight with legs in front.
- There should be one person at a time on slides and monkey bars.
- Classes stay within playground boundaries as designated by grade level teachers.
- Students will gain teacher permission to leave the playground area (restroom/nurse).

SCHOOL HOURS

All elementary campuses will begin promptly at 8:10am and end at 3:20pm. School doors will officially open at 7:40am. Please do not drop your child off at school prior to 7:40am, as there will not be staff members on duty to provide supervision. Students must be picked up at 3:20pm. If you are unable to pick up at 3:20pm, on site child care is available through MISD's Club 360 and multiple child care facilities provide transportation directly from school.

SCHOOL TO HOME COMMUNICATION

Your child's homeroom teacher will send a weekly email – this is an excellent way to stay connected to the classroom and curriculum.

A weekly electronic email known as the Walker News is emailed with reminders, updates, and school event information. This communication will be sent to the email address on file for your child. Call the front office at 469-302-4600 if you do not receive the Walker News at your preferred email address. The digital marquee will be used to share upcoming events.

You can like our Facebook page to see pictures and descriptions of current events.

<https://mckinneyisdtx.sites.thrillshare.com/o/wes/page/newsletters>

CLASSROOM SNACKS AND BEVERAGES

The Walker Coordinated Health Committee strongly recommends that students consume only water throughout the school day. For children and adolescents, water should be the principal source of hydration.

Water not only keeps children healthy, but also helps them perform better in school. Dehydration leads to a reduction in both mental and physical performance. These results can be evident in the classroom.

The Walker Coordinated Health Committee also strongly recommends a nutrient-rich, healthy snack. Snacks in the classroom should be a hand-held, easy-to-eat snack. Fruits should be peeled at home and sent to school in an easy-to-open container without liquid. Please consult with your classroom teacher/school nurse regarding food allergies.

STUDENT SCHEDULE

All Walker students attend Art and Music weekly and Physical Education three times a week. These classes have required TEKS, or standards, specific to each grade level. Progress is reported through report cards.

Lunch - Students have 30 minutes for lunch in the cafeteria.

Recess - Students have 30 minutes for recess - weather permitting for outdoor recess.

VISITORS & VOLUNTEERS

MISD requires every visitor/volunteer to report to the office to be signed in. A valid state or government issued photo ID must be presented **each time** you visit, volunteer, or pick up a student. Photos of IDs are not accepted.

MISD requires that volunteers complete a background check each school year. If you plan to volunteer anywhere in the building or chaperone a field trip, please complete the required volunteer application on MISD's website: <https://www.mckinneyisd.net/human-resources/volunteer/>

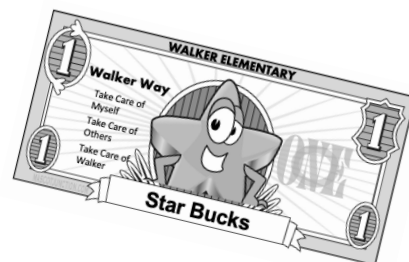
STUDENT DISCIPLINE

The [MISD Student Handbook](#) containing policies and regulations on the rights and responsibilities of students, as well as the MISD Student Code of Conduct is available online to all students, parents, teachers, and administrators at the beginning of the school year. It shall also be provided to new professional employees, newly enrolled students, and any parent upon request. At Walker, the staff and students follow the WALKER WAY:

 S T A R				
	Safe	Trustworthy	Accountable	Respectful
Hallways	Always walk Stay with your line	Walk directly to and from locations	Hands and feet to self 	Wave or smile to greet others 
Restrooms	Close and lock the door	Return promptly 	Wash and dry hands Clean up	Respect the privacy of others
Cafeteria	Stay in your seat Feet under the table 	Eat only your food	Use hand signals Clean table, chair and floor	Practice good manners 
Playground	Stay in designated area	Report any concerns to an adult 	Line up quickly Play by the rules	Include others Show good sportsmanship
Learning Areas	Use materials appropriately 	Follow directions	Be ready to learn and participate Do your best	Personal space Take care of belongings
The Walker Way: Take Care of Myself - Take Care of Others - Take Care of Walker				

Earning Star Bucks at Walker:

- Initially, students can be recognized for following procedures/routines. Gradually, the expectations will increase.
- ALL students have the opportunity to earn Star Bucks.
- Students should safely keep their Star Bucks per classroom procedures.
- Each teacher assists students with Star Bucks, setting goals, promoting the STAR store, and managing classroom rewards.
- Star Store will be open weekly Tues. & Thurs. mornings 7:50-8:05am. Teachers are able to take classes to the store outside of these hours.



THE WALKER WAY

Learning Areas

Walker Elementary

S Safe
Use materials appropriately

T Trustworthy
Follow directions

A Accountable
Be ready to learn and participate
Do your best

R Respectful
Personal space
Take care of belongings

Voice Level: 0-1-2



The Walker Way: Take Care of Myself - Take Care of Others - Take Care of Walker.

Playground

Walker Elementary

S Safe
Stay in designated area

T Trustworthy
Report any concerns to an adult

A Accountable
Line up quickly
Play by the rules

R Respectful
Include others
Show good sportsmanship

Voice Level: 0-1-2-3-4



The Walker Way: Take Care of Myself - Take Care of Others - Take Care of Walker.

Walker Elementary

Voice Levels:



0	1	2	3	4
silent	whisper	inside voice	teacher voice	outside voice
				

The Walker Way: Take Care of Myself - Take Care of Others - Take Care of Walker

Restrooms

Walker Elementary

S Safe
Close and lock the door

T Trustworthy
Return promptly

A Accountable
Wash and dry hands
Clean up

R Respectful
Respect the privacy of others

Voice Level:
0-1



The Walker Way: Take Care of Myself - Take Care of Others - Take Care of Walker

Cafeteria

Walker Elementary

S Safe
Stay in your seat
Feet under the table

T Trustworthy
Eat only your food

A Accountable
Use hand signals
Clean table, chair and floor

R Respectful
Practice good manners

Voice Level:
0-1-2



The Walker Way: Take Care of Myself - Take Care of Others - Take Care of Walker

Hallways

Walker Elementary

S Safe
Always walk
Stay with your line

T Trustworthy
Walk directly to and from locations

A Accountable
Hands and feet to self

R Respectful
Wave or smile to greet others

Voice Level:
0-1



The Walker Way: Take Care of Myself - Take Care of Others - Take Care of Walker