

**Aledo ISD Student Handbook
Middle School Supplement
2023-2024**

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AWARDS AND HONORS

Students will be recognized for different areas of excellence in various ways throughout the school year.

CELL PHONES

For safety purposes, the district permits students to possess personal mobile telephones; however, these devices must remain turned off during the instructional day, including during all testing, unless they are being used for approved instructional purposes.

The use of mobile telephones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event.

If a student uses a telecommunications device without authorization during the school day, the device will be confiscated. This includes devices such as wireless headphones, smart watches, etc. Students will not be allowed to retrieve confiscated devices until the end of the school day. The first offense is a “warning”, but after the first offense, there will be a \$15 fee to retrieve the device. Confiscated devices will be stored in the front office.

Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. The district is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen telecommunications devices.

Middle school students are permitted the use of cell phones in the mornings before the first bell. **Once the first bell rings (8:30), all students will be required to turn phones off and secure phones in their backpacks.** Phones will remain off and out of sight for the duration of the school day. Again, phones need to be secured in the student’s backpack, not on their person. Specifically, students are **not** permitted the use of cell phones during the instructional day including passing periods and lunch periods. Unless specifically needed, teachers will not allow the use of cell phones in the classroom as students will have access to either a personal or school-issued device for educational purposes.

We believe that this practice will have positive impacts for all students. Research has shown that when students do not have access to their phones during the school day, they are more engaged socially and academically. While there are certainly opportunities to include technology in the classroom, this can be accomplished through the use of approved instructional devices such as chromebooks and iPads. Additionally, there are serious consequences associated with misuse of telecommunication devices, specifically cell phones. For example, if a student takes photos or videos in a locker room, restroom, or other protective area, this action can be punishable as a state jail felony.

However, we also believe that it is imperative that students understand the potential consequences and are also provided with opportunities to use their devices responsibly. Therefore, students (and parents/guardians) will be provided guidance on acceptable and safe use of devices. Also, on designated days, students **may** be permitted the use of cell phones during campus activities. These opportunities will be at the discretion of the grade level administrator. During these allowable times, there will be procedures in place to prevent inappropriate use. Before such opportunities, these procedures will be taught explicitly to students and communicated to parents/guardians. Once the activity has concluded, all cell phones must be turned off and put away before leaving to return to class.

CLASS SCHEDULES – Schedule Changes

Any schedule change request must be in writing and must be approved by the principal. Request forms are available in the campus office. Schedules may not be changed due to teacher or period preference.

CELEBRATIONS

Although a parent or grandparent is not prohibited from providing food for a school-designated function or for children in the child's or grandchild's classroom for his or her birthday, please be aware that children in the school may have severe allergies to certain food products. Therefore, it is imperative to discuss this with the grade level administrator prior to bringing any food in this circumstance.

Occasionally, the school or a class may host certain functions or celebrations tied to the curriculum that will involve food. The school or teacher will notify students and parents of any known food allergies when soliciting potential volunteers for bringing food products. In order to distribute food products for your child's birthday celebration, parents must request a permission form from the principal. The form must be completed and approved by the principal 10 school days in advance of the celebration.

DRESS AND GROOMING

The Aledo ISD dress standards are established to prevent disruption and support the safety of all students, staff and campus visitors. All students are expected to dress in a respectful manner within the acceptable standards of the educational community and in such a manner as to contribute to the academic atmosphere. Specifically, the dress standards are intended to teach students a skill that is required for success in future employment.

Aledo ISD expects that all students will dress in a way that is appropriate for the school day and for any school-sponsored event.

Our student dress standards are designed to accomplish the following goals:

- Maintain a safe learning environment in classes where protective or supportive clothing is needed, such as chemistry/biology, dance or PE.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that denote, suggest, display or reference alcohol, drugs or related paraphernalia, or other illegal conduct or activities.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that will interfere with the operation of the school, disrupt the educational process, invade the rights of others or create a reasonably foreseeable risk of such interference or invasion of rights.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that reasonably can be construed as being or including content that is profane, racist, lewd, vulgar or obscene, or that reasonably can be construed as containing fighting words, speech that incites others to imminent lawless action, defamatory speech or threats to others.

Students shall come to school looking clean, neat and ready to learn. Furthermore, to support proper hygiene on campus and maintain an environment conducive to learning, blankets and pillows, whether “worn” or carried, are prohibited on campus unless otherwise directed by the school staff.

Students Must Wear:

- Clothing that covers all private body parts at all times.
 - Undergarments and clothing including both a shirt with pants, dress, skirt, or the equivalent.
 - Shorts, including athletic shorts, must extend beyond the buttocks and pelvic region at all times.
- Shoes at all times.
- Clothing suitable for all scheduled classroom activities including physical education, science labs and CTE courses, and other activities where unique hazards exist.

Students May Wear:

- Religious headwear
- Hooded sweatshirts
 - Hoods cannot be worn while in the building.
- Fitted pants (including leggings, joggers, and “skinny jeans”)
- Sweatpants, shorts, skirts, dresses, pants
- Ripped jeans if undergarments and buttocks are not exposed
- Tank tops, excluding those with spaghetti straps
- Athletic attire
- Clothing that does not violate the guidelines in the “May Not Wear” section below.

Students May Not Wear:

- Strapless, backless, halter, bare-midriff, or spaghetti strap shirts/blouses/dresses.
- Clothing that reveals undergarments.
- Pajamas or house shoes/slippers.
- Hats, hoods, caps, visors or similar hat-like apparel (unless approved by administration).
- Costume apparel or accessories.
- Clothing displaying violent language or images.

- Clothing with images or language depicting or representing drugs, alcohol (or any illegal item or activity), hate speech, profanity or pornography.
- Clothing with images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or consistently marginalized groups.
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon.
- Any item that obscures the face (except as a religious observance or as required by the district to mitigate health risks associated with the spread of communicable disease).

For special events, defined by campus administration, specific dress requirements may be set. When there is a question on the dress or appearance of a student, the building administrator and school staff will use their discretion concerning the standards of dress.

Solutions to Address Aledo ISD dress standards:

If a student is not following the dress standards, the administrator/staff member should address the student in private to come up with a solution using the following guidelines:

- Students are expected to be in compliance with the dress standards during the instructional day.
- Students will be given the option of removing articles and accessories that do not conform to the standards of dress.
- Students will be asked to put on their own alternative clothing, if already available at school, to be dressed more to the standards for the remainder of the day.
- Students will be provided with temporary school clothing to be dressed more to standards for the remainder of the day (when available).
- If necessary, students' parents/guardians may be called during the school day to bring alternative clothing for the student to wear for the remainder of the school day.
- Students will not be allowed to leave campus for the purpose of changing clothes.

If a student refuses to accept the solutions provided above, he or she will be deemed as noncompliant and will be addressed in accordance with the Aledo ISD Student Code of Conduct.

The school administrators may make appropriate adjustments in the dress standards to fit the unique needs of a campus or student needs and shall employ appropriate disciplinary procedures to carry out and enforce this policy.

HOMEWORK

Homework is used to enrich and reinforce topics covered in class. Homework policies are set forth by each classroom teacher.

HUMAN SEXUALITY INSTRUCTION

Removing a Student from Human Sexuality Instruction

As a part of the district's curriculum, students receive instruction related to human sexuality. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) is involved with the selection of course materials for such instruction. State law requires that any instruction related to human sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, or human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immune deficiency syndrome must:

- Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior in relationship to all sexual activity for unmarried persons of school age;
 - Devote more attention to abstinence from sexual activity than to any other behavior;
 - Emphasize that abstinence is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity;
 - Direct adolescents to a standard of behavior in which abstinence from sexual activity before marriage is the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; and
 - If included in the content of the curriculum, teach contraception and condom use in terms of human use reality rates instead of theoretical laboratory rates.
- In accordance with state law, below is a summary of the district's curriculum regarding human sexuality instruction:

The Aledo ISD presents instruction relating to human sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV and AIDS with the advice of the local School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) following school board policy EHAA (LEGAL). The SHAC is a district wide committee comprised of parents, teachers, counselors, students, and community members. The Aledo ISD Board Policy states that sex education must:

- present abstinence as the preferred choice of behavior for unmarried persons,
- present abstinence as the only method that is 100% effective in preventing pregnancy, STDs, HIV, and AIDS and the emotional trauma of adolescent sexual activity, and
- teach contraception and condom use in terms of human use reality rates instead of theoretical laboratory rates.

Parents have the right to remove a student from this human sexuality instruction without penalty as well as the right to review the curriculum materials by contacting the campus principal. Parents are encouraged to participate in the district School Health Advisory Council (SHAC). If you have any questions concerning this information or are interested and willing to serve on the SHAC please contact your student's principal.

LIBRARY

The campus Library is available to students each school day. Students have the opportunity to read independently, collaborate on assignments, utilize the computers and devices, and research topics as needed. Inquire at individual campuses for library hours and accessibility.

MAKE-UP WORK

Excused/Unexcused make-up work policy

When a student has an excused absence, it is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the teacher for make up work. For unexcused absences, the student may request his/her make-up work upon return to school. Generally, students will have one day to make up work for every day of class missed. If a student is absent for three or more consecutive days, his/her parent may call the office for assignments.

MEETINGS OF NON-CURRICULUM RELATED GROUPS

Parents will be notified of any non-curriculum related groups that are being formed in which their student is eligible to participate (i.e. Student Council, NJHS, Robotics, etc.). Student-organized, student-led non curriculum-related groups are permitted to meet during the hours designated by the principal before and after school. These groups must comply with the requirements of policy FNAB(LOCAL). A list of these groups is available in the principal's office.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Parents and guardians are encouraged to partner with school staff through volunteer opportunities, booster clubs, and PTO. Participation in these organizations may require a background check and/or specific organization application forms.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

Use by Students Before and After School

The official school day is from 8:40 a.m. until 4:10 p.m. Students are not allowed in the building until 8:00 a.m. and should leave the campus promptly at the end of the school day or after their supervised activity. Parent cooperation is vitally important in maintaining a safe environment.

Certain areas of the school will be accessible to students before and after school for specific purposes. Students are required to remain in the area where their activity is scheduled to take place.

After dismissal in the afternoon, and unless involved in an activity under the supervision of a teacher, students must leave campus immediately.

TARDIES

The intent of AISD to eliminate tardiness so that students receive the appropriate amount of instructional time in each class. Tardiness will be addressed with the students on an individual basis. Repeated instances of tardiness will result in more severe disciplinary action, in accordance with the ***Student Code of Conduct***.

CAMPUS-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

For information regarding bell schedules, campus staff contact details, etc. please click the links below to go directly to the campus home page for that type of information:

[Aledo Middle School](#)

[McAnally Middle School](#)