



Family and Student Handbook

2019 – 2020

Address: 4250 Shoshone St

Denver, CO 80211

Telephone: 720-424-2600

Website: dmhs.dpsk12.org

Principal: Katy Myers

All parents and students are expected to read this handbook before school starts in August and agree to abide by its policies.

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Introduction

Welcome to Denver Montessori Junior/Senior High School! The purpose of this handbook is to answer any questions you might have about our school and how it works. After you have read it, please let us know if you have additional questions or concerns.

Our entire Montessori culture is based on the three R's of Montessori: Respect for ourselves, respect for each other and respect for the environment. The policies and procedures described here support the Mission and Vision of our school and are designed to build integrity, trust and respect among members of our school community. We believe these common expectations of conduct, responsibility and communication will help us to create a healthy academic and social community.

General Information

- School Hours: Monday – Friday: 8:10 AM – 3:30 PM
- Office Hours: Monday – Friday: 7:45 AM – 4:00 PM
- Attendance Line: Telephone: 720-424-2619 (please call by 7:45 AM)
- School Calendar: DMHS operates under a slightly different calendar than DPS including starting one week earlier. Please see our website at dmhs.dpsk12.org for the 2019/2020 School Calendar.
- DPS Bus Transportation: 720-423-4624
- DPS Family and Community Engagement: 720-423-3054
- Unscheduled school closings: DMHS is a DPS School and will follow DPS guidance regarding weather related and other unscheduled school closings. Unscheduled school closings will be reported to local news outlets and posted on the DPS website. To check the website directly, go to <http://www.dpsk12.org>

Messages may be left for Faculty and Staff by email, voicemail, or calling the Main Office at 720-424-2600. Staff email addresses are located on the DMHS website: dmhs.dpsk12.org.

General questions may be sent to: Katy_Myers@dpsk12.net or carol_delong@dpsk12.net

Welcoming Environment

We make every effort at DMHS to create a welcoming environment for our parents and our community. You are welcome to come observe classrooms or join us for lunch. Please wait until October before scheduling visits, and contact the Dean of Operations (Carol) to schedule your visit or observation. If you ever have questions, please feel free to email our Dean of Operations, Carol Delong at carol_delong@dpsk12.net or our principal Katy Myers at Katy_Myers@dpsk12.net.

Please make sure to visit the website often and read the many emails and written communications we will send to you. Never be afraid to ask a question. It is vital to us that you feel comfortable at our school and that you are a valued member of our community.

Adults On Campus

Your child's safety is our top priority. Any non-staff adult entering the DMHS campus must sign in at the office and wear a Visitor Badge so that we can quickly identify that you have permission to be on the DMHS campus. Even if you are a frequent volunteer, please take a minute to sign in and get your Visitor Badge.

Mission Statement

Denver Montessori Junior/Senior High School (DMHS) will combine Montessori best practices with current research on adolescent brain development to provide a learning environment that promotes high achievement for each student while also supporting them socially and emotionally. Graduates, regardless of ethnicity or income status, will be prepared for college or a career as well as demonstrate ingenuity, adaptability, creativity, initiative and excellent communication and problem solving skills.

Vision and Description of Program

For a school to achieve excellence, it must hold on to its vision and implement the vision clearly and effectively. Montessori secondary education focuses on the whole child, self-construction, valorization and preparation for adult life. By creating a high quality 7th through 12th grade program on these principles, students will graduate with the academic skills necessary to thrive in both post secondary education and/or career options, while at the same time have developed strong communication and problem solving abilities and positive interpersonal relationship skills. Finally, they will have developed creativity, ingenuity, adaptability and initiative through the many problem solving, community building and real world experiences they will have encountered at DMHS.

Montessori secondary schools are divided into two "sub-planes". The 7th - 9th grade program is a land-based program with real life problem solving scenarios. Students combine didactic, academic lessons with real world scenarios. They are working daily with both their head and their hands to deeply internalize academic concepts. The 10th - 12th grade program is a highly academic program that prepares students for university or a career. Having come through the Montessori program to this point, students are well able and ready to handle the most rigorous content. The high school remains centered on core Montessori values. This includes Montessori trained teachers, long periods of uninterrupted work time, key lessons, and a variety of methods whereby a student can demonstrate mastery of knowledge. Assessments include rubrics, portfolios, presentations, quizzes on vocabulary and skills, end of unit knowledge assessments plus all Federal and Colorado State mandated testing.

The 7th grade through 12th grade Montessori curriculum at DMHS is rigorous, innovative, interesting and designed to engage students to produce optimal academic achievement as well as social and emotional maturity and well-being. In order to effectively implement the

curriculum, DMHS has adopted its own schedule, its own standards for hiring teachers, its own school calendar and professional development plan, its own assessments, and adolescent Montessori Curriculum. DMHS uses the National Montessori Curriculum for grades 7-9 for science, history and language arts. For mathematics, DMHS uses the Montessori Integrated Math curriculum that is a spiraled curriculum reinforcing skills already learned with lessons on new skills and includes project based math and math seminar. The small group lessons are designed to meet each student at the particular benchmark the student is currently working, and the teacher uses a variety of instructional methods, including Montessori math materials, to assist the student in mastering that benchmark and preparing to work on the next unit of study. Farm School students are expected to apply math towards a variety of hands-on projects utilizing the farm, the culinary arts program and micro-economy. For grades 9 – 12, the Montessori Integrated Math curriculum matches district standards for Algebra II, Geometry and pre-Calculus. Students who complete MIM 3 are ready for and encouraged to take college level Calculus using the District's concurrent enrollment program.

The high school, grades 10, 11 and 12, is an integrated college preparatory curriculum using DPS approved curriculum, with the exception of math as noted above. Although most of the curriculum for high school is similar to DPS's conventional schools, there still are innovative differences required to meet our mission and vision. The curriculum is integrated so that literature studied in Language Arts simultaneously supports the history curriculum for an overall integrated humanities curriculum. The math and science teacher work together to insure students are obtaining the mathematical skills needed to work out currently studied complex scientific equations. Linkages between science, math and history are explored. There is in-depth reading and writing instruction throughout all areas of study, along with AP, Honors and concurrent enrollment opportunities.

The schedules for both the junior high and senior high support the Montessori approach. There are minimal required transition times. Instead, students are called to small group lessons as those lessons are needed to support the next level of study. The expectation is that there is a culture of respect and hard work that is resolutely held by both the staff and the students. We also expect that one hundred percent of the students is on task and engaged because they are enjoying their academic studies. This on task and engaged behavior is the hallmark of Montessori education, and this is how we measure success at DMHS.

Organizational Agreements

- DMHS consists of parents, students, community members, political representatives and members of the Denver Public Schools. The health and growth of our school depends on the strength of these relationships.
- The DMHS Collaborative School Committee (CSC) has the responsibility to advise the school and the administration in accomplishment of the school's mission.
- The faculty, administration, community members, and parents hold responsibility for making the mission of the school a reality.
- Parents entrust teachers and administration with the responsibility of bringing an authentic, adolescent Montessori program to their children. To accomplish this, teachers and administration expect parents to support the Mission, Vision, and Core Values of DMHS.

The complementary viewpoints of parents and teachers are essential to understanding and guiding the development of each child.

- The organizational and operational affairs of the school are carried out by the administration in service to the mission of the school.
- The faculty and administration decide matters of pedagogical principle.
- The administrative team will bring all matters of principle arising from the day-to-day operations of the school to the staff for consideration and input.

Administration

The school's administration is responsible for the leadership of the school and for the actualization of the school's mission. The administration is responsible for:

- Adhering to our mission, vision, values and priorities.
- Curriculum development and program changes.
- Decisions about the hiring and dismissal of teachers.
- Teacher mentoring and evaluation.
- Student retention and matriculation.
- Strategic planning and implementation.

Administrative Team: 720-424-2600

- Katy Myers, Principal: katy_myers@dpsk12.net
- Leah Bry, High School Program Director: Leah_bry@dpsk12.net
- Hannah Ewert-Krocker, Farm School Program Director: Hannah_ewert-krocker@dpsk12.net
- Carol Delong, Dean of Operations: carol_delong@dpsk12.net

Faculty / Advisement

DMHS employs the advisement model for all students. Each student is assigned to an advisement that is led by a DMHS staff person. The advisor is your first point of contact for education related questions or concerns. Twice per year, we ask that you and your student meet with your student's advisor to discuss goals, challenges and to share any important information that will help us to meet your student's school-related needs.

The faculty has a wide range of school responsibilities. In addition to normal classroom duties, the faculty also helps to organize and lead extracurricular activities, field trips and extended trips. Teachers examine data on students' progress, align Montessori curriculum with state standards, develop meaningful, engaging lessons, and determine and design interventions necessary for all students to achieve or exceed grade level expectations.

Faculty Contact Information

Additional faculty contact information is available on our web site.

Essential Bridges Between Home & School

DMHS has partnered with organizations to provide families with information to help all of our children succeed in school. Structures and routines are very important for all students. To support the student's classroom work, parents are expected to help their children develop

healthy habits with regular routines for waking and sleeping, mealtimes, play, extra-curricular activities, the work of the home (chores and assisting with home-life activities) and homework.

The adverse effects of television, movies, video games, and other electronic media on an adolescent's ability to learn are well documented. Parents must guide their children toward healthy alternative activities throughout their formative years. The school strongly recommends that students spend only a short period of time viewing movies, television, and playing with video or computer games on school nights.

Parents as Partners

Parents and guardians of DMHS students play an essential role in supporting the school's mission, culture and climate. Parents and guardians have a variety of opportunities to actively participate in their students' learning. So that you can enjoy the benefits of being an active, contributing member to our school community, it is the *expectation* that parents /guardians will participate in one or more of the following:

Farm School Presentations of Learning and High School Showcase

- Students will present their cumulative learning at least two times per year. These fun, engaging events occur after school, usually from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Dates are on the annual calendar.

Volunteer Opportunities: [Join our 230 Ways to Volunteer Campaign](#)

- Volunteer Work Days: Parents will work side by side with their students for school related volunteer projects. These projects may include farm work, farm stand, or other community related events
- Community / Parent Montessori Education Nights with the Principal
- Collaborative School Committee Member – CSC members are parent elected positions to provide direction for school policies, accountability for student achievement, School Improvement Plans and school safety concerns.
- DMHS Education Foundation – The foundation meets monthly to plan and run events that raise money for extended overnight trips.
- School Volunteer Opportunities: Parents can support DMHS by volunteering for field trips, participating on the CSC, supporting the school's fundraising efforts, and coaching, mentoring or tutoring DMHS students.
- Attend Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences and Back-to-School Nights. DMHS has a Back-to-School Night event in August and two Parent/Student/Teacher conferences during the school year. Parent attendance at these events is *essential* as it communicates to the student that his or her parent/guardian believes learning is important. Conferences also provide another opportunity for direct communication between the school and the home.
- Thoroughly reading the frequent communications that are received from DMHS. Bi-weekly electronic emails from the principal, progress updates from teachers, and information about how parents/guardians can help assist with learning opportunities at home are all forms of communication that are regularly available to parents.
- Visiting DPS' Parent Portal to review your student's progress. Parent Portal allows parents to see what lessons their students have received and to check to see if any assignments are

missing. It also allows for parents to easily contact the student's advisor by e-mail if they have questions or concerns.

Communication Between School & Home

DMHS employs multiple ways of sharing information about life in the classroom and in the larger spheres of the school.

Back-to-School Night

On this evening, teachers will review the curriculum, classroom expectations, and activities. We will also walk you through how to access your student's information via Parent Portal. There is time for parents to share and discuss their questions with the staff. It is also a time to get to know the other parents. The date for this evening is posted on our school calendar and parents and guardians are encouraged to make every effort to attend.

Beginning of Year Advisor Conferences for students new to DMHS

One-on-one conferences with your student's advisor provide informal, individual opportunities for parents to share ideas, concerns and questions about our school. Parents have more time to share information and insights about their child and learn how they can support academic success.

Advisor-Family Conferences

Advisor-Family conferences are scheduled twice a year in October and March. Conferences are a time to review the student's academic and social progress. Additional conferences may be requested by the advisor or by the parents/guardians.

We understand that it may be difficult for some parents to take time off from work to attend a Advisor-Family conference, but we expect that every parent/guardian will make this a high priority.

Progress Reports

Progress reports will be sent home two times a year. For 9th through 12th grade, students will also receive a report card two times per year. In addition to the progress reports, we encourage parents/guardians to visit Parent Portal often.

Notices & Newsletters

The school website is updated regularly. Families and students can view the website online to check the calendar or contact any of our faculty or staff members. Paper copies of all communication are also sent for families without Internet service.

- Parent Portal: Student progress is communicated via DPS' Parent Portal. Teachers may post homework assignments, class news, and any comments about events that are taking place in the class.
- Updates! is a bi-monthly principal email communication that keeps parents up to date with events, dates to remember, news, and policy issues. Updates! is the main vehicle for

information between school and home, and every parent is responsible for the information conveyed each week. Past Updates! are available on our website.

- Emails from Katy and other staff: You will often receive emails from Principal Katy Myers, and/or Dean of Operations Carol Delong regarding important dates and information.

Chaperone Policy

There are many opportunities to volunteer in the school, and volunteerism is an important value in our school community. Those individuals wishing to accompany classes on service or field trips must give written consent for the school to conduct a background check.

Parent Committees

DMHS has parent committees to support the school in the following areas:

- **DMHS Education Foundation:** a board of parent volunteers that coordinate annual fundraisers for DMHS. The Foundation creates committee related to each fundraiser.
- **Collaborative School Committee:** The Collaborative School Committee (CSC) includes no less than one staff member along with the head of school, three parents and two community members. The CSC assesses school performance based on agreed upon outcomes that include academic goals, student well-being and community involvement. The CSC meets once per month to discuss school progress and make recommendations to the principal.

Committee policies and procedures:

- Parents sign up for committee work in August.
- An elected chairperson leads each committee.
- All public communication from the committees is reviewed by the principal and distributed through the Main Office.
- Committee chairpersons meet collectively with the principal on a monthly basis to foster inter-committee communication and support.
- The number of members serving on each committee varies based on interest and need.

Basic Principles and Guidelines for School Interactions

- Please schedule appointments if a discussion is needed. This will allow adequate time for parents and advisors to focus on the topic of concern.
- Raise concerns with the appropriate person first. Conversations with advisors usually clear up or resolve issues. Please make sure you have tried to work with your student's advisor before contacting an administrator.
- In order to respect everyone's time, please be mindful of the amount of time an individual concern may take.
- Voicemail and e-mail are public documents; confidentiality cannot always be assumed.
- To protect all parties, conversations may be documented and a third person may be present.
- Verbal, physical or sexual harassment by any member of our community will not be excused or tolerated.

Common Concern Flow Chart (Process for Questions and Conflict Resolution at DMHS)

This is meant to clearly describe the processes in place for questions and conflict resolution at DMHS. Not all disagreements will be solved to the mutual satisfaction of every party, but we strive to be clear and transparent in our process and to address concerns and questions promptly as they arise.

Where do my administrative questions go?

Questions regarding school policies, administration, finances, employment, safety, parent-to-parent issues and other general school issues should be brought to the school principal.

Katy Myers, Principal: Katy_Myers@dpsk12.net

The principal will respond within a reasonable timeframe and try to answer the question or clarify the issues to the best of his or her ability.

Where do my questions about teaching and learning go?

Questions regarding your child, curriculum, social matters in the classroom, and experiences of your child during the school day should be directed to your child's advisor first.

The advisor will have a conversation and do his or her best to answer the question/clarify the issues. If the answer/clarification given requires more attention, it will be sent to the principal. The principal may call a meeting with the advisor and/or teacher and the parent.

DPS Family and Community Engagement: 720-423-3054

If communication has become difficult and a problem/conflict is not improving, the school or parents may request support from the DPS Family and Community Engagement. This office can help ensure that all sides of an issue are voiced and that there is motion toward a plan for future action.

Attendance & Punctuality

Attendance and Punctuality are expected as these actions demonstrate a concrete commitment to DMHS values and prepare students for success in school and life. Students may enter the school building beginning at 8:00 am. We do not have adult supervision before that time.

The front doors of the building are locked at 8:30AM. Students and parents who arrive after 8:30AM should go to the main entrance located on Shoshone St. and ring the bell for entry. The student must check in with the Main Office before proceeding to his or her classroom.

If your student will be absent, please inform the school by 7:45AM. Please leave a message on the Attendance Office voicemail at 720-424-2619. As a safety measure, the school will contact parents of students with unreported absences in order to verify their whereabouts.

Missing 3 or more hours of any school day constitutes an absence. All tardies and absences are part of a student's permanent record. Per DPS Policy, excessive absences/tardies will result in the school requiring a doctor's note. Students who are out for 3 consecutive days must have a doctor's note.

Because we care about your student, your student's advisor will contact you when your student is absent to check in. The principal will contact families with attendance concerns to provide support and information.

The school encourages family vacations to be scheduled to coincide with school vacations. Doctor, dentist, therapist, tutor or other appointments should be made outside of school hours or during school breaks if at all possible. If a student must miss school for an appointment, a parent or guardian must notify the school's main office. Students are responsible for notifying advisors of their absence in advance and determining what make-up work is required.

Any absences other than illness or a family emergency are strongly discouraged. The experiential nature and student participation in class discussions and tasks make it extremely difficult to make up absences. If a student must be out of school for an extended period for reasons other than illness or family emergency, the parent/guardian must provide notification in writing to the principal's secretary at least 2 weeks in advance to allow teachers to prepare work for the student for the days that he or she will be absent from school. The request should include all pertinent information and must include the signed consent of the parent/guardian for the requested absence.

School Tardiness Policies

Students are expected to be present and punctual for all classes. School begins promptly at 8:10AM. If any student arrives after 8:15am, he or she must obtain a tardy slip from the main office in order to be admitted to any class to which they are tardy. If a student exceeds 2 tardy incidents in a quarter, the student's advisor will contact you to find out how we can support you to insure your student is on time. The principal will contact families where there is a continued pattern of excessive tardies.

Morning Drop-Off and Afternoon Pick-Up

Students should not arrive at school before 8:00 a.m. as there is no adult supervision before 8:00 a.m. Students should go directly to the classrooms upon arrival. Please drop off or pick up your children on Raritan Street next to the playground.

Bus Transportation

The bus schedule is located on the website at dmhs.dpsk12.org. Any questions concerning this service should be directed to the transportation office. For information regarding late busses, or any other bus questions, please call DPS Bus Transportation: 720-423-4624.

“Breakfast In The Classroom” Program

To ensure all of our students begin the day with a healthy breakfast, DMHS is participating in the DPS “Breakfast in the Classroom” program. Free breakfast will be available to all students from 8:00 to 8:15.

Snacks & Lunches

DPS provides daily a nutritional hot and cold school lunch for \$2.85 per lunch grades 9-12 or \$2.60 per lunch grades 7, 8 or at a reduced cost or free for families that qualify for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program. You can add money any time to your student’s lunch account by setting up a MySchoolBucks Account at payonline.dpsk12.org. Students may bring their own lunch to school but doing so should promote healthy nutritional choices that help students stay focused for the afternoon. Please do not pack soda pop, high sugar drinks or candy in school lunches or snack bags. Our expectation is that grace and courtesy is practiced throughout lunch. Parents/guardians are welcome to join us for lunch with advanced notice.

Healthy snacks such as fruits, vegetables or granola bars are allowed during snack time. Students should also bring water bottles that are labeled with their name. The school has several chilled and filtered water bottle fillers located throughout the building.

Please do not bring your student lunch during the school day nor have your student order lunch to be delivered as these actions often take students out of class and disrupts the school day. If a student forgets their lunch, they will be allowed to eat DPS lunch and you can then add money to the student’s school lunch account.

Closed Campus Lunch

Denver Montessori has a closed campus for 7th through 9th grade during lunch period.

Open Campus Lunch

Open campus lunch is a privilege that students earn by achieving sophomore (10th grade) status. Students that are struggling with following the DMHS norms and rules may have their lunch temporarily closed or restricted. Students who have closed lunch and are caught leaving campus during their lunch will be subject to disciplinary consequences.

Sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have open campus lunch are required to have their student ID with them to exit and enter the building during their lunch period. Parents should understand that if a student chooses to leave campus, the student is no longer under the supervision of school personnel. Parents may request that their student remains on campus instead of having an open campus lunch.

Outside Recess

Students have 20 minutes of open time (recess) every day. The goal of the time period is to promote healthy socialization and exercise among students.

Outdoor Rules

During open time, all students will be expected to follow the three R's of DMHS: Respect yourselves, respect others and respect the environment. The following rules apply to open time and the time before and after school.

- DMHS provides playground equipment for student use. Personal items may be lost, stolen or broken causing additional conflicts on the playground. Student should NOT bring personal sports equipment or toys from home.
- Interactions on the playground need to follow the three R's – respect for oneself, others and the environment. Bullying and Intimidation will not be tolerated (see DMHS Discipline Matrix)
- Students should get permission before re-entering the school.
- Students may not throw snow, snowballs or ice, and may not engage in physical horseplay (playfighting) with other students.
- Students may play touch football but not tackle football.
- All recess equipment must be returned to the DMHS recess equipment box at the conclusion of open time.

Participation on Teams:

DMHS encourages the participation on athletic teams and school clubs, whether at DMHS or at a partner school. If a student's participation conflicts with the DMHS bell schedule, please contact the principal to determine a solution.

Extracurricular Programs & Activities

DMHS students may participate in the DPS Prep League sports program with partner schools. Each season, available sports options are announced along with requirements for participation. DMHS will also offer, based on student interest, a variety of clubs during the DMHS Creative and Physical Expressions block on Wednesday mornings. Ultimate Frisbee games occur after school during the fall and spring.

Faculty or volunteers supervise all clubs. Some activities, including athletics, require additional fees for participation. A physical exam prior to participation in athletics and clubs involving physical exertion is required.

Parent/Guardians must arrange transportation for their students who participate in after-school activities.

Retention and Acceleration

DMHS is designed to respect stages of adolescent development, and promotion and retention criteria will reflect this value. Students will be promoted within their established class. A key time for evaluation will occur towards the end of the ninth grade year. If a student is demonstrating significant gaps in academic achievement, social and/or emotional growth to the level that they may not thrive in the high school environment, a conference will be called between the student, their family, the principal and the student's advisor to determine if the student should spend an additional year in the junior high. In high school, if a student is not on track to meet all DMHS graduation requirements, the student, their family, the principal and the student's advisor will meet to create a plan in order for the student to graduate. One

possible outcome of that plan may be for the student to spend an additional semester or year at DMHS until all graduation requirements are met.

Grading Policy

Student progress and grades will be communicated via Parent Portal. DMHS does not assign transcript grades until 9th grade. Starting in 9th grade, students will be graded based upon a rubric that includes demonstration of proficiency, percentage of assignments turned in on time, classroom participation and appropriate use of independent work time. Final grades will be uploaded into the DPS Parent Portal after each grading period.

Academic Integrity Policy

All submitted work is assumed to have been completed only by students. Students are responsible for observing the standards on plagiarism, cheating, and properly crediting all sources used during the composition of work. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing may receive a failing grade for that particular assignment and have their parents or guardians notified. It is up to the teacher to decide if the assignment may be redone or not. Continued failure to abide by these standards is reported to the school administration and may result in a conference with the parent, and/or withdraw and loss of credit for courses.

Plagiarism is defined as copying or imitating the language, ideas, and thoughts of another writer and passing them off as your own original work. The following are specific examples of plagiarism, which is not tolerated:

- Copying or rephrasing another student's work.
- Having someone else write an assignment or rephrase any part of an assignment (not just proofread it).
- Directly copying student aids (for example, Cliffs Notes), critical sources, or reference materials in part or in whole without acknowledgment.
- Indirect reproduction of student aids, such as Cliffs Notes, critical sources, or reference materials by rephrasing ideas borrowed from them without acknowledgment.

Cheating is defined by using, accepting, or distributing test answers, answer keys, or another person's work, representing it to be a student's own work. Any student found cheating is in violation of the school's academic integrity policy.

Standardized Tests and other assessment measures

DMHS recognizes the importance of standardized tests in today's society although we consider them only one indicator of individual abilities or future successes. DMHS uses multiple measures to determine students' needs and progress. The assessments below are administered to DMHS students:

- All students take the state CMAS tests (administered in March and April).
- 9th and 10th grade students take the PSAT and 11th grade students take the SAT (April).
- All students take unit based assessments designed to measure comprehension and academic growth for each curricular unit.
- All students take on-going math assessments via Khan Academy and MAPs.
- Students who demonstrate that they are reading below grade level will take reading assessments to monitor growth until they are at or above grade level. These may include the Developmental Reading Inventor – DRA, and MAPs. All students take the MAPs three times per year.

All-Weather Clothing

All students should come to school prepared for rain or shine. At times, outdoor activities can be a major part of the daily schedule. Rain gear and cold weather gear (boots, gloves, and hats) should be brought to school when conditions necessitate.

Dress Code

At our Montessori school, we value your student's independence and individuality, which is often manifested by the way they dress. However, it is essential that students come to school prepared to work, and dressed in a manner that demonstrates respect for themselves, others and the environment. In your preparations for school each morning, please take the time to make sure that your child has followed the following elements for a respectful dress code for DMHS.

- Clothing should allow for free movement and work. Therefore, clothing should not be excessively tight, short, contain low cut necklines or reveal underwear.
- No sagging pants (we do not want to see anyone's underwear!)
- Shoes must be appropriate for outside work. Therefore, no heels or flip-flop shoes unless the student has brought work shoes to change into when needed.
- No gang-related attire or colors including bandanas.
- No drug/gang related jewelry
- No clothing and/or jewelry with symbols related to drugs, alcohol, sex, violence and/or media images
- No sunglasses inside the building or any other attire that prohibits easy and respectful communication. This can include hats, hoods and jackets depending on how they are worn.

The faculty and staff of DMHS reserve the sole right to interpret and enforce the student dress code. Students who violate the dress code will be required to take off the item and/ or call home for appropriate clothing to be brought to school for them, or be sent home. Repeat dress code violations may result in further discipline consequences.

PE Class Attire

For safety, hygiene and freedom of movement, students must dress properly for Physical Education activities. For PE activities, students must wear or bring athletic shoes.

Lost & Found – Located in the DMHS Hallway

If you are missing something, check the Lost & Found located in our hallway. The school is not responsible for replacing or reimbursing students and their families for lost or stolen items. All lost items will be bagged and donated at the end of each quarter.

Emergency Information

Emergency Information Form is kept online for every student. A new form for each student must be completed each year online via Parent Portal. Any special dietary or health concerns should be clearly stated on the online form. The information on this form is used to contact a parent and/or initiate medical care in the event of an emergency. Please notify the Main Office and/or update your online information if there is any change in address, telephone number, place of employment or emergency contact person so that we are able to contact a parent/guardian at any time if necessary. When a parent or responsible adult cannot be contacted, the school may call the Denver Police and/or Office of Social Services. Please notify the front office if any insurance or medical changes take place.

Medical Examinations & Immunizations

Each student must have current medical information online. Immunizations are an important part of our students' health. Colorado law (Board of Health Rule 6 CCR 1009-2) requires that children attending school are vaccinated to prevent disease, unless an approved exemption is filed. All public schools are now required to provide information to the Colorado Board of Health on student immunization rates, no later than Jan. 1 every year. DMHS school nurse follow the Colorado Board of Health schedule to identify student immunization needs. Parents or guardians will be notified if their child is missing required immunizations and vaccines. The school nurse is also available to answer questions and/or recommend resources for obtaining immunizations

Medications

Medication can be given at school when a parent or guardian requests and completes the Student Medication Request Release Agreement/Physician's Order for Medication. This form provides the parental consent required for a nurse or delegate to dispense medication on school property.

All medications must be provided in the original pharmacy container, labeled with your child's name, name of the medication, dosage and frequency, and date for the medication to be discontinued.

Students may be permitted to self-carry emergency medications such as an asthma inhaler or epinephrine (epi-pen) with the corresponding medical order and parental consent.

Please contact your school nurse's office for further information concerning medication for your child or to complete any necessary forms. It is an approved procedure in the school for an

employee to confiscate pills, tablets or a bottle of medicine from a child until circumstances are known. Cough drops are considered a medication.

Sick Students & Injured Students

Students who are ill should not be sent to school. If a student becomes ill during the school day, parents/guardians will be contacted to pick them up. First aid is available to treat minor injuries. If further care is needed, 911 will be called and parents will be contacted immediately.

Contagious Diseases

If a student contracts a contagious illness, please notify the school. Students should stay home until the illness is no longer contagious. Students who contract contagious diseases must be under professional medical treatment before returning to school.

Social/Emotional Needs of Students

DMHS employs a full time school psychologist, Lauren Lyon, who can assist students with short-term emotional or behavioral supports. If student conducts indicates more chronic needs, the school will work with the family to determine appropriate and affordable assistance. Lauren's email is lauren_lyon@dpsk12.net.

If a student is in or begins a therapeutic relationship that is related to the student's school life, we require that a Consent Form for Exchange of Information, allowing communication between the school and the care provider, be completed and filed with the Main Office. We wish to support the student's active engagement in the therapeutic process, and believe that sharing appropriate information is helpful in the course of treatment. Parents are expected to provide full disclosure regarding previous or ongoing therapy.

Standards of Student Conduct

DMHS seeks to build a climate of mutual respect, trust, and courtesy. When anyone in the school is uncivil, disrespectful or disruptive, the whole community is diminished. Everyone is entitled to a secure and supportive learning environment that includes respect for diverse viewpoints with opportunities for the respectful exchange of ideas.

Although teachers strive to deal flexibly and creatively with situations as they arise, there are certain school expectations that apply to all students. **Please see the DMHS Discipline Matrix on the following page for more serious DPS behavior policies and administrative actions.**

These rules are designed to promote social responsibility and school-wide harmony:

- Gum, candy and carbonated soft drinks are not allowed during school hours.
- Please do not record (via your phone or any other device) students or teachers without their explicit consent.
- Cellphones are to be kept for the entire school day in the provided lockable cell phone lockers.
- To avoid conflict and disruption, personal items such as toys and electronic equipment are not allowed at school.

- Theft and vandalism (graffiti, defacing of school property) are serious offenses. Tampering with school computer files or computerized data may be construed as either vandalism or theft.
- Students will be responsible for restoring their environments at the end of the day. Classrooms must be left clean and orderly.
- DMHS students maintain an inclusive social environment throughout the day. Public displays of affection and social bullying undermine a climate of social inclusion and provide poor role modeling for younger students.
- Skateboarding and bike riding on school grounds are not permitted between the hours of 7:30am and 4:30pm. Skateboards must be carried in and out of the school and kept in a locker and bikes must be locked to our bike racks.

Bullying is a very serious issue and is not tolerated. Students involved in bullying will first be asked to participate in the school's restorative action process so that they are made aware of their actions and the effects of their behavior, make amends and learn skills to better engage their peers. Ongoing bullying will be subject to discipline per the DPS discipline matrix. Bullying behavior can include the following, especially when it is prolonged, persistent and deliberate:

- Physical abuse or hitting, including horseplay (play fighting).
- Verbal abuse or name-calling.
- Disrespect of property or stealing.
- Malicious or hurtful name-calling, verbal threats or intimidation.
- Incitement or getting someone else to do any of the previous mentioned actions.
- Harassing and intimidating behavior is not allowed. Harassment and intimidation are repeated, unwanted and disrespectful attention; any behavior which has the intention or effect of harming or intimidating others. This includes social network posts and other communication forms that are harassing in nature.

Drug & Alcohol Policy

Our educational mission is to nurture each student's capacities for clear thinking, sound judgment and conscience in action. The possession or use of consciousness-altering substances is a hindrance to the healthy development of young adults and disrupts the culture of trust cultivated between students, faculty and parents. The use, possession or sale/distribution of drugs, alcohol and tobacco is prohibited in school and at school functions. Any violation of this policy is cause for potential suspension and potential expulsion.

Concerns or incidents regarding drug and/or alcohol use by students will be reviewed individually, involve professionals when needed, and will include an open and honest dialogue with students, parents/guardians and faculty members to develop a plan of action.

If a student comes forward with difficulty involving drug or alcohol use or concerns about another student, the faculty and staff are committed to helping. We encourage students to recognize the many different sources of support and remediation available to them in school and from outside professionals.

DMHS reserves the right to suspend and/or initiate expulsion proceedings in accordance with DPS policy on drugs, alcohol or weapons.

Cellphone Policy

Cellphones in the classroom distract students from learning. Students who carry their cellphones are repeatedly distracted by incoming texts and access to social media. DMHS maintains a cellphone free school environment by providing individualized cell phone lockers for each student. Students are asked to lock up their cellphones at the beginning of morning advisement, and they may retrieve their cellphones at the end of the school day.

We know there are times when you need to talk to your student during the school day. When that happens, please call the main office and we will have your student call you back. If your student needs to make a private phone call to you during the school day, we will provide him or her an office to do so. If there is an ongoing family emergency, we will give you the cell phone number of either your student's advisor or the school principal so that you know that you will be able to connect with your student.

Facebook, Twitter & Other Online Social Networks

DMHS faculty and staff do not accept invitations to join any social networking sites from students. DMHS will not search out any student's personal page or website; however, if we are informed of anything of a concerning nature, we will respond to the level that we are able to affect student behavior while at school. School officials are not responsible for handling situations that occur outside of school time. We recommend that issues that arise outside of school time are addressed by the involved students' parent/guardians and outside resources as necessary.

Disciplinary Policies & Procedures

DMHS follows DPS discipline policies as stated in DPS Boarddocs: Please refer to the DMHS Discipline Ladder and Matrix below for a descriptive review of disciplinary actions.

Non-Disciplinary Probation

On rare occasions it becomes clear that the school is not meeting a student's needs or a student's behavior is having an adverse effect on the class as a whole. In such cases, the administration will take the following steps:

- A meeting of all the student's teachers and the principal will usually occur.
- A meeting with the parents will take place, in which recommendations and a timeline of probation will be outlined. This meeting will be documented. A copy of the notes will be given to the parents/guardians and another placed in the student's file.
- Throughout the probationary period, the teachers will document the student's work and behavior on a regular basis.
- At the end of the probationary period, the teachers, administration and parents will review the student's record and determine future steps. These may include coming off probation or further probationary recommendations. Students on probation may not participate in athletic or extracurricular activities including overnight trips until they are back in good standing with the school.

Conflict of Interest

A faculty or staff member will be excused from participating in any disciplinary process if he or she has a conflict of interest in the particular case.

Privacy

All disciplinary processes are conducted so that the privacy and the rights of the individuals involved are protected.

Mandated Reporter Status

As educational professionals in the State of Colorado, all school employees recognize their role as a mandated reporter. In all cases of reported or suspected abuse or neglect we are mandated to file a report with the appropriate agency and law enforcement. All DMHS teachers and staff complete training to understand the requirements and procedures involved in making reports.

Custody Agreements

A copy of the Custody Agreement regarding children of divorced parents must be on file with the Main Office.

Withdrawing a Student

Parents must notify the school in writing at least one week prior to withdrawing their student.

End-of-Year School Reports

Official documents will only be sent directly to the new school, program or institution a student will be attending. Parents/guardians may request, in writing, an unofficial copy of their child's records.

Attachment C

Denver Public Schools Discipline Ladder

Building Leader Managed Levels

Type Four Offenses

Level F

1. Repeat Level D steps 1 through 3
2. Refer to and utilize the Intervention Guide for the intervention for the specific offense.
3. Engage the student in a restorative practice (as appropriate)
4. Construct and implement a Behavior Plan (general education students) or Functional Behavior Assessment/Behavior Intervention Plan (students with a disability)
5. Building Leader may give 0 to 3 days In-School Suspension (ISS) and/or 0 to 3 days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) when safety concerns exist and planning time is needed to reintegrate student into learning setting
6. Building Leader may request approval of an extension to an Out-of-School Suspension and a review request for a possible expulsion hearing if the incident warrants the request

Type Three Offenses

Level E

1. Repeat Level D steps 1 through 3
2. Refer to and utilize the Intervention Guide for the intervention for the specific offense.
3. Engage the student in a restorative practice (as appropriate)
4. Construct and implement a Behavior Plan (general education students) or Functional Behavior Assessment/Behavior Intervention Plan (students with a disability)
5. Building Leader may give 0 to 3 days In-School Suspension and/or 0 to 1 day Out-of-School Suspension when safety concerns exist and planning time is needed to reintegrate student into learning setting (If an OSS is given, only 0 to 1 day ISS can be given)

Type Two Offenses

Level D

1. Documentation of interaction and intervention is provided to Building Leader by classroom teacher and/or support staff
2. Student tells his or her side of the story
3. Building Leader conferences with parent/guardian
4. Refer to and utilize the Intervention Guide for the intervention for the specific offense
5. Engage the student in a restorative practice (as appropriate)
6. Construct and implement a Behavior Plan (general education students) or Functional Behavior Assessment/Behavior Intervention Plan (students with a disability)
7. Building Leader may give In-School-Suspension of 0 to 3 days when safety concerns exist and planning time is needed to reintegrate student into learning setting

Classroom Teacher Managed Levels

Type One Offenses

Level C – Teacher, Support Staff, Student, Parent/Guardian

1. Teacher or designed staff member decides whether to request the support of the school psychologist, school social worker, school nurse, counselor, or any other member of the support staff
2. Teacher notifies the parent/guardian and invites them to a conference
3. Student tells his/her side of the story
4. Teacher conferences with other staff members as appropriate
5. Engage the student in a restorative practice (as appropriate)
6. Modify or construct and implement interventions as appropriate
7. Document all interactions and monitor all interventions

Level B – Teacher, Student, Parent/Guardian

1. Student tells his/her side of the story
2. Teacher notifies the parent/guardian
3. Engage the student in a restorative practice (as appropriate)
4. Modify or construct and implement interventions as appropriate
5. Document all interactions and monitor all interventions

Level A – Teacher, Student

1. Student tells his/her side of the story
2. Teacher counsels with student
3. Engage the student in a restorative practice (as appropriate)
4. Construct and implement interventions as appropriate
5. Document all interactions and monitor all interventions

Technology and Internet Use:

DMHS requires all students to adhere to Policy EGAEA and Regulation EGAEA-R1. Sections that are pertinent to student use include the following:

Denver Public Schools provides a wide-area network service that connects district facilities to each other and to the Internet at large. Access to the Internet offers vast and unique resources to both students and teachers. The District's goal in providing this service is to promote educational opportunities to schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. The Internet is an electronic network connecting millions of computers and individuals all over the world. It is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies and regional and state networks. The smooth operation of a network that provides both in-district and worldwide access depends upon the proper conduct of each end-user.

Users must adhere to the guidelines of this policy in order to acquire and maintain network access. Violation of any of the provisions of this policy may result in termination of access, denial of future access and/or possible disciplinary action.

Definitions:

1. **Illegal activities** - include, but are not limited to, any activities in violation of local, state, and/or federal laws.
2. **Obscene activities** - include activities in violation of generally accepted social standards for use of a publicly-owned and operated communication vehicle. This includes retrieval of or access to any sexual explicit materials.
3. **Inappropriate use** - includes any activities conducted in violation of this policy or additional activities deemed inappropriate by system administrators.
4. **Dangerous information** - information that if acted upon could cause damage, present a danger, or cause a disruption to the district or the community-at-large.
5. **Compromising personal safety** - revealing personal contact information relating to themselves or other persons

The District provides filtering to restrict access to obscene, pornographic, or other material that is harmful to minors. The District does not guarantee that such material will never be encountered. On a global network it is impossible to control all materials, and even casual users may easily discover or come across controversial material. The school District believes that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may access material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the district.

The use of the District's network is a privilege, not a right, and must be treated as such by all

users. Inappropriate use may result in a cancellation of this privilege.

Access is provided primarily for education and District business. By using the District System, users have agreed to adhere to terms and conditions of this policy. If a user is uncertain about whether a particular use is acceptable or appropriate, he or she should call the DoTS Hotline at 720-423-3888 or consult their supervisor or other appropriate District personnel.

The District reserves the right to take immediate action regarding any activity that may create security and/or safety issues for the District and its students, employees, schools, or District System; or device as defined in this policy, or expend District resources on content if the District, in its sole and absolute discretion, determines to lack legitimate educational content/purpose, or other activities deemed inappropriate. Examples include, but are not limited to the type of prohibited activities and uses the District may act upon at any time, with or without providing notice to any user are below.

- 1** Violating any state or federal law municipal ordinance or applicable District policy or regulation;
- 2** Accessing or transmitting pornography of any kind, obscene depictions, harmful materials, materials that encourage others to violate the law, confidential information or copyrighted materials;
- 3** Criminal activities that can be punished under law;
- 4** Selling or purchasing illegal items or substances;
- 5** The unauthorized collection of email addresses (“harvesting”) of e-mail addresses from the Global Address List and other District directories;
- 6** Obtaining and/or using anonymous email sites; spamming; spreading viruses;
- 7** Causing harm to others or damage to their property such as using profane, abusive, or impolite language; threatening, harassing, or making damaging or false statements about others or accessing, transmitting, or downloading offensive, harassing, or disparaging materials;
- 8** Deleting, copying, modifying, or forging other users' names, emails, files, or data; disguising one's identity, impersonating other users, or sending anonymous email;
- 9** Damaging computer equipment, files, data or the District System in any way, including intentionally accessing, transmitting or downloading computer viruses or other harmful files or programs, or disrupting any computer system performance;
- 10** Using any District computer to pursue “hacking,” internal or external to the District, or attempting to access information protected by privacy laws;

- 11** Accessing, transmitting or downloading large files, including "chain letters" or any type of "pyramid schemes";
- 12** Engaging in uses that jeopardize access or lead to unauthorized access into others' accounts or other computer networks by using another's account password(s) or identifier(s); interfering with other users' ability to access their account(s); or disclosing your own or anyone's password to others or allowing them to use your or another's account(s).
- 13** Using the District System for:
 - 13.1** Unauthorized commercial purposes personal financial gain
 - 13.2** Personal advertising, promotion, or financial gain
 - 13.3** Conducting for-profit business activities and/or engaging in non-government related fundraising or public relations activities such as solicitation for religious purposes, lobbying for personal political purposes

Penalties for Improper Use

The use of the District System and information is a privilege not a right, any misuse will result in the restriction, suspension, or cancelation of the user's rights.

DMHS FAMILY & STUDENT HANDBOOK RETURN FORM

Thank you for reviewing the DMHS Family & Student Handbook with your child. Please return a form to your child's advisor. Please sign and return by August 7, 2019.

Student Name

I have reviewed the Family and Student Handbook with my child and am aware of school expectations and policies. I agree to:

- Attend Advisor-Family conferences twice a year.
- Check notices sent home each week.
- Support student with making good choices at home.
- Maintain regular communication with the school about students' academic and social progress.
- Bring student to school unless they have a fever or need to see a doctor.
- Attend *at least* one other family event during the school year (Presentations of learning, Montessori education nights, community building events).

Parent Permission for Internet Use:

As the parent or guardian of a DPS student, I have read Policy EGAEA and Regulation EGAEA-R1, Electronic Mail and Internet Policy, understand its contents, and agree that my student will abide by it (visit www.dpsk12.org/policies to view DPS policies).

I am fully aware that the school technology system is administered by DPS and is intended for official DPS business and educational use only. Should my student commit any violation of Policy EGAEA or Regulation EGAEA-R1, his/her access privileges may be revoked, and other disciplinary action may be taken.

I hereby give permission to issue Internet access for my child and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

Student Signature

date

Parent Signature

date