

2024-
2025

Denton Magnet School of Technology

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of Denton Magnet School of Technology is to cultivate intellectual curiosity and prepare students to thrive as college and career ready graduates in a challenging, diverse, and evolving technology-driven society.

HANDBOOK SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Mascot – The Admirals

School Colors – Navy Blue (Hex #0F1576)

Gold (HEX# FFD700)

Motto – “It’s a GREAT day to be an Admiral”

Mission - The purpose of Denton Magnet School of Technology is to cultivate intellectual curiosity and prepare students to thrive as college and career ready graduates in a challenging, diverse, and evolving technology-driven society.

Program Elements -

The program is a traditional academic concept including the following elements:

- School of choice
- Multi-cultural environment
- Well-defined discipline policy
- Strict dress code
- Emphasis on A+ College Ready curriculum to include mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, computer sciences with additional emphasis on technology experiences
- Emphasis on character and citizenship education
- Promotion upon mastery of established grade level objectives
- Homework
- Teacher interdisciplinary teams
- Limited activities and special programs that would remove a student from his or her normal class activities
- Parent commitment to and involvement in the program
- Written parent contact and statement of commitment
- Opportunity for exploratory courses
- Expectation of mastery of basic skills
- Expectation of rigorous academic instructions
- Emphasis on offering a curriculum that provides students with opportunities to develop higher order thinking skills integrated with technology
- Hands-on experiences in technology

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role of the Teacher - The teacher's major responsibility is to direct students in their efforts to master subject matter. All teachers at Denton Magnet School of Technology agree with traditional academic philosophy and implement it in their classrooms. Accordingly, the role of the teacher includes the following:

- Uphold the academic philosophy and its implementation.
- Strive for academic excellence.
- Incorporate a strand of mathematics, science and technology in all subject areas.
- Support the homework and reporting policy.
- Demonstrate classroom management skills.
- Plan instruction designed to aid students in mastering grade level objectives.
- Maintain appropriate discipline related to a structured program.
- Maintain an academically interesting and stimulating classroom environment.
- Adhere to the uniform policy.
- Exhibit team spirit in the implementation of all aspects of the school program.
- Be committed to a quality education.

The teacher plays a major and indispensable role in the educational process of children and deserves the respect and cooperation of students and parents. Teacher conferences must be scheduled in advance. Please contact your child's teacher(s) for an appointment. Teachers will not be available for unscheduled conferences.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum is designed to meet the needs of middle school students being aware of their intellectual, physical and social/emotional characteristics. Components of the curriculum provide each student with an opportunity for optimum growth. Acquisition of higher order thinking skills, critical thinking skills and conceptual development is emphasized in all courses.

Required Courses

Honors Language Arts
Honors Mathematics
Honors Science
Physical Education
Honors Social Studies

Electives

Video
Robotics
Journalism/Yearbook
Band -Beg, Int, Adv.
NJROTC

Design & Modeling
Graphic Arts I, II, & III
African American History
We Build It Better

Grading Procedures for All Subjects

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-Below	E

Honor Roll

A Honor Roll is considered all A's (no B's)

A/B Honor Roll is considered all A's and B's

Guidance and Counseling

Counseling is defined as a relationship between a counselor and an individual seeking help in gaining greater self-understanding and improved decision-making skills for problem resolution and developmental growth. Denton Magnet School has a comprehensive guidance program which includes the following student services:

- Individual counseling
- Group counseling
- Education and career information
- Testing and evaluation
- School orientation to include crisis, facilitative, preventive, and developmental counseling
- Recruiting

These services are available to all students as a part of their general education experiences and tailored, when appropriate, to special situations and circumstances. Parents are encouraged to call and make an appointment to see the counselor as needed.

Special Services

We recognize the individual differences in students with course offerings both in the academically talented (Gifted) and the learning disabled (SLD) student. SLD students are served in the area of written expression, with IEP support.

Physical Education Rules and Regulation

Responsibilities of the Student

- Be on time.
- Secure personal belongings in assigned lockers and assume responsibility for their own property. (Teachers are not responsible for student's belongings.)
- No food and/or drinks in the gym, locker rooms, or on playing areas without permission.
- Report directly to their assigned area.
- Practice good sportsmanship and safety.
- Practice good personal hygiene (**no aerosols allowed**).
- Respect personal and public property.
- Take care of all equipment.
- Remain in assigned area.
- Follow rules and regulations of the school.
- Be prepared to dress out and participate regardless of the weather conditions. (Inclement weather schedule will be used.)
- Use the facilities before leaving the locker room. No one may return before the class ends without permission from the teacher.

Grading

The student's average is based on daily points and unit assessments. All students are expected to dress and participate daily as well as pass all unit tests.

Health, Assessment, Dress	20% of grade
Participation	60% of grade

Discipline

The Physical Education Department follows the MCPSS Code of Conduct.

Participation

- Each student is expected to participate daily.
- Students may not participate if not fully dressed.
- Student activities will be limited or modified for any disabilities.
- Each student must report to his/her dressing area in the locker room when dressing in or out (by their own locker).
- Students who cannot participate in physical education for more than three days (due to physical condition) must have a doctor's statement. Parent statements are good for three (3) days only.
- At the sound of the whistle or buzzer, by any teacher, **ALL** students must stop immediately and give their attention to the adult in charge.
- At the end of the period, all equipment must be returned immediately.
- Students remain in their area during activity time.

Locks/Lockers/Locker Rooms

- One student will be assigned per locker.
- Everything should be secured in the student's locker during P.E. time. (Exception might be a project, band instrument, etc. in which case a designated area will be set aside.)
- Students are expected to keep the entire locker room area clean and safe.
- All books should be taken to gym lockers during physical education period. When the student does not dress out, he/she should put all belongings in their locker, and report to their designated area.
- No student should open the back doors to the locker room except in an emergency.

Health and Safety

- **All accidents must be reported immediately to a teacher.**
- Students should report all broken or hazardous conditions to the teacher.
- Students should follow all safety rules.
- Food and gum are prohibited in all areas.
- No horseplay is permitted in the gym, dressing rooms or playing areas at any time. **Keep your hands to yourself!**

ATTENDANCE

Denton Magnet abides by MCPSS Attendance Policy.

When students miss school, they miss lectures, notes, class discussions, assignments, quizzes and test. It doesn't matter how conscientious students are about making up their work, they never fully make-up all of what they missed even if they're absent only a day or two.

- A. Students are required to be on time for school. It is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to make sure that their children arrive on time each day.
- B. **Any time that a student is absent, the parent or guardian must send a written note to school satisfactorily explaining the absence.** A satisfactory note from the parent or guardian meets the following State guidelines: Illness; death in the immediate family. **The note or doctor's excuse must be sent to school within three (3) days of the student's return to be counted as an excused absence and may be verified by the school staff or nurse.** * Once the homeroom teacher receives the excuse, they will issue the student a "blue slip". This is to be taken by the student to every class and signed by each teacher. It must be returned to the homeroom teacher at the end of the day.
- C. A written note from parents or guardians, as described above, will excuse absences for up to but not exceeding eight (8) days.
- D. Parents or guardians of any student who is absent exceeds (8) times must present a clinical or doctor's excuse to the school for the absence to be excused.
- E. Parents or guardians of any student having a chronic ailment that may cause a child to miss school during the year are required to provide the school with a doctor's statement verifying the child's condition. This must be done as soon as the problem occurs and repeated at the beginning of each term.
- F. **Absences for family vacations are strongly discouraged; an excused absence will not be granted for family vacations.**
- G. Students must be in attendance one-half of the instructional day to be counted present.
- H. When a student receives an early dismissal before 11:00 a.m. and does not return to school, they are counted absent. A note from the parent or physician is needed to excuse the absence.
- I. Upon returning to school following an early dismissal, the student is to bring their computer printout from the doctor office
- J. At the time of the 8th unexcused absence, students may be withdrawn at the principal's discretion and returned to the zoned school. In all unexcused absences the teacher is not obligated to assist the student in making up missed work/tests.

Truancy

Definition: Alabama Department of Education Prevention and Support Services- (May 2004)

A parent, guardian, or other person having charge of any child officially enrolled in Alabama public schools (K-12) shall explain in writing the cause of any and every absence of the child no later than three (3) days following return to school. A failure to furnish such explanation shall be evidence of the child being truant each day he/she is absent.

The child shall also be deemed truant for any absence determined by the principal to be unexcused based upon the State Department of Education's current School Attendance Manual. Five (5) unexcused absences within a school year constitute a student being truant for the purpose of filing a petition with the Court.

Parental/Custody Issues

Due to the overwhelming number of custody issues involving students, all Mobile County Public School System employees will follow the same procedure as outlined below relating to noncustodial parents' access to records and visitation. School system employees should not be placed in the position of reading and trying to interpret divorce decrees to resolve custody issues.

At the advice of school system attorneys, the Student Online Registration, completed by the enrolling parent should govern issues relating to pick up, visits, etc. of students at school. The custodial parent that completed the Online Registration at the time of enrollment may complete the Parent/Legal Guardian #2 section noncustodial parent. All other contacts should be placed in the Emergency Contact section. Unless otherwise prohibited by a judge, the noncustodial parent has right to their child/children's records, copy of report cards, and conference with administrator or teachers at the school. Visitation of children by the noncustodial parent at school is not allowed. This includes lunch, field trips, and class parties, etc. unless the noncustodial parent's name in the Guardian #2 section.

The primary role of our school is to provide a safe learning environment for all students in which their attention can focus on instruction. The schools will not become the environment for adult custodial disputes. These types of issues must be dealt with away from school campus.

Arrival and Dismissal Times

- School take-in is 7:00AM. and dismisses at 2:31PM.
- Breakfast is in the cafeteria from 7:00AM.-7:15AM.
- Students who report to the cafeteria must eat breakfast and then report to the gym.
- Students who choose not to eat breakfast must report promptly to the gym and wait there to be dismissed to their first class of the day.

Students arriving after the bell at 7:20AM must check-in at the office. Parents should make every effort to have students arrive on time. It is disrupting to the classroom and the instructional process when students are tardy.

- Students must be picked up from school no later than 3:00PM.
- For the safety of our children, **parents are asked not to leave students before 7:00AM or after 3:00PM** as supervision is not provided. Failure to comply with the Parent Contract is grounds for removal of a child from the Magnet Program.

Perfect Attendance

Perfect attendance is achieved when a student has not missed a day of school and has not gotten an early dismissal or arrived late (tardy).

Tardy to School

Please remember that when students are tardy, they are missing classroom instruction. If a student arrives to school late following an appointment, the tardy will be calculated into the tardy policy. An Excused tardy is still counted in the tardy policy. Tardiness will also be considered when determining Perfect Attendance. We feel that this policy will eliminate the classroom disruption caused by students who are coming into class tardy.

The following guidelines, regarding tardiness to school, will be enforced:

- When a student has four (4) tardies, a letter will be mailed to the parent.
- At the time of the eighth (8) tardy, a required parent/guardian conference will be held with the counselors or Assistant Principals.
- At the time of the tenth (10) tardy, a conference with the Principal, Assistant Principal and the attendance social worker will be assigned.
- At the fifteenth tardy (15), students will be referred to the Early Warning Truancy Program and the Magnet School Supervisors for further actions.
- Students with an unexcused tardy are not allowed to make up missed assignments, tests, exams, projects, etc. (See the Principal)

Early Dismissals

Parents are encouraged to schedule all medical and dental appointments after the regular school day. If it is essential that such an appointment be scheduled during the day. NO early dismissals after 2:00PM will be granted without prior approval. Parents must come to the office to pick up the student. If a child receives an early dismissal before 11:00AM, they will be marked absent for the day.

Early dismissal will be considered when determining perfect attendance status. A photo I.D. will be required from all parents/guardians before the student will be released. A student will not be released to anyone whose name does not appear on the student's enrollment. The parent must keep this current. To make changes to the emergency or pick up list parent/guardian must come into the school office.

Messages from Parents to Students

Telephoning during School Hours - Please do not call the school requesting a message be passed on to your child unless it is an emergency. We will not be able to honor your request. Our goal is to limit the number of interruptions during instructional time. It is very important that all transportation arrangements and other matters be taken care of before students report to school each day. It is also not in the best interest of your child for us to take a message on the phone instructing your child to do something when we have no way to ensure the message is legitimate.

DENTON MAGNET SCHOOL
OF TECHNOLOGY



STUDENT TECH

POLICY



Bluetooth earbuds and/or headphones are not allowed.

Cell phones are to be powered off and in bookbag.

Cell phones are not to be used at school.

Smart watches cannot be worn at school.

The above mentioned items may be taken up if used, and the parent will have to pick up from the office.

[HTTPS://WWW.DENTONMAGNET.COM/PARENTINFO](https://www.dentonmagnet.com/parentinfo)

UNIFORM POLICY

Dress Code and Appearance

There is a distinct relationship between dress code and student's behavior, attitudes, and achievements. Uniform dress will be required and monitored daily.

- All uniforms should be clean and pressed (not torn, tattered, bleached, faded or with holes).
- Inappropriate attire will be called to the attention of the student and administration will be contacted. Parents must take appropriate measures and correct the uniform dress violation.
- The administrative team of the school will make final decisions pertaining to the compliance with policy.
- Students who do not comply with policy will face consequences including, but not limited to parent contact and in-school suspension.

*****Zoghby's is the official uniform supplier for Denton Magnet. All skirts, pants, shirts, and jackets purchased at another store must be an exact match of the uniform supplied by Zoghby's.*****

The justifications for such expectations are, as follows:

- (a) To create an atmosphere conducive to learning and to minimize disruptions attributable to personal appearance, conduct grooming and hygiene and attire.*
- (b) To foster an attitude of respect for authority, and to prepare students to enter the workplace, which often has rules regarding dress, conduct and appearance.*
- (c) To ensure that the conduct and grooming of students who represent Mobile County School System in extracurricular activities create a favorable impression of the System and the community.*

Uniform Policy

Middle School (6-8) - Girls

Girls' tops are grade specific.

Grade 8 - White Oxford Shirt (short or long-sleeved) – with embroidery (Navy Blue 9mm Cambria)

Grade 7 - Light Blue Oxford Shirt (short or long-sleeved) – with embroidery (Navy Blue 9mm Cambria)

Grade 6 - Light Yellow Oxford Shirt (short or long-sleeved) – with embroidery (Navy Blue 9mm Cambria)

Pants - Navy Blue Twill – from Zoghby's (no "skinny" pants. Worn hem to heel)

Skort (no shorter than 3" above the knee) Pattern information available through Zogby's.

Tights - Girls may wear solid navy with no designs. No leggings. Uniform socks must be worn with tights. **Tights may only be worn during winter months as needed.**

Socks- Solid white crew socks. No ankle socks

Shoes- Solid blue saddle oxfords or black dress shoe (non-tennis shoe) with no embellishments (closed-toe, closed-heel, low-cut). No Hey Dudes, sandals, high heels, or boots.

black dress shoe (non-tennis) shoe with no embellishments

Belt- Solid black without embellishments

Undershirts- Undershirts should be solid white – no P.E. shirts or shirts with emblems or writing. No turtlenecks or long-sleeved shirts allowed under uniform shirts.

Jackets: Denton Magnet fleece with school logo

Spirit Shirts: Spirit shirts may only be worn on Thursdays. Spirit shirts must be the current year's shirt. No past years' shirts will be allowed. 8th grade shirts can be worn on Fridays beginning in January.

Nail Polish: Polish should be clear, natural only. No nail ornaments or artificial nails/artificial tips. Fingernail length should not interfere with use of educational tools. **NO** artificial nails, color should be clear or white tips only.

Hair: Students' hair should be of natural human born hair color (no pink, purple, blue, green, cherry red/ no color patches etc.). No weave of unnatural human born hair color as listed above. Hairstyles are to be non-disruptive to the educational environment. No coloring, jewelry, or design(s) in hair and no body adornments which includes, but is not limited to tattoos.

Hair Accessories: Ribbons, headbands, or bows should be in the school & grade level colors: Solid white, solid navy, solid gold, or solid light blue and should not reach below the collar. Headbands must be worn in the hair, NOT on the forehead. No hats, scarves, bandanas, or bonnets allowed. No hair beads allowed.

Make-Up: None

Pins -Denton Affiliated Only

Jewelry: Stud earrings only. No hoops. Necklaces are not allowed for boys or girls. No bracelets

Writing: No writing on body, uniform or shoes.

Middle School (6-8) - Boys

Boys' tops are grade specific

Grade 8 - White Oxford Shirt (short or long-sleeved) – with embroidery (Navy Blue 9mm Cambria)

Grade 7 - Light Blue Oxford Shirt (short or long-sleeved) – with embroidery (Navy Blue 9mm Cambria)

Grade 6 - Light Yellow Oxford Shirt (short or long-sleeved) – with embroidery (Navy Blue 9mm Cambria)

Pants - Navy Blue Twill Pants from Zoghby's. Other brands must match Zoghby's. Worn hem to heel.

Socks- Solid black crew, no ankle socks

Shoes- Black dress shoe (non-tennis shoe) with no embellishments (closed-toe, closed-heel, low-cut) No Hey Dudes, sandals, or boots.

Belt- Solid black without embellishments

Undershirts- Undershirts should be solid white – no P.E. shirts or shirts with emblems or writing. No turtlenecks or long-sleeved shirts allowed under uniform shirts.

Jackets: Denton Magnet fleece with school logo.

Spirit Shirts: Spirit shirts may only be worn on Thursdays. Spirit shirts must be the current year's shirt. No past years' shirts will be allowed. 8th grade shirts can be worn on Fridays beginning in January.

Jewelry: No earrings or studs. Necklaces are not allowed for boys or girls. No bracelets

Facial Hair: No facial hair.

Hair: Students' hair should be of natural human born hair color, neat, and non-disruptive. No beads. Hair must be out of eyes. No coloring, jewelry, or design(s) in hair.

Hair Accessories: None for boys

Make-Up: None

Pins – Only Denton Affiliated

Writing: No writing on body, uniform or shoes.

Middle School (6-8) – All Students

Student ID must be worn at all times.

Uniform Checks: May be conducted at any time to check for compliance.

No gum is allowed in the building.

No selling of items by students is permitted.

Physical Education Dress Code

- All students are expected to dress daily in their own uniform.
- Students should be dressed in required uniform labeled with their name on it (last name, first initial).
- Students should wear tennis shoes at all times. Shoes should cover the entire foot. They should not be higher than the height of the socks.
- Uniforms should be taken home Friday, washed and returned on Monday and additionally during the week as needed.
- Students should be prepared to dress out and participate regardless of the weather conditions. (Inclement weather schedule will be used when needed).
- Students should not share gym clothes or alter them.
- Only tennis shoes are allowed on the gym floor.
- No design or artwork will be allowed on P.E. uniforms.
- Students should remove all jewelry during P.E. (this includes earrings)
- Students are not allowed to use body spray, mist, perfumes, colognes etc. in the locker room.
- Students should not wear any clothes under their P.E. uniform that are visible (oversized shirts, long shorts, t-shirts etc.)
- Students should not dress or undress on their way to or from the locker room.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF DENTON MAGNET STUDENTS:

Students are expected to treat other students with courtesy, respect, and dignity and comply with the Code of Student Conduct. Students are expected and required (1) to comply with the requirements of law, policy, regulation and rules prohibiting harassment, violence, or intimidation; (2) to refrain from inflicting or threatening to inflict, violence, injury, or damage to the person or property of another student; and (3) to refrain from placing another student in fear of being subjected to violence, injury or damage when such actions or threats are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any personal characteristic of the student that is identified in this policy.

More information can be found at Alabama State Department of Education Website.

Conduct

Students are responsible for behaving in a manner that permits uninterrupted learning to take place. It is our hope that a desirable learning climate, necessary for developing young people into responsible members of the adult community, can be provided through the cooperation of parents and educators. Permissiveness, whether it is in the home or school, is a disservice to youngsters and does not adequately prepare them for future acceptance of adult responsibilities. Therefore, the cooperation of all students, parents, and school personnel is required to ensure that all students learn to follow rules and respect the rights of others.

Campus Expectations

- Teachers expect to teach without behavior disruption.
- Teachers expect each student to be allowed to learn without interruption from other students.
- Each student should be allowed to learn in a safe bully-free environment.
- Each student is expected to conform to the uniform code at all times.
- Each student is expected to follow the rules of the teacher, school and county.

Classroom Expectations

- When the teacher or an adult is speaking, students must listen and follow directions.
- Respect all others; keep hands, feet and all objects to yourself.
- Be prepared for class each day, i.e. Chromebooks, books, paper, pencils, homework etc.
- Stay seated unless given permission to do otherwise.
- Raise your hand to be recognized and wait until you are recognized before speaking.

Classroom Rules

Maintaining good classroom control is a vital part of the instructional process. Classroom rules are set by the teacher based on the Mobile County School Code of Conduct. Rules for organization and class assignments may be set up to meet the needs of each individual teacher. The teacher will go over rules verbally at the beginning of the year. In addition to school-wide rules each teacher develops a plan of discipline for their classroom. Students and parents should be aware of the individual teacher's plan of discipline and ensure compliance.

In the classroom, students will follow these guidelines

- Be on time for school and class.
- Be recognized before speaking.
- Remain in their desks during instruction.
- Work quietly as a group or by themselves, as their teacher requests.
- Speak courteously to others.
- Bring necessary materials to class and respect the property of others.
- Assume individual responsibility for personal and school property.
- Concentrate on school activities.
- No eating or drinking in the classroom.
- No chewing gum anywhere on campus.
- Wait to be dismissed from class by the teacher.
- Cooperate.
- Show the teacher respect at all times.

Restroom

- Practice safety.
- Keep restrooms clean.
- Be quiet and orderly.
- No loitering.
- Restroom passes are restricted for the first 10 minutes of class to protect instructional time.
- No electronic devices.

Cafeteria- (Breakfast and Lunch)

- Enter and leave quietly in a group.
- Practice courtesy and good manners while eating.
- Speak in low conversational tones.
- Remain seated with good posture until dismissed.
- Help keep the lunchroom clean and inviting.
- Enter lines as soon as you enter the cafeteria unless instructed otherwise.
- Students are to exit cafeteria upon finishing breakfast and report to assigned area in the school

Hallways

- Walk at all times.
- Keep to the right.
- Respect school property and keep it attractive.
- Speak in soft conversational tones.
- Be on time for each class.
- Absolutely No Physical Contact

Bus Related Conduct

- Obey the bus driver's rules for the bus.
- Remain seated at all times while riding.
- Speak in soft conversational tones.
- Keep head, hands, and feet inside the bus at all times.
- Walk to and from the bus at all times – no running after the bus at any time.
- Report on time to designated bus waiting areas for loading/unloading.

Cheating

Class Assignments - Cheating is any attempt to utilize materials generated from a source other than the student's own work. Sources include, but are not limited to, other students, parents, siblings, internet and/or plagiarism.

Exams and Other Assignments - Cheating can result in a student being ineligible for honors/awards and/or extracurricular activities or grade of zero.

The following use is considered cheating and punishable as such:

- Sharing homework answers via text messaging.
- Sharing test answers via text messaging.
- Programming notes into your cell phone for your own use during a test.
- Taking and/or sending a cell phone picture of test materials.
- Video recording lectures with cell phone and replaying during a test.
- Using the Internet function during a test to search for answers.
- Storing definitions and notes into cell phone.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the taking and using words of another and passing them off as one's own. Under no circumstances (unless specifically allowed by the teacher) is it permissible for a student to either copy another student's work, or have another person do or contribute to a student's work, and then turn the work in as his/her own. This includes copying words from the internet and using an online translator.

All borrowed information must be properly documented and cited. The consequence for breaking the for plagiarism is receiving a "0" for the assignment in question. Use of reference work (including internet) must be approved by the teacher and cited. Cheating is also allowing another student to copy homework/schoolwork.

Honor Code: On my honor, I will neither give to anyone, nor receive from anyone information about a test/quiz/essay.

Profanity - Use of obscene language, whether spoken, written, or gestures may result in detention or suspension per the MCPSS Code of Conduct.

Communication Devices

Confiscation of Electronic Communication Devices

In the event a student *has powered on or used* an electronic communication device, that device will be confiscated until the end of the school day for the first offense and will be released to the student. The second confiscation will require the device to be released to a parent. The third confiscation of a device will result in the student being placed in In-School suspension and the device will be released to a parent. All further device infractions will result in one day suspensions of the student. While all reasonable efforts to secure the confiscated device will be made, the school assumes no responsibility for theft, loss or damage.

Use of a Cell Phone

Students are not allowed to use cell phone cameras or any type photography to take photos of students, teachers/staff and/or to post those to a social network site.

Employee/Student Electronic Communication

Communication via cell phone or text messaging shall be strictly prohibited between school employees and students. The purpose of this policy is to lessen the likelihood of inappropriate communication between students and employees. Violation of this rule may subject both the student and the employee to discipline, up to and including termination. Teachers may send messages to parents using Schoology, Remind, or another approved app used by educators.

ALCOHOL, DRUGS, WEAPONS, GAMBLING

All Alcohol, drugs, and weapons are prohibited. The Mobile County Public School Students Code of Conduct identifies policies and procedures to be followed. This policy applies to all students and parents in the public schools, on school campuses, school buses, and during school related activities and events. We encourage you and your student to become familiar with this document.

Suspension for those violations of any C, D, or E offense may result in criminal prosecution. Violations of these policies will be considered an act of serious misconduct. The principal or his/her designee shall immediately inform the Resource Officer and an investigation will be conducted. Students will be withdrawn from the Magnet School Program for violations of C, D, or E offenses. Please review the Mobile County Public Schools Student Handbook and Code of Conduct which discusses policies that apply to all students, parents and guardians in the Mobile County Public School System regarding all school campuses, school buses and school-related activities and events.

BULLYING

No student shall engage in or be subjected to bullying.

Definition; Bullying is generally defined as an intentional act that causes harm to others, and may involve verbal harassment, verbal or non- verbal threats, physical assault, stalking, or other methods of coercion such as manipulation, blackmail, or extortion. It is aggressive behavior that intends to hurt, threaten or frighten another person. An imbalance of power between the aggressor and the victim is often involved. Bullying isn't a one-time occurrence, it happens repeatedly over time.

ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

No student shall engage in or be subjected to harassment, violence, threats of violence, or intimidation by any other student that is based on any of the specific characteristics that have been identified by the Board in this policy. Students who violate this policy will be subject to severe disciplinary sanctions to include but not limited to removal from the Magnet Program.

Definition: The term harassment, intimidation or bullying as “any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, whether it be a single incident or series of incidents, that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic as used in this policy means intentional behavior that takes place on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function, including but not limited to, written, electronic, verbal, or physical acts that are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any characteristic of a student, or by the association of a student with an individual who has a particular characteristic, if the characteristic falls into one of the categories of personal characteristics set forth in Section (3) below. To constitute harassment, intimidation or bullying behavior may do any or all-of the following:

- Place a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to their property.
- Have the effect of substantially interfering with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of a student.
- Have the effect of substantially disrupting or interfering with the orderly operation of the school.
- Have the effect of creating a hostile environment in the school, on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored event/function.
- Have the effect of being sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.

The term “violence” as used in this policy means the infliction of physical force by a student with the intent to cause injury to another student or damage to the property of another student.

The term “threat of violence” as used in this policy means an expression of intention to inflict injury or damage that is made by a student and directed to another student.

The term “intimidation” as used in this policy means a threat or other action that is intended to cause fear or apprehension in a student, especially for the purpose of coercing or deterring the student from participating in or taking advantage of any school program, benefits, activity or opportunity for which the student is or would be eligible.

The term “student” as used in the policy means a student who is enrolled in Denton Magnet School.

Detention - Detention is an alternative to suspension. A form will be sent home to inform the parent/guardian of the detention. The form must be signed and returned to the office or additional time will be given. If a student leaves detention early, or fails to serve detention appropriately, they will be assigned additional days in detention or be suspended from school. Detention may only be rescheduled once before a suspension is issued.

REMOVAL FROM THE MAGNET PROGRAM

The admission standards and the continuation in the Magnet Program standards are the same.

- A student may not remain in the Magnet Program with five or more class B offenses.
- The number of suspensions on all students is checked against the MCPSS Student Services’ *Suspension File* at the end of the school year after all suspension appeal hearings have been

completed. Any student with more than one (1) suspension *may be* removed from the Magnet Program. Parents will be notified by mail of the student's removal from the Magnet Program by the Magnet School's Program Office (*As deemed necessary by the Principal*).

- During the school year, any student with a Class C, D, or E offense, as defined by the MCPSS *Student Code of Conduct*, will be immediately removed from the Magnet Schools Program. Any student with three or more suspensions will be immediately removed from the Magnet Schools Program.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

Promotion and retention standards for Denton Magnet differ from system standards. At Denton Magnet, the instructional program offers advanced level courses. In keeping with the commitment to provide a rigorous academic program, the student is required to achieve a minimum yearly average of 70% or above in all subjects. Should a student earn 60% to 69%, on a yearly average, he/she must return to the school that serves their geographical district. At the discretion of the principal, a student scoring 60% to 69% may repeat the grade and remain in the magnet program at Denton.

- Mid-term progress reports are issued at the fourth (4.5) week of each quarter. Students are expected to have parents review the report, sign it and return it to the homeroom teacher. Report cards are issued approximately five (5) days after the end of the quarter. You may check your child's grades regularly in Schoology.
- Parents should check Schoology regularly (weekly) for student grades and academic progress. If you need assistance with accessing this program call the school registrar.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- The National Junior Honor Society (Guidelines are given below, and on the following page.)
- Athletics for 7th and 8th Grade students: football, volleyball, basketball, track, baseball, cheerleading, archery, and soccer
- A variety of other clubs and academic teams are offered each school year. All students are encouraged to join a club or organization.
- ACES (Accelerating Computing, Engineering, and Sciences) – Denton's Tech Competition Team

The Denton Magnet School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society

NJHS is a service organization whose members are selected based on their cumulative academic record and their citizenship, leadership, and character. It is indeed an honor to be chosen as a member of the Denton Magnet School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

NJHS is a service organization. As stated in the National Junior Honor Society Handbook, the selection of the National Junior Honor Society is a privilege, not a right. Students do not apply for membership of the NJHS; instead, the information provided is to be issued by the local selection committee to support their candidacy for membership. Membership is granted to those students selected by the Faculty Council in each school. This is not an election, nor is membership automatically conveyed simply because a student has achieved a specified level of academic performance. NJHS is more than just an honor roll. The components of leadership, service, citizenship, and character are carefully considered in the selection process.

The National Junior Honor Society Faculty Council at Denton Magnet School is made up of several faculty members who serve as sponsors and cosponsors.

Guidelines for Induction

6th and 7th Grade Students are eligible.

Sixth grade students must have a grade point average of 3.75 or higher and 7th grade students must have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. The GPA is averaged from 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarter grades. Students may not have any off-campus suspensions during the present school year.

Dues

Upon receipt of dues and an induction, members will receive their membership card

Disciplinary Action and Dismissal

Grades-Every member's quarterly report card will be reviewed. An "E" or more than one (1) "C" on a report card, is grounds for *probation. Having an "E" or more than one (1) "C" in two (2) consecutive quarters is grounds for dismissal from the Denton Magnet chapter of the NJHS.

Suspension-suspension from school for any reason is grounds for dismissal from the Denton Magnet chapter of the NJHS.

***Probation**- Probation is a warning, during which specific duration of time the student is considered "not in good standing" and cannot participate in any NJHS activities including, but not limited to, wearing NJHS t-shirt and attending meetings.

Athletics

Students must have a current physical on file before they can try out for an athletic team. A fee will be assessed to each athlete prior to participating in the selected sports. Fees are necessary for the purpose of paying officials, transportation, security, first aid, and purchase/refurbishing of equipment. Fees are not refundable.

Students who are suspended once they are placed on a team will become ineligible to participate from that point on and the applicable fee will not be refunded.

Academic and Conduct Requirements

- Students who try out for the squad must have at least a “C” average (2.0) with no grade less than a “C” for second and third quarters. This means no grade below 70.
- Students must not have any “unsatisfactory conduct” comments for the present school year.
- If a student is suspended one time, he or she may be taken off the team.
- If a student should get suspended two instances, they will not be allowed to participate in any sport for the remainder of the school year.
- A discipline referral check will be made. Students with a discipline record that is not acceptable as a role model will be ineligible to try out for cheerleading. This includes excessive detentions.
- Students must not have quit or been dismissed from the Denton Magnet squad the previous year.
- Five (5) current teachers must sign recommendation forms.

SCHOOL SPONSORED FIELD TRIPS

Field Trips

In a continued effort to afford our children a broad education, we encourage and provide field trips to places and events that relate directly to a topic being taught in a given class. All field trips are educational and have an educational purpose. Enrichment and follow up activities will be expected and completed by each student. Field trips are a privilege afforded to students. **No student has an absolute right to a field trip.** If a student fails to meet academic or behavioral requirements, the teacher will conference with the principal and the **principal may determine**, in the best interest of the group that the child may not attend any given trip. Every field trip will be preceded by a “field trip information letter/packet” from the teacher which includes details of “what, when, where etc.” If you do not wish your child to go on a field trip, there will be a place on the letter to indicate your preference. There will be a place designated in the school for students to be kept during the time the teacher and other students are on a field trip. The **ONLY** acceptable forms of a parent granting permission include the following (1) returning the signed field trip information letter to the school; (2) or delivering to the school the signed permission form to the school. Unacceptable methods of granting permission for your child to attend a field trip include: (1) emailing the school or (2) placing phone calls to the school. Field trips are a privilege, and as such if a student’s behavior or schoolwork is unacceptable, participation in field trips or special activities can be denied. Inappropriate behavior is a cause for having a child removed from a field trip. Buses are used for field trips, often the trip requires a chartered bus contract which must be paid in advance of the trip. ***Field trip money is not refundable, in whole or part at any time for any reason. The school cannot be responsible for cost incurred due to field trips. There will be no refund for field trip money spent should the child/parent be unable to attend. Fees are determined by the total cost of the trip, divided by how many children and chaperones attend. Again, there will be no refund of the deposit, or any payments.***

Requirements

Students may not attend field trips for the following reasons:

- A failing average in any subject area at the time of the field trip
- Excessive missing work in any subject area.
- Inappropriate behavior for which detention has been assigned.
- Inappropriate behavior on previous field trips.
- Suspension from school.
- Excessive absences.

Notarized health forms, copies of the front and back of parent/guardian driver license, health insurance card and social security card must accompany all out of county field trip permission forms. Students without insurance coverage will not be taken on any trip outside of Mobile County. MCPSS medication procedures must be followed on all field trips.

CHAPERONES

Denton Magnet field trips are for students enrolled in Denton Magnet only and are specific to teacher or sponsor, not school wide activities. No siblings may accompany the child/parent chaperone on any field trip. Chaperones must be either the parent or legal guardian. Chaperones must be approved by the principal ten (10) working days prior to the trip. Chaperones are liable for the safety of all students to which they are assigned. The number of chaperones needed for each trip will be determined by the teacher and principal.

Money paid for fieldtrips will not be refundable at any time for any reason.

VISITORS ON CAMPUS

Parents and volunteers are welcome; however, the exterior doors will be locked for security reasons. For entry into the school, use the front doors at the main entrance. **Upon entry, please check in at the desk in the office.** Visitors are asked to sign the visitor's log, obtain a visitors-pass and wait for the office staff to direct or escort guests to the appropriate place. Teachers are unavailable to meet with parents during school hours unless previously scheduled. No parent or visitor should stand in the hallway outside a classroom or office. All letters of introduction are to be verified by the secretary and leaving campus, sign out and return the visitor's pass. Visitors not following the established policy will be referred to an administrator for appropriate action. The local Police Department provides regular walk-throughs or drive-throughs for additional security.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Personal conferences require emailing the teacher to schedule a conference. Conferences will be scheduled during the teacher's planning period, before or after school hours. Please respect their family time and do not call them at home after hours. Teachers will strive to return messages within twenty-four (24) hours.

MEALS

The menu is published monthly so students and parents know what is to be served and they can plan accordingly. Breakfast is served from 7:00AM. until 7:15AM.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to Denton Magnet School is provided by the Mobile County Public School System. Bus pick-up sites are centralized. Because safety is a primary concern, the driver must always be obeyed. Buses will load and unload in the designated area each morning and afternoon. See assistant principal for information. All school rules apply to bus behavior while in transport.

UNAUTHORIZED PHOTOGRAPHS AND UNAUTHORIZED RECORDINGS

Denton Magnet School explicitly prohibits students from taking unauthorized photographs or making unauthorized recordings of others, which includes but is not limited to other students and employees. We also explicitly prohibit any person from posting any photos of any student or school employee(s) to any social media site without the prior knowledge and consent of the student, their parent/guardian and of any employee.

PROCEDURES FOR CAR RIDERS:

See website/ traffic bulletin for more information as adjustments are made during the first weeks of school.

Parking - Please park in the front parking lot when visiting school. To ensure the safety of our faculty, staff, and students, all visitors must enter the building through the office.

MEDICATION

Only medication prescribed by a physician and accompanied by proper written permission from the parent may be taken at school. The medicine must be kept in the main office. Non-prescription medication will not be administered at school or on field trips. The morning dose of all medication should be given at home. We will administer mid-day medication as indicated by physician order. **All medication must be brought to the school by a parent/guardian.**

Students CANNOT bring medication to the school or carry it on field trips.

Inhalers and EpiPens are considered emergency items. Students may carry them in backpacks as needed with a physician's letter and approval of the school's nurse. This letter must be kept on file in the first aid office.

DELIVERIES

Deliveries for students will not be accepted. Please do not send flowers, balloons, candy, etc. to the school for your child. Students are not allowed to take these items to class. We also ask that you not bring items to the school (books, P.E. uniforms, homework, projects, lunch money etc.) as this causes interruption during instruction. While we appreciate your thoughtfulness, we do not allow cupcakes, birthday cakes, special snacks, etc. to be delivered and shared among students due to food allergies and health concerns. Thank you in advance for understanding.

WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE

Parents should inform the office in writing if they are going to withdraw their child from school. The parent should come to the school to secure the appropriate withdrawal paperwork. Students withdrawing from school must report to the office with a parent/guardian requesting withdrawal with verification information. The student will turn in all textbooks and library materials, and clear up any debts, before withdrawal will be finalized.

SYSTEM WIDE TESTING

System Wide Testing is at the discretion of MCPSS and Alabama Dept. of Education.

Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP)

The ACAP will be administered to students as mandated by the State of Alabama.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parental input is necessary and actively sought through both formal and informal means. Parents should understand, however, that the operation of the school is the responsibility of the school personnel.

By choosing to enroll a child in Denton Magnet School and by signing the Parent Compact and Parent Contract, you have provided your child with an opportunity to receive an excellent education. In addition, parents have accepted the responsibility to provide the appropriate encouragement, guidance, and home environment to foster the most helpful learning situation possible.

Parents should uphold our school philosophy in the following ways:

- Support the dress code.
- Support the discipline policy.
- Support the attendance policy.

- Use proper channels for contacting school personnel:
- Support Teachers when dealing with student performance or classroom attitude.
- Support Guidance Counselor when dealing with a student’s personal or school problems.
- Support Assistant Principal when dealing with behavior problems or transportation concerns.
- Support Principal when dealing with school programs or activities.
- Provide a suitable time and place for homework and ensure that homework is completed and turned in on time.
- Ensure student submits his/her original work.
- Review papers brought home by students.
- Sign and return promptly all school-related papers.
- Maintain mutual responsibility with the child for arriving at school on time.
- Participate in any activities needing parent assistance.

STUDENT RECORDS

Student Education Records, Survey Information, Military Recruiters, and Directory Information

Board Policy was revised in 2003 regarding student records. Please read carefully.

Education Records

The Mobile County Public School System provides for the creation and maintenance of education records necessary for the education of students. Education records are those records, files, documents, and other materials which contain information directly related to a student as further defined by the Family Educational Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C.A 1232 g. Education records are confidential and access to them is protected by federal law.

The following guidelines apply to the release of student education records:

Parents shall be provided on request with a list of the types of records directly related to student which are maintained by the school system.

If any material or document in the education record of a student includes information on more than one student, the parents of one of such students shall have the right to inspect and review only such part of such material or document as relates to such student or to be informed of the specific information contained in such part of such material.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (**FERPA**) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records.

These rights are:

The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal or his/her designee will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest in the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that the Board of School Commissioners of Mobile County, with certain exceptions, obtain parental written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information for your child's education records.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or public yearbooks.

In addition, two federal laws require local education agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses, and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

The Board of School Commissioners of Mobile County has designated the following information as directory information:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| -Student's name | -Dates of attendance |
| -Address | -Grade level |
| -Telephone listing | -Participation in officially recognized activities and sports |
| -Electronic mail address | -Weight and height of members of athletic teams |
| -Photograph | -Degrees, honors, and awards received |
| -Date and place of birth | -The most recent education agency or institution attended |

-Major Field of study

If a parent does not want the Board of School Commissioners of Mobile County to disclose information from the child's education records to military recruiters without prior written consent, the parent/guardian must notify the Board in writing to the Director of District Technology Support Services, Mobile County Public School System, Post Office Box 180069, Mobile, AL 36618, within thirty days of the beginning of school or within thirty days of the student's admission if the student is admitted after the beginning of the school year. Parents and guardians must indicate on their opt-out submission whether the "opt-out" applies to military recruiters. Otherwise, the Board of School Commissioners of Mobile County will allow military recruiters access to the child's information.

The school system is not required to release student directory information to the public. The decision to authorize release of student directory information shall be discretionary with the Superintendent or his/her designee. Any release of student directory information shall exclude information that has been requested by parents or guardians not to be released, provided the request has been made as provided.

All the rights listed above may be subject to certain restrictions or constraints. Such rights are transferred from parent or guardian to the student once the student has attained the age of eighteen or is attending an institution of postsecondary education. For more information regarding above, contact the Division of Student Support Services, Supervisor of Guidance and Records.

Acknowledgement and Receipt

Receipt and review of policies form

Signature on this receipt acknowledges that you (parent and student) have reviewed Denton Magnet Code of Conduct. Please sign and date this receipt and return it to the student's homeroom teacher within three (3) business days.

Receipt of Code of Conduct Statement of Certification

We _____ and _____ certify that we have received and reviewed the Denton Magnet School Student Code of Conduct Handbook.

We further understand that, by signing this statement as required we are indicating that we have read the Denton Magnet School Student Code of Conduct and understand its contents or have had the opportunity to discuss any questions or concerns we have with a school administrator. We further agree to abide by the rules as set forth by the school as outlined within the said handbook.

We are also aware that it is against school policy to post any photo or information/comment about a student or school employee to any social media site without the prior consent of that student's parent/guardian or consent of employee and the school administrator.

We also realize that this statement will become a permanent part of the student's file.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name: _____

Student's Signature _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Parent copy to remain in book.

Acknowledgement and Receipt

Receipt and Review of Policies Form

Signature on this receipt acknowledges that you (parent and student) have reviewed Denton Student Code of Conduct. Please sign and date this receipt and return it to the student's homeroom teacher within three (3) business days.

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We are also aware that it is against school policy to post any photo or information/comment about a student or school employee to any social media site without the prior consent of the student's parent/guardian or consent of the employee and the school administrator.

We also realize that this acknowledgement will become a permanent part of the student's cumulative file.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name: _____

Student's Signature _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

School Copy