



Dinwiddie Middle School

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Brenton Byrd
Principal

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July 24, 2023

DMS Students and Families:

I welcome you back to the 2023-2024 school year. Please take a moment to prepare and re-energize your mind for the upcoming school year. This new school year allows us to embrace progress and experience our education in a new and exciting way.

This year will be a successful year for you and our school community. Our theme is **Embrace Progress!** I empower each student to **Embrace Progress** by doing the right thing, being respectful every day in every situation, working harder, maintaining a positive attitude, and choosing to be committed to growth and success.

The Dinwiddie Middle School (DMS) Team will create an environment where every student feels safe, valued, and supported. We remain focused on student achievement and committed to building positive relationships, creating new and innovative opportunities, and developing outstanding young people.

With our continued focus on support, high expectations, accountability, consistency, and professionalism, we are confident that we can be successful in every endeavor. The Dinwiddie Middle School family has proven over and over again that no challenge is too great for us when we work together!

I am delighted to share some positive changes that will positively impact DMS for the upcoming year:

- To help improve communication, we will send a virtual quarterly newsletter to share school events, important announcements, and other highlights throughout the year with families. Be on the lookout for *News from the Gen Den!*
- We have made several improvements to instruction, including new course opportunities, an enhanced bell schedule, and one-to-one devices for every student.
 - 8th-grade high school credit course offerings include: Spanish I, Algebra I, JROTC I, and Leadership Development
 - New Programs taught through Health classes:
 - Neptune Navigate Educate Digital Citizenship (social media, cyberbullying, and digital citizenship)
 - 3rd Millennium Classrooms Prevention and Intervention (alcohol, drugs, nicotine, conflict, diversity, equity, and inclusion)
 - DARE Program for Grades 6-8

- Post-Secondary Exploration and Awareness
 - Brightpoint - 8th Grade Day of Exploration - date TBD
 - Rowanty - 8th Grade Day of Exploration - date TBD
 - Z-Space Virtual Reality laptops for CTE & Career Investigations
 - GoTec Lab Grant (new hands-on equipment \$200,000 value):
 - IT Coding and Networking
 - Automation and Robotics
 - Precision Machining
 - Metrology
 - Engineering - Mechanical, Electrical, Manufacturing
 - Health and Medical Science
 - enhanced bell schedule and one-to-one devices for every student.
- DMS will employ the help of various resources to support our students and families, including:
 - The Encompass and RISE programs housed within DCPS
 - In-school counselors will provide mental health support through classroom lessons
 - Family and Community Engagement Specialist
 - Strategic continuous improvement committees
- Additionally, we are excited to recognize students for various academic achievements, behavior, attendance, and athletics achievements. We expect and will ensure all students exhibit DMS P.R.I.D.E.

P

Polite

R

Responsible

I

In Control



Do your best

E

Earn & Give Respect

Let us all have a conscious and positive mindset to make Dinwiddie Middle School one of the best middle schools in the state and the nation. Parents, your support is vital to our students and our school's success.

On behalf of the entire administrative team, consider this your official welcome to the 2023-2024 school year...one of building excellence and where we **Embrace Progress!**

Yours in dedicated service,

Brenton J. Byrd

Mr. Brenton J. Byrd

Dinwiddie Middle School Important Dates

Date	Event	Time
August 2, 2023	6th Grade Transition Camp (Only for students who registered to attend)	8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
	Optional Chromebook Info Session (For parents of students attending 6th-grade Transition Camp ONLY)	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
August 16, 2023	Meet the Teacher	4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
	Optional Chromebook Info Sessions	(located in the DMS Auditorium) 4:30 PM 5:30 PM 6:15 PM
August 21, 2023	First Day of School for 6th Graders ONLY	7:05 AM - 2:25 PM
August 22, 2023	First Day of School for 7th and 8th Graders	7:05 AM - 2:25 PM
August 25, 2023	Back to School Bash at Historic Southside	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
September 20, 2023	Picture Day	By Class
November 28, 2023	Make-up Picture Day	By Class

NOTE: Please see attached letter from the DCPS Technology Department regarding Chromebooks.

Dinwiddie Middle School Important Information

We want to ensure the safety of all Dinwiddie Middle School students and staff. Please continue to view Dinwiddie Middle School's website for updates and information.

Transportation

Drop Off: Student drop off will begin daily at 7:05 a.m. Cars will enter at the entrance closest to the driving range (opposite the gym), and students will enter the building through the back doors beside the gym. Please only drop students off in the front loop after 7:35 a.m., as this area is for DCPS special transportation only.

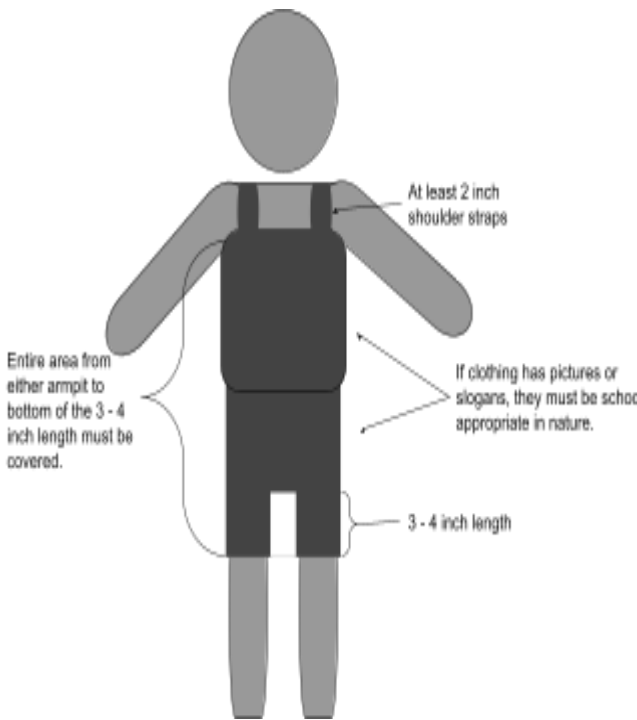
Pick Up: Students will leave at 2:25 daily. Cars will enter at the entrance closest to the driving range (opposite the gym). Once all buses have exited, cars will be directed to the blue awning by the gym for pick-up.

Meals

Breakfast and lunch are available at no cost for all students.

"Embrace Progress when following school expectations."

We want our students to have the best school experience possible and all parents and students to be well-informed regarding school expectations.

<u>School Dress Code</u>	
<p><u>Headgear</u> Students in the school building (including classrooms, hallways, and common areas) may not wear hats, hoods, hair bonnets, etc.</p> <p><u>Appropriate School Attire</u> Students are encouraged to wear appropriate clothing for school.</p> <p>All clothing must be of appropriate length (fingertip length). Tops should not contain straps that are thin enough to expose undergarments. Shirts should not expose the midriff area.</p> <p>Jeans/Pants containing holes should only have holes that are fingertip length and should not expose the upper thigh area.</p>	

Dress code violations could result in a student receiving disciplinary consequences. Because we want our students to be successful, we will offer every student the opportunity to change into more appropriate school attire if there is evidence of a dress code violation.

Cell Phones

Because our effort at Dinwiddie Middle School is to ensure uninterrupted learning occurs, **cell phones must be out of sight, silenced, and off during the school day from 7:05 AM until dismissal.** At DMS, we are committed to ensuring our students have a learning environment without unnecessary disruption. Therefore, cell phones, headphones, or earbuds are prohibited anytime during the school day. If a student needs to contact a parent in an emergency, they will be allowed to do so from the main office. Please see the information below from the DCPS Code of Conduct.

First Offense:	Parent/Guardian contacted, verbal warning, and the device may be confiscated until the end of the class or the end of the school day.
Second Offense:	Parent/Guardian contacted, the device may be confiscated, but a parent/guardian must retrieve the device, and other disciplinary consequences may apply.
Third Offense:	The student may receive in-school suspension. Confiscation of phone, parent/guardian contact, and a disciplinary infraction <u>will be imposed</u> . The student may need to turn in their cell phone at the beginning of each school day.
Fourth Offense:	The student may be suspended from school for one (1) day for insubordination. In addition, the student <u>shall be banned</u> from possessing a cell phone or electronic device at school for the remainder of the school year.

Attendance

Parents and families are essential partners in promoting good attendance because they have the bottom-line responsibility to ensure their children attend school every day. Just as parents should focus on how their children are performing academically, they must set expectations for good attendance and monitor their children’s absences so that missed days don’t add to academic trouble. Here are a few strategies to assist with this:

- Make getting students to school on time every day a top priority.
- Alert schools and community agencies to barriers that keep kids from attending class.
- Ask for and monitor data on chronic absence.

