



# 2020-2021 Black Hawk Middle School

School Supplement to the  
District Policy Guide

# School Overview

Greetings Black Hawk Families,

Welcome to Black Hawk Middle School! At Black Hawk, we believe all students can learn and grow. We believe social and emotional learning must be embedded in instruction and that we are responsible for engaging families and communities in support of learning. Black Hawk Middle School strives to educate students through engaging in collaborative and reflective practices that accelerate learning and growth. Since we are a largely diverse population, we intentionally create activities so students can feel a sense of belonging and connected at various levels of the school.

Black Hawk Middle School is a vibrant, diverse, and evolving northside Madison school. Because we hold anti-racist education as a priority in our equity vision, our staff is committed to working toward a more equitable, just, and rigorous educational experience for all students. We work toward this vision by celebrating Black Excellence, developing learning partnerships with families and students, and centering the cultural strengths of our community. We recognize that excellence for all requires many commitments: a spirit of inquiry, collaboration and discourse, asking for and listening to multiple perspectives, addressing root causes of inequity, and adapting to challenges in innovative ways. Love and joy are important as we try to create an inclusive school community where everyone feels they matter at school.

At Black Hawk our school motto is “Together we’re better.” This belief is shared by our dedicated staff, motivated student body, and supportive, involved families. Together, we all work to support students to meet their social, emotional, and academic needs. In 2016, MMSD highlighted Black Hawk for completely shifting the school’s culture and climate in a positive direction by emphasizing our CARES curriculum (social emotional learning) and leveraging our motto: “Together we’re better.” Increased training and implementation of Restorative Justice practices with students and staff has also contributed to this shift. At Black Hawk, we have spent the past 3+ years focused on implementing Restorative approaches, Racial Equity and Social Justice practices, along with Culturally Responsive Practices building wide. We fundamentally believe that with this approach we can fully support academics and provide students with problem-solving skills. Our vision is that every student strives to be confident and capable both academically and socially, and that they leave our school as well-rounded adolescents feeling a sense of worth and belonging during their time at Black Hawk. We believe building positive relationships and partnerships with students and families is essential to supporting this vision.

It is our hope that families find their Black Hawk years to be positive, unique, meaningful, encouraging, and rewarding!

## Telephone

OFFICE: (608) 204-4360

FAX: (608) 204-0368

ATTENDANCE / SAFE ARRIVAL: (608) 204-4371

BILINGUAL STAFF - SPANISH & HMONG: (608) 204-4413

TO LEAVE MESSAGES - SPANISH (608) 204-4380 / HMONG (608) 204-4390

## Address

1402 Wyoming Way  
Madison, WI 53704

## Web address

<https://blackhawk.madison.k12.wi.us>  
[facebook.com/MMSDBlackHawk](https://facebook.com/MMSDBlackHawk)

## About our school

The curricular offerings at Black Hawk Middle School are broad and wide-ranging. All students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades receive instruction in the basic academic subjects: math, science, social studies, and language arts. As of the 2018-19 school year, all students also receive instruction in Spanish or World Language. These classes comprise the “academics” of the middle school program.

In addition to academics, middle school students take unified arts, music and physical education. The unified arts consist of classes in visual art, health, and technology/Project Lead the Way, which incorporates science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Additionally, Black Hawk Middle School offers courses/programs for students with disabilities, English language learners, and advanced learners. It is our goal to offer a comprehensive program to all students.

Black Hawk Middle School takes pride in its comprehensive programs, dedicated staff, hard-working students and supportive community. All of these components make Black Hawk a middle school that successfully serves a diverse and vibrant student population.

## School mission statement

Our mission is to engage all students in learning, provide the resources they need to succeed, and to collaborate and share accountability for learning and success.

## School calendar

Black Hawk’s school calendar is available online at <https://blackhawk.madison.k12.wi.us/calendar>.

# Key Policies and Guidelines

## Anti-bullying

The Madison Metropolitan School District strives to provide an environment where every student feels safe, respected and welcomed and where every staff member can serve students in an atmosphere that is free from significant disruptions and obstacles that impede learning and performance. Bullying can have a harmful social, physical, psychological and/or academic impact on students who are the victims of bullying behaviors, students who engage in bullying behaviors and bystanders that observe acts of bullying. The school district does not allow bullying behavior toward or by students, school employees or volunteers on school/district grounds, at school/district-sponsored activities or on transportation to and from school or school/district-sponsored activities.

## Bus transportation

Transportation may be provided to students in a variety of ways. For example, students may be transported by yellow bus, city bus or specialized transportation. Regardless of the method of transportation, it is expected that all students will demonstrate safe, respectful and appropriate conduct while being transported to school. Students who do not conform to the rules relating to safe transportation may have their riding privilege withdrawn by the transportation provider.

The following actions have been identified by the Board of Education as justification for refusing a student the privilege of riding a school bus:

1. Yelling, cursing, obscene language;
2. Throwing objects within the vehicle or out of the windows;
3. Extending head, arms or hands out of the windows;
4. Fighting, scuffling, smoking in the vehicle;
5. Moving about in the vehicle while it is in motion;
6. Damaging property;

7. Any other conduct which might jeopardize the health, safety, welfare or rights of other people.

Drivers are responsible for the maintenance of order among children being transported and are instructed to use every reasonable means necessary to maintain order on the bus. The District supplies a three-ply "incident report" form to be used by school bus drivers in reporting violations of established rider rules. It is the duty of the driver to immediately report severe misconduct to the principal and to the bus company office.

Guidelines for action to be taken in conjunction with the bus company if a student violates the rules for safe bus riding are as follows:

1. First Incident--Discuss appropriate behavior with student and forward a copy of incident report to parent/guardian;
2. Second Incident--Confer with parent(s) legal guardian(s) and student(s). Students may be refused transportation for one to three days.
3. Third Incident--Student may be suspended from transportation for a period of four to seven days.

Parents/legal guardians must be notified in writing of their right to a hearing and/or appeal. Severity of offense may dictate acceleration of progression outlined above. Parents/legal guardians may appeal this decision to the Chief of School Operations. However, students whose bus riding privileges have been suspended are required to attend school, and parents must assume responsibility for alternate means of transportation. Continued refusal to abide by established rules may result in suspension of bus riding privileges for the remainder of the school year. If an adult supervisor from the School District is on the bus, a student may be subject to discipline in accordance with the Behavior Education Plan.

The Madison Metropolitan School District is concerned about the health, safety, welfare, and rights of your child. Please go over appropriate school bus riding practices with your child. Student behavior on the school bus and the driver's management of the behavior are two key elements to a safe and enjoyable bus ride for all students. Your child's bus may or may not be equipped with video monitoring equipment. The video camera is an aid used to monitor bus discipline. It does not replace the discipline policy, the driver's authority, or the responsibility of the school officials. If you have any questions, including questions regarding the use of video equipment on board buses, please call the District's Transportation Office at 663-5288 or 663-5287.

## **Clubs and recreational activities**

Students have the opportunity to become involved in many organized clubs and recreational activities at Black Hawk Middle School. Most clubs are organized by Madison School and Community Recreation (MSCR) and meet after school immediately following Scholar's Club. Transportation is provided to students involved in afterschool programs.

## **Dress code**

The Black Hawk dress code states that clothing should not "disrupt, hinder or interfere with education." Specifically, any attire that is considered revealing is not permitted. This includes the following: t-shirt/top straps must be at least 2 fingers wide; shorts/skirts need to be at least to the tip of your fingers; hats and other headwear must be removed when entering the building; coats, jackets, and blankets will not be worn in class; and undergarments should not be exposed.

## **Electronic devices**

Students are to keep all cell phones and other electronic devices off and away during the day at Black Hawk with the exception of during breakfast, lunch, and recess. If a staff member sees or hears a student's device during the school day, s/he will ask the student to relinquish it and will turn it into the office. Any time that an electronic device is collected, the protocol is that a parent/guardian or other adult must come to school to retrieve the phone or electronic device. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones or electronic devices.

## **Family engagement**

Families and community members are essential partners in Black Hawk's success. We have and will continue to work hard to engage our families and community members as we know the impact this has on our students' success. When schools engage with parents and communities in authentic and consistent ways we know that the impact on learning increases significantly. We at Black Hawk will continue to strive to partner with our families and communities in real and authentic ways to support student achievement.

## **Field trips**

Teachers frequently plan field trips and excursions to provide students with educational experiences, which are extensions of the classroom. These trips are essential to the educational program, and all students are expected to participate.

Parents/legal guardians will receive written notification in advance about field trips and should take care to sign all forms and send money to school if requested. Scholarship money is available if payment of field trip fees creates a hardship for a student's family. In such cases parents/legal guardians should contact their child's teacher or the school office.

## **Releasing children from school during the day**

When a student has to leave school during the day, the parent/guardian must contact the school office via telephone, a note or email stating the time the student is leaving, who will be picking the student up and where the student is going. Students will only be released to the parent/guardian or another adult if they have been designated as an emergency contact or non-household relation in Infinite Campus.

## **Safety & Security**

Families play a key role in school safety. At [blackhawk.mmsd.org/safety](http://blackhawk.mmsd.org/safety), you can read about school-specific resources for helping keep students safe. You'll find more information on district safety and security, including how we communicate with you in an emergency, at [mmsd.org/safety](http://mmsd.org/safety).

## **School breakfast/lunch**

Black Hawk Middle School breakfast time will be from 7:15-8:10 every day. Students will be allowed to enter the cafeteria at 7:15 to eat breakfast each day. Students will be offered a choice of lunch meals daily, and they will be encouraged to take a fruit and/or vegetable and milk. If your child arrives after 8:10, they will be expected to have already eaten, since at that time the elementary students from Gompers Elementary will be in our cafeteria.

## **Supervision of the building and grounds**

The building is supervised from 7:20 - 3:20. Students are allowed in the building each morning at 7:30. Students have the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities and clubs after the bell rings at 2:47. However, students must be under the supervision of an adult or take part in our after-school program if they are going to be in the building after school.

## **Traffic safety**

If you are dropping off/picking up your student, please do so in the designated areas in front of the school. Please do not drop off/pick up your student in the Black Hawk staff parking lot as this area is reserved for the staff. Rather, you can wait for students on the side streets that feed into Wyoming Way.

*Find more information in the district policy guide, found at [www.mmsd.org/policy-guide](http://www.mmsd.org/policy-guide).*