

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Beehive Family,

Welcome to another exciting year at Ethel M. Young Elementary! We are thrilled to partner with you as we begin a new year of learning, growth, and success. Our theme this year, "**Beehive of Excellence: Where the Magic Happens!**", reflects our commitment to creating a school community where every child can learn, grow, and shine.

This handbook contains important information about our school's policies, procedures, and expectations. Please take a few moments to review it and refer to it throughout the year as needed.

At Ethel M. Young Elementary, we know that strong partnerships between home and school help students achieve their best. Thank you for being an important part of our Beehive community.

We look forward to a wonderful year filled with learning, achievement, and memorable experiences for every student.

Respectfully yours,

Selene Rogers
Principal

VISION

Ethel M. Young Elementary envisions a community where every student is inspired to reach their full potential through a nurturing, innovative, and inclusive learning environment. We aspire to cultivate lifelong learners who demonstrate curiosity, resilience, and integrity, preparing them to become responsible and compassionate contributors to a dynamic and diverse world.

MISSION

Do EVERYTHING with Excellence.

MOTTO

Believe. Educate. Elevate

ETHEL M. YOUNG ES PRINCIPLE

At Ethel M. Young Elementary School, we commit to aligning all our actions with what is best for students. We will uphold high expectations and consistently assess our progress. With determination, perseverance, and a clear purpose, we strive to support the success of every student. We will remain adaptable and accountable in all we do.

ETHEL M. YOUNG ES MANTRA

Remember that this is a place of learning...where we show respect to our school, ourselves, and others. Excellence at Ethel M. Young Elementary is not an occasional achievement, it is the daily standard.

CORE VALUES

Teamwork – We collaborate with all stakeholders to create a strong foundation for student success.

Growth – We embrace a growth mindset and commit to continuous learning.

Achievement – We maximize every opportunity to help students reach their highest potential.

Mindset – We remain focused on shared goals and collective success.

Excellence – We set high expectations and pursue continuous improvement in all that we do.

SCHOOL MASCOT

BEE



SCHOOL COLORS

BLACK & GOLD

2026 - 2027 THEME

Beehive of Excellence: Where the Magic Happens!

CAMPUS EXPECTATIONS

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance is essential for student success. In accordance with state guidelines, a student is considered chronically absent if they miss 10% or more of the school year for any reason—excused or unexcused.

- In an 180-day school year, this equals 18 or more total absences.
- Chronic absenteeism can lead to academic struggles and may trigger intervention or support plans.
- This rule is separate from the 90% rule, which affects receiving credit for courses.

Families will be notified when attendance becomes a concern, and students may be referred to the attendance team for support.

Please make every effort to ensure your child is present and on time each day. Everyday counts!

BEHAVIOR

Students are expected to demonstrate positive and respectful behavior throughout the school day. Every student has the right to learn, and no individual has the right to disrupt the learning of others. If a student is consistently disruptive and does not follow directions given by an adult, they may be removed from the whole-group learning environment and sent to the team center, where they will continue participating in learning via Zoom.

If the behavior continues, parents or guardians will be contacted to schedule a meeting and/or asked to sit with the student during instruction.

Our teachers work diligently each day to provide the highest quality instruction, and disruptions to that learning will result in appropriate consequences. We are committed to maintaining a positive, respectful, and fair learning environment for all students.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

We understand that birthdays are special occasions for our students. However, due to our structured school day and commitment to bell-to-bell instruction, birthday celebrations will not be held at school.

Students may enjoy a free dress day on their birthday, provided their attire remains school-appropriate and follows the dress code.

Please do not send birthday treats, decorations, balloons, flowers, gift baskets, or other celebration items to school. Any birthday celebrations should take place outside of school hours.

Thank you for helping us maintain a focused learning environment for all students.

CAFETERIA EXPECTATIONS

- Try new food and make healthy choices.
- Clean up your space when finished.
- Use good manners and kind words.
- Wait patiently in line for your turn.
- Avoid sharing food...students may have allergic reactions
- Avoid sodas, big bags of chips, and candy/gum

CELL PHONES & CLASSROOM PHONES

The Texas State Legislature recently passed House Bill 1481, which prohibits students from possessing or using personal devices, such as cell phones, during the school day. This new law is designed to minimize distractions and create a more focused learning environment for all students. Devices must be:

- Turned off
- Kept out of sight (in backpacks)
- Not used during instructional time, including transitions and restroom breaks

Consequences for violations will include:

Confiscation of the device

Parent notification

Disciplinary action (per campus or district policy)

Parents should not call or text students during the school day—please contact the front office in case of emergencies. The law aims to reduce distractions, improve student focus, and support a safe learning environment.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Ethel M. Young Elementary is a uniform campus. All students are expected to be in full uniform each day to promote school pride, reduce distractions, and maintain a safe and orderly environment.

Uniform Guidelines:

- **Tops:** Solid-colored polo shirts (gray, yellow, and black)
- **Bottoms:** Khaki, navy, or uninterrupted denim
- **Shoes:** Closed-toe shoes (avoid flip-flops, sandals, Crocs, or slides)

Fridays: Students may wear Young ES spirit shirts or college shirts with uniform bottoms.

Additional Expectations:

- At no time may students wear jeans with holes, rips, tears, or frayed edges.
- Clothing must fit appropriately—no oversized or excessively tight garments.
- Hoodies may not be worn, while inside the building.

Students out of compliance may be asked to change, and parents will be contacted to bring a change of clothing. If assistance is needed with uniforms, please contact the front office to speak with our School Counselor.

HALLWAY

To maintain a safe, respectful, and orderly environment, all students are expected to follow these hallway expectations:

- Maintain a zero-noise level
- Stop, look, and listen to adults
- Walk on the right side of the hallway
- Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself
- Go to your designation quickly with the appropriate pass

LUNCH GUIDELINES

Each grade level is provided with a 30-minute lunch block daily. To support healthy eating habits and maintain a positive dining environment, we kindly ask that families:

- Do not send sodas or energy drinks to students.
- Limit chips and candy to reasonable portions (avoid big bags).
- Avoid candy and/or gum.
- Provide balanced meals whenever possible.

Students are encouraged to enjoy nutritious meals that help fuel learning throughout the day.

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM of SUPPORTS (MTSS)

MTSS is a framework designed to systematically identify instructional and behavioral support for students who are experiencing academic, behavioral, or other learning challenges. Through this process, students receive targeted interventions and progress monitoring to ensure their individual needs are met.

Parents may submit a written or verbal request for evaluation or support through the campus MTSS Coordinator. All requests will be reviewed and addressed in accordance with district guidelines and timelines.

PARENT & VISITOR CONDUCT EXPECTATION

Our school is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment for students, staff, families, and visitors. Parents and visitors are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner while on campus. The use of profanity, threatening language, verbal altercations, physical aggression, fighting, or any disruptive behavior is not permitted.

By modeling respectful communication and positive conflict resolution, adults help create an environment where students can learn and thrive. Maintaining a calm and professional atmosphere ensures the safety, well-being, and dignity of everyone in our school community.

PARENT & VISITOR DRESS EXPECTATIONS

To help maintain a professional, respectful, and positive learning environment, parents and visitors are expected to dress appropriately when visiting the school to conduct business. Clothing must adequately cover areas of the body that are typically considered private, including the chest, buttocks, and groin area. Attire should be neat, modest, and suitable for an educational setting. Appropriate dress helps model professionalism for students and ensures that all members of our school community feel comfortable and respected.

PROGRESS REPORTS & REPORT CARDS

To support ongoing communication between school and home, Ethel M. Young Elementary provides regular updates on student performance throughout the school year.

- Progress Reports are issued every 3 weeks to inform families of academic progress, behavior, and attendance. These reports help identify areas of strength and improvement before the end of the grading cycle. Progress reports are not final grades but serve as a checkpoint to ensure students are on track for success throughout the grading cycle.
- Report Cards are issued every 6 weeks and reflect the final grades for each grading period, based on student performance, participation, and mastery of grade-level standards.

Parents are encouraged to review these reports with their child and contact the teacher with any questions or concerns.

RESTROOMS

- Use time wisely and return to class promptly.
- Flush, wash your hands, and leave the space clean.
- Respect others' privacy and report problems to an adult
- Take care of restroom property and follow all procedures.

RECESS:

Recess provides students with an opportunity for physical activity, social interaction, and a mental break from academic tasks. To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all students, the following expectations must be followed:

- Follow all adult directions immediately and respectfully
- Use equipment and play structures safely and appropriately
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself
- Always stay within designated recess areas
- Walk quietly and safely when entering and exiting the building
- Report any injuries or unsafe behavior to an adult immediately

Students who do not follow safety expectations may receive a consequence or lose recess privileges. Recess is a privilege that supports student well-being and must be treated responsibly.

SCHOOL HOURS

Ethel M. Young Elementary operates from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day.

- Student arrival begins at 6:30 a.m.
- Instruction begins promptly at 8:00 a.m.
- Breakfast ends at 7:45 a.m.

Students should arrive on time each day to ensure they are prepared and ready for a successful start. Students are tardy after 8:00 a.m.

SCHOOL RULES:

It is the expectation that students follow the New Education System School Rules:

- Students are not disrupting the learning environment.
- Respect Others.
- NO Bullying.

TARDIES

Instruction begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. Students who arrive after 8:00 a.m. are considered tardy, and parents/guardians must report to the front office to sign students into school.

Frequent tardies may result in:

- Missed instructional time that could result to failing
- Parent conferences
- Attendance interventions

Ensuring students arrive on time each day sets out the tone for a successful learning experience. Parents are encouraged to establish morning routines that support punctuality.

TECHNOLOGY

Students are expected to use school laptops responsibly and respectfully to support learning. All use must align with district guidelines and school policies.

Student expectations when using laptops:

- Use laptops only for educational purposes
- Handle devices with care—no food, drinks, or rough handling
- Log in with assigned credentials and never share passwords
- Visit approved websites and applications only
- Keep devices charged and bring them to school daily if assigned for home use
- Do not change settings, download unapproved software, or access unauthorized content
- Report any damage, loss, or technical issues to a teacher immediately

Misuse of technology may result in loss of privileges and disciplinary action. Responsible digital behavior is expected at all times—at school and at home.

VOLUNTEERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ethel M. Young Elementary welcomes and values the support of parent and community volunteers. Through the Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) program, individuals can assist in various roles that enhance the educational experience for our students.

To volunteer on campus or attend school field trips, individuals must:

- Complete the VIPS online registration at www.houstonisd.org/VIPS
- Pass an annual background check
- Sign in and out at the front office and wear a visitor's badge while on campus

Examples of volunteer opportunities include:

- Field Trips: Serve as a chaperone to help supervise and support learning experiences
- School Events: Assist with family nights, holiday programs, book fairs, and fundraisers
- Front Office Help: Support clerical tasks, greet visitors, or prepare materials
- Campus Beautification: Help with garden projects, bulletin boards, or school clean-up days

We appreciate our volunteers and the positive impact they have on our school community!