



STUDENT HANDBOOK

CHALLENGER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Becky Morris
Principal

Mrs. Meghan O'Neal
Assistant Principal

2025-26



Providing ALL students access to an excellent education!

CHALLENGER ELEMENTARY STUDENT AND PARENT HANDBOOK 2025-26

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|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| PRINCIPAL..... | BECKY MORRIS |
| ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL..... | MEGHAN O'NEAL |
| COUNSELOR..... | SISSIE COE |
| SECRETARY..... | LINDA GOMEZ |
| REGISTRAR..... | RUBYCELA RODRIGUEZ |
| RECEPTIONIST..... | MICHELLE TREVINO |
| LIBRARIAN..... | TASHA MITCHELL |
| NURSE..... | JENNIFER RAFFETY |
| SCHOOL FAX..... | 281.412.1105 |
| SCHOOL PHONE..... | 281.485.7912 |
| SCHOOL ADDRESS..... | 9434 HUGHES RANCH RD. PEARLAND, TX |

MISSION STATEMENT

At Challenger Elementary, we ALL share the responsibility of providing a safe environment, where ALL students will grow academically, socially, emotionally, and physically.

SCHOOL DAY 7:55-3:15

Upon arrival at school, all students will sit in the main hallway where they are to study or read under supervision until 7:30 a.m. At 7:30, students will be escorted to their grade level hallways. The tardy bell rings at 7:55 a.m., if students are not in their seats when this bell rings, they are considered tardy. **Students should not be brought to school before 7:15 a.m. Monitors are not on duty before 7:15 a.m.** Hughes Ranch Rd. is a very busy road in the mornings. Please ensure that your child does not arrive to the crosswalk before the cross guard is on duty. The Crossing Guards will not be on duty until 7:15 a.m. At specified times students will be crossed.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is taken at 10:00 a.m. If the student has an appointment, please try to schedule it at a time other than the attendance time to avoid loss of valuable instructional time.

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** in order 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.

In the event of illness of a student, a written excuse from the parent is required within three days. The note should be given to the teacher upon the child's arrival at school following the absence. Each student is allowed parent notes for five days per semester. After the fifth day, parent notes will be counted as unexcused absences.

At Challenger Elementary, **a student is tardy after 7:55 a.m. and must be signed in by an adult.** All children must be encouraged to arrive at school and class on time. Tardiness is a matter of habit and once formed is very difficult to break. Three tardies or early check outs a 9 weeks will prohibit a student from receiving an annual perfect attendance award. Parents will be notified if tardiness is persistent. Please see the Texas Education Code and Pearland ISD Student Handbook references to attendance, below:

Texas Education Code

Sec. 25.085. COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE. (a) A child who is required to attend school under this section shall attend school each school day for the entire period the program of instruction is provided.

Sec. 25.087. EXCUSED ABSENCES (this section details reasons an absence may be excused)

Pearland ISD Student Handbook

Pg. 25 "Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student's mastery of the instructional materials; therefore, the student and parent should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences."

Pg. 27 "School employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent without permission from school; from any class; from required special programs, such as additional special instruction termed "accelerated instruction" by the state; or from required tutorials will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action."

Pg. 28 "A court of law may also impose penalties against a student's parent if a school-aged student is deliberately not attending school."

Pg. 29 "Please note that, unless the absence is for a statutorily allowed reason under compulsory attendance laws, the district is not required to excuse any absence."

SCHOOL SAFETY

Parents should urge their children to exercise safety precautions at all times in their play, in their journey to and from school, and while at school. For safety reasons, parents driving their children to school are requested to load and unload them from **one single lane of traffic in the front of the school only**. Additionally, **please do not pass other cars in the drop off line**. Do not park and leave cars unattended along the red marked curbing in front of the school. A crossing guard is on duty from 7:15 a.m. until 7:55 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. each school day.

Any student riding a bicycle to school should place it in the designated area. Students should secure their bicycles since the school is not responsible for damage or theft. No motorized vehicles are allowed. Any time you visit the school or check your child out of school, you will be required to present your driver's license/Valid I.D. For your child's safety, anyone picking up a student must be on the emergency card or the child will not be released. You are encouraged to update the emergency card as needed.

DISMISSAL DURING SCHOOL HOURS

If you change your child's routine of going home, please write a note to the teacher advising them of **the change**. Also, we ask that students not be picked up early except in case of an emergency (**NOT MERELY FOR CONVENIENCE**). **The last check out time will be 2:30 P.M.** All messages regarding going home changes must be received by 2:35 P.M. to ensure delivery before school is dismissed.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES- 3:15 PM

Nothing is more precious than our children, and we must work together to ensure their safety. Rules and procedures are in place to protect them. Thanks so much for your willingness to work with us to keep all of our students safe.

Parents are not allowed to walk up to the school to pick up their child for dismissal.

Walkers and Bikers

- If your child is a north walker, you will need to stay across the street.
- If your child is a south walker, you will meet at the end of the Challenger property line.
- You may not park in the teacher parking lot. Students will not be allowed to cross the parking lot to get in a parked car.
- Teachers will walk your child across the street and you can get them from there.
- All PreK/Kinder students must have an adult present in order for them to be released. If no adult is there to get them, they will be escorted back to the office and the parent will be contacted.

Car Riders

- Parents should remain in their cars in line. DO NOT park in the parking lot.
- Parents should post their number card (given by the principal) in their front window.
- Parents will be instructed to go to an orange cone with a number on it. Your child will walk to the cone and get into the car.

Bus Riders

- You must live greater than two miles from the school in order to receive free bus service. For information on bus pick up/ drop off stops and times log on to www.pearlandisd.org.
- If you live within two miles of the school, the transportation department will provide bus service at a fee. **See the chart below.**
- Good student behavior on the bus is very important for the safe transportation of the children to and from school. If the bus driver feels a student's behavior is too disruptive and the student does not respond to the driver's effort to discipline him/her, the driver will send a discipline report home to the parent. **Upon receipt of the second discipline report, the student may lose bus riding privileges. The district has the authority to discipline and revoke a student's transportation privilege. Bus concerns need to be directed to the transportation department.**

| Regular | Reduced Meals | Free Meals |
|---|---|---|
| \$640 for one child per year | \$320 for one child per year | \$160 for one child per year |
| \$740 for two children per year | \$370 for two children per year | \$190 for two children per year |
| \$840 for three or more children per year | \$420 for three or more children per year | \$210 for three or more children per year |

RAINY DAY PROCEDURES

Due to the large number of parents that work and are unable to get their child and depend on their child to walk or bike home, we will release all bikers and walkers unless there is thunder and lightning. **If you do not want your child to walk or bike in the rain, it is your responsibility to call the school by 2:30 PM to put your child in the parent pick up line.**

REPORTING TO PARENTS

Kinder – Fourth Grade: Students will be issued a computerized report card each nine weeks. Honor Roll will be posted on the Pearland ISD website to recognize students for outstanding achievement.

MAKE-UP WORK

If a student has an excused absence, the teacher will determine the need for make-up work. If a student is absent for more than three days, the school will provide make-up work to be done at home upon parent request. Parents may request make-up work by calling the school office before 8:15 a.m. to pick up the work after 3:15 p.m.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Should you have the need for a conference with your child's teacher, please send the teacher an email.

E- MAIL GUIDELINES/ PHONE MESSAGES

In order to better serve you and ensure your child's rights to confidentiality, the following guidelines will be followed. Teachers may respond to parent emails before school, during their conference period, or after school. In some instances the teacher may request a conference by phone or email. Please note, during the school week, teachers have 24 hours to respond to parent phone messages and e-mails.

SCHOOL PARTIES

There are two authorized school parties during the school year, a Winter party and an End of Year party. Teachers will work with their room parent to organize these parties and will ask for items to be donated. Parents are invited to attend the Winter/Holiday party and the End of the Year party/celebration. While we understand these are meaningful events, school-aged friends and siblings, including those exempt from finals, are not permitted to attend campus events during the school day. There will be no birthday parties in the classrooms or at school. Birthday party invitations may be sent home from school IF every student in the class (or every boy/girl) is receiving an invitation. For birthdays, parents can send doughnuts, cupcakes, or cookies **ONLY** to the office and will be passed out at the teacher's discretion.

CAFETERIA

Breakfast and lunch are served in the Challenger cafeteria on each school day. Breakfast is served from 7:30 until 7:50. Lunch is served from 10:30 – 12:55 with classes going at intervals. Lunch and/or breakfast may be purchased in advance or on a daily cash basis. When paying advance payment, the child should bring the payment, cash or check, to the cafeteria manager upon arrival at school in the morning. The payment should be in an envelope with the child's name and teacher's name on it. **When writing a check, you must put your driver's license number on the check and your child's name on the memo line of your check.** Your cancelled check will be your receipt. When possible we encourage the **parents** to pay your child's account on-line at www.parentonline.net/public/login.aspx . **No charges will be allowed.** If your child does not have money, they will be given a cheese sandwich with milk. A note from the cafeteria will be sent home with your child when more money is needed. Below is a schedule of lunch/breakfast prices:

Breakfast

| Student Breakfast | Student Lunch |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Free \$0.00 | Free \$0.00 |
| Reduced \$0.00 | Reduced \$0.40 |
| Paid\$1.45 | Paid \$2.50 |

LUNCH WITH YOUR CHILD

We welcome you to come and enjoy lunch with your child beginning the day after Labor Day. This will give our lunch monitors time to teach our cafeteria procedures. You and your child may eat in the PTA room as the stage will be used for other school activities. Lunch visitors must refrain from taking additional students to the PTA room. We also ask that lunch visitors refrain from buying/giving food to a student that is not your child for safety reasons, and that you refrain from taking photos or videos of students that are not your child. Please say your goodbyes at the end of your child's lunch time. Visitors should not walk back to the classroom with the class but should report directly to the front office to check out. Food deliveries from third parties such as Uber Eats are not allowed for students. Parents can drop off lunch for their student with the front office. Please keep in mind that we will be closed to lunch visitors until after Labor Day as well as the last two weeks of the school year. In addition to these closed campus days, we will also be closed to lunch visitors on campus testing days throughout the school year. Information on closed campus testing days will be shared in the Eagle Express throughout the school year.

SEVERE WEATHER AND DRILLS

In case of emergency or inclement weather, tune in to local news, district Facebook page, E-News, Twitter, district web site www.pearlandisd.org or www.SafeSchoolAlerts.org. A Connect Ed message or Skyward e-mail may also be sent from the district to inform you as well. Emergency drills will be practiced by the students once a month.

MEDICATION DISBURSEMENT

If possible, all medication should be given by the parents at home. However, if the student needs to take medication during school hours, medication should be dispensed according to the following guidelines:

1. Written permission and specific directions must be signed by a parent or guardian. Directions must include student's name, dates, time to be given, and name of medication.
2. Prescription and non-prescription medication must be in the original container.
3. If prescription and/or non-prescription drugs are to be administered or kept at school for longer than ten (10) days, a written request must be received from a physician.
4. The student should not carry the medication with him/her or administer it to himself. The nurse will supervise the storing and dispensing of medicine.

EMERGENCY FIRST AID CARE

Any treatment given at school is limited to first aid. When a student becomes ill or is injured at school, parents are notified. If they cannot be reached and the situation requires medical attention beyond our resources, it may be necessary to send the child to a hospital emergency service for needed care until the parents can be reached.

Parents should supply the school with information concerning special health problems, as well as how they may be reached and the family physician's name and phone number. The name of a friend or relative who might be contacted when we are not able to reach parents has proven very helpful. Parents are responsible for emergency care costs. The district is not responsible for costs of treating injuries and cannot assume liability for any other costs associated with an injury (FFD LEGAL).

Please inform the school of work or home phone number changes.

PERSONAL ITEMS

Students should not bring large amounts of money or valuables to school. Students must leave their personal toys at home. Toys are not allowed at school unless a teacher gives permission for a particular event. During the school year students misplace some personal items, such as clothing. When found, these items are placed in the **lost and found**. At the end of each semester anything remaining in the lost and find will be donated. Valuable items such as watches and glasses will be turned in to the office.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND CELL PHONES

On June 20, 2025, Governor Greg Abbott signed into law a ban on the use of personal communication devices by students during school hours in Texas. The Pearland ISD School Board adopted a policy banning the use of personal communication devices during school hours. Personal Communication Devices are any electronic device capable of telecommunication or digital communication.

This includes (but is not limited to):

- Cell phones such as a smartphone or flip phone
- Laptop
- Tablet
- Smartwatch
- Smart glasses
- Paging device
- Headphones/Earbuds

Exceptions include:

- Devices provided by schools to students for instructions.
- Devices necessary to implement an individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504.
- Devices for a student with a documented need based on the directive from a qualified physician.
- Devices necessary to comply with a health or safety requirement imposed by law or as a part of the district's or school's safety protocols.

Violations will follow a progressive discipline process, which may include : confiscation of the device, parent/guardian pick-up only, detention or in-school suspension (ISS) for repeated violations, and possible loss of device privileges on campus

Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources

To prepare students for an increasingly technological society, the district has made an investment in the use of district-owned technology resources for instructional purposes; specific resources may be issued individually to students. Use of these technological resources, which include the district's network systems and use of district equipment, is restricted to approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign a user agreement (separate from this handbook) regarding use of these district resources. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources

Students are prohibited from sending, posting, accessing, or displaying electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition applies to conduct off school property, whether the equipment used to send such messages is district-owned or personally owned, if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content, commonly referred to as sexting, will be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct and may, in certain circumstances, be reported to law enforcement.

Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content, commonly referred to as sexting, will be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct, may be required to complete an educational program related to the dangers of this type of behavior, and, in certain circumstances, may be reported to law enforcement. Because engaging in this type of behavior can lead to bullying or harassment, as well as possibly impede future endeavors of a student, we encourage you to review with your child

<http://beforeyoutext.com>, a state-developed program that addresses the consequences of engaging in inappropriate behavior using technology.

In addition, any student who engages in conduct that results in a breach of the district's computer security will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, and, in some cases, the consequence may rise to the level of expulsion.

SUPPLIES

Each child is responsible for furnishing his/her own dispensable school supplies. These supplies will vary from grade to grade.

DRESS CODE

Pearland ISD has a student dress code. The dress code guidelines can be accessed online at www.pearlandisd.org. Please adhere to the dress code. We appreciate your support.

WITHDRAWALS

Any student moving from the district should have his/her parents come to school to withdraw them. Textbooks and library books must be returned and all records must be cleared before the student may withdraw.

STUDENT RECORDS

A student's school records are confidential and are protected from unauthorized inspection or use. A cumulative record is maintained for each student from the time the student enters the district until the student withdraws or graduates. This record moves with the student from school to school.

Parents have the right to access student records and to determine whether directory information will be released to the public or remain confidential. A parent whose rights have been legally terminated will be denied access to the records if the school is given a copy of the court order terminating these rights.

COUNSELOR

Challenger Elementary has a full time counselor on staff that would be glad to talk to you about counseling services for your child. Please contact the counselor if you are concerned with your child's emotional or mental well-being or if you think your child is abusing illegal or prohibited substances.

RECESS

A safe and well-supervised recess offers cognitive, social, emotional, and physical benefits. Each day, all students are scheduled to receive a 30 minute recess consisting of free play. Please send your child with a cap or apply sunscreen at home before school. The school will not provide sunscreen nor will the teachers apply sunscreen during the school day. A water bottle is acceptable.

LIBRARY

Students are encouraged to use the library. They will be taken to the library on a regular basis. Any library materials lost or damaged will be paid for by the student.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The P.T.A. asks each parent to join and support the local unit of Challenger Elementary. Membership applications will be sent home to parents by the P.T.A.

TOBACCO FREE DISTRICT

Pearland ISD declared our schools "Tobacco Free." No employee or visitor may use tobacco on our campus. We hope this will help set an example for our students not to begin a practice which could be detrimental to their health in the future.

DRUG FREE SCHOOL

We have an ongoing program in our school which endorses the Texas Education Agency's declaration that:

"The use of illicit drugs and unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful."

Challenger Elementary

Receipt of Student Handbook

I acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Challenger Elementary Student Handbook 2023-2024. I have read and understand the procedures contained within the handbook and agree to abide by them.

The information in this handbook is subject to change as situations warrant. I understand that changes in the procedures may modify or eliminate the procedures summarized in this booklet. I accept responsibility for keeping informed of these changes.

My child and I have been offered the option to receive a paper copy or to electronically access a copy at www.pearlandisd.org under Challenger Elementary. I understand that the handbook contains information that my child and I may need during the school year and that all students will be held accountable for their behavior. All students will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

- ☐ I have received a paper copy of the Challenger Student Handbook which was issued to me on _____ (date).
- ☐ I accept responsibility for accessing the Challenger Student Handbook by visiting the web address listed above.

Student Name

Classroom Teacher

Parent Signature

Date

