

SHERMAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sherman Middle School

Student Information Guide

2026–2027



"Committed to Excellence"

Contact Information

District Numbers

FREQUENTLY CALLED		
Sherman I.S.D.	Main Line	(903) 891-6400
Transportation	Bus Information	(903) 891-6433
Free Lunch Office		(903) 891-6426
Athletic Department		(903) 891-6453

Administration

SHERMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL — MAIN OFFICE (903) 891-8940		
Principal	Dr. Max Smith	masmith@shermanisd.net
Principal's Secretary	Angela Carter	ancarter@shermanisd.net
Asst. Principal, 6th	Michele Estes Housden	mesteshousden@shermanisd.net
Asst. Principal, 7th	Samantha Deaton	sdeaton@shermanisd.net
AP Secretary	Jennifer Dodson	jdodson@shermanisd.net
Attendance Clerk		

Athletics, Nurse & Counseling

ATHLETICS		
Ath. Coordinator — Boys	Steven Wade	swade@shermanisd.net
Ath. Coordinator — Girls	Austen Hancock	bihancock@shermanisd.net

NURSE		
Nurse	Laura Goldsmith	lgoldsmith@shermanisd.net
Nurse/Office Assistant	Cindy Munson	cmunson@shermanisd.net

COUNSELING OFFICE		
6th Grade	Leomar De Los Angeles	ldelosangeles@shermanisd.net
7th Grade	Julie Davis	judavis@shermanisd.net
8th Grade	Krista Potter	kpotter@shermanisd.net
Registrar	Pamela Brown	pbrown@shermanisd.net

Welcome to Sherman Middle School

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Welcome back to what promises to be an exciting, inspiring, and unforgettable school year at Sherman Middle School! I'm Dr. Max Smith, your principal, and I couldn't be more thrilled to begin this journey with you.

Whether you're joining us for the first time or returning for another year, please know this: you are a valued and important member of our Bearcat Family. This year, our school motto — one I hold close to heart — is “A Commitment to Excellence.” It reflects our shared belief in striving to do our best, not just once in a while, but every day. It's about aiming high, showing up with purpose, and lifting one another up.

Together, we're building something truly special: a school culture where excellence is the expectation, not the exception. I'm excited to meet each of you, hear your stories, and support your goals. Here's to a fantastic 2026–2027 school year!

— Dr. Max H. Smith, Principal

Assurance of Nondiscrimination

The Sherman Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, gender, national origin, religion or disability in educational programs, admissions/enrollment decisions or activities which it operates, as required by Title VI, Title IX, Title II and Section 504. Any person having inquiries concerning the Sherman Independent School District's compliance with these regulations is directed to contact: Director of Student Support Services, Jenifer Politi.

Release of Directory Information

The Sherman Independent School District, in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), restricts access to protected student records as required by law. Directory information on students will be released upon request without a parent's consent, unless the parent elects in writing to restrict directory information within the first 10 days of school. The form on which parents can indicate their election is given during registration each year.

Bell Schedule

PERIOD	TIME	NOTES
Morning Tutorial	7:50 – 8:20	<i>Mon–Thurs, as assigned</i>
1st Period	8:30 – 9:20	
2nd Period	9:24 – 10:14	
3rd Period	10:18 – 11:08	
4th Period	11:13 – 12:53	<i>Lunches & SEL time</i>
A Lunch	11:13 – 11:43	<i>6th Grade</i>
B Lunch	11:48 – 12:18	<i>7th Grade</i>
C Lunch	12:23 – 12:53	<i>8th Grade</i>
5th Period	12:57 – 1:47	
Bearcat Advisory	1:51 – 2:22	
6th Period	2:26 – 3:16	
7th Period	3:20 – 4:15	
Afternoon Tutorial	4:15 – 4:45	<i>Mon–Thurs, as assigned</i>

Attendance

Regular attendance and punctuality are required of every student. Students who have good attendance generally achieve higher grades, enjoy school more, and are much more employable after leaving high school. Sherman ISD expects all students to attend school regularly and be on time for classes in order to benefit from the instructional program and to develop habits of punctuality, self-discipline, and responsibility.

Sherman Middle School will follow the Student Handbook on all attendance policies, laws, and expectations. See board policies FEA (LEGAL) and FED (LEGAL) for full legal detail.

90%

Minimum attendance to receive course credit or a final grade

75%

Minimum attendance to qualify for a principal-approved plan to still earn credit

Policy Details

- To receive credit or a final grade, a student must attend at least 90% of the days a class is offered, regardless of whether absences are excused or unexcused.
- Students with excessive unexcused absences must continue attending school and remain responsible for all assignments; disciplinary action, including placement in an alternative program, may apply if a student becomes disruptive or uncooperative as a result. A student who loses credit for any class must continue to attend that class.
- A student attending less than 75% of class days, or who doesn't complete a principal-approved plan, has their case reviewed by the attendance review committee, which determines whether extenuating circumstances apply and how credit can be regained. See policy FEC for detail.

To Clear an Absence

The parent or guardian should call their student's assistant principal before 2:00 p.m. on the day of the absence to have the absence cleared.

Excused Absences

Upon return to school, the student must bring a note signed by the parent describing the reason for the absence (a student-signed note is accepted only if the student is 18+ or an emancipated minor). A phone call from the parent may be accepted, but the district may require a written note. Unless the absence is for a statutorily allowed reason, the district is not required to excuse it, even with a note.

Unexcused Absences

Within 2 days of returning to school, a student absent more than 3 consecutive days for personal illness must bring a doctor's or clinic's statement verifying the condition, or the absence may be considered unexcused and a compulsory-attendance violation. If a student develops a questionable pattern of absences, the principal or attendance committee may require the same kind of documentation.

School Procedures

Textbooks

Textbooks are state or district property, issued for the school year and returned at withdrawal or a schedule change. Lost textbooks must be paid for at the main office before a replacement is issued; a refund is available if the lost book is later found and presented with the receipt. Damaged books may carry a fine, up to full replacement cost. Outstanding textbook obligations must be cleared before records or additional textbooks are issued.

Nurse (Clinic)

Students who become ill must get permission from the clinic before leaving school, or the absence is unexcused. The clinic is staffed by a full-time registered nurse. A fever over 100° requires the student stay home until fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication; the same 24-hour rule applies to diarrheal illness. Keep the school updated with a current parent contact number.

Visitors

All visitors must report to the main office first and show identification; classroom visits during instructional time need prior principal and teacher approval and must not disrupt the learning environment. The highest standards of courtesy are expected — disruptive behavior will not be permitted.

Identification Cards

The first ID card is issued free at the start of the year and doubles as a library card, event entry, and cafeteria ID. Students must wear it on campus during school hours. A lost or stolen ID must be replaced immediately at the library before or after school for a \$5.00 fee. Students must return their ID upon withdrawal from Sherman Middle School.

YOU MUST BE IN POSSESSION OF YOUR STUDENT ID AT ALL DISTRICT ACTIVITIES.

Behavioral Consequences

Please refer to the Sherman ISD Student Code of Conduct for the full, authoritative list of behavioral consequences. The five levels below show how consequences typically escalate — lighter interventions first, more serious ones as needed. The ■ meter next to each level fills in further as severity increases.

1	Detention ■■■■ Assigned by an administrator for any reason deemed necessary; held during lunch or before/after school. No early release once in progress — a parent is called if removal becomes necessary.
2	In-School Suspension (ISS) ■■■■ An alternative to off-campus suspension. Held 8:30 a.m.–4:15 p.m. for all assigned students; devices are surrendered on arrival, and no school activities are permitted during the assignment.
3	Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) ■■■■ 1–3 days depending on the incident and any investigation needed. Students remain responsible for missed work; parents are notified of findings under FERPA.
4	DAEP Placement ■■■■ A structured program at 2701 North Loy Lake Road focused on modifying behavior and supporting academic success. Students may not participate in any home-campus or district activities during the assignment.
5	Expulsion ■■■■ Reserved for the most serious offenses — crimes against a person, possession of items prohibited by law, or state drug/alcohol felonies. See the Code of Conduct for full detail.

A NOTE ON SERVING CONSEQUENCES: failure to serve an assigned consequence results in additional consequences. If a student can't serve on the assigned day, parents must notify the appropriate assistant principal's office — a parent's permission to miss a consequence does not prevent further consequences.

Middle School Discipline Management Plan

Every entry below is drawn from Sherman Middle School's discipline plan. The ● dots under each behavior are an at-a-glance guide to typical severity, based on the most serious consequence listed — always refer to the Sherman ISD Student Code of Conduct and administrator judgment for the final determination in any specific case.

●● Lower severity (typical)

●●● Moderate severity (typical)

●●● Higher severity (typical)

BEHAVIOR	CONSEQUENCE
1. Abusive/Inappropriate Language or Gestures ●●● Moderate	Conversation w/another student: removed from class, counselor parent contact. Confrontation w/another student: detention. Directed toward faculty/staff: 3 days ISS. Racially discriminatory, directed at faculty/students: 3 days ISS.
2. Academic Dishonesty ●●● Moderate	Includes cheating (e.g., giving or receiving answers, using unauthorized notes or devices during an assessment, or copying another student's work) and plagiarism (presenting another's work, ideas, or content as one's own without citation). Unauthorized use of generative AI tools to produce, complete, or substantially alter an assignment is also academic dishonesty; AI use is permitted only when a teacher explicitly authorizes and discloses it. See Board Policy EIA and the district Grading Guidelines. May result in grade penalties, possible loss of credit, and Lunch Detention to possible ISS.
3. Alcohol ●●● Higher	Use, influence, possession, sale, or delivery on campus or at a school activity: assignment to DAEP. Parent and police contacted. Extracurricular students may face additional action.
4. Fire Alarm Misuse / False Reports / Not Cooperating in Drills ●●● Higher	Contact parent; OSS; contact police/fire department; assignment to DAEP.
5. Assault ●●● Higher	OSS; assignment to DAEP pending severity. Police will be called.
6. Bullying/Cyberbullying ●●● Higher	Parent contact, formal investigation, stay-away agreement, schedule change, ISS, or discretionary DAEP placement, as warranted.
7. Bus Issues ●● Lower	Use the SISD bus referral form/procedures in the Student Handbook.
8. Cell Phone/Smart/Electronic Device ●●● Moderate	No personal devices allowed; earbuds/AirPods not permitted. Exceptions apply for documented medical need, an IEP or Section 504 plan, or another legal or safety-related purpose approved by the district. Teachers and administrators can confiscate a device used in violation of this policy. 1st offense: confiscated and turned in to administrator, parent contacted, student may pick up the device at day's end at 2201 E Lamar St. 2nd offense: confiscated, parent contacted, parent/guardian must pick up the device at day's end. 3rd offense: confiscated, parent contacted, additional consequences (e.g., detention or ISS) may be issued, parent/guardian must pick up the device.
9. Door Propping / Security Breach ●●● Moderate	Compromising building security — propping, opening, or allowing entry without proper security measures — is not permitted.
10. Dress Code ●● Lower	Student is not allowed in class out of dress code; reports to the front office for support. See the district dress code for full standards.

11. Drugs ●●● Higher	Use, influence, possession, sale, or delivery of a controlled substance: OSS, 30-day DAEP with TCC Substance Abuse Treatment setup, possible discretionary expulsion. Parents and police contacted.
12. End-of-Year Behavior ●●● Higher	During the last 9 weeks, offenses under the Code of Conduct may result in ISS, DAEP, and removal from end-of-year activities; consequences may carry into the next semester.
13. Failure to Report to Office ●○○ Lower	1st offense: warning. 2nd offense: detention. 3rd offense: ISS.
14. Failure to Serve Assigned Consequences ●●○ Moderate	Missed detention adds another day; missing two consecutive days of detention adds a minimum 1-day ISS. Disrupting or leaving ISS without permission adds days and may lead to DAEP placement.
15. Fighting ●●● Higher	Parent and Police called. OSS up to 3 days, ISS up to 10 days, or discretionary DAEP from 30 days up to end of school year, pending severity.
16. Horseplay/Play Fighting/Slap-Boxing ●○○ Lower	Minimum 1-day ISS.
17. Identification Badges ●○○ Lower	3rd violation in a 9-week period: lunch detention (next school day, not recorded as discipline). 5th violation: new badge issued with a \$5 fee to the library account. Altering ID information is treated as forging a school document.
18. Inappropriate Items ●○○ Lower	Possession of non-instructional items (e.g., laser pointers, lighters, matches, pocket knives, water guns) results in confiscation, returned only to a parent. 1st offense: detention. 2nd offense: ISS, minimum 1 day.
19. Interference with the Educational Process (Disruption) ●●○ Moderate	Up to 3 days ISS with possible DAEP placement.
20. Leaving Class/Lunch Without Permission ●○○ Lower	Warning or detention, escalating to ISS and ISS x2 for repeat instances.
21. Possession of Pornographic Material ●●● Higher	3 days ISS with possible assignment to DAEP.
22. PDA (Public Display of Affection) ●○○ Lower	Conference with administrator; disciplinary progression for repeat instances.
23. Sexting ●●● Higher	Minimum ISS, possible assignment to DAEP. Police called as needed.
24. Sexual Contact ●●● Higher	Up to 3 days suspension and/or additional consequences; possible DAEP. Police called as needed.
25. Sexual Harassment ●●● Higher	Verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature. Consequences range from parent contact up to assignment to an alternative education program — typically 3 days ISS to possible DAEP.
26. Skateboards ●○○ Lower	Not allowed during the school day; “wheelies” (skate shoes) are also not allowed.
27. Substitute Misbehavior ●○○ Lower	Minimum 1-day ISS for inappropriate conduct toward a substitute teacher.
28. Tardies (per 9 weeks, per class) ●○○ Lower	1st–2nd offense: warning. 3rd–4th offense: detention. Repeated infractions may add consequences; failure to report to class results in ISS. No excused tardies for transportation problems.
29. Theft/Robbery/Burglary	Under \$50: 3 days ISS.

●●● Higher	Over \$50: 3 days OSS, possible DAEP. Over \$500 (felony): DAEP and police involvement.
30. Threats ●●● Higher	Student-to-student: minimum 2 days ISS. Student-to-staff: ISS or DAEP. Terroristic: mandatory DAEP up to expulsion. The district's Safe and Supportive School Team (SSST) may conduct a threat assessment and temporarily remove a student from the educational setting while it's completed.
31. Truancy / Skipping Class ●●○ Moderate	1st offense: ISS. 2nd offense: ISS x2. 3rd offense: ISS x3.
32. Vaping/Tobacco Products (incl. e-cigarettes, THC vape devices) ●●● Higher	Use or possession on campus, grounds within 300 feet, or at a school activity: 10-day ISS/DAEP placement. Police may be notified.
33. Unacceptable Use of Technology ●●○ Moderate	Viewing/sharing inappropriate content, unauthorized AI use for academic dishonesty, or creating/distributing AI-generated content involving students or staff. Possible device suspension and/or 3 days ISS.
34. Vandalism ●●○ Moderate	Minimum 2 days ISS, restitution or repair, possible DAEP. Police may be called.
35. Violation of Stay-Away Agreement ●●○ Moderate	Includes approaching, talking to, sitting by, or otherwise contacting the opposing student on school property, buses, bus stops, or school activities — directly or through someone acting on your behalf. 3 days ISS/OSS, possible DAEP placement.
36. Weapons (real or fake) ●●● Higher	Refer to the SISD Student Code of Conduct.

Dress and Grooming Code

A student out of dress code is not allowed in class and should report to the front office for support; parents are contacted if a change of clothes can't be located or provided. Full illustrated standards: shermanisd.net/dresscode.

The Dress and Grooming Code teaches grooming and hygiene, instills discipline, prevents disruption, avoids safety hazards, and teaches respect for authority and the work environment. The principal may prohibit any clothing or grooming reasonably expected to cause distraction, interfere with school operations, or create a safety hazard — even if not explicitly listed below. Students and parents may otherwise determine personal dress and grooming standards within this Code.

Coverage

- ✓ ID worn at all times on campus or district transportation.
- ✓ Torso and legs fully covered in the undergarment area; shirts buttoned/snapped to 3" below the collarbone.
- ✓ 6th–12th grade: no tank tops, strapless dresses, or spaghetti straps — regardless of strap width.
- ✓ Shorts, skirts, and dresses OK if they don't expose undergarments or private areas.
- ✓ Pants, shorts, and skirts worn at waist level — no sagging.
- ✓ Ripped jeans/shorts/leggings OK only if undergarments stay covered at all times, including while bending or reaching.
- ✓ Torn or ragged tops need an undershirt or similar covering.
- ✓ Tights, leggings, and bike shorts must be paired with a top, skirt, or shorts that cover the buttocks.
- ✓ No underwear or sleepwear worn as outerwear.

Headwear, Hair & Face

- ✓ No hats, caps, sweatbands, bandannas, sunglasses, or hoods worn inside the building.
- ✓ Exception: head coverings approved by the principal for students undergoing chemotherapy or similar hair-loss treatment.
- ✓ Hair color/design must not distract from learning; non-natural color is fine as an accent. Shaved designs must be school-appropriate.
- ✓ No disruptive or distracting hair styles, including Mohawks.
- ✓ Eyes visible at all times, unless approved by the principal for a medical reason.
- ✓ No tongue, lip, eyebrow, or facial rings/gauges/spacers — one small nose stud is allowed.
- ✓ Distracting or excessive makeup is not permitted.

Footwear & Jewelry

- ✓ Footwear required at all times — no shower shoes, house shoes, slippers, or wheeled/light-up shoes.
- ✓ Medical shoes allowed with physician authorization.
- ✓ Jewelry that distracts from instruction is not acceptable.
- ✓ No metal chains, costume accessories, metal hair picks, or blankets.

Content & Approval

- ✓ No clothing depicting or advertising alcohol, tobacco, drugs, violence, or lewd/obscene content.
- ✓ Nothing reflecting gang affiliation, intentional or not — SISD Police maintain a reference list.
- ✓ Class, club, or school-sponsored group t-shirts need final principal approval.
- ✓ Higher standards may apply for extracurricular activities, at the sponsor/coach's discretion.

Students are expected to be in dress code compliance at any school-related event or activity; school officials may ask a student to leave if inappropriately dressed.