



DIXIE MIDDLE SCHOOL
- EAGLES SOAR -

Student Handbook 2026 - 2027

HOME OF THE EAGLES

MISSION STATEMENT:

Dixie Middle School empowers all students to soar to new heights by ensuring high levels of learning and personal growth.

Welcome Students!

We're excited to have you join us for this new school year. Your time at DMS will be memorable and valuable for your future.

In order for you to gain the most from this school year, it is important for you to review and follow the rules and guidelines. Doing this will help you achieve success!

We want the very best for you. Good luck as you set your sights high and soar with the Dixie Eagles!

CONTACT INFORMATION

School Address: 929 S. 100 E.
St. George, Utah 84770
Main Phone Number: 435-628-0441
Fax Number: 435-674-6467
Website Address: www.dms.washk12.org

Powerschool Website Address:
<https://psa.washk12.org/public/home.html>

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

Paul Hurt.....Principal
Alice Ericksen.....Assistant Principal
Jason Jensen.....Counselor
Emily Sharp.....Counselor
Officer Mike Sittre.....Resource Officer
Tyler Vega.....Learning Coach
Heather Givens.....Principal's Secretary
Roslyn Davis.....Financial Secretary
Halli Cox.....Registrar
Joe Dominguez.....Head Custodian
Michael Paxman.....Media & Technology Specialist
Kristen Brinkerhoff.....Kitchen Manager

FACULTY

Language Arts
Christopher Baguley
Trissie Cox
Amy Nance
Trisha Varney

CTE
Sierra Howell
Mary Ann Lindsey
Adelaide Mair
Tyler Stull
Rodney Tracey

Fine Arts
Justina Arvig
Andrea Howe
Kiley Kolodziej
Anna Poulsen
Ashley Ricks
Will Stucki

Physical Ed
Jill Pace
Michael Schroath

Mathematics
Barry Burr
Rhonda Sherratt
Jenny Walker
Sarah Walters

Social Studies
McKenzie Gonzalez
Teresa Harris
Jonathan Miller

Science
Heidi Crawford
Kelly Favale
Paul Durrant
Ryan Miller

Special Ed
Geri Hardy
Brande McGill
Shauna Peacock

World Languages
Lijie Qin
Thatiane Stewart
Tiffani Vazquez
Diana Welch

BLOCK SCHEDULE

1 st /5 th	8:20	To	9:40
2 nd /6 th	9:45	To	10:57
Mentoring	11:00	To	11:30
Lunch	11:30	To	12:00
3 rd /7 th	12:05	To	1:20
4 th /8 th	1:25	To	2:40

BEHAVIOR AND CITIZENSHIP

Respect and Responsibility at Dixie Middle

Respectful Social Behavior

Learning to be a good citizen is an important lesson taught in school as well as at home. **Courtesy to teachers, school employees, other students, and visitors are expected from all students.** Students should be considerate of the rights, safety, property, and feelings of others, despite race, gender, religious or economic background. Students who taunt or harass others for **any** reason, including, but not limited to race, gender, religion, mental illness, disability will be disciplined promptly.

Responsible Learning Behavior

Certain behavior is expected and necessary for school, just as it will be for the workplace. Dixie Middle School students have an advantage as they learn and practice these behaviors now.

1. **Arrive on time, ready to work.**
2. **Come prepared with all necessary materials.**
3. **Turn in clean, legible assignments on time.**
4. **Be a positive contributor to the teaching / learning environment.**
5. **Be respectful of others and their right to teach / learn.**
6. **Follow teacher instructions and obey classroom rules.**

Students who repeatedly have problems demonstrating Responsible Learning Behavior, or interfere with the learning environment, may be assigned to an alternative setting outside of regular classes.

Cheating/Plagiarism

If a student cheats on an assignment or test, they will automatically receive a zero for the work in question. The teacher will note that the student was cheating in the gradebook and contact the parents about the situation. The student will have a chance to complete an alternative assignment to demonstrate proficiency. The new score will reflect a penalty as agreed upon by the content team.

Assignment Makeup (Missing School)

All work during any missed class time for any reason (excused, unexcused, tardy, etc.) requires the student to communicate with their teacher and make up the assignment(s). ([WCSD Policy 2900](#)) Deadlines missed for work assigned prior to mid-term may not be able to be made up following mid-term, resulting in zero credit, except in the case of excuse absence during the week prior to mid-term. **Individual teachers or departments may have procedures to follow to determine the amount of time given to submit missed assignments after an absence. Please refer to disclosure statements.**

Assignment Makeup (Not Doing Work)

If a student chooses not to do an assignment, teachers will determine the best plan of action forward, whether the student later completes the work for full credit, reduced credit, or no credit. Teachers will determine which option is best based on the needs of each student and their departmental/classroom policies. Please refer to course disclosure statements.

DMS has internet access throughout the building; however, in order for students to have access to the internet they must follow the WCSD "[Acceptable Use Policy](#)". **Failure to follow this policy may result in the loss of computer privileges.** There may also be disciplinary or legal action taken for illegal or inappropriate material being viewed or downloaded.

Electronic Devices

As required by Utah State Law, students' use of cell phones, smartwatches, and other emerging technology are restricted during classroom hours to minimize distractions, maintain an effective learning environment, and allow for necessary exceptions.

- Cell phones must remain off the student's person and stored in a school locker during from bell to bell (8:20am-2:40pm). During open campus lunchtime, (11:30am-12:00pm) devices may be used outside of the building.
- During school hours, all communications should be made through the school's front office and not directly to/from the student using their smart watch or cell phone.
- Personal Listening Devices (airpods, earbuds, headphones) must be put away during the school day.
- Personal laptops, gaming devices, smart glasses, and Extended Reality Headsets are not allowed at school.
- Smartwatches may be worn but must be in silent mode while at school, and/or otherwise not be a distraction.
- School administrators may search electronic devices when there is reasonable suspicion of inappropriate use or a violation of policy.
- The school and staff are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged electronic devices. Students must properly secure and care for their own belongings. Students bring electronic devices on school property or to school activities at their own risk.
- Picture taking or recording by students and parents is strictly forbidden in school or school activity private areas, such as locker rooms, counseling sessions, and restrooms.

School Admin may allow for personal device use in the following cases:

- Responding to Health or safety emergencies impacting the student or others.
- When required by a student's IEP, 504, or documented Health Plan
- Use of the SafeUT Crisis Line for crisis support.

If a student intentionally uses or interacts with a device in a manner not consistent with this policy, the following consequences may follow:

- Students will receive one warning by way of policy education prior to discipline for violation of this policy. Teachers may hold a device until the end of class as a warning procedure.
- **First Offense:** Device is confiscated and may be picked up from the office at the end of the school day. The infraction is logged in PowerSchool.
- **Second Offense:** Device is confiscated and must be picked up from the office at the end of the school day by a parent/guardian. The infraction is logged in PowerSchool.
- **Additional Offenses:** Device is confiscated and must be picked up from the office at the end of the school day by a parent/guardian within 7 days. The infraction is logged for Recovery Time (lunch detention) and a parent meeting with administration may be held to discuss progressive consequences, which may include suspension.

See [WCSD Policy 3740](#) and [UT SB 178](#)

Dixie Middle Dress Code and Grooming Policy

Washington County School District Policy:

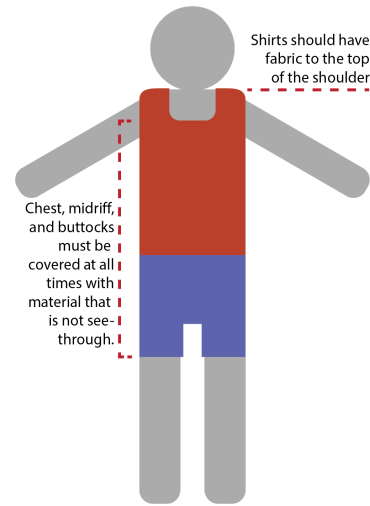
Students who attend school in WCSD are expected to come to school dressed and groomed appropriately for a learning environment and show respect for others by supporting the following dress and grooming standards. These standards are intended to ensure that every school in the WCSD will be a safe place for each student to learn, free from physical or moral threats and free from intimidation by others, to include gangs and gang appearance. School administrators will have final judgment on all matters concerning interpretation of student conduct, dress, and appearance.

Dress and Appearance Standards include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Clothing should be clean and in good repair.
2. Hats and other headwear:
 - a. May be worn unless it disrupts the school or school activity, poses a danger to self or others, or limits the ability of others to identify the student.
 - b. Any headwear that does not allow the student's face to be visible is not allowed.
3. Clothing (See figure):
 - a. Must be appropriate in length and not revealing.
 - b. Must provide coverage of the torso with no viewable undergarments. Coverage will be with material that is not see-through
 - c. Tube tops are not permitted.
4. Clothing, appearance, jewelry, accessory, footwear, or personal item shall be free of any writing, images, symbols, or any other insignias that:
 - a. Are lewd, vulgar, profane, obscene, or sexually suggestive.
 - b. Advocates, represents, or promotes racism, discrimination, violence or hate in any form.
 - c. Signifies or depicts gangs and/or illegal or criminal activities. (Administrators in consultation with law enforcement agencies will determine what signifies and/or depicts these activities.)
 - d. Shows or references tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or any illegal substance.
5. Footwear, appropriate for the day's activities, shall be worn at all times.
6. Any dress or appearance item or practice that creates an unhealthy, unsafe, or disruption to the school or school activity may be prohibited.

Dress code violations will be warned by staff and handled by the administration when students are sent to the office. In a first offense, clothing to cover up areas that are not appropriate may be provided (clothes need to be returned to the school or paid for by the student) or the student may find something to wear from a friend or call home. If the same piece of clothing, or a similar piece of clothing, is worn a second time after the first violation, parents will be called and may be asked to meet with the student and the administration. A student in violation of the Dress Code policy may be sent home to make the necessary changes to be in compliance with the policy. The student may return as soon as the required changes are made.

[See WCSD Policy 2200](#)



Fighting

Physical altercations will not be tolerated. Any fighting (mutual combat) will result in both parties being suspended from school. Students promoting violence by filming/sharing or encouraging a fight may be suspended. If you are concerned that you or others may be involved in a fight, report your concern to the office immediately. Multiple instances of fighting will result in the student being placed in an alternative setting.

Weapons

As part of the WCSD Safe Schools policy, weapons of any type are unacceptable in the school environment. This weapons policy includes **any type of pocket knife or look-alike weapon**. Consequences for violating this policy can range from confiscation of the weapon up to expulsion from school.

[See WCSD Policy 2110](#)

Skateboard/Rollerblade Policy

Washington County School District has adopted a **no skateboard or rollerblade policy** on all of their school campuses. WCSD is not responsible for any accident that may occur as a result of riding skateboards or roller blades on school property. **Students who ride skateboards, scooters, or bikes to school must lock them up on the racks on the north side parking lot in the front of the building.**

Vandalism/School Property

Students must not mark on school furniture, walls, ceilings, floors, buses or equipment, or tamper with fire alarms, fire extinguishers, signs, or any electrical systems. **Anyone who willfully destroys school property or creates a safety hazard to themselves or others will be subject to school disciplinary measures and charged for repairs.** Additionally, the individual may be referred to the proper law enforcement agency.

Substitute Teachers

Substitute teachers are to be considered guests in our school with as much authority as the regular teacher. It is the responsibility of students to see that every courtesy and assistance is offered to substitute teachers. Substitutes will send students who repeatedly disrupt the class or show disrespect to other people in the class to the main office for discipline.

Public Displays of Affection

Students are not to physically express affection in public. This means students should not hold hands, embrace, kiss etc. Students who repeatedly engage in inappropriate displays of affection face possible administrative discipline.

ATTENDANCE

School Hours

The school day begins at 8:20 a.m. and ends at 2:40 p.m. unless students are working with a teacher, involved in a school activity or on a district-wide early out schedule. The building will be open from 7:50 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

To check a student out from school before the end of the school day, a parent/guardian must come into the office and present their ID. For the safety of our students, phone calls from the parking lot will not be sufficient to allow the student to leave the building.

Attendance

The Washington County School Board wants to make every effort to be in compliance with state law and work together in harmony with parents and to assist them with their responsibility to have their children in attendance at school. ([2900 Attendance District Policy](#))

Absence: An absence is defined as any time a student is not in attendance in the classroom to which he or she has been assigned.

Students are responsible for the completion of any work missed due to absence regardless of the reason for the absence.

Excessive Absences

Regular attendance is directly related to academic success. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10% or greater than days enrolled, and has a negative effect on student achievement.

If a student reaches **five** absences in a quarter and has one or more failing grades, an email will be sent home to the parents notifying them.

If a student reaches **six** absences in any given class in a quarter and has one or more failing grades, a phone call to the parent from an administrator, counselor, or representative will be made to discuss the situation.

If a student reaches **nine** absences in any given class in a quarter a mandatory meeting will be set for the parent to discuss the situation with the administration.

If a child reaches **eleven** absences they may need to transition to online recovery of credit for that class and be required to pay the fee associated with that program.

In addition to the policy above, if a student has excessive absences, other interventions may include: time to make up school work such as lunch recovery time, before or after school, Attendance Mediation, referral to DCFS/CPS or other community and law enforcement agencies.

Unexcused Absence/Truant: All absences that are not excused by a parent are classified as unexcused absences. Students are allowed up to ten (10) unexcused absences per school year. Two class or more periods marked unexcused constitutes a full-day truant. Teachers will mark the students as unexcused if they do not know why they are absent, but will mark them as truant if they know that they were at school and are not currently attending their class. A parent will be notified by automated phone or e-mail every time the parent's student is absent without excuse. **Students who are marked truant (S) will automatically lose the privilege of early lunch release and will need to work off the truant mark (to be determined by teacher or administration) for early lunch to be restored.**

Tardy: A student is on-time to class when she or he is ready to start class before or at the time when the bell has sounded. Students may be marked tardy if they are not in their seat when the bell to start class rings. Tardiness is disruptive to the normal class routine and can be detrimental to a student's achievement.

A tardy may be excused by a parent when an emergency situation results in a student arriving to school late. **A student may not be excused for tardiness between classes, even after lunch** (except if they are physically checked out by a parent/guardian upon leaving the school and the parent notifies the office at the time of return).

Excessive Tardies

Students who are persistently tardy to class (**three consecutive tardies** in one class) may lose the privilege of going to lunch early. Students may earn back the early lunch privilege by attending tardy recovery or meeting with their teachers to work off excessive tardies.

If a student reaches **five cumulative** tardies in any given quarter they will no longer be eligible for early lunch release.

If a student reaches **ten cumulative** tardies in any given quarter the student will be assigned to Tardy Recovery (lunchtime).

If a student reaches two Way Late (20+ minutes tardy) marks for any class after 1st period they will be assigned Recovery Time.

If a student reaches **fifteen cumulative** tardies, a parent meeting may be set to discuss consequences, which may include recovering the time or alternative placement.

If a student reaches **six cumulative tardies** or **four Way Late** marks **when returning from lunch**, they will lose the privilege of going off campus for lunch, and will be assigned tardy recovery time to work off the tardies.

Transfers or Moving

A student transferring to another school must bring their parent/guardian the last day of attendance in order to check out. The check-out procedure begins in the counseling center and includes returning all books and school materials to teachers, returning all books checked out from the media center, and paying any fines. The counseling center must also have the student's new address and the name of the new school when possible.

Leaving School Before Last Scheduled Day

The Washington County School Board requires:

1. The student must submit a written request from parents to the school administrator **three days before leaving**.
2. Students need to be cleared through the administration before they make arrangements with the teachers. At this time, they will receive a check-out sheet and written confirmation.
3. All paperwork and assignments that are completed on time will be accepted and graded with the student receiving proper credit.
4. Tests and final exams are not to be given early.
5. The grade may be reduced if the student fails to be in attendance to take the final exam (the grade is not reduced because of the absence, but because of the student's failure to complete the final exam).
6. No student is to be given an incomplete grade the last term unless circumstances are so unique that it can be handled no other way. This applies to all students, not just those who leave early.

Educational Leave

If a student will be absent to do something of an educational nature, they may apply for educational leave (see the assistant principal). Obtaining, completing, and turning in assignments in advance is encouraged. Communicate with teachers regarding make-up work and the possibility of alternative assignments based on the educational nature of the absence. **Start the process at least 7 days before you plan to leave.**



SCHOOL PROCEDURES AND INFORMATION

Counseling Services

Counseling services are available to all students. Many problems dealing with both school and personal life can be improved or resolved by counseling with a trusted adult. The school counselors are happy to meet with you and help you with personal problems that may arise. Ask your teacher for a hall pass or stop by the counseling center between classes and make an appointment. The counselors and our school psychologist are sincerely committed to helping each student get the most out of school and life.

Counseling Center Class Change Policy

Each class change will be considered by the counselors individually. To make a class change, see a counselor and the following procedure will be followed:

- Counselors will review schedule change requests approximately two weeks before Semester 1 and Semester 2 begins.
- Schedule changes during the first two days of school (one A Day and one B Day) are reserved for new students and schedule errors only.
- The deadline for schedule changes is after the first week of a new semester.
- Schedule change requests will be accommodated based on availability and class size. They are not guaranteed.
- Schedule change requests will likely affect other class periods. Students should inform counselors if there are class periods they do not want affected.
- Additional classes are added as enrollment increases. This may require balancing of teacher class sizes and will affect some students' class schedules.
- If a class schedule change is poor for the learning environment the teacher can revoke/reverse the class change to improve the learning in the classroom.
- Schedule changes will not be made between quarters unless extenuating circumstances necessitate doing so.
- If students request a core classroom teacher change after the first week of school (Science, Language Arts, Math, Geography) then students and parents must communicate with the classroom teacher to address concerns and discuss solutions. The change will only be made if all parties agree it is in the best interest of the student, there is availability in another classroom, and the new teacher agrees to accept the student.

Online Credit

- Students may earn up to 8 credits during the school year. This total includes all in-person and online courses.
- If a student takes an online course during the school year, it will count as one of their 8 scheduled periods. Students enrolled in online coursework have two options for their schedule:
- Students may be enrolled in a supervised, online study class during the school day in a classroom.
- Students may be assigned an Online Release period. During this time, students must leave campus.
- The school does not provide supervision or transportation for students who have Online Release. Parents/guardians are responsible for their student's safety and travel during that period. Students cannot remain at school unaccounted for during an Online Release period.
- Release Time (Seminary) does not count toward the 8-credit limit, as it does not earn academic credit.
- To enroll in an online course during the school year, a parent/guardian must meet with a counselor to register for the course and sign the required release forms.
- If your student is pursuing early graduation and needs to exceed the 8-credit limit, please schedule a meeting with a counselor to discuss available options.

Our goal is to help students maintain a balanced academic schedule that supports their college and career plans. Please contact the Dixie Middle School counseling office with questions.

Hall Passes

Hall passes are required any time you are out of class during a regular class period. Students must sign out via SmartPass on the kiosk provided in each classroom. Hall privileges have a time limit and students have a daily pass limit, unless a medical or 504 plan is in place. Students must sign back in upon returning to the classroom. Misuse or abuse of passes may result in serving Recovery Time.

The Nest Pass: As an alternative to signing out on SmartPass when a student needs a wellness break, each classroom has a physical pass for students to use in urgency for access to our wellness center, located in the counseling office. Students may be in the Nest for 10 minutes, while having the option to talk with a counselor if they don't feel ready to return to class when that time has expired.

Physical Education

Each student is expected to dress daily for P.E. You may wear a pair of plain, dark colored shorts and a plain white T-shirt (no designs or writing except your name), however there are school P.E. clothes available to purchase (for \$15.00 per set) that students are encouraged to wear. You will also need socks and tennis or athletic shoes. Please put your name on your P.E. clothes and remember to **lock everything up every time you leave the locker room. Dixie Middle School is not responsible for items lost/stolen from the locker room if they are not locked properly into the locker that is provided for you.**

If you cannot participate actively in P.E., you should bring a doctor's excuse which states what activities you must avoid and for how long. If you haven't been to the doctor yet, dress out and speak with your teacher.

Lockers

Lockers will be assigned to every student through the counseling office after the first full week of classes. Any problems with lockers should be reported to the office immediately. Lockers are the property of the school and may be inspected by administration any time. Students should store their electronic devices in their lockers to comply with the law and WCSD policy. Students are encouraged to leave valuables or excessive amounts of money at home. **Do not** give your locker combination to anyone; combinations **cannot** be changed during the year. Damage to the locker due to stickers, jamming, etc., is the financial responsibility of the student assigned to the locker. Locker clean-out will take place the last week of school.

Personal Property

Students must assume sole responsibility for loss or damage to any personal property left anywhere in the building, including a locker. The main office maintains a lost and found. **We strongly encourage you to leave expensive items at home.** Students should not bring large amounts of money to school. Items such as toys, electronic games, etc. are **not** permitted in school, and cell phones are not to be used during school time. Any of the above items will be confiscated and can be picked up at the office as determined by the Electronic Devices section.

Media Center

The Media Center is open before school, during lunch time, and after school for student use. The Media Center is for reading and studying. All books checked out through the library need to be returned in the same condition in which they were checked out.

Lunchroom

At lunch time students may purchase a hot lunch from the school, bring their own lunch from home, or go off campus **if they can get back to school on time for their next class.** Food needs to be consumed in the cafeteria or outside the building and **may not** be taken into other parts of the building. Halls are closed during lunch, with the exception of media center access. Electronic devices may not be used inside the building during lunch, but may be taken outside and promptly returned to the locker before class. **Students who repeatedly return late to class following lunch will lose their off-campus lunch privileges.**

Be sure to observe these lunch rules:

1. Clean up after yourself.
2. Wait your turn patiently and keep the lunch line moving smoothly.
3. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself to maintain a safe environment.
4. Use indoor voices and walk calmly while showing respect for others.
5. Stay in approved lunch areas unless you have permission to go to a classroom.
6. Be on time to your next class.

There is an early release incentive for lunch for those who have earned this privilege. Students with fewer than five cumulative tardies and fewer than five cumulative unexcused absences, no truancy marks, and all grades a C- or above in all classes will be released for lunch fifteen minutes before the 11:30 lunch bell from their mentoring class. A student who has earned an early lunch but is requested for interventions, must attend the entirety of the intervention period. **This is a reward that we want ALL of our students to earn and enjoy.**

Elevator Key

There is a \$25 refundable deposit for any student needing to use an elevator key. Once the key is returned a refund will be issued.

Student Cars

9th grade students with a driver's license are not permitted to drive on Washington County School District property.

Bus Transportation

Bus transportation is a privilege granted by the school district. If you misbehave on the bus, an official complaint will be filed by the driver and turned over to the school administrator, who will notify parents. Misbehavior on the bus may result in losing privileges to ride the bus to and from school.

Fire & Emergency Drills

Fire and emergency drills at regular intervals are required by law and are an important safety precaution. It is essential that when the fire alarm goes off, everyone obeys instructions promptly and clears the building by the prescribed route immediately. In the event of a drill, students will remain outside until the all-clear signal is given.

Evacuation Procedure

Students will line up with classes at the evacuation site, out on the field between the Middle School and High School. Students will line up with the teacher of the class they are in, or the class they just left (if at lunch or between classes). In the event of an actual emergency, information will be sent via PowerSchool Messenger about reunification with further instructions including location and pickup time.

Visitors

All visitors must report to the main office upon entering the building. Visitors need to be cleared with the main office and approved to be on school property at any point during the school day.

Report Cards

The school year is divided into four grading periods or terms. These terms last for approximately nine weeks. During the year, students will receive one grade per class at the end of each term. **Parents and students are strongly encouraged to check PowerSchool consistently to know updated attendance and grades. If you need assistance with PowerSchool, please contact the main office.**

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Student ID Cards

A student ID card is the passport to the activity program in the middle school. It identifies a student as a current member of the student body. The card will also entitle 9th grade students to attend after-school activities sponsored by Dixie High School. There is a \$5 charge to replace lost ID cards.

Student Government

Student Council consists of several elected representatives from each grade. Students should know who their representatives are and communicate to them problems, concerns, good ideas and suggestions. Information about running for student government election can be obtained from the council's teacher advisor.

Competitive Activities

Any student participating in a competitive activity during the school day or the evening **must be in attendance and on time to all classes that day** until leaving for the activity in order to be eligible to participate. A fee must be paid at Dixie High School prior to participating in 9th grade team athletics (fee waivers are available). Student athletes must meet minimum citizenship and academic requirements. Any questions regarding eligibility should be directed to the school counselors.

Insurance

Student accident insurance is available through a private insurance company. Families may choose from several different policy plans. Students who want to participate in extracurricular activities, but do not have family insurance, are encouraged to consider this insurance option. No insurance is provided for students participating in extracurricular activities by the school. The policy may be purchased at the first of the year. Contact the main office for more information.

Activities & Assemblies

There will be a variety of activities, including dances, and assemblies during the year. Students should be on their best behavior. Those students who misbehave may be denied the right to attend future activities.

School Chartered Clubs

Students are encouraged to be involved in school sponsored activities and clubs. DMS clubs and activities are in alignment with WCSD school board policy and local, state and federal law. Refer to [WCSD Policy 3640](#) on the school district website.

DISTRICT POLICIES

ATTENTION

ALL PERSONS AND VEHICLES ENTERING SCHOOL PROPERTY ARE SUBJECT TO SEARCH

District Policy

Unauthorized use of this property is prohibited.

It is the policy of the Washington County School Board; local law enforcement has the authority and will enforce all trespass and loitering laws on this property.

Please obey all traffic and parking laws.

It is the policy of the Washington County School Board, that all traffic and parking laws will be enforced by local law enforcement on this property.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Washington County School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation or religious affiliation, in educational programs and activities. WCSD and Dixie Middle School are dedicated to cultivating an educational environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. See [WCSD Policy 2115](#).

Safe Schools Policy

The Board of Education of the Washington County School District recognizes that every student in the schools should have the opportunity to learn in an environment which is safe, conducive to the learning process, and free from unnecessary disruption. To foster such an environment the following policy has been adopted and is based on the following principles.

The following are the grounds for suspension and expulsion from school as found in the [Safe Schools Policy](#) of the Washington County School District:

GROUND FORS SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

A Student may be suspended or expelled from school for any of the following reasons:

1. Frequent or flagrant willful disobedience, defiance of proper authority or disruptive behavior, including the use of foul, profane, vulgar, or abusive language 3.2.1.1.;
2. Willful destruction or defacing of school property 3.2.1.2.;
3. Behavior or threatened behavior which poses an immediate and significant threat to the welfare, safety, or morals of other students or school personnel or to the operation of the school, including bullying, emotional, physical, or sexual harassment 3.2.1.3.;
4. Possession or use of pornographic material on school property 3.2.1.4. H.B. 100-4-30-07; (cont'd)
5. Possession, control, or use of an alcoholic beverage as defined in Section 32A-1-105 of the Utah Code 3.2.1.5.;
6. Possession, control, or use of tobacco 3.2.1.6.;
7. Behavior which threatens harm or does harm to the school or school property, to a person associated with the school, or property associated with any such person, regardless of where it occurs 3.2.1.7.;
8. Because of identification and association with gangs, the following will not be permitted on school campuses or at school activities: bandannas or any article of clothing bearing gang symbols, names, initials, insignia, or anything else that signals gang affiliation 3.2.1.8.;
9. When a school official determines that time is needed to establish further facts of an act or series of acts of disobedience and misconduct disruptive to the learning process which may lead to suspension or expulsion from school 3.2.1.9.

A student shall be suspended or expelled from school for any of the following reasons:

1. Any serious violation affecting another student or staff member, or any serious violation occurring in a school building, in or on school property, or in conjunction with any school activity, including 3.2.2.1:
 - a. possession, control, or actual or threatened use of a real, look alike, or pretend weapon, explosive, or noxious or flammable material under Section 53A-3-502, 3.2.2.1.2.;
 - b. the sale, control, or distribution of a drug or controlled substance as defined in Section 58-37b-2, 3.2.2.1.3.;
 - c. the sale, control, or distribution of an imitation controlled substance as defined in Section 58-37b-2, 3.2.2.1.4.;
 - d. the sale, control, or distribution of drug paraphernalia as defined in Section 58-37a-3, 3.2.2.1.5.
2. The commission of an act involving the use of force or threatened force which if committed by an adult would be a felony or class A misdemeanor, 3.2.2.2.

A secondary school student who commits a violation of section 1(a) above involving a real, look alike, or pretend firearm, explosive, or flammable material shall be expelled from school for a period of not less than one year.

A student may be denied admission to school on the basis of having been expelled from that or any other school during the preceding 12 months. A suspension or expulsion under this policy is not subject to the age limitations under Subsection 53A-11-102(1).

Technology Acceptable Use Policy (Abridged)

The information included below has been abridged to include only student responsible use information. The policy can be read in its entirety at the Washington County School District Website ([Policy 3700](#))

COMPUTERS AND THE INTERNET

It is the policy of the Washington County School District to permit students, patrons, to have computer and Internet access under approved regulations and guidelines, to include those listed in the Children's Internet Protection Act, State Law, and policies adopted by the Board of Education. In general, the user's responsibilities require responsible, decent, ethical, polite, efficient, and legal use of computer and network resources. Students must not access obscene, pornographic, or material

that is deemed to be harmful to minors. District and school personnel will instruct students on acceptable use of computers and Internet resources and proper network etiquette. All students are granted access to the internet, but all access to the internet through district resources is subject to the terms of the Technology Acceptable Use Agreement and District policy.

Internet use is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a loss of network privileges, disciplinary action, and/or referral to legal authorities. The system administrators will close an account when necessary. An administrator or faculty member may request the system administrator to deny, revoke, or suspend specific user access and/or user accounts.

Authorized District employees have the right to intercept or read a user's e-mail, to review any material, and to edit or remove any material which they believe may be unlawful, obscene, defamatory, abusive or otherwise objectionable. If the District intends to impose any discipline upon a student other than revoking privileges for the remainder of the school year, the student will be afforded appropriate or adequate due process.

Nothing is private on the District-owned network. If a user accesses a particular site on the Internet, it is likely that someone knows the connections that the user is making, knows about the computer the user is using and what the user looked at while on the system. Frequently these sites maintain records which can be subpoenaed to identify what the user has been viewing and downloading on the Internet. In addition, the District reserves the right to monitor whatever a user does on the network and to make sure the network functions properly. A user has no expectation of privacy as to his or her communications or the uses made of the Internet.

- Users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include but are not limited to the following:
 - Be polite
 - Do not be abusive in your messages to others
 - Use appropriate language
 - Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other language inappropriate in a school setting

INTERFERING AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

This includes any device or object that may, if used or engaged, interfere with the educational process for either the student possessing or using the object or for other students. These devices include, but are not limited to: Telephones

Cameras

Radios

Video broadcasting devices

Lasers, laser pens or laser pointers

Portable music players such as CD players, MP3 players, or iPods

Video games

Other electronic equipment or devices

Except as set forth below, a student may possess, but may not operate or engage, any interfering device during school hours or at school functions, unless specifically authorized in advance by the school personnel in charge of the class or activity.

It is District policy that students and others in the District will not be subject to video or audio capture, recording or transmission of their words or images by any student at a school without express prior notice and explicit consent for the capture, recording or transmission of such words or images.

Electronic communication devices and cameras must not be possessed, activated, or utilized at any time by any person, to include a student, teacher, staff employee, patron, or any other individual, in any school situation where a reasonable expectation of personal privacy exists. These locations and circumstances include but are not limited to locker rooms,

shower rooms, restrooms, and any other areas where students or others may change or be in any stage or degree of disrobing or changing clothes.

The principal or administrator of the school is hereby given authority to make determinations as to other specific locations and situations where possession of electronic communication devices and cameras is absolutely prohibited.

At no time may any electronic communication device or camera be utilized by any student in any way which gives the impression to others of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed, or intimidated.

STUDENT DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Any electronic device found on District property is subject to search and confiscation. Pornographic or indecent material will be reported for possible criminal prosecution in accordance with the UCA 76-10-1235 and/or other applicable District, state and federal regulations. For each observed violation of this policy, it shall be the duty of the school teacher or administrator observing the violation to immediately confiscate the interfering device. Employee or patron violations will be immediately reported to the appropriate school or District administrator. Furthermore, the school or District may take additional disciplinary action as described in other District policies. The confiscated device shall be forwarded to the administrative office together with the name of the person from whom the device was confiscated. The school office should make arrangements to notify the parent/guardian of the student from whom the device was confiscated and arrange for the parent or guardian to pick up that device at the school office.

Any use of an electronic communication device or camera to record sounds or images or otherwise capture material in an unauthorized setting or at an unauthorized time shall subject the user of the device to increased discipline based on the circumstances and whether the student has been involved in prior violations of this policy and/or other District Policies.

The use of any interfering device or any electronic communications device or camera to threaten, intimidate, or embarrass another or to capture and transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, or academic dishonesty may result in an immediate suspension of not less than three days nor more than ten days.

The use of any interfering device in a manner which may be physically harmful to another person, such as shining a laser in the eyes of another student, may result in an immediate suspension of not less than three days not more than 10 days. When a student repeatedly engages in such behavior, the punishment may be increased as is appropriate.

Prevention of Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment includes any gender-related unwelcome written or verbal slurs, vulgar jokes, derogatory statements or actions. Sexual harassment also includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when the harassment is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it can be said to deprive the victims of access to the educational opportunities or benefits provided by the school and such harassment takes place in a context subject to the School District's control. ([WCSD Policy 2116](#))

Student Complaint Procedures

If a student believes he/she is subject to harassment, the student should first consider telling the person that they do not like what is happening, that they consider it a violation of the school district policy on harassment, and that they want it stopped. In many cases, a clear statement that the student wants something stopped will be enough to take care of the situation. **Students are not required, however, to confront the person in this way.**

The student has the right and **is encouraged** to report the problem immediately to the **principal, counselor, or assistant principal** at their school. Students should not feel embarrassed, intimidated, or reluctant to file a valid harassment report.

Any teacher, counselor, administrator receiving a report of harassment from a student must report the incident to the school principal or designated administrator or supervisor. The principal or designated administrator/supervisor has the responsibility to conduct a preliminary investigation when he/she receives an oral or written complaint, observes, or has reason to suspect sexual harassment.

Students or staff may request a district-level investigation by submitting the written complaint to the appropriate person, the Assistant Superintendent, the Superintendent, or the Human Resource Director. The complainant and the accused have the right to be represented by a person of their choice, at their own expense, during sexual harassment investigations and hearings. Complainants also have the right to register sexual harassment complaints with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or the Utah Anti-Discrimination Division/EEOC. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit the right of the complainant to file a lawsuit.

Retaliation Prohibition

Any act of reprisal against any person who opposes sexually harassing behavior, or who has filed a complaint, is prohibited and therefore subject to disciplinary action. Likewise, reprisal against any person who has testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing of a sexual harassment complaint is prohibited and therefore subject to disciplinary action.

False Complaints:

False, malicious, or frivolous complaints of harassment will result in corrective or disciplinary action taken against the accuser.

Training

Principals in each school and program directors shall be responsible for informing students and staff of the terms of this policy, including the procedures established for investigation and resolution of complaints.

Prevention of Bullying and Hazing

The Washington County School Board is committed to protecting its students, employees and school guests from bullying or harassment of any type, for any reason. The School Board believes that all students, employees or guests are entitled to a safe, equitable and harassment-free school experience. **Bullying or harassment in any form will not be tolerated and shall be just cause for disciplinary action.** Conduct that constitutes bullying or harassment will be dealt with immediately and consistently ([WCSD Policy 3510](#)).

"Bullying" is aggressive behavior that is intentional, on-going, and involves an imbalance of perceived power or strength. A person is bullied or victimized when he/she is exposed repeatedly and over time to negative actions on the part of one or more persons with greater power or strength. Therefore "Bullying" means intentionally or knowingly committing an act that endangers the physical, and/or emotional health or safety of a student, a school employee, or a school guest. Any act involving any of the following elements will be considered bullying: (1) physical brutality, (2) forced or involuntary consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance, (3) coerced actions or activities of a sexual nature or with sexual connotations, (4) physically obstructing freedom of movement, (6) verbal intimidation, such as teasing and name calling, (7) non-verbal and emotional intimidation through gestures, social exclusion. The conduct described above constitutes bullying, regardless of whether the person against whom the conduct is committed directed, consented to, or acquiesced in, the conduct.

"Cyber-bullying" is a form of bullying involving the use of email, instant messaging, chat rooms, cell phones, or other forms of information technology. Information put on the internet in social media form can be used to show cyber-bullying, even if it has since been deleted. **Use your best judgment and always be considerate of everything you post online ever, once it is out there, it is somewhere forever.**

"Hazing" is a form of bullying done for the purpose of initiation or admission into, affiliation with, holding office in, or as a condition for,

membership or acceptance, or continued membership or acceptance, in any school or school sponsored team, organization, program, or event.

No school employee, student, or guest, may engage in bullying,

Hazing or cyber-bullying anyone else: (1) on school property, (2) at a school related or sponsored event, (3) on a school bus, (4) at a school bus stop; or (5) while the school district employee or student is traveling to or from a location or event described above.

Report violations anonymously or with contact information in one of the following ways:

Report the incident online at the following address:

<https://safet.med.utah.edu/>

Call 628-0441 to leave a message with the assistant principal, school counselor, or the school resource officer

Email alice.ericksen@washk12.org to report to the assistant principal.

Email jason.jensen@washk12.org to report to the counselor.

Each reported complaint shall include: (1) name of complaining party; (2) name of offender (if known); (3) date and location of incident(s); (4) a statement describing the incident(s), including names of witnesses. Each reported violation of the prohibitions noted previously shall be promptly investigated by a school administrator or an individual designated by a school administrator. **Formal disciplinary action is prohibited based solely on an anonymous report of bullying, hazing, or retaliation.**

Consequences or penalties may include but are not limited to:

- Student suspension or removal from a school-sponsored team or activity including school sponsored transportation
- Student suspension or expulsion from school or lesser disciplinary action
- Employee suspension or termination for cause or lesser disciplinary action
- Employee reassignment

Discipline actions must also include, as appropriate:

- Supportive measures for the complainant, victim, and respondent
- Prompt reporting to law enforcement of all acts that constitute suspected criminal activity
- Prompt reporting to the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) of all acts that may be violations of civil rights
- Procedures for providing due process rights under Section 53A-8-10

Criminal Trespass Policy

Unauthorized use of district property is prohibited. It is the policy of the Washington County School Board that local law enforcement has the authority and will enforce all trespass and loitering laws on Washington County School District property. It is the policy of Washington County School District that all traffic and parking laws will be enforced by local law enforcement on Washington County School District property. **It is the policy of Washington County School District that all persons and vehicles entering school property are subject to search.**

Search and Seizure

The following are subject to search and seizure on campus:

1. Students: All students are subject to search if reasonable cause exists to suspect imminent danger to the student or others, or in violations of any school or district policy.
2. Visitors and non-school persons: Per **WCSD Policy 5220**, any person **and their vehicle** on any school campus are subject to search at any time.
3. Lockers: Student lockers are school property and as such are subject to search at any time.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA - N001)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ([FERPA](#)) and [District Policy 3260](#) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

- 1) 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 or assistant principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- 2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. Such requests should be in writing and addressed to the school principal or assistant principal. It must clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- 3) 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. **The following information may be disclosed without consent:**
 - a) **Directory Information:** The following information is designated as student directory information: student's name, address (to include internet address), phone number, date of birth, grade level, extracurricular participation, awards or honors, photograph, video or digital images, height and weight (if a member of an athletic team), previous school attended, dates of attendance, and parent's name. "Directory Information" may be disclosed without prior written consent. The District will also routinely disclose names, addresses, and telephone numbers to military recruiters.

Parents or eligible students will have **two weeks from the beginning of the school year or date a student enrolls** to advise the school district, in writing, of any and all items they refuse to permit the district to designate as directory information for the balance of the school year.
 - b) **School Officials:** School officials with legitimate educational interests may also have access to records. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member such as a bus driver (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 if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

- c) **Other Schools:** The school may disclose education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

(cont'd)

- 4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

**Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW,
Washington D.C. 20202-4605**

Utah 53A-11-301 requires documentation of immunizations for school attendance.

The Utah Department of Health maintains a voluntary, confidential record system to assist parents/guardians, health care providers, and schools in documenting your child's immunizations. This record system is called the Utah Statewide Immunization Information System (USIIS). Allowing your child's school to share your child's immunization history with USIIS will aid you, your child's health care provider, and the school to determine which immunizations your child has received and which may still be needed. **If you do not wish to give permission for the school to your child's/legal dependent's immunization information with USIIS, please request an opt-out form from the School secretary.**

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (N002)

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, requires the Washington County School District to notify you and obtain consent or allow you to opt your child out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas ("protected information surveys"):

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes ("marketing surveys"), and certain physical exams and screenings.

The Washington County School District will provide parents, within a reasonable period of time prior to the administration of the surveys and activities, a notification of the surveys and activities and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out, as well as an

opportunity to review the surveys. (Please note that this notice and consent/opt-out transfers from parents to any student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

Handling Students with Lice (A-140)

In managing lice in the schools Washington County School District refers to the recommendations as per the Utah Department of Health (UDH), UDH Office of Epidemiology, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National Association of School Nurses (NASN).

WCSD Civil Rights Disclosure (N003)

The Washington County Board of Education ensures an equal educational opportunity in accordance with several Federal Civil Rights Laws. The Washington County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, age, pregnancy, parental or marital status in its programs or activities. In accordance with the Boys Scouts of America Equal Access Act, Boy Scouts and other youth groups may have equal access to meet on school premises.