

PEARLAND ISD  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
STUDENT HANDBOOK 2023-2024

Sam Jamison Middle School  
2506 Woody Rd.  
Pearland, Texas 77581  
(281)412-1440

Leon Sablatura Middle School  
2201 N. Galveston Ave.  
Pearland, Texas 77581  
(281) 412-1500

Rogers Middle School  
3121 Manvel Rd.  
Pearland, Texas 77584  
(832) 736-6400

Alexander Middle School  
3001 Old Alvin Rd.  
Pearland, Texas 77581  
(832) 736-6700

**SCHOOL HOURS:** The school day is from 8:35 a.m. to 3:55 p.m. Teachers are on duty from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. School office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Students may enter the building at 7:30 a.m. Assigned staff is on duty at that time. Due to safety concerns, do NOT drop students off prior to 7:30 a.m. or in bus drop off zones.

**DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION:** BY PHONE-(281) 485-3203, ONLINE-www.pearlandisd.org

**TARDIES:** If a student arrives after 8:35 a.m. he/she is considered tardy. The student should bring a note to explain the tardiness to the office. Three (3) tardies in **a nine-week period** will result in a school detention which is assigned by the administrator.

**EARLY MORNING PROCEDURES:** Upon Entering in the morning:

1. Sixth grade students will wait in the cafeteria and the fifth-grade students will wait in the gymnasium until dismissed at 8:30 a.m. to go to homerooms.
2. Students are requested to find a seat in their designated area in the cafeteria or gymnasium and wait there until dismissed. Talking in moderate tone is acceptable.
3. Breakfast will be served from 7:45 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. in the cafeteria.
4. "Except for emergencies", delivery of messages or packages to students will not be allowed during instructional time. Students are responsible for picking up their items from the front office during passing period or lunch.

**ATTENDANCE RULES:** Please refer to PISD'S Student Code of Conduct. Attendance is taken at 9:45 a.m. Alexander Middle School. The only excusable reasons for a child to miss school are personal illness of the student, communicable disease control, or death in the immediate family. A student is also excused for a temporary absence resulting from a visitation to a health care professional if the student commences classes or returns to school on the day of the appointment. A note from the health care professional verifying the appointment will need to be turned in upon arrival for the student to be counted present. Any other absences are unexcused.

Excessive unexcused absences constitute a violation of the law for which the parent or guardian may be held responsible. Parents will be warned in writing for children who are failing to comply with compulsory school attendance laws. Students are required to be in attendance for at least 90% of the total days' school is in session in order to pass the current grade level.

Upon return to school from absence:

1. Parent should write an excuse on a full sheet of paper giving student's full name, homeroom teacher, date, days absent, reason for the absence, and parent signature.
2. Students should **ask** all teachers for their make-up assignments. They are given one day for each day missed. Assignments that are not made up may be reflected in the student's grade.
3. Students who are absent for more than 5 consecutive days need a doctor's note/excuse.

**\*\*NOTE: Excessive absences and/or tardies may negatively affect approval for future transfers for students. \*\***

**STUDENT APPEARANCE:** Students will be expected to be well groomed and follow the district standardized dress. Body cleanliness is also required. The school is charged with the responsibility of building proper values, quality citizenship, and maintaining a school reputation that results in academic benefits received by the student body. Proper dress and grooming are considered a part of the educational program.

**PEARLAND ISD 2023-2024 STUDENT DRESS CODE (Pre-K – 12th)**

The Pearland ISD Dress Code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, prepare students for success, prevent disruption in the instructional setting, and maintain a safe environment for all students.

Pearland ISD sets the following general expectations for grooming and dress:

- Students should come to school bathed and wearing clean clothes.
- Students' hair should be clean, neat, and well groomed.

- Appropriate undergarments should be worn and not visible.
- Clothing should be appropriately sized and of appropriate length.
- Clothing and accessories may not be worn in any way that reflects gang affiliation or conceals contraband.

**Slacks, Jeans, Capri Pants, Skirts, Shorts:**

- Shorts and skirts must be worn no shorter than mid-thigh.
- Pants, shorts, and skirts shall be appropriately sized, fit securely at the waist, and shall not expose skin above the mid-thigh.
- Shorts or skirts must be hemmed, not cutoffs.
- Spandex, leather, suede, vinyl, or sheer (see-through) fabrics are not allowed.
- Cargo pants are not allowed.
- Stretch slacks and leggings (except under a dress, a jumper, or a skirt) are not allowed.
- Distressed jeans are allowed but shall not expose skin above the mid-thigh.
- Any student that violates these rules when wearing shorts or skirts, may lose the privilege of wearing shorts or skirts for the remainder of the year.

**Shirts and Blouses:**

- Shirts and blouses may be any color including solids, stripes, prints, and plaids. No see-through fabrics allowed. Collars are not required.
- Spirit shirts must be campus/district specific and may include college or professional sports teams.
- Must have sleeves, be appropriately sized, and of appropriate length.
- Spandex, leather, suede, vinyl or sheer (see-through) fabrics are not allowed.

**Dresses or Jumpers:**

- May be any color including solids, stripes, prints, and plaids.
- Must have sleeves, be appropriately sized, and must be worn no shorter than mid-thigh.
- Spandex, leather, suede, vinyl, or sheer (see-through) fabrics are not allowed.
- Solid or multi-colored leggings may only be worn under a dress, jumper, or skirt. Leggings may not be worn with just a long shirt.

**Hair:**

- Hair must be neat, clean, and well groomed.
- Distracting colors are not allowed.
- Facial hair must be neat, clean, and well-groomed/trimmed, and worn in a style that is not distracting.
- Head coverings such as hats, caps, or bandanas are not allowed. (An exception will be made for religious headwear)

**Jackets and Coats:**

- Sweatshirts, sweaters, windbreakers, sports coats and blazers may be worn inside and follow the same guidelines as shirts and blouses.
- Full length jackets or coats commonly referred to as "trench" coats or "dusters" are not allowed.

**Shoes:**

- Students must wear shoes appropriate for school.
- House slippers, slides, or flip flops are not allowed.
- All shoes must include a back strap over the heel.
- Wheels, noise makers, or lights are not permitted.

**Accessories/Miscellaneous:**

- No more than two (2) earrings may be worn in the earlobe only.
- Nose rings, lip rings, tongue piercing rings, or other body piercing accessories are not allowed.
- Spacers or gauging of the earlobe are not permitted.
- Tattoos must be covered.
- Sunglasses or sunshades are not to be worn in building.
- Heavy chains or accessories with spikes or studs are not allowed.
- Any accessory that could cause injury will be prohibited.

**THE PRINCIPAL/ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL (S) ARE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE DETERMINATIONS REGARDING WEATHER AND FASHION, FAD, HAIR, JEWELRY OR ARTICLE OF CLOTHING IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR SCHOOL WEAR OR DISRUPTIVE TO THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS OR SAFETY OF THE CAMPUS.**

The responsibility for enforcement of the dress code rests with the principal. Violations of the dress code will result in

disciplinary action. The disciplinary actions are as follows:

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|-----------------|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Offense-Verbal warning and letter sent home for parent signature.               |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Offense-Phone Call and letter sent home for parent signature.                   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Offense-Student conference with Administrator & After School detention assigned |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Offense-In School Suspension (1 day)  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Offense-In School Suspension (2 days)   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> | Offense-In school Suspension (3 days)   |

For further details, please see the Student Code of Conduct.

**SELLING/TRADING ITEMS AT SCHOOL:** Students are not allowed to sell or trade any items at school except in the case of PTA or school-sponsored fundraisers.

**INCIDENTS OF BULLYING:** Bullying occurs when a student or group of students directs written or verbal expression or physical conduct against another student and the behavior results in harm to the student or the student's property, or is so severe that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment. This includes harassment through telecommunication and social media that takes place on or off campus.

The board has established policies and procedures to prohibit bullying and to respond to reports of bullying. For further details, please see the PISD Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook.

Texas Education Code (TEC) §37.0832 identifies bullying as a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct and that

- has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property;
- is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student;
- materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school, or infringes on the rights of the victim at school.

Cyberbullying is bullying that involves the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an Internet website, or any other Internet-based communication tool.

**SCHOOL DISCIPLINE:** An orderly school atmosphere is necessary to ensure that every student receives a good education. Students who fail to comply with rules and regulations at school and at school functions will be dealt with in a firm but fair manner. The school will use counseling, parent conferences, Restorative practices, detention hall, in-school suspension, and assignment to alternative learning center, suspension from school, and expulsion from school as means to correct behavior problems. A brief description of each method is as follows.

1. Counseling: This positive method will involve the school counselor, teacher, principal, or a community counseling service talking to the students.
2. Parent Conferences: This method involves the parent, student, and a school employee attempting to solve the problem.
3. Restorative Practices: A community based approach to Discipline that focuses on rehabilitating offenders and repairing the harm caused to victims and to the classroom.
4. Detention Hall: This involves keeping the student before and/or after school up to one hour under the supervision of a school employee. Students will receive a 24-hour notice. Transportation home is a parental responsibility.
5. In-School Suspension (ISS) will consist of the student being transported to the student's zoned feeder Jr. High School. Students will be given all assignments and all schoolwork is to be completed while in the In-School Suspension.
6. Suspension from School: Denying the student the opportunity to attend school for a period of time. This will be used in extreme disciplinary cases. (Ex: fighting) These days are excused absences and make-up work is required.
7. Alternative Learning Center (ALA): This is the district's alternative learning program. It is used for continuous and/or extreme behavior problems.
8. JJAEP: This is the alternative education program for Brazoria County. It is used in extreme disciplinary cases.
9. Expulsion from School: Removal from school to an alternative education program.

**Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for a list of prohibited Conduct.**

**CONFISCATION OF PROHIBITED ITEMS:** The use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices including (but not limited to) smart watches, laptops, tablet computers, portable listening or recording devices, cameras, or other photographic equipment, devices that can access the internet and any other electronic devices are prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct and will be confiscated and retained in the office. Items may be released to parents upon request.

Phones may not be seen, heard, or used unless directed by teacher. See District Student Code of Conduct for details

**Fee for Telecommunication Devices \$15.00**

**SOCIAL BEHAVIOR:** Inappropriate display of affection is not permitted, i.e.: handholding, hugging, kissing, etc. Bullying, threats, physical and verbal abuse will not be tolerated. **NOTE: Excessive referrals for behavior may negatively affect approval for future transfer requests for students.**

**DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY:** No student shall knowingly possess, use, transmit, or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogen, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, or other intoxicant (as defined by law)

Or facsimile of such items.

- a. On school grounds during any school term.
- b. Off school grounds at a school activity, function or event.
- c. Any student who uses another person's drug authorized by a licensed physician through a prescription specifically for that person's use shall be subject to disciplinary action.

**SCHOOL NURSE:** The school nurse will provide basic first aid and emergency care for your child. You will be notified if you need to pick your child up from school due to illness. They will also give medications following district guidelines.

**DISTRICT MEDICATION GUIDELINES:** Please visit the PISD website and the PISD Student Handbook to read medication guidelines. Parents may request a copy of the guidelines from your school nurse or HCA.

**IMMUNIZATIONS:** All students in Texas must be completely immunized to attend school. Please see complete immunization requirements on the districts website. (Nurse/clinic information).

**SCREENING:** Students in grade 5 are screened by the school nurse or HCA for vision, hearing, scoliosis, and acanthosis nigricans.

**VISITORS/PARENTS:** Visitors and parents are always welcome. Upon entering the building, all parents and visitors must present a picture ID to the office. A badge will be issued and must be worn. If it is necessary to deliver something to a student or leave a message, the office will assist however, **students will not be called to the office during instructional time unless it is an "Emergency"**

Classroom visitation must be prearranged through administration. A criminal background check must be done for all parents wishing to volunteer at the school or attend a field trip. All criminal backgrounds are done through the internet at [www.pearlandisd.org](http://www.pearlandisd.org).

**SIGNING IN OR OUT:** Any student entering or leaving school between 8:35 a.m. and 3:50 p.m. must sign in or out in the office. It is requested that students be taken out of school only in the case of appointments or in the case of an emergency. Proper I.D. such as a driver's license, is required from every authorized adult picking up a student. Students will be called to the office for pick up after the adult has signed the student out. Students will not be called out of their classes for checkout if there is less than 20 minutes left in the school day. Students will not be called from class early to wait for the adult to pick them up. **Students will be released to persons listed on the Skyward emergency contact information.**

**CAFETERIA:** Monthly menu is available to view online. The lunch price is \$2.75 for students. The breakfast price is \$1.45 for students. Snacks are also available and range in price. Each student has a meal account where funds may be deposited by sending cash or check to the campus cafeteria or by assessing [SchoolCafé \(schoolcafe.com\)](http://SchoolCafé (schoolcafe.com)) to make a payment using a credit card. If students forget their money or their funds are diminished, they will be allowed to charge (MEALS ONLY) not to exceed \$5.00. After the charging limit has been reached, the student will be served a minimal meal at no charge.

**Food Service Contact Information-[www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com), Phone: 281-412-1244, School Cafe Helpline: 855-729-2328**

**PARENT LUNCH VISITATION:** Parents are welcome to come to lunch with their child. They must present picture I.D. to the office before entering the cafeteria. Parents are asked to sit in the separate designated eating area due to overcrowding at the lunch tables to enjoy lunch with their child. Parents may bring or purchase food for their child only. Please be advised state law prohibits parents from bringing in food for any student other than their own child (TAC 26.3). **No restaurant deliveries, including Door Dash, UberEATS, etc. will be accepted.** The campus will be closed for parent lunch visitation on testing days.

**REPORT CARDS/PROGRESS REPORTS:** Report cards are issued every nine weeks to inform the parents of student's progress. Progress reports are given at three-week intervals for all students. You can access your student's progress throughout the year online. A link to Skyward is provided on the district and campus web pages.

**To be promoted from one grade level to the next, a student shall attain for the year, an overall average of 70 or above in all**

**subjects. A student shall also attain an average of 70 or above in English Language Arts and in Math to be promoted.**

#### **HB 1416**

HB 1416 establishes new requirements for supplemental accelerated instruction for students who do not pass the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR). For more information on HB1416, please visit <https://tea.texas.gov>.

#### **Conduct**

The middle-school campuses utilize a uniformed conduct system for students. This system communicates with the student and parent to the progress of the student's behavior and work habits weekly in their classes.

**MAKE-UP WORK WHEN ABSENT PROCEDURES:** As a school policy, students have 3 days to complete make-up work for full credit. Students absent for extended periods are given one day for each day missed to complete make-up work. The school will provide make-up work for students with 3 or more consecutive absences when requested. Twenty-four-hour notice is required.

**MISSING WORK:** As a school wide practice, students who fail to turn in assignments by the due date will be allowed the opportunity to complete the missing assignment for a maximum grade of up to 70%. Students may attend tutoring to complete any assignment below 70% for reteach for mastery.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to grade penalties on assignments or tests and disciplinary penalties in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgement of the classroom teacher or another supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observations, or information from students.

#### **Behaviors defined as cheating:**

- Giving or receiving information, looking on someone else's work, or allowing someone else to see one's work during an exam, test or quiz.
- Unauthorized receipt or distribution of exam, test or quiz contents, materials, or answer key.
- Use of unauthorized resources such as notes during an exam.
- Taking an exam, producing a project, paper or assignment for another student or asking someone to take an exam or produce a project, paper or assignment for an individual.
- Copying work assigned to be done independently or letting others copy one's work.

#### **Behaviors defined as plagiarism:**

- Any misrepresentation of another's work as one's own, including the copying of sentences, phrases, images, entire essays, passages from an undocumented source, musical scores, and other similar works.

#### **Academic Dishonesty will result in academic and/or behavioral consequences:**

1. A grade of zero will be given on the work involved, and the grade of zero will be averaged with the other grades.
2. As with all failing grades, the student will have an opportunity to make up the assignment for a maximum grade of 70. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the teacher to complete this work.
3. A building principal will be notified of all incidents of academic dishonesty.
4. Other actions as determined by a building principal, which may include assignment to In-School Suspension (ISS).

#### **Grading Guidelines**

**Daily Grades** include classroom activities, homework, quizzes, in-class writing samples, or other in-class activities. Daily grades can be divided into different sub-categories, such as participatory daily grades (in-class activities, homework, etc.) and independent daily grades (quizzes, etc.).

**Major Grades** include long-term projects, in-class assessments, and tests.

**Grades 5 – 6:** Daily grades count for 60% of a student's average and major grades count for 40% of a student's average.

**TUTORIAL PROGRAM:** Tutorials are required for students whose progress in a subject is unsatisfactory or need additional instruction to master a skill. Teachers will post tutorial schedules.

**CLUBS:** Parents who do not want their child to join a specific club should notify the campus principal in writing.

**FIELD DAY:** The campus may schedule field day activities for students at different times of the school year. Parents who do not want their child to be involved in field day activities should notify campus administration in writing.

**CONFERENCES WITH TEACHERS:** Parents are encouraged to have conferences with teachers or any other school personnel if there is a concern. Parent/Teachers conferences are held by appointment only. To schedule a conference, please call the school office for times to schedule with the teacher.

**FIRE/TORNADO/LOCKDOWN DRILLS:** Fire and/or tornado and lockdown drills are held throughout the school year. Remember these basic rules.

1. Check the instructions in each classroom (they are posted) indicating how to leave the building in case of fire.
2. Walk, no talking. Move quickly and quietly to designated area.

**SEVERE WEATHER:** Occasionally the threat of severe weather, such as rapidly approaching hurricanes, rapidly dropping temperatures which can cause freezing rain and hazardous road conditions, or flooding makes it necessary to dismiss school earlier than usual in order for buses and cars to be able to travel the normal routes. Please visit the school district website for announcements concerning the dismissal or cancellation of school and the time when classes will be resumed if such dismissal or cancellation occurs. Parents will be notified automatically regarding school closings due to bad weather by the district's Connect Ed telephone call-out system and/or SKYWARD email.

**TRANSPORTATION:** School bus transportation is provided free of charge to a student living two miles or more from the school he/she attends. Bus transportation is available for those living less than 2 miles for a fee. While on the bus, the following rules are to be followed:

1. The driver is in charge; the students are to obey promptly.
2. Students must be on time since the bus cannot wait on tardy students.
3. Students should not stand in the roadway while waiting for the bus.
4. Students should speak in moderate tones on the bus and should not engage the driver in unnecessary conversation.
5. Once seated, students should not move about the bus. The bus must be stopped before students leave seats to disembark.
6. Use of tobacco is prohibited.
7. Throwing things on the floor or out the window is prohibited.
8. Students are never to extend arms or head out of the window.
9. Any vandalism to the bus will result in the student paying for the damage.

Failure to follow any of the bus rules will result in disciplinary action. Continued failure to follow bus rules will result in removal of the student from the bus. Students are not allowed to ride on a bus other than their assigned bus. If there are extenuating circumstances, the parent may call the transportation department.

***Any Questions concerning pickup of students, buses not stopping, bus discipline/student behavior issues, and areas not served by buses, etc., should be referred to the Transportation Department at: 281-485-3562.***

**STUDENT PROPERTY/VALUABLES:** Students are always responsible for their personal property. All backpacks MUST fit in student lockers. The locker measures 1 foot in width and 10 inches in depth. Students should not bring large amounts of money or valuables to school. Personal property is not covered by school insurance. When going to P.E., students should leave their valuables in their hall lockers.

**WITHDRAWALS:** Students withdrawing from the district must have all records cleared before leaving. The school requests notice from the parent at least three days in advance so that records and documents may be prepared. The parent may obtain a withdrawal form from the school's attendance clerk.

**ADVANCED ACADEMICS:** All Pearland ISD students who wish to accept the academic challenge of advanced classes are welcome to participate in the Advanced Program. Prior to making this commitment to course selections, students and parents should be aware of expectations and rigorous coursework for these classes so that they can make informed decisions. The following guidelines are provided to help students and parents make informed decisions:

**Academic Consideration:**

Advanced curricula are above grade level. Students should be independent learners as instruction is fast paced, in-depth, complex, and abstract. Student should understand that much of the work is done outside of class. An A or B in the subject area indicates that the student has the academic ability and the task commitment to succeed. Once enrolled, students **MUST REMAIN IN THE COURSE FOR SIX WEEKS** before a schedule change is considered.

**Performance consideration:** Advanced students should be independent learners who demonstrate.

- A. **Subject Mastery:** Students should not expect to be in before, during or after school tutoring to be successful in the advanced setting. **Students should not have to make corrections on many assignments in order to achieve**

**passing grades in the advanced curricula.**

- B. Motivation:** Students take advanced classes because it is the best preparation for junior high school; others, for the academic challenge. Whatever the reason, students should always apply their best effort.
- C. Time Management and Organization:** Students are expected to begin assignments when they are assigned. Planners, Agendas, and Schedules are essential to prioritizing and maintaining self-discipline to complete multiple projects throughout the course of each 9 weeks.
- D. Positive Attitude:** Advance classes demand more attention, work, time, and effort than regular class. Students should persevere when faced with challenges and take necessary steps to succeed in the class. Students who can adjust to the rigor while in middle school find greater success in junior high and high school.
- E. Strong Work Ethic:** Students should be committed to achieve their goal to be successful in advanced classes and demonstrate that commitment by good attendance, punctuality, and by showing respect for themselves and others. Students should expect to do a considerable amount of study and preparation outside of class and to complete all assignments on time.

**\*\*Teacher/Counselor/Administrator will contact parent in the event student placement in advance classes becomes a concern and scheduling options need to be discussed for future academic and behavioral success.\*\***