



Desert Sky Middle School

Parent & Family Handbook

2022-2023



Deer Valley Unified School District

"Graduating lifelong learners who will successfully compete, lead, and positively impact the world."

Desert Sky Middle School- Parent & Family Handbook

2022-2023

5130 W. Grovers Avenue, Glendale, Arizona 85308

desertsky.dvUSD.org

DVUSD Vision Statement

Graduating lifelong learners who will successfully compete, lead, and positively impact the world.

DVUSD Mission Statement

Provide extraordinary educational opportunities to every learner.

GOVERNING BOARD

Kimberly Fisher		Ann O'Brien		Ann Elizabeth Ordway
Jennie Paperman		Julie Read		

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Curtis Finch

The Deer Valley Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. For any inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies contact the DVUSD District Office, 20402 N.

15th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027. (623) 445-5000



2022-2023 Instructional Calendar

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 4 - Independence Day Observed
Offices Closed

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Aug. 3 - First Day for Students
Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26 - Early Release - 90 min

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Sep. 5 - Labor Day Recess - No School
Sep. 2, 16, 23 - Early Release - 90 min
Sep 26 - Fall Break Day - No School

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Oct. 6-7 - K-12 PIT Conferences-Half Day
Oct. 10 - Fall Break Day - No School
Oct. 14, 21, 28 - Early Release - 90 min

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day - No School
Nov. 21-25 - Thanksgiving Recess
Nov. 4 & 18 - Early Release - 90 min

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Dec. 2 & 9 - Early Release - 90 min
Dec. 15 - HS Half Day
Dec. 16 - K-12 Half Day
Dec. 19-30 - Winter Break

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Jan. 2 - Staff Development Day
- full release
Jan. 13, 20, 27 - Early Release - 90 min
Jan 16- Martin Luther King - No School

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

Feb. 3, 10, 24 - Early Release - 90 min
Feb. 16-17 - K-8 only PIT Conf. - Half Day
Feb. 20 - President's Day - No School

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Mar. 3, 10, 24, 31 - Early Release - 90 min
Mar. 13-17 - Spring Break

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

April 7 - Spring Break Day
***No Early Release Days during State testing
April 28 - Early Release - 90 min

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

May 5 & 12 - Early Release Days-90 min
May 19 - Last day for students - Half Day
May 29 - Memorial Day - Offices Closed

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

	First Day of School
	Early Release Days - 90 min
	1/2 Day Release - See campus web pages for release times
	1/2 Day Release - Parent Teacher Conferences
	Last Day of School
	Graduation Dates
	No School - Federal Holiday or Break

Graduation Dates
May 18, 2023 Schools and Time TBD
May 19, 2023 Schools and Time TBD

See dvusd.org/graduation for updated information

Grading Periods	
1st Quarter	Sept. 30, 2022 (41)
2nd Quarter	Dec. 16, 2022 (48)
3rd Quarter	Mar. 10, 2023 (47)
4th Quarter	May 18, 2023 (44)

Teacher Contract Days	185
Student Contract Days	180
40th Day	Sept. 29, 2022
100th Day	Jan 18, 2023

Early Release (90 min) PLC / PD Days	
1st Semester	2nd Semester
Aug. 5	Jan. 13
Aug. 12	Jan. 20
Aug. 19	Jan. 27
Aug. 26	Feb. 3
Sept. 2	Feb. 10
Sept. 16	Feb. 24
Sept. 23	Mar. 3
Oct. 14	Mar. 10
Oct. 21	Mar. 24
Oct. 28	Mar. 31
Nov. 4	Apr. 28
Nov. 18	May 5
Dec. 2	May 12
Dec. 9	

No Early Release Days during State testing

No School - Federal Holiday or Break Days	
Sept. 5	Labor Day Recess
Sept. 26	Fall Break
Oct. 10	Fall Break
Nov. 11	Veterans Day
Nov. 21-25	Thanksgiving Recess
Dec. 19 - Jan 2	Winter Break
Jan. 16	ML King Jr. Day
Feb. 20	President's Day
Mar. 13-17	Spring Break
Apr. 7	Spring Break Day

Student's last day - May 19
Teacher's last day - May 22

1st semester = 89 days
2nd semester = 91 days

Revised October 13, 2021

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DESERT SKY BELL SCHEDULE 2022-23

Desert Sky Middle School Bell Schedule 2022-2023

Regular Day

1 st Hour	2 nd Hour	3 rd Hour	FLASH Time	4 th (1st Lunch)	4 th (2nd Lunch)	4 th (3rd Lunch)	5 th Hour	6 th Hour
8:15- 9:12 am	9:15- 10:06 am	10:09- 11:00 am	11:03- 11:33 am	11:36- 12:06 pm	12:09 pm- 12:39 pm	12:42pm 1:12pm	1:15- 2:06 pm	2:09- 3:00 pm

FLASH (Focused Learning And Strategic Help)

Early Dismissal PLC Friday @ 1:30pm

1 st Hour	2 nd Hour	3 rd Hour	4 th (1st Lunch)	4 th (2nd Lunch)	4 th (3rd Lunch)	5 th Hour	6 th Hour
8:15- 9:01 am	9:04- 9:44 am	9:47- 10:27 am	10:30- 11:00 am	11:02- 11:32 am	11:34 am- 12:04 pm	12:07- 12:47 pm	12:50- 1:30 pm

Early Release ½ Day @ 11:35am

1 st Hour	2 nd Hour	3 rd Hour	4 th Hour	5 th Hour	6 th Hour
8:15- 8:51 am	8:54- 9:24 am	9:27- 9:57 am	10:00- 10:29am	10:32- 11:02am	11:05- 11:35 am

PM Assembly Schedule

1 st Hour	2 nd Hour	3 rd Hour	4 th (1st Lunch)	4 th (2nd Lunch)	4 th (3rd Lunch)	5 th Hour	6 th Hour
8:15- 9:03 am	9:06- 9:50 am	9:53- 10:37 am	10:40- 11:10 am	11:13- 11:43 am	11:46am- 12:16 pm	12:19- 1:03 pm	1:06- 1:50 pm
Assembly - 1:55 - 3:00 pm							

Parent Teacher Conferences

Thursday	1 st Hour	2 nd Hour	3 rd Hour
Friday	4 th Hour	5 th Hour	6 th Hour
	8:15-9:19 am	9:23-10:22 am	10:26-11:35 am

DESERT SKY CAMPUS DIRECTORY

Attendance Line: 602-467-6590

Position	Name	Phone	Email
Principal	Michelle Martin	602-467-6504	Michelle.Martin@dvusd.org
Assistant Principal	Christopher Berg	602-467-6504	Christopher.Berg@dvusd.org
Instructional Coach	Laurel Abbott	602-467-6568	Laurel.Abbott@dvusd.org
Secretary	Karyl Saver	602-467-6504	Karyl.Saver@dvusd.org
Accounting Clerk	Melissa Brady	602-467-6505	Melissa.Brady@dvusd.org
Registrar	Julie Culp	602-467-6506	Julie.Culp@dvusd.org
Parent Liaison	Jolee Benner	602-467-6508	Jolee.Benner@dvusd.org
School Psychologist	Dr. Cherylee Hirsch	692-467-6520	Cherylee.Hirsch@dvusd.org
Nurse	Patty Bowlus	602-467-6510	Patty.Bowlus@dvusd.org
8 th Grade Counselor	Ann-Marie Champion	602-467-6518	AnnMarie.Champion@dvusd.org
7 th Grade Counselor	Andrea Koehnke	602-467-6538	Andrea.Koehnke@dvusd.org
RTI-B Specialist	Tyler Bachler	602-467-6568	Tyler.Bachler@dvusd.org
Social Worker		602-467-6519	
7 th Science	Dina Schofield	602-467-6542	Dina.Schofield@dvusd.org
7 th Social Studies	Kevin Flint	602-467-6563	Kevin.Flint@dvusd.org
7 th Math	Katherine Roper	602-467-6572	Katherine.Roper@dvusd.org
7 th English Language Arts	Max Loper	602-467-6551	Maxwell.Loper@dvusd.org
7 th Science		602-467-6541	
7 th Social Studies	Keith Utyro	602-467-6562	Keith.Utyro@dvusd.org
7 th Math	Kallie LaForest	602-467-6573	Kallie.LaForest@dvusd.org
7 th English Language Arts		602-467-6552	
8 th Science	Peter Fasciano	602-467-6543	Peter.Fasciano@dvusd.org
8 th Social Studies	Mary Kaczmarowski	602-467-6571	Mary.Kaczmarowski@dvusd.org
8 th Math	Dina Pawling	602-467-6566	Dina.Pawling@dvusd.org
8 th English Language Arts	Michele Phipps	602-467-6556	Michele.Phipps@dvusd.org
8 th Science	Katherine Kvaale	602-467-6544	Katherine.Kvaale@dvusd.org
8 th Social Studies	Robert Fugate	602-467-6569	Robert.Fugate@dvusd.org
8 th Math	Dawn McKinney	602-467-6567	Dawn.McKinney@dvusd.org
8 th English Language Arts	Cody Potts	602-467-6557	Cody.Potts@dvusd.org
Student Services		602-467-6525	
Student Services	Penny Murphy	602-467-6550	Penny.Murphy@dvusd.org
Student Services	Kyle Boudreaux	602-467-6564	Kyle.Boudreaux@dvusd.org
Student Services	Marissa Scherff	602-467-6555	Marissa.Scherff@dvusd.org
Student Services		602-467-6565	
Special Education Strategist		602-467-6501	
Speech/Language Pathologist	Crista Byrom	602-467-6522	Crista.Byrom@dvusd.org
Physical Education	Kim Hahn	602-467-6532	Kim.Hahn@dvusd.org
Physical Education	Whitney Warmus	602-467-6532	Whitney.Warmus@dvusd.org
Career Action Lab- STEM	Eric Axelrod	602-467-6537	Eric.Axelrod@dvusd.org
Woodshop/Building Skills	Michael Day	602-467-6539	Michael.Day@dvusd.org
Art			
Choir/Music/Orchestra	Anthony Acevedo	602-467-6535	Anthony.Acevedo@dvusd.org
Spanish	Jennifer Bondurant	602-467-6548	Jennifer.Bondurant@dvusd.org
Reading Interventionist	DeAnne Dowland	602-467-6554	DeAnne.Dowland@dvusd.org
Math Interventionist	Michelle Martelli	602-467-6547	Michelle.Martelli@dvusd.org
ELL Specialist	Roxanne Burquez	602-467-6574	Roxanne.Burquez@dvusd.org

DESERT SKY INFORMATION/EXPECTATIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Closed Campus:

In accordance with the Arizona State Law, **students will only be released to a parent/guardian or a person listed as an emergency contact.** The person signing out the student must show a valid government issued I.D. (i.e. passport or state issued driver's license). **NO STUDENT WILL BE RELEASED TO ANYONE WITHOUT A VALID I.D.** The Desert Sky Middle School Campus opens for students at 7:55 am. Once students arrive on campus, they must remain on campus unless a parent or guardian signs them out. All students are expected to be in their classrooms before the 8:15am bell. We ask that, when possible, personal appointments are made to avoid student check outs after 2:30pm on school days. A student leaving campus without permission will be considered truant and disciplinary action may be taken. Desert Sky Middle School enforces a drug and tobacco free zone within the campus and extending 1,000 feet from the perimeter of the campus.

Visitors/Guests:

For those who wish to visit a classroom during the school day, it is necessary to fill out a "Permission for Visitation/Observation" form at least 24 hours in advance to avoid any conflicts with the school schedule. No person may enter onto school premises, including visits or audits to a classroom or other school activity, without approval from the administration. If a conference is desired, arrangements will be made through the teacher for an appointment with the parent/guardian either before or after school hours. No person will be allowed to conduct, or attempt to conduct, any activity on school premises that has not had prior approval by the administration. Anyone who is not a student or staff member of DVUSD, and is in violation of the above listed visitor's policy, may be asked to leave the property of the district. Failure to comply with the reasonable and lawful directions from district officials or district security officers, or any other law enforcement officers, acting in performance of their duties, and failure to identify oneself to such officials or officers when lawfully requested to do so, may subject the person to criminal proceedings applicable under law.

Parking and Traffic Flow:

When dropping off or picking up students please enter the east entrance of the school off Grovers Avenue then follow the blue traffic flow lines until reaching the drop off zone. For the safety of our students, when dropping off students on campus please only use the right lane where the curb is blue. All vehicles must exit through the west driveway on Grovers Avenue. Afterschool pick-up will be directed by campus staff and designees, for their safety and the safety of our students, please follow their directions. Unless a staff member directs otherwise, the left lane is a through lane only. Additionally, we ask for your help in holding your student responsible for being aware and ready at the parent pick-up location after school. **Traffic will not be held during pick-up if your student does not report to your vehicle in a timely manner, and you will be asked to proceed forward to wait in the parking lot when we have a majority of cars (all three lanes- two cars deep) loaded.**

Automated Calling System:

In order to share the most accurate and timely information, we will use text messaging and email updates. To receive messages, information, and updates, please make sure that you keep current records with our office. Please listen to the entire message so that you do not miss important information. Additionally, information and updates may be posted on the school or teacher websites, so please check them daily.

Fire/Emergency Evacuation Information:

To practice safety procedures, we conduct a fire drill each month and a lock-down or lock-out drill each quarter. In the event of an actual lock down or evacuation situation you will be notified by our automated calling system, and information will be posted on our school website at desertsky.dvusd.org.

Deliveries for Students:

Per DVUSD policy, food delivery services are not allowed to deliver to campus for student lunches. Items for students such as lunch money, lunches, homework, P.E. clothes, band instruments, notebooks and sports items may be dropped off at the front office. Students will be notified that a delivery is waiting for them in the front office and that they can pick the item up during passing periods only. In an effort to minimize disruptions and keep the students focused on learning, we do not allow large student celebration gifts, such as balloons, large stuffed animals, flowers, to be on or delivered to the school campus.

Bus Transportation:

Students may only ride the bus assigned to them. Students may not ride a different bus. In emergency situations only, a parent may submit a written request to the registrar or administration seeking special permission (before noon on the day of the request). The request will be shared with district transportation, and the office will notify the parent/guardian when a decision is made.

Dances:

As an opportunity to celebrate and be with friends from school, the DSMS Student Council plans and organizes dances during the school year. Tickets to these events are offered for sale prior to the event, and at the door when the event starts. School rules and expectations for dress code, electronics, behavior, and interactions, are expected to be followed and are enforced at these dances. ***Students must stay until the end of dance and will not be allowed late entry (30 minutes after dance start).*** Inappropriate/suggestive dancing and/or gestures are not allowed. ***Students must be picked up immediately after the end of any dance.*** After school dances are held from 3:15pm to 5:00pm, and evening dances are held from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. ***Any student who is removed from the dance or picked up late (more than 20 minutes after the end of the dance) may not be allowed to attend the next dance.*** Students who leave school during the day due to illness, are assigned an in-school or out-of-school suspension, or are assigned an after-school detention, are not permitted on campus for any after school activities/athletic events, including dances.

Lost and Found:

The Deer Valley Unified School District and Desert Sky Middle School assume no responsibility for student personal items that are lost or stolen on school property or at school sponsored events. Students are discouraged from bringing costly, fragile, or irreplaceable items to school that cannot be secured by the owner. Students must assume sole responsibility for damage or loss of property they choose to bring to campus. Small lost and found articles such as eye glasses, jewelry, wallets, etc. should be taken to the front office; all other items will be taken to the cafeteria. Unclaimed articles will be given to charity periodically during the school year. Lost articles may be claimed before or after school. We encourage students to put identification marks on all their personal belongings, and not share or distribute their items to others.

Cafeteria:

The cafeteria is a place for students to eat lunch and socialize appropriately. Please encourage your student/students to adhere to acceptable behavior standards and to follow the directions from staff when eating lunch. If you pack a lunch and send it with your child, please avoid food items that could be difficult to chew or which could possibly cause choking. Students should not eat while walking, running, or engaging in other activities. We expect students to avoid games that involve food. Eating in the cafeteria should be fun and social, but eating in the cafeteria is a privilege. Students are expected to follow all lunch procedures, and to respect and follow the directions from lunch monitors. Students who fail to meet these expectations may have their cafeteria privileges revoked. Meal prices for the 2022-23 school year are- **\$1.50 for breakfast; \$2.95 for lunch.** All students are expected to adhere to the following guidelines so that all members of the community may have a clean and safe lunch period:

1. Students will remain in line in an orderly manner (no cutting, pushing, yelling, etc.). This includes students who need change when purchasing a lunch.
2. Money should be put on a student's account in the cafeteria before school begins.
3. Do not use another student's ID number. If you have forgotten your ID number or money, wait in line and food will be provided.
4. When you have finished eating, clean up your area and throw away trash in the trash cans near the exits.
5. Students are to get permission and a pass from the monitors to use the use the restrooms during lunchtime.
6. Treat all staff respectfully. This includes cafeteria staff, maintenance staff, and monitoring employees.
7. Students are not to return to the inner campus unless they have a pass.
8. Campus disciplinary procedures will be followed for those students who choose not to meet the cafeteria expectations. Lunchtime is a time for all community members to relax and enjoy a meal. Thank you for supporting our team.

GENERAL STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Traveling To and From School:

Students transporting to and from school on their own (walk, bike, board, scooter, etc.) are held to school expectations to and from school. Please show respect to the neighborhoods and all personal and community properties. Students should remain on sidewalks, and when crossing streets only use designated crosswalks. When crossing 51st Avenue, students must cross at the traffic lights and follow the instructions of the crossing guard or staff. Bike racks are available for storage on campus for bikes, scooters, and skateboards; however students must provide their own chain/lock for their bikes/boards/scooters. **Desert Sky Middle School is not responsible for the protection of or theft of bicycles, scooters, skateboards, or other personal mobility devices stored on campus.** All motorized transportation devices are prohibited on campus. Students are to walk their bikes, scooters, or skateboards across 51st Avenue/Grovers using the crosswalk and must continue to walk to the designated bike rack area on the West end of campus. Students must remain on the sidewalks when on campus and for their safety are NOT to cross parking lot entry/exit access points on Grovers Ave. Upon dismissal, these procedures are still expected to be followed. Additionally, students may never ride a bike, scooter, or skateboard anywhere on campus. **Violation of these expectations may result in suspension of student privilege to park or store your items on school property.**

Electronic Devices:

Many students want to have the privilege of carrying electronic devices on campus. With that privilege comes the responsibility of ensuring that those items are not used inappropriately or at inappropriate times on campus or on a bus. **Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed to be used on campus, unless explicitly directed by a teacher during the course of instruction. All cell phones are to remain off and put away at all times when on campus. Student use of cell phones or electronic devices will result in confiscation, and the student may pick up the device during dismissal at the end of the day for the first three violations.** Upon the fourth violation, parents/guardians are required to pick up the phone from school. Continuous violations for this expectation may result in discipline in accordance with DVUSD standards. Earbuds or Bluetooth music devices may not be used in class or transition periods for any reason unless directed to by a teacher. **To maintain an orderly campus and reduce disruptions, students are not to contact their parents directly via cell phone regarding illness unless prior arrangements have been made with the nurse.** Students may not take pictures or videos on campus at any time. Students may not play music aloud while on campus property. Students should understand that if they choose to bring a personal electronic device on campus it is done at their own risk. **Neither DSMS nor DVUSD assume any liability for the loss, theft, or damage of any personally owned electronic device on campus.** Any such interference due to the inappropriate use of electronic devices will be considered a disruptive activity and may result in disciplinary action.

Toys/Fidgets:

Neither toys, stuffed animals, nor "fidget" devices are allowed on campus. Neither DSMS nor DVUSD assume any responsibility for the loss, theft, or damage of these items. They are a distraction to the student possessing it, as well as to their peers in the classroom. To ensure a focused learning environment, students are not allowed to bring these items to school. Possession or use of toys, stuffed animals, and/or "fidget" devices may result in confiscation and possible disciplinary action.

Dress Code:

Any attire that detracts from the learning environment is not acceptable. Students should dress in a manner that, in addition to the following guidelines, takes into consideration the educational environment, safety, and the health and welfare of self and others.

- Clothing must cover the entire buttocks. Shirts and tops may not expose bare midriffs, bare shoulders, or be deeply or narrowly cut in the front, back, or under the arms. Halter tops, spaghetti straps, and strapless tops are not acceptable. Clothing that exposes undergarments are not tolerated for any students.
- Bare feet are never acceptable. ***For student safety, school appropriate shoes must be worn at all times. Footwear such as slippers, slides, sandals, cleats, and wheeled footwear are not permitted.*** Closed shoes are to be worn for any type of physical activity, such as physical education, cheer practice, etc.
- Jewelry or ornamentation shall not be worn if it presents a safety hazard to self and/or others.
- **No hats or head-coverings may be worn inside any campus buildings at anytime, except for properly approved occupational safety headgear required for special classes or headwear used for personal religious practices.**
- Clothing or jewelry with defamatory writing, obscene language or symbols, or symbols depicting drugs, sex, or alcohol are prohibited. ***If found in violation of these standards, students will be removed from the learning environment and given the opportunity to call home for a change of clothes. Students unable to contact home will be offered temporary clothes from the school which must be returned. Students will be assigned an alternative learning environment until clothing meeting dress code standards is worn.***
- **Exceptions for special activities or health considerations may be pre-approved by an Administrator. Students who participate or volunteer in extracurricular activities such as band, chorus, et cetera, are subject to the standards of dress as defined by the sponsors of such activities.**

Gum/Food Items/Sharpies/Permanent Markers:

Gum, food items (such as chips, candy, etc.), Sharpies, and/or permanent markers are not allowed on campus and will be confiscated due to the potential damage to carpeting, furniture, etc... Use of and/or possession of these items on campus will result in the confiscation of item and possible disciplinary action.

Food & Beverages:

Water in personal bottles is allowed on campus. **Students are not allowed to have on campus any type of energy drink or drinks that are in to-go cups (Starbucks, fountain drinks from convenience stores, or fast-food beverages, etc.).** Students are not allowed to have food on campus except for food which is for their lunch or is purchased through on-site food services. For the safety and health of all students, neither food nor drinks should ever be shared with other students. Violations of this expectation will result in the confiscation and loss of the food or drink and students may be subject to discipline in accordance with school and DVUSD district policies.

District Student Rights and Responsibilities and the Promotion, Retention, Acceleration, Grading Handbooks:

Students and their parents/guardians are expected to read and become familiar with the district Student Rights and Responsibilities and Promotion, Retention, Acceleration, Grading Handbooks. Students will be held accountable for the expectations set forth in both handbooks. You can find these handbooks electronically at: www.dvusd.org under the Parents & Students tab; within the Handbooks/Forms link on the Parents & Students Directory.

DESERT SKY ATTENDANCE

At Desert Sky, all students are expected to attend every school day and to be to school on time. Your student needs to be in the classroom to participate in the educational process. We ask your cooperation in scheduling appointments outside of the school day as much as possible. Desert Sky's regular school hours are from 8:15am to 3:00pm and the school expectation is for students to be in their seats in their first period homerooms at the 8:15am bell. On early release Fridays, the school hours are 8:15am to 1:30pm. Students must be in attendance at least one-half of the school day to be eligible to participate in or attend extra-curricular activities.

Absence Line:

A parent/guardian must call the absence line at 602-467-6590 within 24 hours to excuse any absence. This line is available 24 hours a day, so your parent/guardian may call and leave your information as soon as you know that you will be absent. Our absence system finalizes at 9:00am, so absences called in after 9:00am will still likely receive an automated call to the number we have on record.

Signing Out:

For student safety, the parent/guardian will be required to show picture identification at the time of check out. Students will not be removed from class prior to the parent/guardians arrival. ***In order to minimize interruptions to learning at the end of the day, students should not be checked out after 2:30pm on regular scheduled days and 1:00 pm on early release days.*** Please keep this in mind when making appointments.

Arrival Tardies:

A parent/guardian must call the absence line at 602-467-6590 within 24 hours to excuse any tardy. If a student arrives from a medical appointment, please provide documentation showing date and time of the appointment. District disciplinary procedures will be followed for tardy infractions. When a student is tardy between 8:15am- 9:00am, a note will be sent home to the parent/guardian and our Automatic Attendance Calling System will leave a message with the home/primary phone number. ***Any students arriving after 9:00am MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN TO SIGN THEM IN.*** Truancy guidelines apply for unexcused tardies beyond the first class period of the day. Upon the 4th unexcused tardy students are issued one lunch detention; unexcused tardies 5-7 will result in two lunch detentions; unexcused tardies 8-10 will be assigned four lunch detentions ***or*** one after school detention. If a student accumulates 10 tardies or demonstrates continued chronic unexcused tardies, it may result in additional consequences at the discretion of the school administration.

Absences/Truancies:

Per Arizona Revised Statutes, Section 15-803, a "truant child" means a child who is between the ages of six and sixteen who is not in attendance at a public or private school during the hours the school is in session. "Habitually Truant" is defined as a child who is unexcused five school days or absent ten percent of the school year (18 days). The parent/guardian will be notified by mail and/or phone if a student is reaching the "habitually truant" status or have been referred to the Maricopa County C.U.T.S. Program. Fines due to truancy may be applied to the family of the student through the C.U.T.S. Program. If a student has a chronic medical condition that will affect his/her attendance, the parent/guardian must meet with the school nurse and provide documentation from your doctor that you might miss more than 18 days of school for this medical condition. District disciplinary procedures will be followed for truancy infractions, including the possibility of Saturday school.

Homework:

If a student is absent for THREE (3) or more consecutive days, **it is the responsibility of the student or family/guardians to contact the teachers to clarify needed work.** Homework and assignments can be accessed through CANVAS. If you have additional questions, please contact the teachers. A student may submit assigned homework by the time he/she returns to campus. Current lesson plans are available online at <http://www.dvusd.org/Domain/37>.

DESERT SKY ACADEMICS

Academic Honors:

Students will receive a Principal's List certificate for each quarter they earn A's in every subject with no incompletes. They will receive an Honor Roll certificate for each quarter they earn B's or higher in every subject with no incompletes. At the end of the year they will receive a gold medallion for earning Principal's list all four quarters, and a silver medallion for earning Honor Roll all four quarters.

PowerSchools Access:

Parents and students have their own user names and passwords to log on to PowerSchools, the Deer Valley Unified School District grades, and attendance websites. You may view your student's attendance and grades using this access and we recommend that you check their grades weekly. You will be able to see if they have any missing assignments or homework by clicking on the percentage listed under the grade for each subject.

Progress Reports / Report Cards/Conferences:

Mid-quarter progress reports can be accessed on-line through PowerSchools at the middle of each quarter. Hard copies of quarterly report cards are available, upon request, through the Desert Sky office. Students are expected to share progress reports and report cards with their parents/guardians. At any time, you may contact the counseling office to set up a conference with any or all of your student's teachers. **First semester Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on October 6-7, 2022, and second semester conferences are scheduled on February 16-17, 2023.** Students are expected to attend these conferences with their parents/guardians. If there is a concern about a grade or assignments please contact the student's teacher first. If the issue remains unresolved, please address the issue with the department chair or school counselor before bringing it to the attention of the administration.

Standardized Testing:

Desert Sky Middle School participates in all state identified standardized testing, both the Arizona Academic Standards Assessment (AASA) and the Arizona Science Assessment (AzSCI). The window for the AASA is estimated to be April 3- April 28, 2022, and the window for the AzSCI is estimated for March 20- April 14, 2023. Testing is completed over the course of 5-7 days depending on the grade level and is completed done in the morning with our daily schedules adjusted. In order to give students a quiet, consistent experience during the assessments, please access the testing calendar when it is posted in March and avoid appointments on assigned testing days. Please stay connected with the most recent information through updates on our website.

Promotion Requirements:

In order to participate in the promotion ceremony, 8th grade students must receive passing grades for the year in all classes and adhere to all behavioral expectations and policies. Students may lose the privilege of participating in or recognition during promoting ceremonies if they are in poor academic or behavioral standing. Any fourth quarter suspension may result in loss of the privilege to participate in the promotion ceremony.

Physical Education/Health Class Expectations:

Each student is expected to dress prepared for class. When enrolled in PE, students should dress appropriately for active participation in class- both in clothing and footwear. Our PE teaching team asks that students dress for the easiest and safest movement during instruction. Any items other than these must be approved by the PE teachers. In addition, all students are expected to participate appropriately and to give their best efforts each day.

DESERT SKY ATHLETICS

Athletic Opportunities:

Fall Sports (Aug.-Oct.) Tryout: boys baseball and girls softball

Winter Sports (Nov.-Jan.) Tryout: boys and girls volleyball, spirit-line; No-cut: cross country and wrestling

Spring Sports (Feb.- Apr.) Tryout: boys and girls basketball; No-cut: track and field

In addition to these opportunities, DSMS is proud to host an eSports club team. Please be on the look out for sign up and participation information from the club sponsor.

DV7-8 and North Valley Middle School Athletic Conferences:

Desert Sky participates in the North Valley Middle School athletic conference sports programs. As part of these programs we play the following schools:

- North Valley Middle School Conference: **Grade 7 and 8- All Sports: Gold Canyon Middle, Highland Lakes, Hillcrest Middle, Sonoran Trails (Cross-Country includes other DVUSD k-8 schools as competitors)**

Athletic Fee:

The District requires an athletic fee of \$60.00 per sport with an individual student cap of \$120.00, a family cap for middle school siblings of \$240.00, and a family cap for siblings attending both middle and high school of \$300.00. All athletic fees and packets must be completed or paid on-line. Please call the DSMS office if you have any questions.

Requirements for Participation in Athletic Opportunities:

- ✓ **Concussion Class:** Students must complete an on-line concussion class prior to try-outs. The class can be found at <http://aiaacademy.org/users/login/brainbook> .
- ✓ **Physical:** A physical is required for all DVUSD students participating in sports and must be completed prior to try-outs.
- ✓ **Athletic Packet:** Before your athlete starts with a team, please register your athlete and access athletic packets at <https://www.dvUSD.org/Page/70863>

Eligibility Requirements:

In accordance with the state of Arizona's regulation and Deer Valley Governing Board Policy, only those students deemed academically eligible may participate in extra or co-curricular activities in which competition is an integral part of the organization. Students must be passing all subjects to be eligible and grades are checked on a weekly basis. Study sessions will be available for students needing assistance.

Ineligibility:

- ✓ An absence of more than ½ day of school on the day of the event will make a student ineligible. Students who go home ill may not return to school to participate in extra-curricular activities.
- ✓ A failing grade in any subject area - Students will be allowed to participate in competitions only when they can show passing grades on mid-reports, progress reports, or report cards. Each of these grading periods determines the student's eligibility until the next grading period approximately 2 ½ weeks later.
- ✓ The coach, athletic director, or administration may limit participation in a sport due to classroom removals, disruptive behavior, and/or poor attitudes.
- ✓ If a student receives an after-school detention, in-school suspension, or out of school suspension, the student may not participate in or attend any extracurricular activities including, but not limited to: try-outs, practices, games, competitions, clubs, dances, etc... Parents/guardians may not change scheduled detentions due to conflict with extra-curricular activities.

DSMS MEDIA and HEALTH CENTER INFORMATION

Media Center

Responsibility:

Desert Sky offers students access to a Media Center where they can check out materials for reading, research, or other studies. After checking out a book, its care is the responsibility of the student. If it is lost, stolen, or damaged, the student will be charged a replacement fee. **Report cards and school records will be withheld until any damage or replacement fees have been paid. All behavioral guidelines and expectations are expected to be followed when using the Media Center or Media Center materials. Failure to do so will result in the loss of the privilege to use this resource.**

Technology:

All students will have a Chromebook and Chromebook charger checked out to them at the beginning of the year. Students are responsible to keep the items in working condition. **Items which are damaged or not returned will incur a fine for repair or replacement. Because our student work is primarily technology based, it is expected that students have their devices charged up and ready to go prior to coming to school each day and have their chargers on them as well. Students should not share with others their usernames or passwords, chargers, or their Chromebooks.**

Optional Protection Plan

Deer Valley Unified School District offers a protection plan with an enrollment fee of \$25 for student take-home devices. Detailed information about the protection plan will be provided within the students first day packets.

Health Center

The Health Center provides health education, counseling, and some emergency care for students and staff. One full-time registered nurse serves as a health advisor on student health problems.

Illness or Accident:

The health center cannot diagnose medical conditions. When accidents or illnesses occur during school hours, emergency care will be given according to standard protocols; further care is the responsibility of the parents. All accidents are to be reported to the nurse by the person involved and the supervising person.

Medications:

Over the counter medication: In compliance with ARS 15-344 and ARS 32-1901, over the counter medications are not available in the Health Center. Tylenol, ibuprofen, Calamine, Neosporin, topical or oral Benadryl, cough drops, antacids, or any like remedies are not stocked. **Students are not permitted to have medication in their possession at any time without a specific prior written arrangement with the nurse.**

Prescriptions: **A written doctor's order is required for all prescription medication on campus.** Each bottle of medication must be in the original container and the medication form filled out and on file in the Health Center. Forms are available in the DSMS Health Center as well as on-line at the DSMS Nurse web page. **Inhalers or Epi-Pens may be carried by students only if the proper medication form has been filled out and placed on file in the Health Center.**

Disease Prevention/Immunizations:

Written proof of compliance with immunization requirements is a part of the registration process for Arizona public schools. If you are unsure of the requirements for immunization, see your doctor, visit the school health center, or call the Maricopa County Health Department at 602-506-6767 or 602-263-8856 for locations of clinics and hours of operation. Immunizations are free of charge for children under the age of 18. Exemption forms are available from the nurse.

Parent and Emergency Contacts/Health History:

Parents are required to complete Emergency Contact and Health History forms for each of their children every year. These forms contain vital information should your child become ill or injured at school. Forms and access to update this information are available in PowerSchools. If you have trouble with PowerSchools access, please call our front office. For the safety of your student, please update the school with any changes in contact information in a timely manner.

Student Illness:

If a student feels ill during the school day, they should report their complaint to the classroom teacher for referral to the nurse. Students are not to contact their parents directly via cell phone regarding illness unless prior arrangements have been made with the nurse. **Please keep your child home if they show illness symptoms such as fever, diarrhea, vomiting, deep cough, or any related symptoms from potentially communicable diseases such as COVID-19. Children with a fever of 100 degrees or higher must be fever-free for 24 hours- without the use of fever reducing medications- before returning to school.** If your child has been diagnosed with a contagious illness, please contact the Health Center so parents of other students in the class can be notified as needed. Please call your child's doctor for advice on an illness. Do not send sick students to school to be evaluated by the nurse.

Chronic Health Conditions:

If your child has been diagnosed with a chronic health condition, please contact the nurse immediately. He or she will work with you through the DVUSD protocols/procedures necessary to ensure a healthy and safe environment for your child during the school day.

PE Excusals:

Students requesting to be excused from PE must bring a note signed by their parent or guardian to the school nurse. The nurse will then write an "excused from PE" pass for the student to take to PE. Any request for an excuse for three or more PE classes may require communication or coordination with the school nurse. All injuries requiring any type of orthopedic support or device on campus must be reported with a medical excuse and be cleared through the Health Center.

DESERT SKY COUNSELING /TOP 20

Counseling and Guidance:

The School Counseling Department is an outstanding resource for students and families. Each grade level is assigned a Counselor. Our School Counselors advise students in academic matters, address attendance concerns, and can provide community resources for families. Your Counselor is a person with whom a student should feel free to discuss any problems that may arise. In order to see your Counselor about a concern, please fill out a request online or email the Counselor individually. Once you have made a request, the School Counselor will send a pass for you when he/she is available. The School Counseling Department maintains a page on the DSMS website at <https://www.dvusd.org/domain/5549>

Social Worker:

Desert Sky may employ a School Social Worker who can provide resources and support to students and parents to address the psychological and social well-being of the students. The School Social Worker will work with outside support services or agencies to assist those students who need help in their personal lives. The school Social Worker is a trained mental health professional with a degree in social work who provides services related to a person's social, emotional and life adjustment to school and/or society. School Social Workers are the link between the home, school and community in providing direct as well as indirect services to students, families and school personnel to promote and support students' academic and social success.

Resources for Parents:

Teen Lifeline: a 24-hour, no cost service with trained peer counselors 3-9PM; texting available.
602-248-8336

www.teenlifeline.org

Mercy Maricopa Behavioral Health Crisis Line: no cost help 24-hours a day.
602-222-9444

One In Ten: no cost supports and resources,
602-279-0894

www.oneten.org

Red Light Rebellion: a no cost, 24-hour service with trained staff to assist with concerns of human trafficking,
1-888-373-7888

www.redlightrebellion.org

AZ Attorney General: A website which provides information and support for parents when working with their teens and navigating the issues of Social Media and Internet Safety, Vaping/E-Cigarettes, Opioid Awareness, and other topics.

<https://www.azag.gov/outreach>

Arizona Children's Association: Kinship services for families that have taken guardianship over children.

<https://www.arizonaschildren.org/>

Top 20:

Desert Sky uses a Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) program called Top 20. All staff and students on the Desert Sky campus share a common language and recognition of S.T.A.R. Qualities. Through the Top 20 program we support Social Emotional Learning and how it directly impacts behavior and academics. The Top 20 program teaches students to recognize feelings, manage impulses and emotions, problem-solve and build meaningful relationships.

STARbucks:

As a part of our PBIS program, students earn or are rewarded with “Starbucks” (our school created reward currency) when they demonstrate the S-T-A-R qualities. At least once a month, staff members bring out the STARbucks cart before school and students can exchange their earned STARbucks for rewards from the cart.

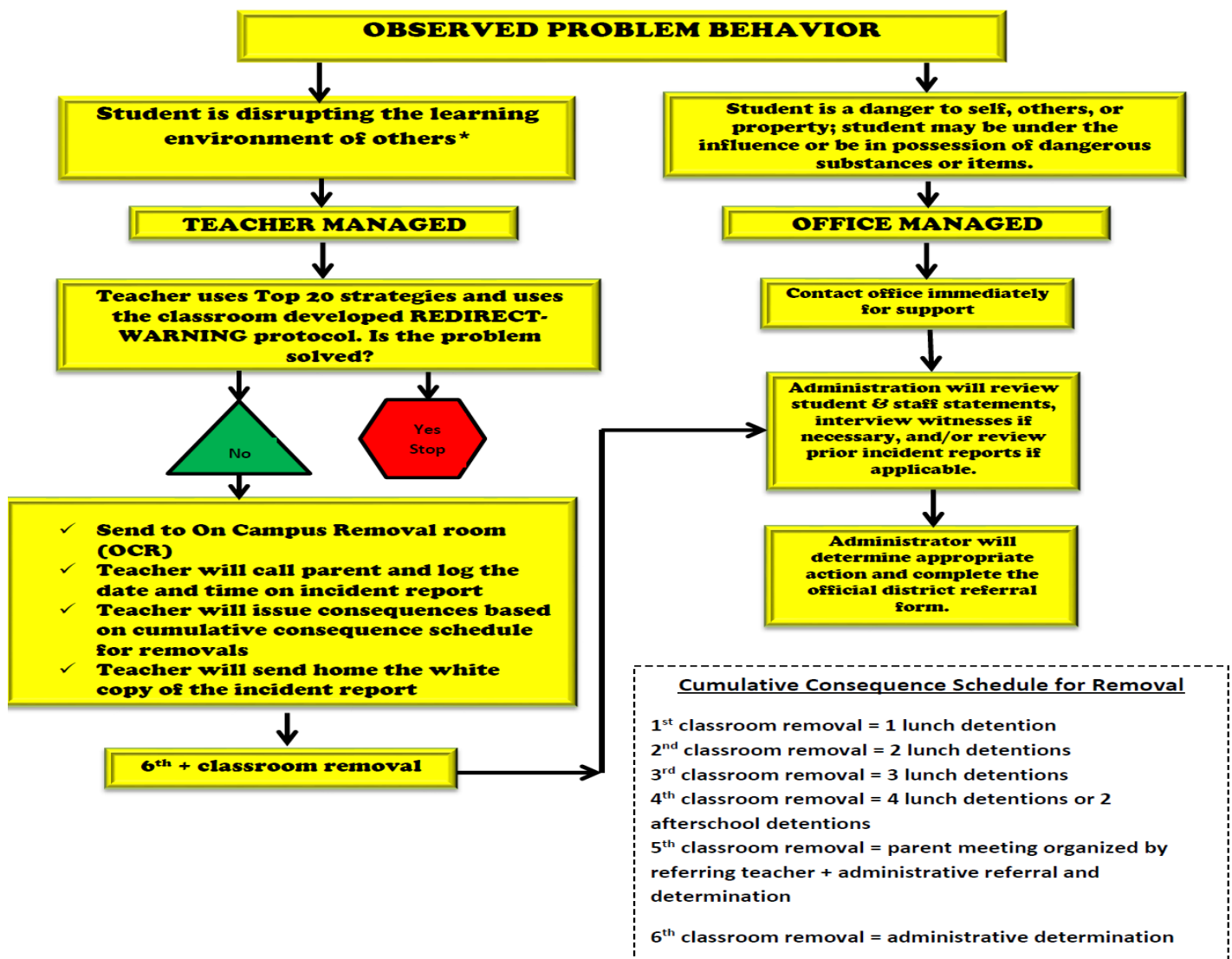
Top 20 Vocabulary:

- ThunderBolts demonstrate **S.T.A.R. qualities** (Safe- Team Player- Accountable- Respectful).
- ThunderBolts **Think, Learn, and Communicate** clearly (TLC).
- ThunderBolts **Honor the Absent** when speaking with others to build and maintain trust.
- ThunderBolts **Live Above the Line** 80 % of the time and visit Below The Line 20% of the time.
- ThunderBolts **Reframe** to see things from another perspective.
- ThunderBolts do not **R.S.V.P. to Negative Invitations**.
- ThunderBolts **Fail Forward**.

DESERT SKY DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES

Desert Sky Middle School firmly believes that all students have the right to an orderly learning environment. The chart below outlines the processes our staff uses to address disruptive behavior by students on campus or in the classroom. Desert Sky Middle School firmly believes that each student has the right to a disruption and harassment free school experience. In order to keep students in the classroom as much as possible, teachers will make all attempts to redirect or correct classroom misbehavior as it happens in the classroom. When this is not possible, the flowchart below describes the processes used to address disruptive behavior on campus. Teachers will call parents or families to alert of classroom removals which result in an office referral.

DESERT SKY BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION FLOWCHART



***Note:** Teachers will determine consequences for students who fail to comply with classroom expectations or other non-removable violations.

The following notes are added from the Deer Valley Unified School District Student Rights & Responsibilities Handbook. The complete Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook can be found at <https://www.dvusd.org/domain/8266> under the Parents & Students tab; within the Handbooks/Forms link on the Parents & Students Directory.

Administration Discretion:

Administration will exercise discretion when determining consequences and may assign a more or less severe consequence than outlined in the guidelines below. An underlined infraction indicates that an administrator may opt to use an in school suspension as a possible disciplinary action in lieu of out of school suspension. All violations must be reported to ADE. An asterisk (*) indicates that the violation must also be reported to local law enforcement.

Progressive Discipline:

Progressive discipline will be used in cases in which a student commits the same infraction repeatedly over the duration of the student's tenure in the District. Progressive discipline is discipline that is carried over year to year. For example, if a student is disciplined once for Endangerment during his/her 6th grade year and then again for Endangerment during his/her 8th grade year, the later incident may be categorized as a second offense and may warrant a more severe consequence than the minimum consequence listed in the discipline matrix in this handbook.

Searches:

Personal searches may be conducted by a District/school official when there is reasonable suspicion that a particular student is in possession of contraband, materials, or items which present an immediate danger of physical harm or illness. The searches will be conducted out of the presence of other students and in a private room. Searches of the student shall be limited to:

- searches of the pockets, shoes and socks of the student
- any object in the student's possession such as a purse, backpack, or bag

When extreme emergency conditions require a more intrusive search of the student's person, the District/school official shall contact the local law enforcement agency. Contraband materials as identified in the Introduction above may be seized when found in the course of a search. Any such items seized may be:

- offered as evidence in any suspension or expulsion proceeding if they are tagged for identification at the time seized;
- turned over to law enforcement officers;
- If not needed to retain for official purposes it may be returned to the parent or guardian of the student from whom the items were seized; or
- destroyed

Student Violence/Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying:

Please review the District Student Violence, Harassment, Intimidation/Bullying policy in your copy of the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. An electronic copy of the handbook can be found at: <https://www.dvusd.org/domain/8266> under the Parents & Students tab; within the Handbooks/Forms link on the Parents & Students Directory. ***Please refer to your copy of the Student Rights and Responsibilities (SR&R) for more information on school and district discipline guidelines, including infractions, infraction descriptions, and consequences.***

DSMS STUDENT DROP-OFF/PICK-UP PROCEDURES

In order to address parent and community concerns and incidents regarding student safety, please follow the

DSMS Morning Drop-Off Procedures

- All students should be dropped off from the RIGHT lane along the **BLUE CURB**
- When possible during drop-off, please pull forward to the **STUDENT DROP OFF** or close the gaps with the cars in front of you, this helps speed up the process for all
- Students should be ready to promptly exit the vehicle, do not allow any other vehicle passengers exit the vehicle during drop-off
- Vehicles should pull away with caution and be aware of pedestrians and other cars at all times
 - Please use only hands-free devices when using the drop-off lanes
- Please do not pass cars waiting in the drop-off lane and cut others at the front of the line

DSMS Afternoon Pick-Up Procedures

- All students being picked up by personal vehicles should wait in the front of the school under the DSMS awning
- During the first week of school, you will be given a yellow placard- please write your student's name using a black or sharpie marker and place it on your dashboard when picking up your student so that staff can read it to call for your student if needed
- Students should be watching for their rides and be ready to load their vehicles when their cars are in the first two rows
- When cars are loaded with riders, please wait for staff directions to pull forward to exit
- In order to keep the line consistently moving, cars not loaded promptly will be directed to wait for their student in the parking lot

Please...

- **NO student drop-off or pick-up along Grovers or 51st Avenue**
- Please follow the guidance and direction of staff members who are coordinating dismissal, they are working for the safety of all!
 - NO student drop-off in left two lanes, these are for passing through and parking lot access
 - NO student drop-off in the parking lot
 - NO student drop-off or stopping in the crosswalk in front of the DSMS awning
 - Please do not pass or pull around cars in the crosswalk
- Be aware that there is a bike lane on Grovers at the school entrance and exit, remember to be alert for and yield to cyclists when exiting

