



Stetson Hills Middle School Handbook

Summary of Handbook

Middle school, composed of the 7th and 8th grades, can be a challenging and exciting time for students, parents, and staff. This Handbook is a guide to life in the middle school environment and is intended to give structure and comfort to all of those who work at Stetson Hills Middle School. The purpose of Stetson Hills Middle School is to give students the skills they will need to meet 7th and 8th grade standards and be successful in high school.

Stallion PACE.

It is the belief of Stetson Hills Middle School Staff that 7th and 8th grade students are ready to assume responsibility for their behavior. Thus, they will participate in our PACE Program. PACE stands for Perseverance/Pride, Attitude/Accountability, Cooperation/Caring, and Excellence/Engaged.

It is the goal of Stetson Hills to provide all students with behavioral expectations that are clearly defined, taught and reinforced, to encourage positive relationships and exemplary citizenship. Our student discipline data shows that students are being sent to the office for defiance/disrespect and minor aggressive acts. When that happens, they are not learning, and this interferes with the learning of others. We need to help all of our students to be successful academically and behaviorally. When students struggle with reading—we teach. When students struggle with math or music—we teach. When students struggle with behavior we need to teach them how to succeed.

Table of Contents

Student Expectations	Page 3
Middle School Staff Directory	Page 4
Policies and Procedures	Page 5
Behavior/Discipline	Page 7
Grading and Reporting	Page 9
Handbook Agreement	Page 11

Middle School Staff Directory

7th Grade

Sarah Unti (ELA)	sarah.unti@dvusd.org	623-445-5361	Room 504
Brooke Noble (Math)	brooke.noble@dvusd.org	623-445-5360	Room 503
Ben Ashmore (Social Studies)	benjamin.ashmore@dvusd.org	623-445-5376	Room 611
Jessica McAllister (Science)	jessica.mcallister@dvusd.org	623-445-5374	Room 609

8th Grade

Kristin Grasso (ELA)	kristin.grasso@dvusd.org	623-445-5359	Room 502
Sarah McRae (Math)	sarah.mcrae@dvusd.org	623-445-5362	Room 505
Kimberly Smith (Social Studies)	kimberly.smith@dvusd.org	623-445-5375	Room 610
Brandee Knierim (Science)	brandee.knierim@dvusd.org	623-445-5377	Room 612
Brittany O'Leary (ADV Math/Algebra)	brittany.oleary@dvusd.org	623-445-5358	Room 501

Special Education

Nicole Lloyd (SPED)	nicole.lloyd@dvusd.org	623-445-5365	Room 507
Stevie Lynch (SPED)	stephanie.lynch@dvusd.org	623-445-5365	Room 507

Counselor

Jenn Tollefson	jennifer.tollefson@dvusd.org	623-445-5317	Room 207
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Student Expectations

In the Classroom

Students are expected to:

- ...enter classrooms quietly.
- ...participate in class.
- ...treat classrooms as places of learning.
- ...leave electronic devices, food, and non-water beverages in their bags during class time.

Around Campus

Students are expected to:

- ...behave as if younger students are watching them and learn how a developing young adult should act and behave as a student in middle school.
- ...move with a sense of urgency when traveling on campus - not loiter on campus.
- ...arrive safely on campus NO CROSSING THROUGH THE PARKING LOT, as it is unsafe to do so.

In the Cafeteria

Students are expected to:

- ...enter and exit the cafeteria quietly and walk, not run.
- ...sit at the appropriate place in the cafeteria.
- ...present a hall pass if they will be eating lunch outside the cafeteria.
- ...conduct themselves with dignity inside the cafeteria and respect the monitors who supervise.
- ...keep food in the cafeteria.
- ...clean up any messes created while in the cafeteria.

In the Bathroom

Students are expected to:

- ...to check in with their teacher, and sign out when/where appropriate
- ...get in, do their business, and get out again
- ...be respectful of the facilities and keep them clean
- ...not loiter

used or stored anywhere on campus before, during, or after school. While walking bikes off campus, it is expected that students use the crosswalks when entering/exiting campus and respect the crossing guards stationed around campus to ensure student safety.

Dress Code: In order to maintain a safe learning environment on campus, administration, teachers and staff will enforce the dress code as expressed in the DVUSD Student Rights & Responsibilities Handbook. If there is an issue, students will be asked to correct the issue. If the issue cannot be corrected the student will be asked to go to the nurse. Any staff member on campus can dress code students. Parents may be contacted and asked to bring appropriate clothing. Hats are not to be worn inside for any reason. Students wearing hats inside will be asked to remove them. If this behavior continues, the hat will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day. Violations include:

- Bra straps showing
- Racer Back shirts exposing the shoulder blades
- Shorts exposing the butt
- Shirts exposing the midriff
- Spaghetti Straps shirts/dresses
- Pajamas on a "non-spirit day"
- Hats/Beanies may be worn, but are to be removed when entering ANY school building.
- Slippers on a "non-PJ spirit day"
- Inappropriate slogans

Behavior/Discipline

Tickets/Rewards: Tickets will be issued daily to be used at the 7th grade and 8th grade store to reimburse positive behaviors. In addition, students will be rewarded with field trips and quarterly parties when applicable.

Cell Phones/Electronics: It is important to understand that the school and district have plans in place of notifying families of emergencies if needed. There are also procedures in place for parents to call the school and notify students of emergency situations they need to be aware of. Per DVUSD policy all cell phones must be powered off and placed in students' backpacks. The Stetson Hills Middle School policy allows for students to power on and use their phones during lunch and recess ONLY. If phones are in use, not powered off, or visible outside of lunch and recess the following steps will be taken:

- 1st Offense: phone is taken for one hour and a verbal warning and negative point is issued
- 2nd Offense: phone is taken for the remainder of the school day, a second negative is issued, and parents are notified
- 3rd Offense: phone is taken to the front office for student pick-up after school, a third negative is issued, and parents are notified
- 4th Offense and beyond: phone is taken to the front office for Parent pick-up, a fourth negative is issued, and parents will be notified. Additional disciplinary action may be taken by Administration.

Disrespect/Defiance: We are professionals with multiple degrees and certifications in our field. We do expect a certain level of respect from our students, as they should expect from us. We have all worked in middle school for quite some time. We know that bucking authority, testing boundaries, and expressing themselves is par for the course. However, that does not grant students the excuse, nor the freedom, to be blatantly disrespectful, demeaning, or defiant in our classrooms. If a student chooses to be disrespectful to a staff member or fellow classmate the following steps will be taken:

- 1st Offense: verbal warning and negative point is issued
- 2nd Offense: student is given a THINK sheet, a second negative is issued, and parents are notified
- 3rd Offense: student is placed in a buddy classroom to complete THINK sheet, a third negative is issued, and parents are notified
- 4th Offense and beyond: student sent to front office to complete THINK sheet, a fourth negative is issued, and parents will be notified. Additional disciplinary action may be taken by Administration.

Technology Misuse: We expect the students to use their technology responsibly. This includes being on the correct website as instructed at all times, completing the assignments expected in that class- during that class period, using GoogleDocs for assignments- not as chat boxes, remaining off of gaming websites.

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Tardies: Students are expected to be in their scheduled class at the START time of class. If a student is NOT in their assigned class at the START time, they will be considered tardy. Tardies will be marked on behavior cards and can result in further disciplinary action and loss of privileged activities such as dances, sports, reward parties, etc.

Excessive Absences: Students are expected to be actively involved in the classroom and that is hard to do when they are not at school. Because of this, unless there is a medical reason, students need to be in the classroom as much as possible.

Classroom Transitions: Students are expected to report to their regularly scheduled class before making any additional stops. This includes the restroom, another teacher's classroom, or Learning Center check-ins. All students have three minutes to move to their next class. Beyond those three minutes students will be assigned a negative for being tardy.

Lunch/Recess Behavior Problems: Students are expected to follow the rules set forth by the school during lunch and recess. These rules include:

- Sit at the appropriate place in the cafeteria
- Not throw food and clean up after themselves when they finish eating
- Walk to and from the cafeteria and to the playground as well as back to class
- Hang out in the designated area set forth by the monitors, teachers, and administration
- Respect the monitors/teachers on duty

Grades and Reporting

The purpose of Standards-Based Grading (SBG) is to measure a student's performance and product against

Absent Policy for Collecting Class Assignments and Practice

3 or less days absent: Students will make up assignments upon their return to campus.

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Stetson Hills Middle School Handbook Agreement Form

Please have a parent/guardian and the student sign and date this form prior to turning it into his/her homeroom teacher.

Student Signature:

I, _____ (students full name) have read and understand the Stetson Hills Middle School Handbook, and agree to abide by it.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature:

I, _____ (parent/guardian) have read and understand the Stetson Hills Middle School Handbook, and agree to abide by it.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____