



Danville
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Students • Staff • Families • Community



Activ8 STEM Academy
Student and Family Handbook

2025-2026

Introduction

Welcome to Activ8 STEM Academy! We are thrilled to embark on a new academic year filled with endless possibilities, growth, and success. As we open our doors to families and students, we extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to each and every one of you.

At Activ8 STEM Academy, we believe in the power of education to transform lives. Our dedicated team of educators and staff are committed to providing an enriching and nurturing environment where students can thrive academically, emotionally, and socially. Together, we will inspire a love for learning, foster curiosity, and develop the skills necessary for future success.

As we embark on this educational journey, we encourage students and families to actively engage in the school community. By fostering strong partnerships between home and school, we can create an environment that supports and uplifts our students. We value open communication, collaboration, and teamwork.

Throughout the school year, we will strive to create a safe and inclusive space that celebrates diversity and respects individuality. Activ8 STEM Academy embraces the unique strengths and talents of each student, fostering an atmosphere where they can discover their passions and explore new horizons.

As you navigate this student and family handbook, you will find essential information, policies, and procedures that will help guide your journey at Activ8 STEM Academy. We encourage you to familiarize yourselves with the contents of this handbook, as it serves as a valuable resource for our shared educational experience.

We are excited to embark on this incredible journey together, and we look forward to witnessing the growth and achievements of each and every student. The 2025-2026 school year promises to be a year of boundless opportunities, and we are thrilled to have you as part of the Activ8 STEM Academy family.

Welcome to a year of learning, discovery, and endless possibilities!

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Activ8 STEM Academy
We are the Microbots: Small Robots with Big Dreams

Elementary/Middle Handbook
General Information for Students and Parents

School Contact Information

Operating Hours - 7:45 am - 3:45 pm Phone Number - 434 - 441 - 9016	Address - 825 Piney Forest Road https://www.danvillepublicschool.org/Activ8
Student Arrival - 8:15 Tardy Bell: 8:30	Student Departure: 3:30 Tardy Bell: 3:45

Faculty and Staff - 2024 - 2025

Brittany Scott Instructional Supervisor	Tabitha Cash Assistant Instructional Supervisor
Schwaan Rowell Grade 3 ELA	Amy Hoskins Grade 3 STEM
Nancy Brown Grade 4 ELA	Brittany Preston Grade 4 STEM
Geme Comecilla Grade 5 ELA	Martinique Williams Grade 5 Science/ Social Studies
Arketa Washington Grade 5 Math	Carrie Nelson Grade 6 ELA
Jessica Hicks Grade 6 Math	Michelle Darling Grade 6 Science/ Social Studies
Alysha Walker Grade 7 ELA	Stephanie Wray Grade 7 Math
Jessica Pruitt Grade 7 Science	April Schill-Booth Health and Physical Education
Melissa Berkley Media Innovation Specialist	Aanessa McKain Academic Intervention Specialist
Lorenzo Holland	Beth deAristizabal

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Music - Band	Counselor
Daniela Bonnet	Sarah Gauldin
Spanish	ITRT
Michelle Strader	Rebecca Mulwee
Special Education	Visual Arts
Carol Boaz	Sarah Brogden
Academically Gifted	Theatre
John Owusu	Tiffany Mumford
Math 180	Visual Arts
Daniela Bonnet	Sarah Owen
English Learners/Spanish I	SEL Paraprofessional
Shannon Poole	Sherry Farmer
Office Manager - Bookkeeper	Attendance Clerk
Tammy Reynolds	Tricia Payne
Nurse	Cafeteria Manager
Audrey Parker	Demita Lewis
Cafeteria Staff	Cafeteria Staff
Ronald Pierce	Terry Linder
School Safety Officer	Head Custodian
Donald Stokes	Carolyn Cherry
Custodian	Custodian

School History

Activ8 STEM Academy, an esteemed elementary & middle school, is proud to announce its third year in operation for the 2025-2026 school year. As an institution dedicated to STEM education, Activ8 aims to provide young minds with a solid foundation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. With a team of passionate educators and professionals, Activ8 STEM Academy is committed to inspiring and nurturing students' curiosity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Through immersive and hands-on learning experiences, the academy strives to ignite a lifelong love for STEM subjects, preparing students for a future enriched with knowledge and possibilities. Activ8 STEM Academy is excited to embark on this educational journey and create a nurturing environment where young learners can thrive and excel.

School Mission Statement

Our mission is to inspire a love of learning by cultivating curiosity and creativity. We are committed to creating a learning environment for all students to excel. Providing an intellectually engaging curriculum, we aim to empower our students to become lifelong learners who are well-prepared for the challenges of the future.

School Vision Statement

We strive to create a community of problem-solvers who are passionate about exploring new ideas, collaborating with others, and using their knowledge to make a positive impact on the world. Through our rigorous curriculum, engaging teaching methods, and supportive learning environment, we aim to inspire the next generation of leaders.

Pledge

Activ8, Activ8, we're on the move
Learning and exploring, there's so much to prove
STEM is our passion, our minds are set
To innovate, create, and never forget

With Microbots as our guide,
We'll explore new frontiers each day,
And with passion as our drive,
We'll make an impact in every way.

Activ8, Activ8, our future is bright
We'll lead the way, with all our might
In STEM we'll excel, and light the way
Activ8, Activ8, let's seize the day!

School Slogan

We are the Microbots: Small Robots with Big Dreams

District Mission Statement

The mission of Danville Public Schools is to inspire, educate, and develop students, in collaboration with families and the community, to ensure students graduate college and/or career ready.

District Vision Statement

We envision a school division that cultivates excellence for all.

District Belief Statements

1. We believe all students should have equitable access to learning, such that they enter Kindergarten ready to learn and graduate high school on time.
2. We believe in using data to make decisions for continuous improvement involving all stakeholders.
3. We believe that all staff and students should promote positive and engaging learning environments.
4. We believe in collaborating and communicating with the community to create learning opportunities that are an extension of the classroom experience.
5. We believe in celebrating success.

DPS Policy 3135.00 states “Acceptable use is defined as appropriate use that is consistent with the mission of Danville Public Schools, to include instruction, research for educational purposes and to conduct the business of the school division. Students and staff are prohibited from using the Division’s computer equipment and electronic resources for sending, viewing, or downloading illegal or inappropriate written, photographic, or video material from the Internet or individual sources. Doing so is a violation of the DPS Acceptable Use Policy and may result in the loss of use privileges for any faculty, staff or student.” Please refer to the full policy for additional details.

The School Board provides a computer system, including the internet, to promote educational excellence by facilitating learning, resource sharing, innovation and communication. The term computer system includes, but is not limited to, hardware, software, data, communication lines and devices, terminals, display devices, printers, CD, DVD and other media devices, tape or flash drives, storage devices, servers, mainframe and personal computers, tablets, laptops, telephones, cameras, projectors, interactive whiteboards/panels, audio-visual equipment, multimedia devices, workstations, remote network access, cloud services, the internet and other electronic services and internal or external networks. This includes any device that may be connected to or used to connect to the school division’s network or electronically stored division material.

All use of the division’s computer system must be (1) in support of education and/or research, or (2) for legitimate division business. Use of the computer system is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use may result in cancellation of those privileges, disciplinary action, and/or legal action. Any communication or material generated using the computer system, including electronic mail, social media posts, instant or text messages, tweets, and other files, including communications and materials deleted from a user’s account, may be monitored, read, and/or archived by division staff

This policy applies to all users of the division’s computer system. By using or accessing the computer system, the user agrees to abide by this policy.

The superintendent or superintendent designee is responsible for establishing Technology Use Guidelines, containing the appropriate uses, ethics, and protocols for use of the computer system. It is the user’s responsibility to know and follow this policy and the Technology Use Guidelines.

The guidelines include:

- (1) a prohibition against use by division employees and students of the division’s computer equipment and communications services for sending, receiving, viewing or downloading illegal material via the internet;
- (2) provisions, including the selection and operation of a technology protection measure for the division’s computers having internet access to filter or block Internet access through such computers, that seek to prevent access to:
 - (a) child pornography as set out in Va. Code § 18.2-374.1:1 or as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256;
 - (b) obscenity as defined by Va. Code § 18.2-372 or 18 U.S.C. § 1460; and

- (c) material that the school division deems to be harmful to juveniles as defined in Va. Code § 18.2-390, material that is harmful to minors as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(7)(G), and material that is otherwise inappropriate for minors;
- (3) provisions establishing that the technology protection measure is enforced during any use of the division's computers;
- (4) provisions establishing that all usage of the computer system may be monitored;
- (5) provisions designed to educate students and employees about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with students and other individuals on social networking websites, blogs, in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response;
- (6) provisions designed to prevent unauthorized online access by minors, including "hacking" and other unlawful online activities.;
- (7) provisions requiring every user to protect the security of information necessary to access the computer system, such as usernames and passwords, and prohibiting the sharing of passwords;
- (8) provisions prohibiting the unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of photographs and/or personal information of or regarding minors; and
- (9) a component of internet safety for students that is integrated in the division's instructional program.

Use of the school division's computer system shall be consistent with the educational or instructional mission or administrative function of the division as well as the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of students.

The division's computer system is not a public forum.

Users of the division's computer system have no expectation of privacy for use of the division's resources or electronic devices including non-division owned devices while connected to division networks or computer resources.

Software and/or services may not be installed or downloaded on the division's computer system without the prior approval of the superintendent or superintendent's designee.

No employee or agent of the School Board or person or entity contracting with the School Board may download or use any application, including TikTok or WeChat, or access any website developed by ByteDance Ltd. Or Tencent Holdings Ltd. (i) on any device or equipment issued, owned, or leased by the School Board, including mobile phones, desktop computers, laptop computers, tablets, or other devices capable of connecting to the Internet.

The failure of any user to follow the terms of this policy or the Technology Use Guidelines may result in loss of computer system privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action. Users of the system agree to indemnify the School Board for any losses, costs, or damages relating to or arising out of any violation of this policy or the Technology Use Guidelines.

The failure of any user to follow the terms of the Agreement, this policy or the Technology Use Guidelines may result in loss of computer system privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.

The school board is not responsible for any information that may be lost, damaged or unavailable when using the computer system or for any information retrieved via the Internet. Furthermore, the school board is not responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the computer system.

The school board will review, amend if necessary, and approve this policy every two years.

ACCEPTABLE COMPUTER SYSTEM USE - REGULATION

Computer System Use-Terms and Conditions:

1. **Acceptable Use:** Access to the Division's computer system shall be (1) for the purposes of education or research and be consistent with the educational objectives of the Division or (2) for legitimate school business.
2. **Privilege:** The use of the Division's computer system is a privilege, not a right.
3. **Unacceptable Use:** Each user is responsible for his or her actions on the computer system. Prohibited conduct includes but is not limited to:
 - using the network for any illegal or unauthorized activity, including violation of copyright or contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any federal, state, or local law.
 - sending, receiving, viewing, or downloading illegal material via the computer system.
 - unauthorized downloading of software.
 - using the computer system for private financial or commercial purposes.
 - wastefully using resources, such as file space.
 - gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities.
 - posting material created by another without his or her consent.
 - submitting, posting, publishing, or displaying any obscene, profane, threatening, illegal, or other inappropriate material.
 - using the computer system while access privileges are suspended or revoked.
 - vandalizing the computer system, including destroying data by creating or spreading viruses or by other means.
 - intimidating, harassing, bullying, or coercing others.
 - threatening illegal or immoral acts.
4. **Network Etiquette:** Each user is expected to abide by generally accepted rules of etiquette, including the following:
 - be polite.
 - users shall not forge, intercept or interfere with electronic mail messages.
 - use appropriate language. The use of obscene, lewd, profane, threatening, or disrespectful language is prohibited.

- users shall not post personal information other than directory information as defined in Policy JO Student Records about themselves or others.
 - users shall respect the computer system's resource limits.
 - users shall not post chain letters or download large files.
 - users shall not use the computer system to disrupt others.
 - users shall not modify or delete data owned by others.
5. **Liability:** The School Board makes no warranties for the computer system it provides. The School Board shall not be responsible for any damages to the user from the use of the computer system, including loss of data, non-delivery or missed delivery of information, or service interruptions. The School Division denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the computer system. The user agrees to indemnify the School Board for any losses, costs, or damages incurred by the School Board relating to or arising out of any violation of these procedures.
 6. **Security:** Computer system security is a high priority for the school division. If any user identifies a security problem, the user shall notify the building principal or system administrator immediately. All users shall keep their passwords confidential and shall follow computer virus protection procedures.
 7. **Vandalism:** Intentional destruction of or interference with any part of the computer system through creating or downloading computer viruses or by any other means is prohibited. The user agrees to indemnify the School Board for any losses, costs, or damages incurred by the School Board relating to or arising out of any violation of these procedures.
 8. **Charges:** The School Division assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees as a result of using the computer system, including telephone, data, or long-distance charges.
 9. **Electronic Mail:** The School Division's electronic mail system is owned and controlled by the School Division. The School Division may provide electronic mail to aid students and staff in fulfilling their duties and as an education tool. Electronic mail is not private. Students' electronic mail will be monitored. The electronic mail of staff may be monitored and accessed by the School Division. All electronic mail may be archived. Unauthorized access to an electronic mail account by any student or employee is prohibited. Users may be held responsible and personally liable for the content of any electronic message they create or that is created under their account or password. Downloading any file attached to an electronic message is prohibited unless the user is certain of that message's authenticity and the nature of the file.
 10. **Enforcement:** Software will be installed on the division's computers having Internet access to filter or block internet access through such computers to child pornography and obscenity. The online activities of users may also be monitored manually. Any violation of these regulations shall result in loss of computer system privileges and may also result in appropriate disciplinary action, as determined by School Board policy, or legal action.

11. Social Networking

General Concerns

The Danville Public School division recognizes the proliferation and, in some instances, usefulness, of online conversation between teachers and students and/or their parents or guardians. However, due to the nature of social networking sites, there exists a risk, without care and planning, that the lines between one's professional life and personal life will be blurred. Staff should always be mindful of how they present themselves to the world, online and otherwise. Should an educator "friend" a student on Facebook, subscribe to a student's "Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, or other social media" accounts, regularly engage in email "chat" with a student, exchange text messages with students, or engage in other electronic communication, the school district is concerned, and the educator should be concerned, that such activities may undermine the educator's authority to maintain discipline, encourage inappropriate behaviors, and compromise the educator's ability to remain truly objective with his or her students.

In addition, any online communication using one's own personal resources, as opposed to school district resources, compromises the teacher's, as well as the school district's, ability to retain public records in accordance with the requirements of the Commonwealth's public records laws. The law requires public employees who send, receive or maintain records in their capacity as public employees, to retain, disclose and dispose of such records in compliance with strict provisions of the public records law. This law applies whether or not the record is in the form of a paper document or an electronic communication. When staff members communicate through school-based resources, such as staff email or school-sponsored websites, such records are retained and archived through the school's information technology department. If, however, a teacher communicates outside of these resources, such information is not retained. The burden falls on the teacher to comply with public records laws when using personal email or social network accounts to communicate with students and/or parents and guardians.

Expectations of Staff

- Personal communication, including personal email accounts, social media, and texting with students of Danville Public Schools may be construed as inappropriate.
- Do not post obscenities, slurs, or personal attacks that can damage the reputation of Danville Public Schools.
- Danville Public Schools' employees have no right of privacy in data stored on or communicated sent via school-owned computers, devices, or networks.
- School employees will identify themselves and their positions truthfully and conduct themselves professionally.
- It is prohibited to post confidential information regarding students, parents/guardians, and other school division employees on social media. Posting pictures of Danville Public School students on personal social media sites is also prohibited.
- Employees of Danville Public Schools should be aware that they are responsible for the content they post and that information, even if deleted, has a digital footprint forever.
- Do not infringe on copyrights or trademarks. Illegal use of copyrighted material is prohibited.
- Do not post on social media sites during the school day using your personal telephone or other forms of technology.

- The school division has the right to monitor an employee's use of social media that is public.
- Online activity, even if personal or seemingly private, may be viewed by students, parents/guardians, colleagues, and others as offensive or inappropriate content and could result in professional repercussions.
- Behavior inconsistent with school division nondiscrimination and harassment policies and confidentiality policies is forbidden.
- It is prohibited to use social media for personal reasons during the school/work day.

12. Acknowledgment: Parents, students, and staff must sign the Acceptable Computer System Use Acknowledgment form (IIBEA-R1).

Accident/ Illness/ Injuries

Any accident, injury or illness which occurs on school property must be immediately reported to the principal. This is essential for medical and insurance purposes.

Every effort shall be made to immediately contact the parent or guardian. If they cannot be reached, the student will be transported by appropriate means to emergency treatment. This action on the part of any school personnel does not obligate the personnel or the schools to assume financial responsibility for the treatment of the child. Under no circumstances shall the student be permitted to leave school alone. The principal shall report serious incidents to the office of the Superintendent.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

The Danville City Public School division does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs or activities. Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in a program or activity sponsored by the school need to contact the principal at least 48 hours prior to the date of the activity so that the proper arrangements may be made.

Artificial Intelligence

The Danville Public School Board recognizes the benefits of using Artificial Intelligence Software (AIS) in classrooms for both educators and students. The School Board allows teachers, students, and administrators to use AIS to improve instruction and educational processes. This policy ensures that AIS is used responsibly and ethically, protecting the privacy, safety, and well-being of all users. The superintendent or superintendent designee is responsible for creating an administrative regulation outlining the proper and ethical use of AIS.

Definitions:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to computer systems that can perform tasks requiring human intelligence, such as visual perception, decision-making, and speech recognition.
- Artificial Intelligence Software (AIS) is any software or application that uses AI algorithms and techniques to enhance teaching and learning experiences.

Guidelines for the Use of Artificial Intelligence Software (AIS) Regulation

Below are the guidelines that school leaders, teachers, and students should follow to ensure safe and effective utilization of AIS.

District Leader Responsibilities:

1. The DPS Curriculum and Instruction Department and Information Technology Department will provide an approved list of AIS by August 1 annually.
2. The DPS Curriculum and Instruction Department and Information Technology Department will provide training to teachers and school leaders regarding effective use of AIS.

School Leader Responsibilities:

1. School leaders must receive training and professional development to use AIS effectively in the classroom.
2. To use AIS, school leaders must use a AIS from the approved list. Share the approved list with staff during back-to-school facility meetings and school onboarding with all new staff. If a program is not on the list, obtain approval from the DPS Curriculum and Instruction Department and Information Technology Department and make sure it aligns with the curriculum objectives while maintaining student privacy and data protection (Form IIBF-R1).
3. They should also be transparent with students, parents, guardians, and staff about how AIS is being used, what data is being collected, and how it will be used.

Teacher Responsibilities:

1. Teachers must receive training and professional development to use AIS in the classroom effectively.
2. They should select AIS that aligns with the curriculum objectives, promotes critical thinking, and respects student privacy and data protection.
3. Teachers must also monitor and evaluate the performance of AIS to ensure that it remains accurate, reliable, and unbiased.

Student Responsibilities:

1. Students should only use AI software as directed by their teachers and for educational purposes.
2. They must respect the terms of use and privacy policies associated with AIS and refrain from unauthorized access, modification, or misuse.
3. Students are encouraged to ask questions and seek guidance from teachers or administrators regarding AIS to ensure responsible and effective use.

4. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary action at the classroom and/or building level.

Privacy and Data Protection:

1. Prior written consent from parents or guardians is required for students under 18 to use AIS (Form IIBF-R2).
2. The collection, storage, and processing of student data through AIS must comply with relevant privacy laws and regulations, including FERPA.
3. The DPS Information Technology Department will implement appropriate security measures to protect student data from unauthorized access, disclosure, alteration, or destruction.
4. Any data shared with AIS providers must be done by legally binding agreements that safeguard student privacy.
5. AIS used in DPS should provide clear information about the data collected, its use, and the purposes for which AI algorithms are employed.
6. Regular audits and reviews of AIS should be conducted by the DPS Information Technology Department to ensure compliance with privacy and data protection standards.

Ethical Considerations:

1. AIS must be regularly monitored for potential biases and discriminatory outcomes, especially regarding student evaluation, grading, or recommendations.
2. Teachers and administrators must be cautious when using AIS to ensure that it does not perpetuate stereotypes or discriminate against any student based on race, gender, or socioeconomic status.
3. The use of AIS shall not replace teachers' professional judgment and expertise. Teachers shall educate students about the capabilities and limitations of AIS, empowering them to make informed decisions and critically evaluate the outputs generated.

Compliance and Monitoring:

1. All users of AIS within DPS must adhere to this policy, relevant laws, regulations, and district policies.
2. Non-compliance with this policy may result in disciplinary action in compliance with student CORES and Code of Professionalism.

References:

- US Department Office of Educational Technology: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Teaching and Learning
- VASCD Position Paper

Attendance

Absences - **Please Read Carefully**

School attendance is directly related to academic achievement and the development of good habits which are important in the world of work. Optimum student attendance is a cooperative effort and the Board expects parents and students to take an active role in accepting the responsibility for good attendance.

Each parent/guardian having charge of a child within the compulsory attendance age shall be responsible for such child's regular and punctual attendance at school as required under provisions of the law. If your child is absent, a note **must** be sent to school prior to or immediately after the absence explaining the nature of the absence. The Compulsory Attendance Law requires that parents communicate with the school that they are aware of and supports the student's absence. If there is no communication, the absence will be considered unexcused. An accumulation of unexcused absences could result in a Child In Need of Supervision, CHINS Petition being filed with the Juvenile and Domestic Court and/or Criminal charges (class 3 misdemeanor) being filed against the parent.

Again this school year, we are required to call the homes of students who are absent each day. Our goal is to work collaboratively with parents to ensure that every student has regular school attendance. Parents are encouraged to assist us in this effort by calling the school to inform us of a child's absence. This regulation is to help both of us know that your child is safe, either at home or at school.

Pupil absences for doctor or dental appointments are discouraged. However, if absolutely necessary, the pupil must have a written note from the parent asking that the pupil leave school. A child cannot leave school without parental permission. Pupils must always check out in the office before leaving school, and parents should come to the office to sign and pick up students during the school day.

Regular attendance is essential for good achievement. Please see that your child is in school, on time, every day and remains until the close of the day except in the case of an emergency or illness.

DPS Policy JED states "Each parent/guardian or person having control or charge of a child within the compulsory attendance age is responsible for such child's regular and punctual attendance at school as required under provisions of the law.

Parents of students who are absent must inform the school of the reason for the absence no later than 3 days upon the student's return to school.

Absences are excused for the following reasons:

1. 4-H Educational Program of Activity (maximum 3 school days)
2. Civic Event (1 day per academic year)
3. Court Appearance (required)
4. Death in the family

5. Extenuating circumstances which are determined by the School Personnel
6. Field Trips and/or school authorized activities
7. Illness
8. Religious holiday
9. Pow Wow Federally-recognized tribal nation headquartered in VA (1 per academic year)

Please be advised that each “class” referenced in the policy below refers to each subject at the elementary level.

I. Elementary, Middle, and High Schools

Individual student course credit shall be based upon satisfactory attendance as follows:

Grades K-2

- **Effective August 2024**, students in grades K-2 must attend at least 90 percent of the class days to receive course credit.

Grades 3-5

- **Effective January 2024**, students in grades 3-5 must attend at least 90 percent of the class days to receive course credit.

Grades 6-8

- **Effective January 2024**, students in grades 6-8 must attend at least 90 percent of the class days to receive course credit.

Grades 9-12

- **Effective August 2024**, students in grades 9-12 must attend at least 90 percent of the class days to receive course credit.

It is important to note that all absences, irrespective of being excused or unexcused, are considered when evaluating attendance. In the event that a student's attendance falls below 90%, they will not be eligible to receive credit for the course. However, students can regain their course credit by participating in the division's meaningful engagement options, such as attending Saturday sessions, after-school programs, and/or Summer School.

II. Gradebook

If a student's attendance falls below 90%, they will receive an “AF” marking, equivalent to a 59% grade.

III. Appeals

Level 1:

- If a parent or guardian disagrees with the decision, they may file an appeal. The appeal should be submitted in writing to the principal and include any relevant information the parent or guardian wishes to be considered. The appeal must be received within ten (10) business days of the final grading period.

- The principal will review the appeal and provide a written decision with the rationale within five (5) business days of receiving the appeal notice (Form IGC-R6).

Level 2:

- If the parent or guardian still wishes to appeal after receiving the principal's decision, they may write their appeal to the Superintendent or Chief Operations Officer.

Tardiness and Early Dismissal:

Students are expected to be present regularly except in cases of illness, death in the family, or an extreme reason. Parents need to make every effort to get their child(ren) to school on time and to allow their child(ren) to remain in the classroom until dismissal. A student who is late or who is checked out early does not receive the full benefit of the instructional program. Frequent tardiness and early check-outs may be detrimental to a child's grades and behavior.

Period attendance will be taken, and absences for each class will be considered when making promotion decisions and recommendations for summer school. If a student misses more than 10 percent of any one class period for the year, they will be retained in the same grade for the following year, even if they were present at other times during the day. Please refer to the policy above for more details.

Bicycles

There is no place to store bicycles at Activ8 and are not allowed on school property during school hours. Danville Public Schools shall not be responsible for damaged or stolen bicycles.

Activ8 STEM Academy

We are the Microbots: Small Robots with Big Dreams

Bullying/ Cyberbullying

Repeated negative behaviors, either physical or mental, that target a specific victim can result in suspension. Behaviors may include but are not limited to: threats, verbal and written abuse, physical abuse, harassment, and ethnic or gender slurs targeting a specific victim. Also, behaviors may include the use of information and communication technologies, such as cell phone text messages and pictures, internet email, social networking web sites, defamatory personal websites, and defamatory online personal polling web sites to support deliberate, hostile behavior intended to harm others.

DPS Policy Code JFC details expectations for Student Conduct. Within this policy bullying is prohibited. **"Bullying" means any aggressive and unwanted behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim; involves a real or perceived power imbalance between the aggressor or aggressors and victim; and is repeated over time or causes severe emotional trauma. "Bullying" includes cyber bullying. "Bullying" does not include ordinary teasing, horseplay, argument or peer conflict.**

Cyber-bullying: Cyber-bullying may include sending cruel or threatening messages to students' school email accounts or posting rumors, threats, or negative comments about peers online. Schools have the authority to discipline students for misuse of school system computers, email and Internet services. Schools also have the authority to discipline students for emails or Internet activity that is off school grounds and without using school equipment if the conduct causes serious disruption to the school environment. Acts of bullying should be reported to the classroom teacher, guidance counselor, and/or the principal.

Understanding Bullying: What It Is and What It Is Not

At Activ8 STEM Academy, we are committed to creating a safe and supportive environment for all students. To ensure clarity, it's important to understand what constitutes bullying and what does not. Misusing the term "bullying" can dilute the seriousness of true bullying incidents and create unnecessary conflicts.

What Bullying Is Not:

- 1. Conflict Between Classmates:** Disagreements and conflicts between friends or classmates are a normal part of growing up. These situations involve mutual disagreement or arguments and do not constitute bullying. Effective conflict resolution skills can help students navigate these situations.
- 2. Single Episodes of Social Rejection or Dislike:** Not everyone will get along all the time. Occasional social rejection, such as not being invited to a party, is not considered bullying. However, if social rejection is part of a pattern of exclusion, it may become bullying.
- 3. Acts of Teasing or Name-Calling:** While unkind teasing and name-calling can be hurtful, they do not

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always amount to bullying. It becomes bullying when the behavior is repeated, targeted, and intended to harm or control another person.

4. Arguments or Fights: Physical or verbal fights between students, while serious, are not necessarily bullying. Bullying involves a power imbalance and repeated actions meant to cause distress.

5. Rude or Mean Behavior: Everyone can have a bad day and say or do something rude or mean. Isolated incidents of rudeness or meanness are not bullying unless they become part of a repeated pattern aimed at harming someone.

By distinguishing between normal social challenges and bullying, we can better address each situation appropriately. **True bullying involves repeated, intentional harm where there is an imbalance of power.** Our goal is to ensure that all students feel safe and supported, and that genuine cases of bullying are identified and addressed effectively.

If you have any concerns or need further clarification, please refer to the full bullying policy in this handbook or contact the school administration. We are here to support our students and ensure a positive school experience for everyone.

Bus Safety/ Procedures

Pupils who ride school buses must obey safety rules at all times - staying seated, refraining from loud talking or yelling, keeping hands and arms inside the bus, keeping hands and feet to themselves, keeping the aisle clear, and refraining from any activity that would distract the bus driver. Riding the bus is a privilege and pupils whose behavior creates a safety hazard will be suspended from riding the bus. Any student that is suspended off the bus, the parent and student must come to the school and watch a bus safety video and conduct a conference before the child can return to riding the bus. (See the Danville Public Schools Student Code of Conduct for transportation regulations).

A form which must be completed before a student may ride the bus is located at the back of this handbook.

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Calendar



Academic Calendar 2025-26

July 2025							August 2025							September 2025							October 2025						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2025							December 2025							January 2026							February 2026						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
30																											

March 2026							April 2026							May 2026							June 2026						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
														31	High Schools will run an early release schedule on exam days (May 18-22).												

Cafeteria

All students are provided a free breakfast and lunch each school day. They may bring a bag lunch. Milk, water and other items will be available for purchase during meal service. Additional items can be paid for by sending money or adding money to your child's My Payment Plus account using a debit or credit card. No charging is allowed for additional items purchased from the cafeteria. Adults can purchase items a la carte.

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The cafeteria is a lunch room and also a place where good human relations can be developed. Each student is expected to practice rules of good manners. Some simple rules of courteous behavior which should help make the cafeteria pleasant include:

- **Food should not be exchanged between students.**
- Good dining room manners should be observed at the tables.
- The table and surrounding area should be left as clean and orderly as possible.
- Chairs should be replaced under the table and all paper and milk cartons should be put in the proper containers.
- Students should not solicit food from other students.
- Outside branded food is not allowed in the cafeteria.

For the safety and well-being of all our students and staff, outside food and drink from restaurants are not permitted inside the school building. To maintain a consistent and safe environment, any food purchased from restaurants must be **transferred to generic containers** before being brought into the school. Additionally, meal delivery services are not allowed to deliver food to the school during school hours. These policies help us manage food safety and prevent disruptions to the school day. We appreciate your cooperation in adhering to these guidelines to ensure a safe and orderly environment for everyone at Activ8 STEM Academy.

Lunch Schedule

Grade 3	11:00
Grade 4	11:40
Grade 5	12:30
Grade 6	12:00
Grade 7	12:00

Cell Phones

We will employ a cell phone protocol, “Unplug 2 Learn” to support our students to refocus their attention on learning. Our goal is to engage our students and support them in their academic success and promote positive social interaction and connections by removing a major barrier, cell phones. Unplug 2 Learn means our students’ cell phones, earbuds, air pods, and all other non-academic electronic devices are to be turned off and remain off during the school day.

The student use of any type of unauthorized electronic or mechanical device that is not part of the instructional program is prohibited during school hours. Video and/or audio recording of staff and/or

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students during the school day or school sponsored activity is prohibited. This shall include, but is not limited to mobile phones, portable musical devices, laser pointers, cameras, laptop computers, MP3 players, iPods, portable DVD players, portable TV's, smart watches, etc.

"Bell to bell" means after the first bell rings at the start of the school day to begin instructional time until the dismissal bell rings at the end of the school day. "Bell to bell" includes lunch and time in between class periods.

"Smart device" means any personal electronic device that can connect to the internet and wirelessly collect, process, and transmit data, including smart watches and tablets.

Cell Phones: Elementary Students (K-5th Grade)

Cellular phones and smart devices are prohibited during school hours. The phones must be turned off and stored out of sight after the first bell or equivalent signifying the beginning of the school day. The phones must remain off until the last bell or equivalent signifying the end of the school day.

Cell Phones: Secondary Students (6th-12th Grade)

Students may use their phones, with personal listening equipment such as earbuds, at after-hour, school sponsored events provided that they do not disturb others or disrupt, or interfere with the events taking place.

Students may use cell phones at designated times and in accordance with the guidelines specified in the following section:

At Activ8 STEM Academy, students in grade 6-7 will follow the same cell phone policy as students in K-5. Cellular phones are prohibited during school hours. The phones must be turned off and stored out of sight after the first bell or equivalent signifying the beginning of the school day. The phones must remain off until the last bell or equivalent signifying the end of the school day.

Cell Phones: Exemptions

Exemptions: Any student who, pursuant to an Individualized Education Plan, Section 504 Plan, individualized health care plan, or Limited English Proficiency plan, is permitted to possess and use a cell phone or smart device on school property, including in the classroom, from bell to bell to monitor or address a health concern or as an accommodation or assistive technology support.

Cell Phones: Consequences

Disciplinary Responses to Cell Phone/Smart Device Violations

- 1st Offense
 - Confiscation of device
 - Parent notification
 - Device returned to parent at end of school day
- 2nd Offense
 - Confiscation of device
 - Parent conference w/ Behavior Agreement developed
 - Device returned to parent at end of school day

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- 3+ Offenses (or any refusal to surrender the device) May be considered violation of Code BS03: Refusal to Comply with Requests of Staff

NOTE: A school administrator may at his/her discretion confiscate the cell phone on any violation of the policy. The refusal to surrender a cell phone at the request of a school administrator shall result in the charge of failing to follow directions with a minimum consequence of a 3-day out-of-school **suspension in addition to other consequences forthcoming from the violation** of the cell phone policy. In the event that the appropriate consequence exceeds the 10-day suspension authority of the school administrator, a recommendation for a long-term suspension may be considered. Confiscated phones are to be safeguarded by the school administrator and may be maintained for the duration of the disciplinary process. Confiscated phones will be returned to a parent/guardian but not prior to the conclusion of the school day.

Consequences for using any electronic device to audio and/or video record students, teachers, and/or staff without permission (PreK-12th Grade)

First Offense - up to 5 day suspension with a call to the parent/guardian

Second Offense- up to 7 days suspension with a call to the parent/guardian

Third Offense - up to 10 days suspension with the recommendation for long-term suspension

Danville Public Schools will not assume responsibility for the loss, destruction, damage, or theft of confiscated items. Lost or stolen electronic devices are an administrative and/or civil issue. A student found using a cellular phone during a testing situation will have the phone immediately confiscated and will lose their cellular phone privileges for the remainder of the school year. Additionally, test results may be rendered invalid in this situation.

Note: Cellular phone violations that also include other violations of the Student CORES are subject to additional and/or more severe interventions/consequences. Finally, as noted previously, in determining which of the disciplinary consequences are most appropriate, the following shall be considered: (a) the nature and seriousness of the violation, (b) the student's age and previous disciplinary record, and (c) any other relevant circumstances.

Change of Address/ Phone Number

Please update the Parent Portal and notify the main office of any change of address or phone number. Changes of address, phone number, or life changes must be submitted in writing. It is extremely important that we have accurate, up-to-date information so that you can be reached in the event of an emergency. Updated contact information (email, home phone, and cell phone) is imperative as the division and schools use the School Messenger Phone System to send out announcements, important school-related information, school closings, and emergency announcements.

Change of Dismissal Plans

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Personal or family emergencies will arise, which will affect your child's regular dismissal routine. Please alert your child's teacher by sending a note with your child to notify the teacher about the change. We will have your child follow their regular dismissal procedure unless you have sent a note to the teacher. Even if someone is listed on the student's emergency contact log, the child will not be released without a note from the parent or guardian. **Identification** is required from anyone picking up a student. **There will be no check outs after 3:15 p.m.** Phone calls will NOT be accepted.

Checkout Procedures

Each child will be checked out via the kiosk documenting who is checking the child in or out, the time, the relationship to the child, and the reason. Only persons designated by the legal parent/guardian with ID or by court order will be allowed to check-out a child. If there is a question regarding the check-out, the parent/guardian will be contacted to verify the person or the child will not be released. All persons checking out a child must remain in the vestibule until the child arrives from class.

Class Parents

The role of the class parent is vital to the success of our classroom community. Below are the key responsibilities and duties of the class parent:

Communicate and Organize Special Events:

- Plan and coordinate activities such as the class holiday party, end-of-year party, and other special events throughout the school year.

Serve as a Liaison:

- Act as a point of contact between the teacher and parents.
- Help recruit volunteers for field trips and classroom activities.
- Provide general support for the teacher as needed.

Survey Other Parents:

- Gather supplies and materials for various classroom needs.
- Ensure that all students have the resources they need to succeed.

Community Outreach:

- Reach out to local community organizations for additional support.
- Secure donations, arrange guest speakers, and organize community service projects that enhance the

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students' learning experience.

By fostering strong communication and collaboration among parents, teachers, and the community, the class parent plays a crucial role in creating a positive and enriching educational environment for our students. Your involvement and dedication make a significant difference, and we are grateful for your support. Please express interest to your teacher by **August 29, 2025**.

College and Career Readiness

Each elementary, middle, and secondary school provides for the identification by all students of personal interests and abilities to support planning for postsecondary opportunities and career preparation. Such support includes provision of information concerning exploration of career cluster areas in elementary schools, and course information and planning for college preparation programs, opportunities for educational and academic experiences in and outside the classroom, including internships and work-based learning, and the multiple pathways to college and career readiness in middle and high school.

Beginning in the elementary school years, students explore the different occupations associated with career clusters and select an area or areas of interest. Students begin the development of an academic and career plan portfolio (ACPP) in elementary grades to include information about interests, values such as dependability and responsibility, and skills supporting decisions about their future interests and goals. The information contained in the ACP serves as the foundation for creating the Academic and Career Plan (ACP) in grade 7.

Competitive Sports

6th and 7th Grade Sports Information

At this time, there are no elementary sports offerings. However, our 6th and 7th grade students have the opportunity to participate in various sports through the middle school programs. Below is the list of sports available and their respective seasons:

Fall Sports:

Football - Cheer (chosen in the spring) - Cross Country - Volleyball

Winter Sports:

Boys Basketball (Bonner and Westwood) - Girls Basketball (Bonner and Westwood) - Wrestling

Spring Sports:

Boys Soccer - Girls Soccer - Softball - Baseball - Track

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Registration and Physical Forms:

There are no formal registrations through Activ8 STEM Academy. Middle schools will provide information on season start dates. Students interested in participating in any sports must complete a physical form prior to joining or trying out for a team.

Contacts for Middle School Sports:

Bonner Middle School:

David Thomas
dwthomas@mail.dps.k12.va.us

Westwood Middle School:

LaCreasha Lambert
llambert@mail.dps.k12.va.us

Please reach out to the respective coaches or middle school contacts for more information and to ensure your child is ready for the upcoming sports seasons.

Concerns

Following the Ladder of Referral for Concerns

At Activ8 STEM Academy, we believe in addressing concerns effectively and efficiently. To ensure this, we encourage parents to follow the ladder of referral for various types of concerns. This process helps us resolve issues at the most appropriate level and ensures that everyone involved is informed and able to assist.

Attendance Concerns:

1. Teacher
2. Attendance Clerk
3. Assistant Principal
4. Principal

Peer Relationship Concerns:

1. Student
2. Teacher
3. Counselor

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4. Assistant Principal
5. Principal

Academic Concerns:

1. Student
2. Teacher
3. Academic Coach
4. Assistant Principal
5. Principal

Behavioral Concerns:

1. Student
2. Teacher
3. Counselor
4. Assistant Principal
5. Principal

Health Concerns:

1. School Nurse
2. Counselor
3. Assistant Principal
4. Principal

Following these steps ensures that each concern is addressed by the appropriate person, providing the best chance for a timely and effective resolution. We appreciate your cooperation in adhering to this process, which helps maintain a positive and productive school environment for everyone. Teachers cannot conduct parent conferences/accept phone calls during instructional times. School personnel will not discuss other students due to confidentiality.

All staff are available by appointment via phone call, email, or written request.

Contract

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Welcome to the Activ8 STEM Academy!

As a choice program, we strive to create an environment where all stakeholders play an active role in ensuring success. To maintain a place in this advanced program, it is essential that students, parents, and school staff fulfill their respective responsibilities. By signing this contract, you agree to the following stipulations:

Section 1: Student Responsibilities

- Maintain appropriate behavior at all times.
- Stay alert and engaged in class.
- Complete all class assignments and homework on time.
- Show consistent effort in completing tasks and participating in activities.

Section 2: Parent Responsibilities

- Ensure your child arrives on time and stays for the entire school day.
- Minimize early departures, late arrivals, and absences.
- Make sure your child receives 9 to 11 hours of restful sleep each night.
- Regularly check the completion of homework and assignments.
- Provide support and encouragement for your child's academic efforts.

Section 3: School Staff Responsibilities

- Maintain safety of students and staff members.
- Provide a rigorous and engaging curriculum.
- Support students in reaching their academic potential.
- Communicate effectively with parents regarding student progress.
- Foster a positive and inclusive learning environment.

Academic Guidelines:

1. Students must maintain an average passing grade of a C in core subjects (ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies).
2. Students should not have a F in any core subject for more than one quarter in a row.

Attendance Guidelines:

1. Early departures, late arrivals, or absences greater than 2 per marking period will be considered excessive.

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2. Absences of 5 or more will require an in-person meeting and an attendance contract.
3. Excessive absences (more than 8) may result in a recommendation to return to the base school.

Behavior Guidelines:

1. Disruptive and aggressive behaviors will not be tolerated.
2. Parents will be notified by the teacher, then the counselor/assistant principal, and finally the principal regarding disruptive behavior.
3. After the 4th notification of behavior violations, a recommendation may be made for the student to return to the base school.

By signing below, you acknowledge and agree to uphold the responsibilities and guidelines outlined in this contract to ensure the success of your student at Activ8 STEM Academy.

Custodial Rights

Guardianship or custody rights other than those of the parents need to be verified by the appropriate legal documentation. The school must have a copy of an up-to-date court order if the non-custodial parent is NOT allowed to see their child. Otherwise, state law allows natural parents access to school records and to have contact with the school and the child at school unless legal documentation is on file at the school.

Disclaimer

The Student Handbook is a general reference guide only and is designed to be in harmony with board policy and the Student Code of Conduct.

Please be aware that it is not a complete statement of all policies, procedures, or rules that may be applicable in a given circumstance. In case of conflict between board policy (including the Student Code of Conduct) and any provisions of Student Handbooks, the provisions of board policy and the Student Code of Conduct are to be followed.

Also, please be aware that the handbook is updated yearly, while policy adoption and revision may occur throughout the year. Changes in policy or other rules that affect Student Handbook provisions will be made available to students and parents through newsletters or other communications.

Amendments to the stated guidelines and information may be updated throughout the year at the principal's discretion.

Discipline

The public school system is expected to serve the needs of all its students. To do so, we have established rules to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning and for the protection of students.

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The primary responsibility for teaching discipline rests with the parents of students, and in order for the school to maintain discipline, it is essential that parents work closely with the faculty and staff.

Students cannot learn and teachers cannot teach unless discipline is maintained in the classroom. It is our desire to teach all students to work together successfully, to have mutual respect for each other, and to develop self-control and self-direction within themselves.

All pupils are expected to:

1. be respectful to all teachers, to the principals, and to all other school personnel;
2. pay attention, face the person talking, and respond politely at all times;
3. complete assignments on time;
4. take proper care of school property;
5. be regular in attendance and on time;
6. bring only necessary learning materials to school; and
7. keep hands and feet to self.

All expectations for behavior are extended to riding to and from school on the bus.

DPS Curriculum

The Program of Studies provides students and parents both general and specific information about curricular offerings and services at the middle school levels. [Program of Study](#)

Acceleration

The curriculum and schedule of elementary, middle, and high schools provide flexibility in placing certain students in programs or subjects normally considered above their grade level. Scheduling middle school students into subjects above the normal grade level is done with counseling based on evidence of ability, past scholastic achievement, and cooperation of the individual student and his/her parents or guardians.

Curriculum Overview

At Activ8 STEM Academy, we pride ourselves on using high-quality materials and rigorous instructional practices to provide our students with a comprehensive and engaging education. Below is an overview of our curriculum for the 2025-2026 school year:

Mathematics:

Grades 3-7:

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- **Core Curriculum:** Kiddom and Do The Math (to build fluency), high-rigor performance tasks, and real-world application problem-solving activities.

Grade 6:

- **Core Curriculum:** MathSpace and Do The Math (to build fluency), high-rigor performance tasks, and real-world application problem-solving activities.

English Language Arts (ELA):

Grades 3-5:

- **Core Curriculum:** HMH Into Reading
- **Supplemental Activities:** Novel studies, writing projects, Foundations (Grade 3), Heggerty (Grade 4 and 5), i-Ready and NewsELA.

Grade 6:

- **Primary Curriculum:** Savvas My Perspectives
- **Supplemental Activities:** Novel studies, writing projects, i-Ready, and NewsELA.

Science:

Grades 3-7:

- **Core Curriculum:** STEMscopes and Project Lead The Way
- **Supplemental Activities:** Gizmos

Social Studies:

Grades 3-5:

- **Core Curriculum:** Five Ponds Press
- **Supplemental Activities:** DBQ Project and NewsELA

Grade 6-7:

- **Core Curriculum:** Five Ponds Press and McGraw Hill
- **Supplemental Activities:** DBQ Project and NewsELA

STEM Integration:

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- STEM integration occurs across all content areas, ensuring that students experience a cohesive and applied approach to learning.

Our curriculum is designed to meet the diverse needs of our learners, providing both the foundational skills and the advanced challenges necessary for success in today's world. We are committed to fostering curiosity, collaboration, and cultivation of future STEM leaders through our comprehensive and integrated approach to education.

Dress Code

The dress code should serve to support all students in developing a successful educational environment. Any school dress code enforcement actions should minimize the potential loss of education time. Administration and enforcement of the dress code will be consistent across the student body, regardless of gender, race, and ethnicity. A student's attire and appearance should not be indecent, disrupt the learning environment, or cause health and/or safety problems in the educational environment.

Students MUST wear:

- Tops and bottoms, or the equivalent (dresses, etc.)
- Shoes (sandals with backs are permissible, but appropriate athletic shoes must be worn in PE class and additional caution should be taken by students at recess.) ***The School Board and/or Danville Public Schools is not responsible for any injuries that may occur due to students who wear improper shoes.*
- Shoes must be worn at all times on school grounds.
- Pants must be worn at the waist.
- If holes are 4 inches above the knee in pants, leggings or shorts must be worn underneath with no visible skin.

Students MAY NOT wear:

- Visible underwear or bathing suits of similar designs
- Clothing using images or language depicting drug use, alcohol, any illegal activities, threats, or discriminatory slogans
- Clothing that includes hate speech, profanity or pornography
- Images and/or language that creates a hostile or intimidating educational environment based on identity or class
- Sweatbands, bandanas, facemasks, or head covers inside a school building except (a) when worn because of religious beliefs, (b) when worn as a matter of health or safety, (c) when worn in connection with a school-sponsored program
- Headphones should be placed out of sight upon entering the building.

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- Pajamas or sleepwear, bedroom slippers, costumes, or blankets are prohibited in the building, or on buses.
- Tops or dresses that reveal bare midriffs or cleavage are not allowed.
- Shirts and tops with the back out are not permitted.
- Mesh or see-through clothing is prohibited.
- Tops with large openings for the arms or that are split below the arms are not permitted.
- Students are not to wear clothing with language, symbols, or pictures that are offensive or suggestive, promote violence, are gang related, advertise illegal substances, or advertise tobacco or alcohol.
- Shorts, skirts, skorts, and dresses can be no shorter than 4 inches above the knee, both in the front and back.
- If tight-fitting pants, such as leggings, are worn, a dress or lengthy shirt that is no shorter than 4 inches above the top of the knee, both in the front and back, must also be worn.
- Weapon-related attire is prohibited.

Recommended Consequences for Dress Code Violations:

School administration should minimize loss of class time and notify the parents of the infraction.

Elementary

- 1st Offense -Warning/Parent contact with opportunity to change clothes to correct dress code violation
- 2nd Offense - Referral to school counselor or DPS Student Code of Conduct Dress Code Violations.
- 3rd Offense - Parent conference or DPS Student Code of Conduct Dress Code Violations.
- 4th Offense- Please see (chronic disciplinary infractions) or DPS Student Code of Conduct Dress Code Violations.

Secondary

- 1st Offense – Warning with the opportunity to change clothes to correct dress code violation
- 2nd Offense- A second warning with the opportunity to change clothes to correct dress code violation
- 3rd Offense- Administrative Before-School, After-School or Saturday-School detention
- 4th Offense-Please see (chronic disciplinary infractions)

***Continued infractions will result in additional consequences*

Emergency Drills/ Procedures

It is important to practice procedures to follow in case of emergencies. Fire drills are held once a week during the first month of school and once a month thereafter. Tornado drills are scheduled and conducted annually. In addition, to maintain a safe environment, only the main door at the office is open from the outside. Safety measures and drills are in place to prevent non- custodial family members or strangers

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from entering areas of the building where there would be contact with students. A drill to ensure these safety measures is also regularly practiced. Families will be notified before a lock down drill.

Lockdown drills are required by law and are held during the school year in accordance with State Law 22.1-137.2 which states:

“In every public school there shall be a lock-down drill at least twice during the first 20 school days of each school session, in order that students may be thoroughly practiced in such drills. Every public school shall hold at least two additional lock-down drills during the remainder of the school session. Lock-down plans and drills shall be in compliance with the Statewide Fire Prevention Code.”

[DPS Policy EBCB](#) outlines required school safety drills. Each school conducts Fire, Lockdown, Tornado and Emergency Bus Drills each year. In addition to drills, training is provided to each student and employee at least once each school year on safety procedures in the event of an emergency situation on school property.

Entrance Requirements

Entrance Requirements for the STEM Academy

General Enrollment for Danville Public Schools:

- Any student who lives in the Danville Public School attendance zones and who has turned 5 years old on or before September 30 may be enrolled when proof of residency is provided and vaccinations are complete.
- A parent or guardian who wishes to enroll a child in Danville Public Schools for the first time, regardless of the grade, is required to present the child’s birth certificate. If a birth record is not available, a form to apply can be requested from the school.

Birth Certificate (§ 22.1-3.1 of the Code of Virginia):

- No student shall be admitted for the first time to any public school in Virginia unless a certified copy of the student's birth record is presented. A photocopy will not suffice. If a certified copy cannot be obtained, a sworn statement explaining the inability to present a certified copy must be submitted.
- A certified copy of a birth record for a person born in Virginia can be obtained from the Virginia Department of Health – Division of Vital Records and Health Statistics.

Physical Examination:

- Within a year prior to entry for the first time to any public kindergarten or elementary school, a

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comprehensive physical examination by a qualified licensed physician is required. The scope of this examination is prescribed by the State Department of Health. Admission of students without a physical examination is not allowed.

Immunization:

- A certificate of immunization is required upon entering Danville Public Schools. Students will not be allowed to attend school without completed immunization documentation.
- All rising Kindergarteners need to have two doses of the Hepatitis A vaccine before entering school. They can be admitted with one dose and an appointment card for the second dose.

STEM Academy Enrollment for Grades 3-7:

- Admission to the STEM Academy is based on acceptance either through the application process, which opens in the fall and winter, or through a transfer form approved by the principal, then approved by the School Board.

Expectations

1. Respect and Embrace Differences:

- Celebrate and appreciate the various backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives of all students and staff.
- Listen actively and speak kindly to everyone, recognizing the value of different viewpoints.
- Respect school property and the personal belongings of others, understanding that we all share the responsibility of maintaining our learning environment.

2. Responsibility and Growth:

- Come to class prepared with all necessary materials, ready to engage and learn.
- Follow directions and school policies, understanding that they help create a safe and productive environment for everyone.
- Take ownership of your actions, learn from mistakes, and strive for personal growth and development.

3. Engage with Curiosity and Collaboration:

- Participate actively in class activities, discussions, and STEM projects, showing a genuine interest in learning.
- Work collaboratively with peers, sharing ideas and supporting each other's learning journeys.
- Ask questions, seek help when needed, and encourage curiosity in yourself and others, fostering a love for lifelong learning.

These rules not only emphasize respect, responsibility, and engagement but also align with the school's core values of collaboration, cultivation, and curiosity.

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Expectation 1: Respect and Embrace Differences

Affirmation: "I respect and value everyone's differences."

Expectation 2: Responsibility and Growth

Affirmation: "I take responsibility and strive to grow."

Expectation 3: Engage with Curiosity and Collaboration

Affirmation: "I am curious and work well with others."

These concise affirmations are easy to remember and reinforce the core values of the school.

Family Engagement 2025-2026 Calendar

Event/Activity	Date	Time
Unity in the Park: A Meet & Greet for New and Returning Stars" Angler's Park Focus: Building Community	July 26, 2025	10:00 - 12:00
PD and Data Day	July 31, 2025	All Day
PD and Data Day	August 1, 2025	All Day
Open House Focus: School Orientation	August 4, 2025	12:00-6:00
Teacher Work Day	August 5, 2025	No School
First Day of School	August 6, 2025	8:15 - 3:30
STEM BBQ Night: Grilling Up Innovation and Learning! Curriculum Focus: STEM Integration Title 1: PFAC Event #1 - Dinner Served	August 19, 2025	5:00 - 5:30 Dinner + Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 Event
Parents as Learning Partners Focus: SEL	August 28, 2025	8:45 - 9:15
Second Cup of Coffee Focus: Understanding the whole child	August 28, 2025	9:15 - 9:30
Labor Day Holiday	September 1, 2025	School Closed
STEMLit Soiree	September 9, 2025	5:30-6:30
Q1 Progress Reports	September 10, 2025	All Day
Conference Day	September 17, 2025	All Day
Socktober	Month of October	Ongoing
Family PE Week	October 6-10, 2025	PE Classes this Week
Quarter 1 Ends	October 9, 2025	All Day
PD and Data Day	October 10, 2025	All Day
Teacher Work Day	October 13, 2025	All Day
Quarter 1 Awards	October 14, 2025	5:30
Hispanic Heritage Month Concert	October 14, 2025	6:00
Q1 Report Cards	October 15, 2025	All Day

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Red Ribbon Week	October 23 - 31, 2025	8:15 - 3:30
Fall Festival Curriculum Focus: Colonial Times, Native American Heritage, and Local History Fundraising event	October 30, 2024	5:00 - 5:30 Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 Event
Election Day - Teacher Workday	November 4, 2025	No School for Students
Can Food Drive	November 5-21, 2025	Ongoing
Veteran's Day Performance	November 10, 2025	TBD
Veteran's Day Holiday	November 11, 2025	School Closed
Parents as Learning Partners Focus: Science Investigations	November 21, 2025	8:45-9:15
Second Cup of Coffee Focus: Understanding Science Expectations & Parents' Right to Know Meeting	November 21, 2025	9:15 - 9:30
Thanksgiving Holiday Break	November 26 - 28, 2025	School Closed
Collection: Senior Gift Bags for Nursing Home Residents	Month of December	Ongoing
Book Fair	Dec. 8-12, 2025	All Day
Winter Concert	December 9, 2025	5:30
Winter Wonderland: STEM Academy Dance Party! Curriculum Focus - SEL - Setting Boundaries - Expectations in the Generation Alpha Household Title 1: PFAC Event #2 - Dinner Served	December 18, 2025	5:00 - 5:30 Dinner + Meeting 5:30 - 7:00 Event
Last Day of Semester 1	December 19, 2025	All Day
Activ8 STEM Academy at the Danville Rotary Club Parade	December TBD	5:00
A Wrinkle In Time Celebration/ Theme/Dress Up Day	December 19, 2025	All Day
Classroom Holiday Celebrations	December 19, 2025	Scheduled with Homeroom Teacher
Quarter 2 Ends	December 19, 2025	Early Dismissal
Winter Break	December 22 - January 2, 2026	School Closed
Teacher Work Day	January 5-6, 2026	School Closed
First Day of Second Semester	January 7, 2026	Students Return to School
Quarter 2 Awards	January 8, 2026	8:45-9:15
School Spirit Week: New Year, New Heights	January 12-16, 2026	All Day
Parents as Learning Partners Focus: Time Travelers: Journey Through History - Reading Across Curriculum	January 16, 2026	8:45-9:15
Second Cup of Coffee Focus: Understanding Social Studies Expectations	January 16, 2026	9:15 - 9:45
Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday	January 19, 2026	School Closed
Kindness Week	February 9 - 13, 2026	Ongoing
Q3 Progress Reports	February 11, 2026	8:15-3:45
Valentine's Day Dance	February 13, 2026	5:00-6:30 pm
Kids Heart Challenge	February 14, 2026	8:45 -3:00
PD and Data Day	February 16, 2026	All Day

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Teacher Work Day	February 17-18, 2026	School Closed
Black History Program/Concert Curriculum Focus: Social Justice and Activism Title 1: PFAC Event #3 - Dinner Served	February 26, 2026	5:00-6:30 pm
Youth Art Month/Music In Our Schools Month	Month of March	Ongoing
Battle Of the Books Favorite Book Brackets	Month of March	Voting down the brackets - each week
Read Across America Week	March 2-6, 2026	All day
Quarter 3 Ends	March 13, 2026	Conference Day
Teacher Work Day	March 16, 2026	School Closed
Parents as Learning Partners Focus: SOL Test Preparation	March 20, 2026	8:45 - 9:15
Second Cup of Coffee Focus: Understanding SOL Test Expectations	March 20, 2026	9:15 - 9:45
Spring Break	April 3-10, 2026	School Closed
Science Fair Curriculum Focus: STEM Investigations Title 1: PFAC Event #4 - Dinner Served	April 14, 2026	5:00 - 5:30 Dinner + Meeting 5:30 - 6:30 Event
Book Fair	April 20-24th, 2026	All Day
Q3 Progress Reports	April 29, 2026	All Day
Activ8's Got Talent	May 12, 2026	5:00 - 6:00
Field Day/ EOY House Celebration	May 21, 2026	8:15-3:45
EOY Rewards/ 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony	May 22, 2026	TBD
Last Day of School	May 22, 2026	8:15-3:45
Memorial Day Holiday	May 25, 2026	School Closed
Teacher Work Day	May 26, 2026	8:00-4:00 pm

Family Life Education

Danville Public Schools has a Family Life curriculum based on the state's guidelines. Parents are invited to preview and discuss the specific grade level objectives with the teacher. A copy of the Family Life curriculum is available from the Virginia Department of Education. Parents who wish for their child to opt out of the program must specify this desire in writing to the classroom teacher.

FERPA

The school division annually notifies parents and eligible students of their rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Details are included in [DPS Policy 10 Student Records](#).

Field Trips

Field trips provide extremely valuable learning experiences for students. All students, who meet academic and behavioral expectations, have the opportunity to go on field trips during the school year. School personnel are assigned supervisory responsibilities for all field trips. Permission slips must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the school prior to the trip. No child is allowed to leave school without

parental permission. If there is money involved in a field trip, every effort is made to keep the cost as low as possible. If a parent needs help in making arrangements to pay for a field trip, please contact the principal. **Parents wishing to chaperone must be an approved volunteer. Parents can complete a background check with the central office.**

Fundraising

All fundraising activities conducted for the benefit of Danville Public Schools must provide an educational benefit to students and must not interfere with the instructional program. All fundraising activities conducted by school-sponsored organizations or clubs must be approved in advance by the principal. Fundraising refers to the raising of non-appropriated funds by students, parents, or others for the educational benefit of students and their schools.

Students may participate in fundraising activities provided such activities are approved in writing and carefully monitored and regulated by the school principal or a designee. Elementary school students may not participate in door-to-door solicitation.

Any fundraiser that sells food or beverages may not be conducted during meal service times. This includes from 6:00 a.m. to the end of the breakfast period and from the beginning of the first lunch period to the end of the last lunch period. The income from any food or beverage sold to students during these times shall accrue to the non-profit nutrition program account.

The fundraiser designee approves, tracks, and monitors fundraisers to ensure compliance with the nutrition standards for school-sponsored fundraisers. The fundraiser designee for **Danville Public Schools** is the school principal or the principal's designee and a fundraiser-tracking document is kept on file in the main office at the school site.

Schools are permitted to allow school-sponsored fundraisers not to exceed **10** per school during the school day to be exempt from the USDA-FNS Smart Snacks rule in accordance with ***Virginia Code 8VAC20-740***.

Any fundraiser that sells food or beverages, whether the items meet the USDA-FNS Smart Snacks rule or are exempt, may not be conducted during meal service times. This includes from 6:00 a.m. to the end of the breakfast period and from the beginning of the first lunch period to the end of the last lunch period. The income from any food or beverage sold to students during these times shall accrue to the non-profit nutrition program account.

The fundraiser designee approves, tracks, and monitors fundraisers to ensure compliance with the limit on exempt school-sponsored fundraisers. The fundraiser designee for **Danville Public Schools** is the school principal or principal's designee and a fundraiser-tracking document is kept on file in the main office at the school site.

Grading Policy and Procedures

I. GRADE RECORDING

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The following guidelines ensure consistency in grade recording procedures.

A. Assignment of Grades

While the grading system has been developed cooperatively between the Curriculum and Instruction Department, the Student Services Department, the Office of Services for Exceptional Children, local school educators, parents, and students, the final evaluation of students and the assignment of grades is the responsibility of teachers and school administrators.

B. Maintaining the Gradebook

Grades are used for communicating students' progress toward standards mastery. Clear communication allows students to track their own progress. The following are guidelines for maintaining the official gradebook:

1. All teachers should maintain grades in the DPS-approved online gradebook.
2. The grades entered should reflect only performance toward mastery of standards or objectives.
3. Only the teacher of record (or principal designee) should enter grades in the gradebook.
4. Larger assignments, such as projects and essays, may take longer to grade and record.
5. Teachers must enter grades in the Danville Public School Student Information System gradebook weekly.
6. Grades recorded in the gradebook are considered official documentation of students' academic performance and should be protected as a confidential student record.

C. Impact of Zeros

A zero in a typical 10-point grading scale, where below 59 is considered failing, can severely affect a student's overall average. As a result, the student may lose confidence and motivation, and their final grade may not accurately reflect what they have learned and can do. It is important for teachers to recognize this limitation in the 10-point scale.

GRADE CHANGES RULE

No classroom teacher shall be required, coerced, intimidated, or disciplined to change a student's grade. This rule shall not apply when a teacher has failed to comply with the grading policies or procedures adopted by the Danville Public Schools or written procedures established by a school within the Danville Public Schools that are applicable to the grading process unless such a Policy, Rule, or Procedure would require a student be given a grade different than the actual grade achieved. Under these circumstances, a teacher may be disciplined.

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Nothing in this rule shall be construed to prevent a principal or other school administrator from discussing a student's grade with a classroom teacher. Further, this rule shall not be construed to prevent a central office administrator, Superintendent, or other System administrator from changing a student's grade. Any grade change made by a person other than the classroom teacher must be clearly indicated in the student's school records and must indicate the person responsible for making such a grade change.

GRADE REPORTING

The following guidelines ensure consistency in grade reporting procedures.

A. Grade Reporting Cycle

1. Teachers must enter grades in the DPS-approved online gradebook on a weekly basis. This allows students and parents to have continuous access to current student grades.
2. Each quarter represents a 9-week grading period.
 - a) Progress reports will be issued at the end of the first 4.5 weeks.
 - b) Report Cards will be issued at the end of each 9-week grading period.

B. Non-Academic Grade Reporting (Work Habits and Behaviors that Support Achievement)

Teachers and parents/guardians recognize the value of helping students cultivate soft skills, and dispositions such as citizenship, collaboration, participation, and productivity are important for college, career, and life success. However, it is imperative that teachers separate behavior and work-ethic grades from academic achievement grades. In grades K-12, teachers will use the conduct category to report non-academic grades. Student non-academic performance in Grades K-12 will be reported using the following criteria and scale for reporting information on students' work habits and behaviors that support achievement:

Elementary (Grades K-5): Conduct Grade Criteria <i>Work Habits and Behaviors that Support Achievement</i>	
Follows oral and written directions	Works cooperatively
Works independently	Participates in class
Completes classwork	Completes homework
Produces best work	Exhibits self-control
Respectful of teachers/peers	Encourages and assists peers

Demonstrates organizational skills	Has a positive influence on the class
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Elementary (Grades K-5): Non-Academic Grade Reporting Work Habits and Behaviors that Support Achievement	
Letter Grade	Numerical Range (Grades 3-5)
Excellent (E) Consistently Demonstrated	Represents an average of 90-100
Satisfactory (S) Frequently Demonstrated	Represents an average of 70-89
Needs Improvement (N) Occasionally Demonstrated	Represents an average of 50-69
Unsatisfactory (U) Rarely Demonstrated	Represents an average below 50

Secondary (Grades 6-12): Conduct Grade Criteria Work Habits and Behaviors that Support Achievement	
<p>Self-Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrates a positive mindset ● Exhibits patience and self-control ● Shows motivation, initiative, and effort ● Independently looks for ways to improve the classroom and accomplish tasks 	<p>Collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Actively participates in team activities ● Demonstrates cooperation and flexibility ● Resolves conflicts appropriately
<p>Responsibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follows directions, completes assignments, and fulfills responsibilities 	<p>Critical Thinking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Uses sound reasoning to analyze problems, evaluate potential solutions, and

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibits pride in producing quality work Shows respect toward people, property, and the use of resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> implement effective courses of action Demonstrates openness to new and diverse perspectives
<p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listens attentively Asks questions to clarify understanding Initiates and engages in positive and productive interaction with peers and teachers 	<p>Creativity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produces ideas to solve challenging tasks Displays curiosity, inventiveness, and originality Uses appropriate resources to solve problems and create products

Secondary (Grades 6-12): Conduct Grade Reporting <i>Work Habits and Behaviors that Support Achievement</i>	
Letter Grade	Numerical Range
Excellent (E) Consistently Demonstrated	Represents an average of 90-100
Satisfactory (S) Frequently Demonstrated	Represents an average of 70-89
Needs Improvement (N) Occasionally Demonstrated	Represents an average of 50-69
Unsatisfactory (U) Rarely Demonstrated	Represents an average below 50

C. Elementary School

Academic Grade Reporting: Grades 3-5

Student performance in Grades 3-5 will be reported by numerical grades on a 10-point grading scale.

Letter Grade	Percent Grade
A	90-100
B	80-89

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C	70-79
D	60-69
F	below 60

Calculation of Final Grades

Grades 3-5

Final grades will be determined by the average using the following criteria:

- **Gold Category (Summative Assessments) = 40%**

Examples include tests, essays, research papers, project-based assignments, labs, district benchmarks, and other culminating assessments to measure mastery of standards that comprise a unit of study.

Minimum number of gold grades per 9-week report period = 3

- **Silver Category (Short Cycle Assessments) = 35%**

Examples include quizzes, lab reports, assignments that build to gold, collaborative work, and other graded assignments to assess certain standards in a unit of study.

Minimum number of silver grades per 9-week report period = 3

- **Bronze Category (Classwork/Warm-Up) = 25%**

Examples include spiral review activities, bellringers, and other graded assignments to assess certain standards in a unit of study.

Minimum number of bronze grades per 9-week report period = 7

Note: In grade 3, where teachers use the social studies and science combo DEKS curriculum maps, the minimum number of grades for science and social studies per quarter is 13 grades total for both courses across all three categories (i.e., science = 7 grades and social studies = 6 grades).

Passing a Standards of Learning Assessment

For courses requiring a Standards of Learning assessment (SOL), any student who fails to achieve a passing grade in the course but earns a passing score on the Standards of Learning assessment for grades 3 through 12 shall receive a passing grade denoted as "P" in the gradebook. The passing score is equivalent to a 60% on the traditional quality point-weighted grading scale.

A. Middle School

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Academic Grade Reporting

Student performance in Grades 6-8 will be reported by numerical grades on a 10-point grading scale.

Letter Grade	Percent Grade
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	below 60

Calculation of Final Grades

Final grades will be determined by the average using the following criteria:

- **Gold Category (Summative Assessments) = 40%**

Examples include tests, essays, research papers, project-based assignments, labs, district benchmarks, and other culminating assessments to measure mastery of standards that comprise a unit of study.

Minimum number of gold grades per 9-week report period = 3

- **Silver Category (Short Cycle Assessments) = 35%**

Examples include quizzes, lab reports, assignments that build to gold, collaborative work, and other graded assignments to assess certain standards in a unit of study.

Minimum number of silver grades per 9-week report period = 6

- **Bronze Category (Classwork/Warm-Up) = 25%**

Examples include homework, spiral review activities, bellringers, and other graded assignments to assess certain standards in a unit of study.

Minimum number of bronze grades per 9-week report period = 7

Late Work

In an effort to make students college and career ready, it is imperative that all students understand the importance of deadlines. All due dates will be communicated with students and parents/guardians, and students will be given an ample and appropriate amount of time to complete assignments. Students are

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expected to complete all assignments by the assigned due date. Late work will be accepted until the end of the day it was due for full credit. Each school will submit a plan (Form IGCA-R1) to the superintendent designee for accepting late assignments for approval.

In order to avoid late work penalties, it is the students' responsibility to closely monitor assignments and due dates, and they must communicate anticipated issues prior to the deadline. Students who have an excused absence are allowed five days per absence to make up the in-class work.

Grade Recovery (Redo)

Students are allowed to recover assignments in each subject or course. In order to opt into the grade recovery plan, parent/guardian/student permission is required (Form IGCA-R2). The Virginia Tiered System of Support (VTSS) team, counselor(s), and teacher(s) will then work with students individually to determine which assignments can be completed for grade recovery.

Participating in the grade recovery plan **cannot** harm students. The grade recovery assignment(s) will only replace the original grade if it's higher. Otherwise, the original grade will stand.

Students are not required to recover all assignments; it's the student's choice to complete the recovery assignments. However, teachers must allow students the opportunity to recover grades with **multiple attempts** before an "F" is awarded as the final grade.

Passing a Standards of Learning Assessment

For courses requiring a Standards of Learning assessment (SOL), any student who fails to achieve a passing grade in the course but earns a passing score on the Standards of Learning assessment for grades 3 through 12 shall receive a passing grade denoted as "P" in the gradebook. The passing score is equivalent to a 60% on the traditional quality point-weighted grading scale.

Courses with Standards of Learning end-of-course assessments will count this test as the final exam and must calculate the score as 10% of the final grade.

Guidance

Guidance is offered to students in grades K - 7. The major objectives of the program are to enhance the student's self-concept and social responsibilities. Whole group, small group, and individual guidance is offered to students upon recommendation by the student's teacher, principal, or parent.

Homework

What is the purpose of homework?

Homework provides an essential communication link between the school and the home. A strong home-school partnership, with many lasting benefits for the individual student and the student's family,

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can be greatly enhanced by a sound program of homework. In addition, homework should be an important tool in developing independent thought, self-direction, and self-discipline. It assists the student in developing good work habits and in the wise use of time.

General Guidelines for homework include (DPS Policy IKB) :

- Homework should be assigned after an introduction and thorough explanation of the skills necessary to successfully complete the assignment.
- Homework should be assigned in such a manner that it will be clearly understood by all students.
- Homework should serve a valid purpose and be closely related to classroom activities.
- A student's access to resource materials should be considered when making assignments.
- Homework should be evaluated promptly and returned to the student. Appropriate rewards should be given to those students who successfully complete assigned work. Effort and competency should be recognized and rewarded.
- Teachers should seek to determine the cause if a student regularly fails to complete assigned work. Teachers should not avoid giving homework because they believe students will not do the work.
- Excessive homework, like the absence of homework, should be avoided.
- Homework should not be used for disciplinary purposes
- Teachers and administrators should take appropriate steps to communicate with parents regarding the division's homework policy and to solicit their support.

How much homework can be given?

Regulation IKB-R outlines the time required to complete below:

Students	Time Required to Complete
Grades 1-5	Total of 1 hour
Grades 6-8	Total of 1.5 hours

Which platform will be used for homework?

The chart below shows how homework will be shared with families and caregivers:

Level	Homework Platform
Elementary	Teacher Websites
Middle	Teacher Websites
High	Teacher Websites

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Are there other ways homework might be shared in addition to the places listed above?

While the platform above is required and must reflect homework assignments consistently, teachers may use additional tools to share homework. Some of these tools are:

- Weekly Homework Folder
- Canvas
- Class Dojo
- Remind
- Newsletters
- Email
- Secondary Schools may also provide hard copies
- Secondary Schools should include major projects on syllabi

Remember that these options are in ADDITION to the required Teacher Website, not in place of.

Honors and Promotion Ceremonies

I. Elementary School

Students meeting the following criteria will be recognized as follows per quarter:

<u>Honor Category</u>	<u>Criteria</u>
<u>Superintendent’s List</u>	<p>“A” in each course</p> <p>Excellent (“E”) conduct grade</p> <p>Perfect attendance</p>
<u>Principal’s List</u>	<p>“A” in each course</p> <p>Excellent (“E”) or Satisfactory (“S”) conduct grade</p>
<u>Academic Achievement</u>	<p>“A” in each course</p>
<u>Academic Honor</u>	<p>“A” or “B” in each course</p>

Each elementary school shall publish a list of honor students by category, alphabetically.

Purpose

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Provide equitable honor designation and awards systemically to avoid inconsistent practices across the division.

Common Language

Honors Ceremony: A program to recognize the academic achievements of top students, as well as those students who not only achieve academic success but also show great leadership ability, service to the community, and compassion for their fellow students.

Promotion Ceremony: A program to recognize the successful completion of a student’s elementary and middle school education. Eligible students are **invited** to participate in a ceremony at the end of the year. The **5th-grade and 8th-grade** promotion is a celebration of the student’s accomplishments and marks the important transition to middle or high school.

Ceremony Award Guidelines	
Ceremony Type	Awards
Honors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Superintendent’s List ● Principal’s List ● Academic Achievement ● Academic Honor ● Superintendent Scholar (Superintendent's List 4 Quarters) ● Principal Scholar (Principal’s List 4 Quarters) ● Citizenship ● Growing Reader <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Based on significant improvement on PALS, EMAS, Screener, SGA, or Grades ● Growing Mathematician <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Based on significant improvement on PALS, EMAS, Screener, SGA, or Grades ● Perfect Attendance ● 600 Club: Perfect SOL (awarded at the end of the school year)
Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Superintendent’s List ● Principal’s List ● Academic Achievement ● Academic Honor ● Superintendent Scholar (Superintendent's List 4 Quarters) ● Principal Scholar (Principal’s List 4 Quarters) ● 600 Club: Perfect SOL

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- Best in Art
- Best in Music
- Best in Physical Fitness
- Best in Guidance Leadership
- Perfect Attendance
- Citizenship
- Growth Mindset
 - Based on **significant** improvement on SGA or Grades
- Technology Innovator (Computer Science, CTE, etc...)
- Most School Spirit
- DPS Distinguished Scholar
 - Highest "GPA" + Highest SOL score
 - \$100 gift card awarded to the top female and top male
- Promotion Certificate

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

1. Who attends the Honors and Promotion Ceremonies?

Staff, parents/guardians of students receiving awards and/or students who are promoted as outlined in the DPS Promotion and Retention policy and above.

2. Should awards be created to ensure every student receives an award?

No, awards should be earned.

3. When should Honors Ceremonies occur?

Grade Level	Date
Grades 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quarter 1, Quarter 2, and Quarter 3 with parents/guardians as a school-based ceremony ● Quarter 4 with a class-based ceremony
Grade 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quarter 1, Quarter 2, and Quarter 3 with parents/guardians as a school-based ceremony
Grades 6-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quarter 1, Quarter 2, Quarter 3, and Quarter 4 with parents/guardians as a school-based ceremony

4. When should Promotion Ceremonies occur?

Grade Level	Date
Grades K-4, 6-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not applicable because promotion is a program to recognize the successful completion of a student's elementary and middle school education. Eligible students are invited to participate in a ceremony at the end of the year. The 5th-grade and 8th-grade promotion is a

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	celebration of the student’s accomplishments and marks the important transition to middle or high school.
Grade 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last week of school
Grade 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last week of school

Incident Weather Guidelines

Notice of delayed openings or school closings for weather conditions will be announced by the Danville Public Schools over the radio, television, on the web page (www.danvillepublicschools.org), and using the division’s School Messenger Phone System. Please instruct your child what to do and where to go when such emergencies arise.

When the temperature, or heat index reaches 95 degrees or above, we will provide an inside physical activity in an air-conditioned environment.

When the heat index reaches the 90s, physical education classes should remain indoors if possible.

When properly clothed, students can participate in an outdoor environment in most weather conditions. However, increased caution should be displayed when temperatures fall below 40 degrees, including wind chill.

Lockers

Lockers are provided to students for their personal use, but it is essential to understand that they remain the property of Danville Public Schools. Therefore, it is important to note that lockers are subject to search at any given time to ensure the safety and well-being of all students.

It is the responsibility of each student to maintain their assigned locker in a clean and orderly manner. This includes keeping it free from any prohibited items or substances that may pose a risk to themselves or others. By taking good care of their lockers, students contribute to a positive and organized school environment.

We would also like to emphasize that the privilege of having a locker can be revoked at any time by the principal. This action may be taken if a student fails to adhere to the established guidelines or engages in behavior that jeopardizes the safety or well-being of the school community.

We encourage open communication between students, parents/guardians, and school administration regarding any concerns or questions related to locker usage. It is our shared goal to ensure that lockers are utilized appropriately and contribute to a secure and conducive learning environment for all.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter. By working together, we can maintain a

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safe and orderly environment that promotes the educational success of every student at Danville Public Schools.

Media Innovation Center

Our Media Innovation Center is a vibrant hub of knowledge and imagination for all our students. We believe that fostering a love for reading and providing access to a wide variety of books is essential for their educational development.

To ensure that every student in grades 3 - 5 have the opportunity to explore the world of literature, students will visit the Media Innovation Center as a class once a week. During this dedicated time, students will have the privilege of checking out up to three books of their choice. Grades 6 and 7 will hold classes periodically in the library during their Language Arts block.

We kindly request that students return their borrowed books in a timely fashion. This ensures that others can enjoy the same reading opportunities and helps us maintain an organized library system. Once students have finished reading all three books, they can return them to the library via their classroom teacher, who will assist them in the return process.

If students wish to check out additional books outside of their class-assigned time, we encourage them to seek permission from their teacher. Between 8:15 a.m. and 8:45 a.m., students may visit the Media Innovation Center with their teacher's approval to browse and borrow more books. Additionally, the library is open for check out during the lunch service and other times during the day. Please see the Media Innovation Specialist for more information.

We believe that fostering a culture of reading and continuous learning is a collaborative effort between students, teachers, and parents/guardians. We encourage parents/guardians to engage in conversations with their children about the books they borrow and support their reading journey at home.

Thank you for your support in instilling a love for reading in our students. Together, let's empower them to explore new worlds, expand their knowledge, and cultivate a lifelong passion for learning through the resources available in our Media Innovation Center.

Books that are lost or badly damaged must be paid for by the parents.

Parents are urged to:

- A. Read to your child each day.
- B. Listen to your child read each day.
- C. Discuss books being read.

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- D. Set aside a time when you and your child each read your own book silently.
- E. Encourage your child to read.

Lost and Found

Parents are advised to write children's names on lunch boxes, book bags, sweaters, jackets, coats, etc. The school has a Lost and Found area in the cafeteria, but children seldom look for items they have lost and it is much easier to return items that have been found with the child's name on them.

Medication

[DPS Policy JHCD Administering Medicines to Students](#)

PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE - Danville Public Schools personnel may give prescription medication to students only with a physician's written order and written permission from the student's parent or guardian. **Such medicine must be in the original container and delivered to the school nurse by the parent/guardian of the student.** NO MEDICINE SHOULD BE TRANSPORTED ON THE SCHOOL BUS.

Medications Prescribed for Individual Students

Employees of School Board of the City of Danville may give medication prescribed for individual students only pursuant to the written order of a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner and with written permission from the student's parent or guardian. Such medicine must be in the original container and delivered to the principal, school nurse, or school division designee by the parent or guardian of the student.

A form which must be completed before prescription medicine can be administered is at the back of this handbook.

Non- Prescription Medicine. – Danville Public Schools personnel may give non-prescription medication to students only with the written permission of the parent or guardian. Such permission shall include the name of the medication, the required dosage of the medication, and the time the medication is to be given. Such medicine must be in the original container and delivered to the school secretary by the parent/guardian of the student.

Non-prescription medication(s) may be given to pupils only if the parent or guardian signs and returns the proper form. An order from a physician must be obtained if the medication is given for more than five consecutive days.

Employees of the School Board of the City of Danville may give nonprescription medication to students only with the written permission of the parent or guardian. Such permission shall include the name of the

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medication, the required dosage of the medication, and the time the medicine is to be given. Such medicine must be in the original container and delivered to the principal or school division designee by the parent or guardian of the student.

A form which must be completed before non-prescription medicine can be administered is at the back of this handbook.

Medication - Self - Administered

Self-administration of any medication with the exceptions of asthma medication and auto-injectable epinephrine is prohibited in grades pre-K through 12. Automated drug-delivery devices installed surgically may be exempted by the division's School Health Facilitator.

Medicine - School Liability

When the guidelines are followed the school employee is not liable in a criminal action or for civil damages as a result of giving medicines, except for an act of omission amounting to gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct. If students carry and/or take prescription or non-prescription drugs themselves, the Danville Public Schools will not assume liability or responsibility for any consequence.

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

The Code of Virginia 22.1-203 requires schools to implement a "moment of silence" as part of the instructional day. Each day will include the Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. During such one-minute period of silence, the teacher responsible for each classroom shall take care that all pupils remain seated and silent and make no distracting display to the end that each pupil may, in the exercise of his or her individual choice, meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity which does not interfere with, distract, or impede other pupils in the like exercise of individual choice.

Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability

No otherwise qualified disabled Danville resident shall, solely by reason of disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity which receives or benefits from federal financial assistance. For purposes of this policy, a qualified disabled person shall be one who satisfies the definition set forth in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulations.

Non-Discrimination Policy

The School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin age, sex or disability, in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning the School's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), or Title II of the

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Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), may contact the Assistant Superintendent or Human Resources.

The School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin age, sex or disability, in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning the School's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), or Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), may contact the Assistant Superintendent or Human Resources.

Parents as Learning Partners

Parental involvement is key to the success of our students. That's why we're excited to continue our Parents as Learning Partners initiative. This program is designed to create a collaborative learning experience for both students and their families. According to the Family Engagement Calendar, we will host a Parents as Learning Partners event where students and parents will have the opportunity to engage in activities together in their homeroom. Unlike academic celebrations or parties, this initiative is focused on providing an interactive and educational experience that will help foster a deeper understanding of the material being covered in class.

We believe that Parents as Learning Partners will be an excellent opportunity for families to work together and complete fun and engaging tasks. These events will take place according to the Family Engagement Calendar, and we encourage grade teams and departments to coordinate their activities to ensure a cohesive and meaningful experience for all participants.

Parents Eating Lunch at School

Although our school cafeterias are small, parents are invited to eat lunch with their children at the school. Parents are requested to call the school or send a note in advance, so that the cafeteria will prepare an extra lunch for you. The price of an adult lunch is \$4.00.

Parties, Birthdays and Celebrations

Each class is limited to one party per month during a school year. The teacher is responsible for coordinating monthly birthdays to ensure all are included. Parents may be asked by the teacher to assist with parties throughout the year. Invitations to birthday parties or non school events may not be passed out at school. To ensure the health and safety of all students, families, and staff, we kindly ask that any food brought for school events be **store-bought, prepackaged, and clearly labeled with ingredients**. This helps us manage food allergies, dietary restrictions, and sanitation concerns. Homemade items will not be permitted. Our school is a peanut free school due to many allergies. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone.

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Photography/ Media Coverage

Throughout the school year, school events are highlighted by the media (newspaper, television, or Danville Public Schools publications). Student activities and pictures are frequently included in such coverage. If you DO NOT want your child photographed for such events or publications, a form is available in the school office so that your child's picture will not be published.

Personal Valuables/ Money/ Contraband

Personal valuables or large sums of money should NOT be brought to school. Students bringing money to school for lunch and other purposes should do so by securing it in a sealed envelope. The name of the child, teacher's name, amount of money, and purpose for the money should be written on the envelope. Students should bring only the amount of money needed for that school day. Students should be advised to keep their money with them at all times and not to announce to other students on the bus or in school that they are carrying money. Money should not be left in unattended desks, coats, or lunch boxes. Students should not give money to their peers.

Personal pets or special materials (such as toys, personal electronic devices, contraband, skateboards, etc.) are NOT to be brought to school.

Pets and Plants

At Activ8 STEM Academy, we strive to provide a dynamic and immersive learning environment for our students. We are excited to inform you that some classrooms at our school have the opportunity to include pets as part of the educational experience. We believe that classroom pets offer numerous benefits, fostering empathy, responsibility, and a deeper connection to the natural world.

We understand that some students may have allergies or sensitivities to certain animals. Therefore, we kindly request that you inform your child's teacher if your child has any known allergies. This information will enable us to take appropriate measures and make necessary accommodations to ensure a safe learning environment for all students.

Please be assured that the presence of classroom pets is carefully monitored and maintained under the supervision of our dedicated teachers. The well-being of our students and their safety is our utmost priority. We have implemented guidelines and protocols to ensure that proper hygiene and cleanliness are upheld at all times.

If your child is enrolled in a classroom with pets and you have any concerns or questions regarding their care or impact on allergies, we encourage you to reach out to their teacher. Our teachers are committed to open communication and will work with you to address any specific needs or concerns.

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We believe that the presence of pets in the classroom can enhance your child's educational journey, teaching them valuable life skills and fostering a love for animals and nature. However, we also want to ensure that every child feels comfortable and safe.

PROMOTION/RETENTION GUIDELINES (Grades K-5)

Promotion and Retention

The Danville School Board recognizes that decisions affecting a student's grade-level assignment may have long-lasting effects on the student's future success in school and life. The promotion of a student from one grade level to the next is based primarily on the successful completion of work required at the specific grade level of the student. In all cases, promotion and retention decisions will be based on multiple criteria. Academics will be the primary factor with particular emphasis placed on the student's mastery of the Virginia Standards of Learning for the current grade level or course.

Research indicates that students who have been retained two or more times are more likely to drop out of high school than students who have never been retained. Therefore, Danville Public Schools (DPS) expects that any decision to retain a student is made following considerable deliberation and consultation with parents/guardians and appropriate school staff.

DPS will not retain a student more than once from kindergarten through grade eight (K-8) unless written permission is provided by the superintendent. When retention is recommended, it should occur at the earliest possible time in the student's school career after exhausting all possible interventions.

Promotion or retention of a student is of necessity based upon state and local requirements

Promotion and Retention (1 of 2) Based on Academic Performance

I. Elementary and Middle Schools

Individual student promotion shall be based upon satisfactory performance as follows:

- Students in grades K-8 who pass mathematics and English and at least one of the following: social studies or science will be promoted to the next grade.

Individual student retention shall be based upon a cumulative evaluation of the following factors:

a. Academic Performance:

- Students in grades K-8 fail one or more of the three core subject areas.
- Students in grades K-8 consistently perform below grade level in reading and mathematics when appropriate intervention and other supports have been provided and documented.

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- Students in grades K-8 Universal Screener assessment results in reading and mathematics at the end of the grade indicate below grade-level academic performance.
- Students in grades 3-8 Standard of Learning assessment results in reading and mathematics at the end of grade indicate below grade-level academic performance.

b. Other Factors:

- Age
- Prior retention
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- 504 Plan Services
- English Learner Program

Promotion and Retention (2 of 2) Based on Attendance

I. Elementary, Middle, and High Schools

Individual student course credit shall be based upon satisfactory attendance as follows:

Grades K-2

- **Effective August 2024**, students in grades K-2 must attend at least 90 percent of the class days to receive course credit.

Grades 3-5

- **Effective January 2024**, students in grades 3-5 must attend at least 90 percent of the class days to receive course credit.

Grades 6-8

- **Effective January 2024**, students in grades 6-8 must attend at least 90 percent of the class days to receive course credit.

Grades 9-12

- **Effective August 2024**, students in grades 9-12 must attend at least 90 percent of the class days to receive course credit.

It is important to note that all absences, irrespective of being excused or unexcused, are considered when evaluating attendance. In the event that a student's attendance falls below 90%, they will not be eligible to receive credit for the course. However, students can regain their course credit by participating in the division's meaningful engagement options, such as attending Saturday sessions, after-school programs, and/or Summer School.

II. Gradebook

If a student's attendance falls below 90%, they will receive an "AF" marking, equivalent to a 59% grade.

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III. Appeals

Level 1:

- If a parent or guardian disagrees with the decision, they may file an appeal. The appeal should be submitted in writing to the principal and include any relevant information the parent or guardian wishes to be considered. The appeal must be received within ten (10) business days of the final grading period.
- The principal will review the appeal and provide a written decision with the rationale within five (5) business days of receiving the appeal notice (Form IGC-R6).

Level 2:

- If the parent or guardian still wishes to appeal after receiving the principal's decision, they may write their appeal to the Superintendent or Chief Operations Officer.

Request to Leave School Early

Pupils shall not be permitted to check out during the school day in the company of any person other than a parent or guardian except with written parental permission/kiosk. All students must be checked out through the office.

Safety - Emergency Drills/ Procedures

The issue of school safety is a shared concern. It is essential that communities, parents, educators and students work together to develop a disciplined environment where learning can take place. We are committed to keeping school safety a primary focus. We believe students must feel secure and reside in a safe environment.

- All parents, volunteers, and visitors are required to sign in whenever students are present.
- All entrance doors are locked to prevent unauthorized entry. Guests must request entry using the intercom and buzzer located outside the main entrance.
- No one other than a legal guardian or authorized person may at any time pick up a student unless a written note, signed by the legal guardian, is furnished. If a child wishes to go home with another child, parents of the child must send a permission note to school.
- The building is equipped with a security system.
- Safety audits are conducted annually.
- Students are expected to practice good citizenship and treat peers and adults with respect.
- Positive discipline plans are established within each classroom.
- Conflict resolution is taught in classroom guidance lessons.
- Group guidance and individual counseling on topics of anger management, resolving conflict, and social skills are available to students.

Although pupils are under the supervision and authority of the school during the school day, the support of each parent is needed to ensure the safety of all children. Parents are requested to:

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- Discuss safety precautions with your child
- Determine the safest route if your child walks and demand that your child use this route each day
- Demand that your child come straight home from school and not stop to play or visit with friends
- Be a model for your child in practicing safety regulations

Lunch Schedule

Grade 3	11:25
Grade 4	11:00
Grade 5	11:35
Grade 6	12:05

Snacks

Food provided, but not sold, to students during the school day will meet USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards

This includes classroom snacks/ instructional use of food, snacks offered during student meetings during the school day, and student celebrations, and recognition.

Use of nonfood treats as a reward is encouraged. The division requires foods offered on the school campus meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards including those provided at celebrations and parties and classroom snacks brought by staff or family members.

Sickness

When a student becomes sick at school, the teacher will send the student to the nurse. The principal, nurse, or secretary will observe the child's condition and contact the parent if the illness or injury is of such a nature that the child should go home. In case of an emergency, a child may be taken to the emergency room for professional treatment. It is essential that the school has a number of someone to call in case of illness or an emergency.

Smoking/Vaping

All schools and school grounds have now been mandated to be smoke-free environments. There is to be no smoking/vaping in the building or on the grounds by school employees, parents, or visitors.

Standards for Student Conduct

The Danville Public School system has adopted Standards for Student Conduct to ensure the safe, orderly operation of the schools. It is the belief of the Danville School Board that all students have the right to an

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environment that is safe, drug free and conducive to learning. To that end, student conduct policy sets forth standards for student conduct. The primary objectives of the Student Code of Responsibilities and Expectations (Student CORE) are:

1. To provide standards and guidelines for student behavior;
2. To assist each student in becoming a responsible, productive and self-disciplined citizen; and
3. To maintain a safe and orderly environment in the classroom and all other areas of the school.

The standards contain the due process procedures and the rights and responsibilities of the students. Copies of the Standards for Student Conduct are given to each child or parent at the time of registration. Additional copies are available in the school office. In addition, the Danville School Board requires each student and/or parent to sign a form stating that they have been notified and that they understand the consequences of discipline infractions and the severity of actions as a result of bringing any gun/weapon into the Danville Public Schools.

Student Fees, Fines, and Charges

It shall be the policy of the School Board to charge student fees and to recover funds for the loss of or damage to School Board property in accordance with the Code of Virginia. The School Board shall provide, free of charge, such as textbooks, workbooks, and electronic devices as required for course of instruction for each child attending public schools.

Books and electronic devices are to remain the property of the school. Students will be held accountable for books and electronic devices issued. Any book or electronic device lost, destroyed, or defaced will be paid for by the student at a price proportionate to the condition of the book or electronic device when issued.

Student Records

Parents may, upon request, inspect and review all official records of their child. The request may be in writing, in person, or by telephone to the office of the principal.

Student Code of Conduct - CORE

Please refer to the DPS Student Code of Conduct - CORE - for specifics regarding student behavior expectations. Please note that the Student Dress Code is also included in this code.

Telephones

Telephones in the school offices are for official school business only. Pupils should have permission from the principal or the secretary before making calls on the office telephone. Please make all after-school arrangements BEFORE your child comes to school.

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Title 1

Virginia Standards and Danville Public Schools Curriculum and Assessments

Information regarding how to access state standards and the division's assessment can be found at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/index.shtml> and the State and Local Assessment Guide. The division's local curriculum can be accessed via the Canvas Learning Management System. Please check with each school regarding login information.

VIRGINIA STANDARDS AND DANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENTS

Information regarding how to access state standards and the division's assessment can be found at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/index.shtml> and the State and Local Assessment Guide. The division's local curriculum can be accessed via the Canvas Learning Management

Title IX - DPS Policy GBA/JFHA and JFHA/GBA outline Prohibition of harassment and discrimination for Staff and Students. These policies also contain the current Title IX Grievance process.

- [DPS Policy JFHA](#) outlines prohibition of harassment and discrimination for students. These policies also contain the current Title IX grievance process.
- Danville Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs or activities and complies with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) and all interpreting regulations. This policy applies to students, independent contractors, volunteers, and terms and conditions of employment, including, but not limited to, hiring, training, promotion, discipline, compensation, benefits, and termination of employment.
- Inquiries about the application of Title IX and the regulations may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the United States Department of Education, or both.
- **Harassment:** Danville Public Schools believes that students are entitled to learn and study in an environment that is free from harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, marital status, military or veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or genetic information. If evidence of harassment is determined, a student will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. (JFHA)
- Retaliation against students who report harassment or participate in any related proceedings is prohibited. Behavior that is not unlawful or does not rise to the level of illegal harassment or retaliation may nevertheless be unacceptable for the educational environment. Demeaning or otherwise harmful actions are prohibited. Students are expected to respect the rights of others at all times. Any questions or individual complaints involving harassment should be referred to the principal or any school administrator.

Transfers

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If a student moves out of the city, the parent will notify the school. Upon request from the receiving school, records will be forwarded. The parent or guardian must sign an authorization for the release of confidential information.

Virginia Standards and Danville Public Schools Curriculum

Information regarding how to access state standards and the division's assessment can be found at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/index.shtml> and the State and Local Assessment Guide. The Standards of Learning can be found on the state website here: [VDOE Standards of Learning](#). The division's local curriculum can be accessed via the Canvas Learning Management System. Please check with your child's homeroom teacher or the principal if you need assistance obtaining this information.

Visitors

Approved visitors to the school are welcome. Parents and other citizens are regularly invited to special performances and activities. Schools are equipped with surveillance cameras and buzzers at the entrance way. After the tardy bell, all visitors must signal the office to gain entrance to the school. At all times, visitors should stop by the office, sign-in, and receive a Visitor's Pass before visiting in the building or on the grounds. No pupil is permitted to have a visitor (other than a parent) attend classes with them. **All visitor classroom visits must be pre-approved by the principal.**

Volunteers

The Danville Public Schools recognizes the valuable contributions which school volunteers can make to the learning process and educational goals of the school division. Instructional programs are enhanced through the participation of community members, local business and industry, and parents of the students. Volunteers contribute time, resources, and expertise and provide needed support to help ensure educational success for all children. To be considered for volunteering activities in the Danville Public Schools, **all prospective volunteers must complete a Volunteer Application.** The Volunteer Guide and Application are available at all schools in the main office and at the School Board Office.

Zero Waste School

We strive to be a beacon of sustainability and environmental responsibility. As an aspiring zero waste institution, we are committed to minimizing our ecological footprint and fostering a culture of conservation.

Central to our zero waste philosophy is the proper disposal of refuse. We encourage all members of our school community to contribute to this endeavor by conscientiously utilizing the appropriate bins for waste separation. Food waste, in particular, plays a vital role in our composting efforts, as it is

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transformed into nutrient-rich soil to support our gardens and green spaces. By disposing of food waste in the designated bins, we not only reduce landfill contributions but also nourish the environment around us.

In line with our commitment to sustainability, we strongly encourage all stakeholders to minimize paper consumption. By embracing electronic documents whenever possible, we not only save precious natural resources but also reduce energy consumption associated with printing and distribution. Let us harness the power of digital communication to collaborate, share information, and streamline our operations, fostering an environmentally conscious approach to information management.

Thank you for joining us in our journey towards a greener future. Together, we can make a lasting difference, creating a learning environment that not only educates but also inspires our students to become responsible stewards of our planet.

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Words from the Principal's Corner

Dear Students and Families,

We are thrilled to begin our second year at Activ8 STEM Academy, where we believe in sparking curiosity and instilling a love of learning in all of our students. As a member of our team, you will play a critical role in helping us achieve our mission of providing a comprehensive and engaging STEM education to students in Danville, VA, and surrounding areas.

At Activ8 STEM Academy, we are committed to creating a learning environment that is inclusive, equitable, and fun. We believe that all students should have the opportunity to excel, and we are dedicated to providing a supportive community where every student can thrive.

As a team, we will embody the following core values:

Curiosity: We encourage our students to explore, question, and discover the world around them. We believe that curiosity is the foundation for lifelong learning.

Collaboration: We believe that teamwork and collaboration are essential to solving complex problems. We teach our students to work together, share ideas, and appreciate each other's perspectives.

Cultivation: We believe in nurturing the growth and development of our students' skills, knowledge, and character. We provide a supportive environment where every student can reach their full potential.

Our school slogan is "**We are the Microbots: Small Robots with Big Dreams.**" We believe that our students have the potential to achieve great things and make a positive impact on the world.

We are excited to work alongside you to bring our vision to life and make a positive impact on the lives of our students. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Sincerely,

Brittany W. Scott

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Danville, Virginia

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION FORM

Physician: Please Complete

Name of Student _____ Address _____

Name of _____ Condition _____

Medication _____ Prescribed For _____

Dosage _____

Possible Side Effects of Which School Personnel Should Be Aware

Date of Order _____

Duration of Order _____

Signature _____

Physician _____

Physician's Phone Number _____

Parent or Legal Guardian: Please Complete

I request that the school permit the above medication to be taken by my child as ordered by the physician. The medicine is to be furnished by me in the bottle supplied by the drug store with the label intact.

Signature _____

Parent/Guardian _____

School Pupil Attends

Home Phone Number

Date

Work Phone Number

DANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Danville, Virginia

NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION FORM

Name of Student _____ School Year _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Name of Non-prescription Medicine _____

Present Condition _____

Dosage _____

Possible Side Effects of Which the Teacher Should be Aware

Parent or Legal Guardian: Please Complete

I request that the school permit the above medication to be taken by my child for no more than five consecutive days. The medicine must be in the original container and delivered to the principal or school nurse by the parent.

Signature _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Pupil Attends

Home Phone Number _____ **School**

Date

Work Phone Number