



Dream Middle School  
Parent Policy Book  
and  
Student Handbook  
2009/2010

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# Dream Middle School Team

## Administration

**Principals:** Dr. and Mrs. Soderman  
**Vice Principal:** Ms. Mitchell

## Teachers

**Science:** Mrs. Anderson  
**Social Studies:** Ms. Cooperman  
**Math:** Mr. Van Popering  
**Language Arts:** Mr. Dyde  
**Spanish:** Mrs. Ferreira  
**Physical Education:** Mr. Wicker  
**Yoga:** Ms. Rivera  
**Communications:** Mrs. Strahl-Tung  
**Technology:** Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Cesta  
**Emotional Intelligence and Health:** Mrs. Soderman  
**Art:** Mrs. Kozyra  
**Community Service:** Mr. and Mrs. Kozyra  
**Exceptional Student Education Liaison:** Ms. Mitchell

## Mission Statement

The Dream Middle School provides a challenging education where emotional and cognitive intelligences are of equal importance. Dream Middle School students are intrinsically motivated, passionate learners with high academic standards and strong virtues. The Dream Middle School models and encourages students to become optimistic thinkers, goal oriented risk takers, innovative problem solvers and compassionate people. Dream Middle School students learn to be confident in their thoughts and ideas and are able to transfer them to real world situations.

## Dream Middle School- Learning Expectations

The School seeks to assure that each student:

- Develops an understanding of self in relation to others
- Demonstrates a passion for learning
- Knows personal learning styles (Dr. Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligence)
- Can demonstrate a high level of competence in each area of the curriculum
- Transfers curriculum to solve a problem and create a product relevant to their culture
- Thinks creatively and can express self
- Becomes a responsible citizen who participates actively in the community exemplifying the virtues

### Virtues: The Gifts of Character

Assertiveness	Caring	Cleanliness	Commitment	Compassion
Confidence	Consideration	Cooperation	Courage	Courtesy
Creativity	Detachment	Determination	Diligence	Enthusiasm
Excellence	Flexibility	Forgiveness	Friendliness	Generosity
Gentleness	Helpfulness	Honesty	Honor	Humility
Idealism	Integrity	Joyfulness	Justice	Kindness
Love	Loyalty	Moderation	Modesty	Orderliness
Patience	Peacefulness	Perseverance	Purposefulness	Reliability
Respect	Responsibility	Self-discipline	Service	Tact
Thankfulness	Tolerance	Trust	Trustworthiness	Truthfulness
Understanding	Unity	Dream		

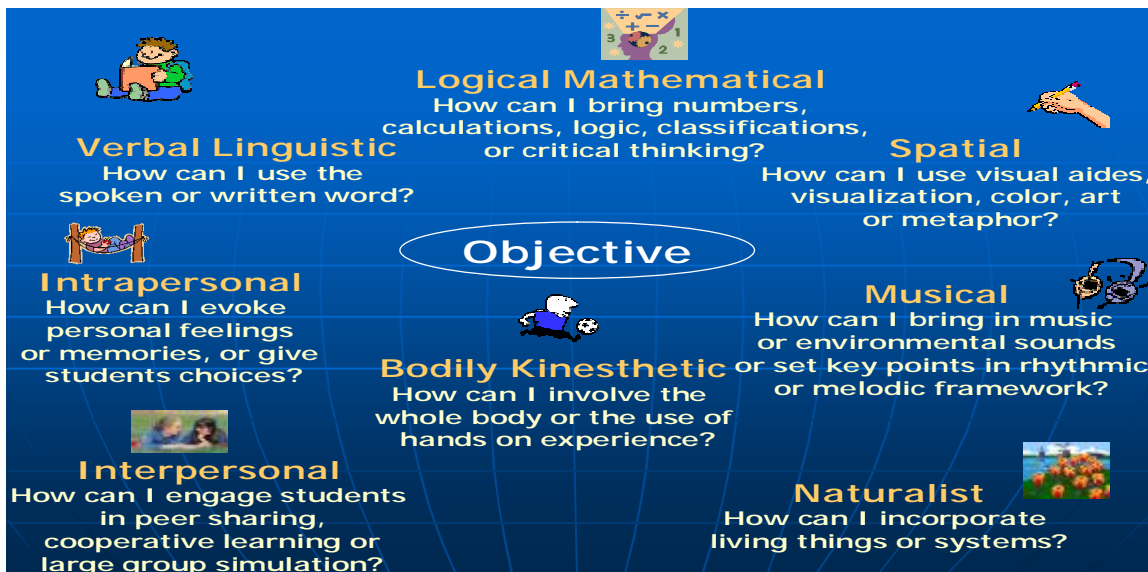
## Definition of Intelligence

Dream Middle School concurs with Dr. Gardner's definition of intelligence as "the ability to find and solve problems and create products of value in one's culture". At Dream Middle School, problem solving is the ability to locate and pursue appropriate routes to a desired goal.

Each child is a unique individual who must be valued for his/her individuality. Each person possesses eight different intelligences (or learning styles). These intelligences are:

- verbal/linguistic.....word smart
- logical/mathematical.....logical/math smart
- visual/spatial.....art/space smart
- musical/rhythmic.....music smart
- bodily kinesthetic.....body smart
- natural intelligence .....nature smart
- interpersonal .....people smart
- intrapersonal .....self smart

Multiple Intelligence is a cognitive theory that states that each individual has varying levels of the eight intelligences and thus each student uses a unique cognitive profile to learn. Dream Middle School presents challenging academics in a variety of ways (intelligences) ensuring that learning is relevant to every student. At Dream Middle School, students learn to customize all information to match their personal cognitive profile. Dream Middle School students know who they are and how they learn and will succeed in high school, college, and more importantly life.



## The Program: Teaching For Understanding

Dream Middle School provides a supportive, stimulating environment where students use sophisticated forms of thinking that include generalizing, reasoning, predicting, classifying, comparing, contrasting and seeking evidence to support a hypothesis or idea.

It is our goal at Dream Middle School to teach for understanding (not just test scores). The professional teaching team will achieve this goal by:

- Modeling: The teacher will provide knowledge or insight by presenting a multiple intelligence lesson (relevant to students). The teacher will lead the learning process in an attempt to meet predetermined goals and academic objectives.
- Inquiry: The teacher will guide the students to solve a relevant problem by asking questions, investigating methods and discussing cause and effect relationships.
- Collaboration: The teacher will facilitate meaningful discussions and active problem solving to gain understanding of a given topic.

At Dream Middle School, curriculum concepts are represented in a variety of ways to allow for individual differences and provide a greater opportunity for understanding. For example, when teaching **Boyle's Law (Science Concept)**, the Dream Middle School teacher:

- gives a written definition (linguistic intelligence)
- gives the students a mathematical equation (logical-mathematical intelligence)
- has the students fill their mouth with air and then squeeze it to release the air (bodily kinesthetic intelligence)
- has the students stand in a group and then step closer and closer (interpersonal intelligence)
- has the students think of a time when they had to go from multiple lines to one (intrapersonal)
- has the students picture squeezing a pimple on their face (visual-spatial intelligence and intrapersonal intelligence)
- has the students sing the definition to the tune of a familiar song (musical rhythmic intelligence)
- has the students think about a scuba diver coming up from a dive (naturalist intelligence),

## History

The Dream Middle School began in August of 2005. Classes were held in the village of The IDEAL School. In January 2008, the Dream Middle School moved into its new building. On May 24, 2008 Dream Middle School graduated its first 8<sup>th</sup> grade class.

## Office Hours

The Dream Middle School office is located in the IDEAL building. All phone calls and visits will be through the main IDEAL office. The office hours are Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please call 561-791-2881 to reach the main office.

## Date of Programs

Dream Middle School	August 24, 2009-May 28, 2010
Eighth Grade Graduation	May 29, 2010

Note: The end of this document contains the school calendar, school closings and special events. **Please note: There is no tuition reduction for absences, holidays, teacher work days, vacations, and/or unexpected closings due to events that are out of our control such as power outages, plumbing problems or acts of nature (e.g., storms, hurricanes etc.).**

## Attendance

Regular attendance at school is essential for the academic and emotional growth of all students.

**Dream Middle School students' schedule:** 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Please be aware of the following attendance policies:

- **Late Arrivals:** A student arriving after the start of the school day must sign in at the IDEAL building main office before going to class or the town meeting. The student will receive an "After Eight Slip" which needs to be given to the vice principal upon entering the Dream Middle School.
- **Tardiness:** All tardiness is considered unexcused except when a student must attend a previously arranged medical or dental appointment. The school tracks tardies and will notify parents/guardians when a student has exceeded five tardies for the term. After receiving five tardies, students will serve a detention during his/her spare class. Habitual tardies may result in an in-school suspension, removal from Student Government, qualifying for Extraordinary Minds, and a loss of Friday lunch privilege.
- **Absences:** Parents/Guardians must email the office at [idealschool@bellsouth.net](mailto:idealschool@bellsouth.net) and/or call the school at 791-2881 to leave a message at the front desk if a student will be absent.
- **Planned Absences - Family Vacations:** On the day the student returns from such vacation, the student is responsible to submit all completed homework assignments that were posted on Dream Line during the time of his/her absence. These assignments will receive full credit if they are submitted the day the student returns. If the student submits these assignments on the second day of return, he/she may receive a partial credit for the assignment. In the event the assignments are not submitted upon the student's return, he/she will receive a zero for such assignments.
- **Extended Absences:** If a student misses more than 15 full days for any reason in one school year, the school may decide to withhold class credit, ask the student to repeat the grade, or have his/her enrollment in the school called into question.
- **Illness and Poor Health:** Students should be healthy enough to arrive for first period and stay the entire day. Students who come to school ill may be asked to return home immediately. Athletes, performers, and those participating in school activities (i.e. school dance) are expected to attend school on the day of those activities in order to participate. It is the student's responsibility to get the missed assignments and notes. Assignments are due within one day of the student's return to school. If a student is absent for more than two days a doctor's note is required to receive an extended due date for missed work and assignments.

When a student is absent from school for one day, missed work will be sent home with the student the next day. When a student is absent from school for more than one day, the parent/guardian may request to pick up the missed work by phoning the office by 8:00 a.m. and pick up the student's work from the IDEAL office after school dismissal (3-4 p.m.).

• **Health appointments:** Please try to schedule medical and dental appointments during vacations or after school hours. Please note that co-curricular class grades are a part of the student's final average on his/her report card. Attendance is also reflected in that grade.

## **Make Up Tests**

Make up tests are given at 7:30 a.m. within two days of the student's return. Tests must be made up within two days to avoid receiving a zero. For multiple tests the teacher will inform students of the next scheduled testing date. Make up tests are given for absences due to illnesses or family emergencies. Students who miss tests due to other absences e.g. Disney trips, vacations, guests, etc. are not guaranteed a make up test. Arrangements must be made with administration prior to the absence.

## **Telephones and Messages**

Students should make plans with parents/guardians and/or friends for after school activities before school begins each day. If plans change during the day, a student may politely ask to use the phone at the Front Desk to make a call during recess, lunch, or after school. (Classroom phones are not for student use.) Students must sign the log near the phone before they make a call. The Front Desk phone should **only** be used to make arrangements that cannot be made in any other way. Calls should be limited to one or two minutes so that telephone lines to the school can remain open in case of emergency. If a student leaves a message or page, they should inform administration so that a return call can be properly handled. During the school day, messages from parents/guardians will be given to a teacher. Any cell phones brought to school must be kept in the student's locker and "OFF". Cell phones will be confiscated if used during school hours.

## **Access to Teacher**

During the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., the Dream Middle School teacher's focus and attention is on classroom preparation and teaching. Please avoid lengthy discussions or conversations with the teacher during this time. After-School hours (3:30 - 4:00 p.m.) are for previously scheduled parent/guardian-teacher conferences. Conferences will be scheduled by the teacher during the school year. Parents/Guardians may also request conferences by making an appointment at the office or by sending a written request to your child's teacher. Please do not phone or email teachers at home or on their personal cell phones. School office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The most effective way to contact a teacher or administration is through the main office 791-2881 or email [idealschool@bellsouth.net](mailto:idealschool@bellsouth.net).

## **Emergency Weather**

Dream Middle School follows decisions made by the Palm Beach County public schools regarding the closing of the school in the event of severe weather or other emergencies.

## **Policy of Reimbursement for Non-Attendance**

Financial payments must be made on time. When your child is enrolled in our school, a place is held for that child and expenses incurred by the school remain the same. No refund for non-attendance and holidays during the school year will be made. Once a contract is executed by the parent or guardian for elementary or middle school, not only are all registration and tuition payments non-refundable, the parent or guardian is required to pay the full year's tuition regardless of whether or not the student attends the school.

A calendar of school holidays, teacher planning days and special events is provided at the end of this document and it is recommended that vacation and other planned days off coincide with those days. Suggestion - Post Dream Middle School's holiday list on your refrigerator.

## **Admission Requirements**

All children enrolled in the school must have complete registration forms and health certification as required by our program and the Florida Department of Health (DH). The following enrollment information must be on file with Dream Middle School prior to the child's first day of school:

### **Seventh Grade**

Record of Physical Exam (DH Form 3040)

Record of Immunization (DH680-Part A-2)

Copy of Birth Certificate

Completed enrollment and emergency contact forms

Medical forms sent home with re-registration must be updated yearly. All medical forms must be current and on file in the office prior to the start of school or the child's first day of attendance.

## **Communications**

### Mailing

Selective business communications are mailed to the child's home. If parents are divorced or separated, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to inform the school in writing. If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no information given, or that a parent is not permitted access to the child, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with a certified copy of the court order.

### Email

Dream Middle School will email communications (weekly letters, after care sign ups, etc.) to the email address or addresses on file for each family. Please check your email daily.

### Change of Address

If a family has a change of address, email or telephone number, parents/guardians must immediately notify the Administration Office in writing.

## **Grievances**

Dream Middle School will afford all of its students and families the opportunity to voice concerns to the school in an appropriate manner and have these concerns resolved without fear of recrimination or prejudice regarding the future provision of services. Dream Middle School will ensure that concerns delivered in an appropriate manner are addressed in a timely, non-threatening manner. Grievances should be made by contacting the office and making an appointment with either the teacher or Administration to discuss the issue. At such time, relevant information will be gathered for a further discussion to achieve a mutual understanding. Constructive criticism is always welcome at Dream Middle School. On the other hand, issues not communicated directly to Dream Middle School and anonymous criticisms are not beneficial and are often destructive to the school's positive

environment. At Dream Middle School, we believe that the school is only as great as we all make it together. The students are counting on us!

## Medications

No medication will be given at the school by Dream Middle School Staff. If a child needs medication, a parent/guardian may come to school to administer the medication. Exceptions to this general policy will be made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the school administration. With the exception of inhalers, students may not have any medication (including cough drops and vitamins) in their possession. If your child is on any regular medication(s), whether over-the-counter or prescription, please indicate this on the Student Information Sheet, even if this medication is given only at home.

## Health Policy

Children enrolled in the school should be present every day school is open, health permitting, and are encouraged to participate in all activities. The school reserves the right to prohibit any child from attending if, in the opinion of the staff, the child exhibits signs of ill health (refer to list below).

Please do not bring your child if he or she has one or more of the following symptoms:

Fever	Runny nose (especially green or yellow discharge)
Chills	Sore or swollen joints
Inflamed eyes	Successive crops of fluid-filled bumps
Sore throat	Headache
Ear ache	Suspicious of chicken pox
Productive cough	Head lice
Swollen glands	Scabies
Contagious skin rashes	Parasites in stool
Nausea or vomiting	Diarrhea

Twenty-four hours must pass after fever is gone before a child returns to school. A child who develops a fever, diarrhea, or any other symptoms which may be communicable, will be sent home, and must be picked up by a parent/guardian or other authorized adult within one hour of notification. Please call the school immediately if your child contracts head lice, scabies, mumps, measles, pink eye (conjunctivitis), chicken pox, impetigo, or any other communicable disease or condition.

Please note that if a child is found to have head lice or nits, parents/guardians will be notified immediately and the child will be sent home with the parents/guardians along with instructions for treatment. Dream Middle School follows the “nit-free policy” concerning the control and prevention of head lice outbreaks. All lice, lice eggs and egg cases must be removed before a child will be allowed to return to school. The child will be checked for head lice or nits by an Dream Middle School staff member and must be found lice and nit free before the child is allowed to return to school. In some cases, a doctor’s note may be required. A note will be sent home to inform parents/guardians in the event of a lice outbreak at school (2 or more affected students) to minimize the potential for further spread of the outbreak.

Your child’s pediatrician is the best source for diagnosis of an illness. If we are in doubt as to your child’s condition, we will not take a chance that others in the class become exposed, and ask that you pick up your child. Please be sure that any allergies are brought to the attention of the front office. A

general list of students and their specific allergies is posted to inform all Dream Middle School staff members.

## **Emergency Procedure**

In the event of an accident or emergency, we will attempt to notify you immediately by telephone. However, if you cannot be contacted by telephone at that time, we will contact those persons authorized on the Student Information Sheet. We suggest that those persons have a notarized letter giving them permission to get medical treatment for your child in case of emergency.

In case immediate attention is required, we will have your child transported via ambulance to the nearest hospital emergency room. In the event of minor injury, we clean and dress the injury, apply ice (if necessary), file an internal accident report, and notify the parent/guardian by phone call.

## **Items from Home**

Dream Middle School students are allowed to bring their own personal school supplies to class provided that they are able to use them appropriately. Electronic equipment (i.e. mp3 players, personal DVD players, etc.) should not be brought to school except for when they are approved by the teacher. At those times, they are the student's responsibility and the school is not liable for their safe keeping.

## **Lost And Found**

Lost items will be sent to the School Board and students will have to purchase them back for a donation of \$.25. The donations will be going to a charitable organization. It is our goal to encourage responsibility.

## **Parent Committees**

Dream Middle School families are encouraged to be a part of the IDEAL School committees.

### ISET (IDEAL Special Events Team)

The parents and guardians of all IDEAL and Dream Middle School students, as well as teachers and Administrators employed by the school, are automatically members of ISET. The purpose of ISET is to provide a framework through which parents/guardians can contribute their ideas, talents, and resources to enhance each child's learning journey.

ISET committees will plan, organize and host social occasions for parents/guardians, teachers, and students. ISET committees will also assist the school in securing financial support for desired educational equipment, programs, activities and continued growth.

ISET meets in September. Reminders for each separate event will be sent home to invite all parents/guardians interested in attending. ISET team leaders have been appointed and will be announced in September.

## **Staff Background Checks**

All staff are subject to background screening.

## **Wisdom in Water**

Photographs of water crystals are filled with lessons concerning how we should live our lives. Using high speed photography, Dr. Masaru Emoto discovered that crystals formed in frozen water reveal changes when specific concentrated thoughts and words are directed toward them. He found that water that has been exposed to living words should delicate, beautiful snowflake formations. In contrast, water exposed to negative thoughts and words formed incomplete, asymmetrical patterns with dull colors. Water is so sensitive to the unique frequencies being emitted by the world that it essentially and efficiently mirrors its surroundings.

The average human body is seventy percent water. From the physical perspective, humans are mostly water. Dr. Emoto's research leads us to realize that to live happy and healthy lives, we must purify the water that makes up most of our bodies. In our daily lives, water crystals teach us very important facts. Stating unkind words causes damage to people (we are water). For example, water exposed to the words "thank you" formed beautiful geometric crystals. But water exposed to "you fool" and other degrading words resulted in obviously broken and deformed crystals.

Thoughts and words have their individual and unique frequencies of vibration and have energy that influences the universe. If we fill our lives with thoughts and words of love and gratitude, we can purify ourselves (water) and create well being in our bodies, minds, hearts, and souls. If we send out words and images of love and creativity, then we will be contributing to the creation of a beautiful world. However, by emitting messages of anger or negativity, we contribute to the disharmony of the world.

Dr. Emoto's "Hidden Messages in Water" research shows that we have the capacity with our positive thoughts and words to change ourselves and the world around us. All we have to do is make a simple choice...create snowflakes.

Dream Middle School students have researched Dr. Emoto's "Water Experiment" and have conducted their own experiment based on the study. Through these experiments, they have come to understand the importance of water in our world and respect the value of positive thinking and speaking. When a family travels, we would like them to bring back a sample of water from a natural water source (i.e. river, lake, ocean, stream etc.) from the place they have visited. The water sample will be displayed in the hallway of the Dream Middle School. It is our goal to collect water from all around the world.

## **Registration and Tuition**

Registration forms must be completed and a non-refundable registration fee paid to register in the school. The registration fee is \$735 for current students and \$835 for new students.

The tuition for the Dream Middle School is \$8535 (\$8635 for new students) which includes the registration fee. The tuition includes books, supplies, and the cost of various planned special events throughout the year. In addition there will a Neo 2 fee. The first tuition payment of \$3900 is due on July 1 and the final tuition payment of \$3900 is due on December 1. If it becomes necessary for you to withdraw your child after you have executed a contract, you are responsible for the full year's

tuition. Tuition must be paid in full for the most recently executed contract to have any referral forms or cognitive evaluations filled out. Mid term and final exams may not be taken until financial responsibilities have been met. Additionally, report cards and other record will not be available until financial responsibilities have been met. There will be a \$100 late fee assessed if tuition payments are not received by the fifth of the month in which it is due. An additional \$100 will be assessed for every five days the payment is late. Late payment results in loss of sibling discounts.

## School Hours

Drop off	7:40 – 7:55 a.m.
Classes begin	8:00 a.m.
Dismissal	3:00 p.m.
Office Hours	7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## Drop Off and Pickup

Each year in mid August Dream Middle School will email the drop off and pick up procedure for that current school year. It is imperative, for the safety of the children and teachers, this procedure be followed.

**Please note: The use of cell phones in the car line is strictly prohibited in order to ensure the safety of children and teachers.**

Only parents/guardians and those authorized by the parents/guardians on the child's emergency contact form will be permitted to remove their child from the school. Photo identification may be required (i.e. driver's license). Although recommended, a written note is **not** required for a teacher to release a child to an authorized person. Communication is essential. If someone other than those authorized (on file) by the parent/guardian is to pick up your child, the school must be notified prior to dismissal in writing or by phone. Notwithstanding the above, Dream Middle School abides by all provisions of Florida law with respect to the rights of non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, the school will provide the non-custodial parent with access to the child, to the academic records, and to other school-related information regarding the child.

## Relations Between Home and School

Dream Middle School teachers are responsible for establishing and maintaining frequent contact with families. Communications will occur through phone calls, conferences, report cards, objective evaluation statements on individual student products, weekly homework, monthly calendars and email. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to check their email daily, as this is the primary source for communication from Dream Middle School to the parents/guardians. Teachers and Administration are only accountable for written notes received in the folder and messages from the office.

Dream Middle School is a small intimate school. Suggestions from parents/guardians for improvement are always welcome. If you have any comments, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to submit them in writing to administration and /or schedule an appointment with him to discuss them.

## Homework Policy

At Dream Middle School, homework is a relevant extension of classroom learning. Homework will be given at the teacher's discretion based on daily objectives and individual student's academic needs. It is essential that homework be completed and handed in on time. Homework is 10% of the semester grade. Each homework assignment is worth two points. A point breakdown is listed below.

Possible points	Criteria
2	Homework is turned in on time, is neat and complete
1	Homework is turned in on time; however it is either not neat or is incomplete
0	Homework is late or not turned in.

In addition, at any time, a Dream Middle School teacher may collect homework and grade it as a pop quiz for that class. Students that do not complete their homework to the teacher's expectation will be required to attend study hall that day to complete the assignment properly. Students can expect 1-2 hours of homework nightly. This does not include work that was not completed at school. These guidelines may vary depending on the student's ability. Class projects, book reports and studying for tests may also require additional time. Homework is emailed daily via Dream Line to the adult's email that is on file.

## Assessment Middle School Students

During the middle school years, the child's developmental progress is communicated to parents/guardians in the following ways:

- Portfolio collections
- Checklists and anecdotal notes
- Student-written work samples and oral contributions in discussions, questioning periods, and group problem-solving activities
- Classroom tests (oral & written)
- Individual and group projects and presentations
- Interim reports and report cards are distributed in each of the two semesters
- Standardized tests

### Test/Project

Students may have more than two tests on the same day. Tests are announced in advance to allow the students to create an effective study schedule. It is essential for middle school students to master this skill so they are prepared for secondary education.

### **Semester Grades**

Dream Middle School students' semester grades in each subject are derived from:

50% Chapter/Unit Tests and Projects

20% Semester Exams

10% Quizzes

10% Homework

5% Classroom Participation, Preparedness and Enthusiasm

5% Material Organization and Presentation

## Reporting of Progress

### Online Grade Book

Each student in Dream Middle School will receive a user name and password to access his/her grades on the online grade book. These grades will be updated weekly. Parents and guardians are encouraged to check this grade book weekly. An email will be sent to the address on file when new grades have been posted. Dream Middle School students will be receiving their grades and correcting their tests in class. A parent or guardian may request a copy of his/her student's test by phoning or emailing the teacher via the IDEAL office ([idealschool@bellsouth.net](mailto:idealschool@bellsouth.net)).

Please note, the online grade book is only accessible if financial obligations are current. If your account with Dream Middle School is in arrears, your access to the online grade book will be frozen until your account becomes current.

The online grade book will be explained in detail at the Dream Middle School orientation night in August.

### Report Cards

Students will be given two interim reports and two report cards during the school year. Each report will assess the student's progress with respect to the objectives of the previous term. Reports will be sent home via email through the Dream Middle School's internet (web-based) grade book. Please refer to the Dream Middle School calendar for report card dates. Optional report card conferences are held on specified dates. Please refer to the Dream Middle School calendar for sign up dates. All tuition and fees must be current in order to schedule a conference and receive a report card.

Students will receive a percentage grade for each subject and an overall average for each term which includes co-curricular grades as well as mid-terms and finals.

### Evaluation of Progress

Progress is determined in the following way:

Dream Middle School considers a score of 80%, or higher, mastery of the concepts presented. Students who earn below 80% have the opportunity to participate in teacher tutorials, or may be referred to private tutoring at teacher recommendation or parent/guardian request.

If a student receives 65% or below in any class, as indicated on the interim or report card, that student will be considered for remediation. Some remediation strategies may include:

- Mandatory parent/guardian teacher conference
- Mandatory attendance at weekly tutorial
- Supplementary homework
- Referral to private tutoring
- Mandatory participation in a school-approved summer course

If a student receives 59% or below in any core class as indicated on the final report card, that student will have to repeat that course in a school approved summer course. The cost of the course is not included in the standard yearly tuition.

## **Spare**

DMS students have a “Spare” scheduled daily in their school day. During this time, students who have met their cognitive and emotional responsibilities are free to socialize and participate in outside activities or reserve the Purple Cow Lounge. This is their “spare time”. The spare is a privilege that is conferred to all DMS students.

## **Supervised Study Hall**

DMS students may choose or be directed to attend Supervised Study Hall (SSH). Students who choose to attend SSH have the opportunity to study, complete homework, and receive academic assistance (not tutoring). This is a great opportunity for students to complete homework when the student has extra curricular activities or sports in the evening.

Students who are directed to SSH by a teacher must use the time to correct or improve their cognitive or emotional responsibilities. The goal of SSH is to teach the student that there are consequences to not fulfilling responsibilities (no spare). The SSH supervisor will use this time to assist the student to develop cognitive and emotional strategies so that they may return to participating in the “spare” to socialize with friends.

If a student is habitually directed to SSH, and does not demonstrate improvement, parents/guardians will be contacted and the student will lose a DMS privilege. Attendance of students directed to SSH will be recorded in the online grade book. It is the parent’s/guardian’s responsibility to refer to this data and become aware of their student’s habits. Parents/Guardians may contact DMS at any time to inquire about their child’s needs and specific learning goals.

## **Eighth Grade Graduation**

There is a graduation fee of \$175 which is due by December 1<sup>st</sup>. This fee is to offset the cost of the many expenses of the graduation ceremony. In addition, it includes the graduate’s cap and gown, a ¼ page ad in the yearbook, one copy of the yearbook, entrance for the graduate to the graduation dance and 4 tickets for the commencement ceremony. The graduation trip is optional and is an additional cost. Information about this trip will be sent home via email.

In order for an eighth grader to participate in any graduation activities, he/she must be in good academic standing (all core class grades must be 60% or above) and all financial responsibilities to IDEAL and Dream Middle School for the family must be met. Graduation activities include, but are not limited to, the eighth grade graduation trip, graduation practice, the graduation dance and the graduation ceremony.

## **High School Recommendations**

All requests for high school recommendations must be delivered to administration by December 1<sup>st</sup> and will be sent to the high school of request by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Upon receiving these requests, administration will check to ensure all tuition for the school year is paid in full or the account is current and limited late fees have been assessed. The Dream Middle School team will complete **two** recommendation forms per child. These forms are often lengthy and time consuming therefore any additional requests for forms will require a \$25 per additional form fee.

High school recommendation forms received after December 1<sup>st</sup> will be completed at the discretion of administration. Please understand these forms are time consuming and administration has allotted time for these recommendations in December.

## **Referral and Cognitive Evaluation Forms**

All requests for letters of recommendation, referral forms and cognitive evaluation forms must be delivered to administration. Upon receiving these requests, administration will check to ensure all tuition for the most recently executed contract is paid in full, distribute the paperwork to the student's current teachers or those requested by the parent or guardian, and finally administration will forward the forms directly to the school or psychologist requesting the information. Dream Middle School will not provide copies of this information to parents or guardians. Dream Middle School will complete these forms within ten days of the date they are received; therefore please keep this turnaround in mind when requesting this information.

## **Student Record Transfer**

All requests for a transfer of student records must be received by the office administrator. He/She will ensure all tuition for the most recently executed contract is paid in full prior to forwarding this information directly to the school requesting. Dream Middle School will not provide copies of this information to parents or guardians. Dream Middle School will complete this request within fifteen days of the date they are received; therefore please keep this turnaround in mind when requesting this information

## **Late Pickup**

If your child is not picked up by the end of dismissal he/she will go to After School Care and you will be charged the drop in fee of \$20. The After School Care pickup ends at 5 p.m. There is a late charge of \$5.00 per child for every 10 minutes (or part of) for any child picked up after 5 p.m. The drop in fee and late charges are due at the time of the late pickup. We understand there are cases when lateness cannot be avoided, but we do expect you to make every effort to be at the school on time. If you know you are going to be late, please call well in advance so that we can prepare. Please note that even if you call in advance, you will still be assessed the late charge. This is necessary to cover the cost of keeping our staff late. Please note that habitual late pickups (more than three times) may result in the loss of your child's placement. This policy will be strictly enforced.

## **After School Care**

After School Care is available from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for all IDEAL Elementary and Dream Middle School students. After School Care is only available on Elementary full days of school. There is no After School Care on Elementary Noon Dismissal days. Application forms for After School Care are available in the front office and are sent home via email. Every student attending After School Care must be signed up using the application form and fees must be prepaid. The fees are stated below and are subject to change.

<b>Rates</b>	<b>Aftercare until 5pm</b>
Drop In Paid at pick up	\$20 per day
Daily Paid in advance	\$15 per day
Monthly Paid in advance	See Chart (\$12 per day)
Yearly Paid in advance	\$1520 (\$10 per day)

<b>Monthly Rates (Aftercare until 5pm)</b>	
Aug./Sept. \$240	Feb. \$216
Oct. \$240	Mar. \$228
Nov. \$192	Apr. \$216
Dec./Jan. \$312	May \$180

The After School Care Program will include outside play time, snack time (snack brought from home), and quiet time (homework, reading, puzzles, movies, etc). Please note, this is an opportunity for students to complete homework, but it is not homework assistance.

## **After School Clubs**

After School Clubs are different and separate from After School Care. The programs are organized and instructed by professionals in the specific field (i.e. art, drama, etc.) Students will have the opportunity to enroll and participate in these scheduled programs. Flyers and registration forms will be available during the first week of school. Pick up for these programs will be from the program's location, not from the office door. An adult must sign out all children. If the dismissal of the program is at 4 p.m. and a child enrolled in the program has a half day pre-k sibling, the elementary student will be dismissed from the program location at 4 p.m. and the pre-k child will need to be picked up at the preschool classroom door.

## **Student Technology**

### Internet Usage

The Dream Middle School curriculum involves the use of the internet for research and assignments. Student textbooks are available online and students are often requested to complete an assignment on the textbook website. The computers in the computer lab are protected with True Vine, an internet filtering system. However, nothing is 100% and therefore the Dream Middle School uses the honor system with regards to computer use. Students are expected to respect the rules and procedures of the school and to practice virtues and safe internet usage at all times.

### Google Doc and Gmail

Dream Middle School students will be given a gmail account with a school assigned password. Students are not permitted to change the password. The students are to use this account for school related assignments only. These assignments may include uploading/downloading class work and homework documents and emailing class work and homework documents to their teacher's class email accounts. Please note these accounts are for student work only. Communications to teachers must be through the IDEAL office ([idealschool@bellsouth.net](mailto:idealschool@bellsouth.net)). Passwords for these accounts are private and should only be shared with teachers and parents/guardians. Any ill use of these accounts may result in school suspension or expulsion. It is recommended that parents/guardians frequently visit this email account to assist with monitoring. The Dream Middle School uses the honor system and students are expected to respect the rules and procedures of the school and practice virtues and sage internet usage at all times.

### Neo 2

All students in Dream Middle School are responsible to purchase and maintain a Neo 2 from the Dream Middle School. Students are required to use this electronic device to complete school related assignments which include, but are not limited to, recording homework, taking notes, and answering essay questions. The Neo 2 communicates with Google Docs and students are expected to upload their assignments frequently to serve as a backup.

Students will be given instruction on how to use the Neo 2; however, it is up to the student and parent/guardian to read the manual and newsletters of the Neo 2 to troubleshoot any dilemmas prior to requesting repair.

## **Uniforms**

All Dream Middle School uniforms are custom made by the Harris School Uniform Store and must be purchased there. Any uniform not following these guidelines will be considered unacceptable as proper school attire. A note will be sent home and proper modifications will be expected for student to attend school or parent/guardian will be called and asked to bring correct uniform.

## Immediate Corrections of Uniform Infractions at School

### **Back Of Auditorium (BOA)**

The middle school years are a time where students are able to become more independently responsible for their preparedness for school, which includes uniforms. Therefore, in an effort to foster this responsibility, the Dream Middle School has set up the BOA station. This student government run program provides DMS students with the opportunity to correct their uniform infractions immediately for \$1.00.

During Town Meeting, DMS teachers will check students' uniforms and send students who are in non compliance with the policy to the BOA Station. Parents will receive a note stating that their student participated in the BOA Station that day and the student's Snack Shack Account will be deducted. Students will still incur the consequence for the uniform infraction, and the error will be corrected.

### **BOA Station**

Make Up	Purchase make up remover wipes
Socks	Purchase a pair of socks
Belt	Rent a belt
Nail Polish	Purchase nail polish removal pads
Outer Wear	Rent a DMS Fleece
Neo2	Rent a Neo2
Pens/Pencils/Looseleaf	Purchase item needed

## **DREAM MIDDLE SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

**Undershirts should have the same length sleeve as the outer Harris uniform shirts with the exception of PE days**

### **Girls**

Oxford Shirt:	Monogrammed white, yellow, blue long sleeve or short sleeve – must always be tucked in
Sweater/Jacket:	Monogrammed IDEAL cardigan or IDEAL school sweatshirt
Socks:	Plain navy, white, khaki or black (No decorative details) must cover the ankle bone
Tights:	Plain white or navy tights may be worn in cold weather
Skirt:	Kick pleat plaid
Skort:	Monogrammed Plain navy or khaki
Shorts:	Monogrammed Plain navy or khaki
Pants:	Monogrammed Plain navy or khaki No Utility Pockets. Uniform Style Only – No Capri style
Belts:	Plain brown, black or navy (optional) - standard belt buckles only
Shoes:	Brown, black or navy single colored closed flat shoe (Heels may not be higher than 1 inch) No leather laces, please (Shoes must be able to remain tied all day) (No sneakers except for P.E.)

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## **Boys**

Oxford Shirt:	Monogrammed white, yellow, blue long sleeve or short sleeve must always be tucked in
Sweater/Jacket:	Monogrammed IDEAL cardigan or IDEAL school sweatshirt
Shorts:	Monogrammed Plain navy or khaki
Pants:	Monogrammed Plain navy or khaki No Utility Pockets. Uniform Style Only
Socks:	Plain navy, black, khaki or white (no decorative details) must cover the ankle bone
Belts:	Plain brown, navy or black to be worn at all times - standard belt buckles only
Shoes:	Brown, black or navy single colored closed flat shoe No leather laces, please – shoes must be able to remain tied all day (No sneakers except for P.E.)
Sweater:	Monogrammed IDEAL cardigan, pull over or Dream School sweatshirt – no other outerwear may be worn during the school day.

## **P.E. Uniforms:**

P.E. Uniforms must be worn on P.E. days.

Shirts:	Monogrammed IDEAL ash colored T-shirts
Shorts:	Monogrammed IDEAL P.E. shorts (must be at least mid thigh length) must be worn. Only IDEAL sweat pants can be worn on cold P.E. days.
Pants:	Monogrammed IDEAL sweat pants can be worn on cold P.E. days.
Socks:	Plain white (no decorative details) must cover the anklebone
Sneakers:	Athletic shoes with laces (running shoes)
Jewelry:	Jewelry may not be worn on P.E. days.
Hair:	Long hair must be pulled back on P.E. days.

## **Dress Uniform Days:**

Dream Middle School will wear their dress uniform on various special occasions. (i.e. guests, formal assemblies, field trips, etc. Students will be notified throughout the year as occasions occur.)

Females:	White monogrammed oxford shirt (must be tucked in)  Plaid kick pleat skirt (approximately knee length) White ¼ cut crew socks Hair accessories should be navy, khaki or you may purchase the Dream plaid from the Harris Uniform Store.
Males:	White monogrammed oxford shirt (must be tucked in) Khaki monogrammed slacks (long pants) with belt Dream Middle School tie White socks – must cover anklebone

## **Miscellaneous for all DREAM MIDDLE SCHOOL Students**

### **Eighth Grade:**

Eight Grade students may wear the Purple Dream Middle School sweatshirt that is available for purchase in the School Board.

### **Outerwear:**

On cold days, students may wear an outer coat of their choice, however, it must be able to fit in their backpacks or on a hook at school. Hoods are not permitted.

The Harris School Uniform Store sells a DREAM MIDDLE SCHOOL monogrammed polar fleece jacket.

### **Non uniform days**

On non-uniform days, students may wear clean cut jeans (without holes or frayed hems). Shorts, skorts, or skirts (mid thigh or longer) are permitted however mini skirts and ankle-length skirts are not.

T-shirts with at least a four finger sleeve may be worn; however they must be free from inappropriate slogans. Tank tops and belly tops are not permitted.

Students may wear sneakers or other closed toed shoes. Flip flops or sandals are not permitted. Again, students walk to the park daily and safety is our priority.

Hats are not permitted unless otherwise noted. (i.e. Hat Day)  
Jewelry must follow uniform policy.

### **Jewelry**

Delicate jewelry (gold or silver) may be worn under the uniform only. Students may wear one bracelet only.

#### **\* Chains**

Delicate gold or silver – under uniform only

#### **\* Bracelets**

One bracelet only

#### **\* Earrings**

Studs only in Elementary  
may be 1" in length in Middle School

#### **\* Rings**

One ring only

### **Backpacks**

Middle School backpacks must fit in locker  
(locker dimensions 10" x 33")

### **The following are not permitted to be worn at school.**

- Makeup – (all traces must be removed)
- Unnatural hair color or colored hair products (i.e. gel, hair spray)
- Body glitter, temporary tattoos or Henna
- Dark colored or glitter nail polish - pale pastel colors only

- Pins (except for Student Government star)

All of the above are at the discretion of the administration.

Dream Middle School Students may wear their School Board shirts on the first Tuesday of the month. These shirts are to be worn with regular uniform bottoms.

## **Co-Curricular Classes**

Dream Middle School offers a variety of co-curricular classes to enrich each student through all eight intelligences. The co-curricular classes include Physical Education and Yoga, Spanish, Art, Emotional Intelligence (Health), and Communications. The co-curricular classes are incorporated in each student's weekly schedule.

The co-curricular classes are graded. The student's grades are derived from participation, homework, tests/quizzes, portfolios and attendance. The co-curricular grades are a part of the student's final report card average.



# Dream Middle School Student Handbook 2009-2010

## Mission Statement

The Dream Middle School provides a challenging education where emotional and cognitive intelligence are of equal importance. Dream Middle School students are intrinsically motivated, passionate learners with high academic standards and strong virtues. The Dream Middle School models and encourages students to become optimistic thinkers, goal oriented risk takers, innovative problem solvers and compassionate people. Dream Middle School students learn to be confident in their thoughts and ideas and are able to transfer them to real world situations.

# **Dream Middle School Team**

## **Administration**

**Principals:** Dr. and Mrs. Soderman  
**Vice Principal:** Ms. Mitchell

## **Teachers**

**Science:** Mrs. Anderson  
**Social Studies:** Ms. Cooperman  
**Math:** Mr. Van Popering  
**Language Arts:** Mr. Dyde  
**Spanish:** Mrs. Ferreira  
**Physical Education:** Mr. Wicker  
**Yoga:** Ms. Rivera  
**Communications:** Mrs. Strahl-Tung  
**Technology:** Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Cesta  
**Emotional Intelligence and Health:** Mrs. Soderman  
**Art:** Mrs. Kozyra  
**Community Service:** Mr. and Mrs. Kozyra  
**Exceptional Student Education Liaison:** Ms. Mitchell

## **Virtues: The Gifts of Character**

<b>Assertiveness</b>	<b>Caring</b>	<b>Cleanliness</b>	<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Compassion</b>
<b>Confidence</b>	<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Cooperation</b>	<b>Courage</b>	<b>Courtesy</b>
<b>Creativity</b>	<b>Detachment</b>	<b>Determination</b>	<b>Diligence</b>	<b>Enthusiasm</b>
<b>Excellence</b>	<b>Flexibility</b>	<b>Forgiveness</b>	<b>Friendliness</b>	<b>Generosity</b>
<b>Gentleness</b>	<b>Helpfulness</b>	<b>Honesty</b>	<b>Honor</b>	<b>Humility</b>
<b>Idealism</b>	<b>Integrity</b>	<b>Joyfulness</b>	<b>Justice</b>	<b>Kindness</b>
<b>Love</b>	<b>Loyalty</b>	<b>Moderation</b>	<b>Modesty</b>	<b>Orderliness</b>
<b>Patience</b>	<b>Peacefulness</b>	<b>Perseverance</b>	<b>Purposefulness</b>	<b>Reliability</b>
<b>Respect</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Self-discipline</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Tact</b>
<b>Thankfulness</b>	<b>Tolerance</b>	<b>Trust</b>	<b>Trustworthiness</b>	<b>Truthfulness</b>
<b>Understanding</b>	<b>Unity</b>	<b>Dream</b>		

## **COMMUNITY GUIDELINES**

Dream Middle School is a place where all people are safe to express their individuality, creativity, and curiosity. We expect that all students will strive to follow the Community Guidelines and contribute responsibly to our school. These Community Guidelines apply to all school-related functions including field trips, traveling to and from the park, Friday lunches and extended trips away from school, such as the eighth grade graduation trip.

### **Be Respectful**

- Respect others' opinions, ideas, feelings, beliefs, and ways they want to be treated
- Help others
- Include others in activities
- Never physically harm anyone
- Respect others' belongings
- Treat visitors well
- Speak your thoughts in a respectful way
- Speak in turn without interrupting
- Listen and try to understand each other
- Discuss, don't argue
- Communicate assertively when there is a problem

### **Be Responsible**

- Notify appropriate adults about where you're going
- Consider safety at all times, wherever you are
- Take education seriously
- Be prepared and on time
- Work together when asked
- Share work equally
- Learn, make mistakes, and ask questions
- Apologize sincerely if you hurt someone
- Try your hardest

### **Make Wise Choices**

- Hang out, play, and have fun at appropriate times
- Take care of yourself
- Bring appropriate materials to school
- Respect materials
- Put things back where you found them
- Leave a space as clean as or cleaner than you found it
- Tell a staff member if something is dangerous, dirty, or broken
- Use indoor voices when indoors
- Work quietly during defined quiet work times and spaces
- Be honest

### **If a Student Makes an Inappropriate Choice**

When a student makes an inappropriate choice, it is an opportunity to learn. If a student behaves in a disrespectful or irresponsible manner, his or her teacher will be notified and the teacher will work with the student to make better decisions in the future. The administration is kept informed of middle school behavior and works closely with the teaching team, students, and their families as individual situations warrant.

All Dream Middle School Rules and Regulations mentioned herein apply to all events hosted by other schools in which invitations were extended to Dream Middle School students. Such events include, but are not limited to, other school sponsored trips, social events (e.g. dances), sporting events, assemblies, etc.

## **Identifying and Reporting Intolerance, Discrimination and Harassment**

The Dream Middle School is committed to creating and maintaining a community in which everyone, whether adult and child, can work and play together in an atmosphere free of all forms of harassment and discrimination, including name-calling, teasing, bullying, intimidation, and exploitation. The Dream Middle School prohibits any language or behavior that discriminates against or harasses others due to real or perceived race, language, heritage, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical appearance, ability, learning style, relative power, or for any other reason, including the association with others with these characteristics. Even when intended in jest, such comments and actions create an unsafe community and teach a tolerance for a language of disrespect. The Dream Middle School strives to prevent such harassment and discrimination through education, intends to intercede swiftly in every instance, and will take appropriate disciplinary action if such issues arise.

The consequences for discrimination and harassment may include exclusion from school activities, or complete dismissal from The Dream Middle School.

## **Bullying**

Bullying is causing another person harm/hurt verbally, physically and/or emotionally once or several times. Bullying may take the form of intimidation, an indirect use of social power such as spreading rumors, exclusion from groups, or mistreating or manipulating others to mistreat another student. Bullying can be based on student's real or perceived race, ethnicity, religion (creed), color, national origin, family structure, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, lack of power or on the basis of other perceived characteristics. Bullying can also be based on the association with others identified as members of the categories named above. Bullying is not tolerated at Dream Middle School. The consequences for bullying may include exclusion from school activities or complete dismissal from Dream Middle School.

## **Drug Policy**

The possession or use of drugs, tobacco, or alcohol is forbidden. Possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, or any illegal drug at school, at any school function, or on any school trip are grounds for expulsion from The Dream Middle School. Dream Middle School reserves the right to prosecute violators of this rule to the fullest extent of the law.

## **What if a Student Brings \_\_\_\_\_ to School?**

Below are some additional items that students may be thinking about bringing to school and the Dream Middle School rules about them. In general, use common sense about what to bring to school. Avoid items that are distracting, expensive and/or a possible safety hazard.

## **Cell phones**

Any cell phones brought to school must be kept in the student's locker and turned off. Cell phones will be confiscated if used during school hours. Any student who uses their cell phone on school property without permission from a teacher will receive a minimum of a one day in school suspension. Repeat offenses will result in more serious consequences up to and including expulsion from Dream Middle school.

## **Walkmans, CD or MP3 players**

If a student brings one of these items to school, it needs to spend the day in his/ her locker; he/she may not use it on campus at all (before, during, or after school). He/She may only use Dream Middle School music players with administration's explicit permission.

## **CD's/Tapes/Downloaded Music**

Students may only listen to these on campus (before, during, and after school) with administration's explicit permission. If students bring these items to school, store them away. Any music played at school needs to be school-appropriate—for instance, no profanity or hateful language.

## **Electronic games**

Students may only use these on campus (before, during, and after school) if students have administration's explicit permission. If students bring these items to school, keep them in their locker and turned off.

## Uniform: Appropriate Dress from Head to Toe

### Headwear:

- Hats, hoods, sun visors, and sunglasses are not permitted at school. Exceptions to this rule can be discussed with administration.
- Attend regularly to personal hygiene!

If it is determined by a teacher or administrator that a student's clothing is not appropriate for school, the parents/guardians will be called and asked to immediately bring a change a clothes for the child. Repeated violations of the dress code will be handled as a discipline issue.

## DREAM MIDDLE SCHOOL MIDDLE SCHOOL UNIFORMS

**Undershirts should have the same length sleeve as the outer Harris uniform shirts with the exception of PE days.**

### Girls

Oxford Shirt:	Monogrammed white, yellow, blue long sleeve or short sleeve – must always be tucked in
Sweater/Jacket:	Monogrammed IDEAL cardigan or IDEAL school sweatshirt
Socks:	Plain navy, white, khaki or black (No decorative details) must cover the ankle bone
Tights:	Plain white or navy tights may be worn in cold weather
Skirt:	Kick pleat plaid
Skort:	Monogrammed Plain navy or khaki
Shorts:	Monogrammed Plain navy or khaki
Pants:	Monogrammed Plain navy or khaki No Utility Pockets. Uniform Style Only – No Capri style
Belts:	Plain brown, black or navy (optional) - standard belt buckles only
Shoes:	Brown, black or navy single colored closed flat shoe (Heels may not be higher than 1 inch) No leather laces, please (Shoes must be able to remain tied all day) (No sneakers except for P.E.)

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### Boys

Oxford Shirt:	Monogrammed white, yellow, blue long sleeve or short sleeve – must always be tucked in
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Shoes:	Brown, black or navy single colored closed flat shoe

No leather laces, please – shoes must be able to remain tied all day (No sneakers except for P.E.)  
Sweater: Monogrammed IDEAL cardigan, pull over or Dream school sweatshirt – no other outerwear may be worn during the school day.

**P.E. Uniforms:**

P.E. Uniforms must be worn on P.E. days.

Shirts: Monogrammed IDEAL ash color T-shirts  
Shorts: Monogrammed IDEAL P.E. shorts (must be at least mid thigh length) must be worn. Only IDEAL sweat pants can be worn on cold P.E. days.  
Pants: Monogrammed IDEAL sweat pants can be worn on cold P.E. days.  
Socks: Plain white (No decorative details) must cover the anklebone  
Sneakers: Athletic shoes with laces (running shoes)  
Jewelry: Jewelry may not be worn on P.E. days.  
Hair: Long hair must be pulled back on P.E. days.

**Dress Uniform Days:**

Dream Middle School will wear their dress uniform on various special occasions. (i.e. guests, formal assemblies, field trips, etc. Students will be notified throughout the year as occasions occur)

Females: White monogrammed oxford shirt (must be tucked in)  
  
Plaid kick pleat skirt (approximately knee length)  
White ¼ cut crew socks  
Hair accessories should be navy, khaki or you may purchase the Dream plaid from the Harris Uniform Store.

Males: White monogrammed oxford shirt (must be tucked in)  
Khaki monogrammed slacks (long pants) with belt  
DREAM MIDDLE SCHOOL tie  
White socks – must cover anklebone

**Miscellaneous for all DREAM MIDDLE SCHOOL Students**

**Eighth Grade:**

Eighth Grade students may wear the Purple Dream Middle School sweatshirt that is available for purchase in the School Board.

**Outerwear:**

On cold days, students may wear an outer coat of their choice; however, it must be able to fit in their backpack or on a hook at school. Hoods are not permitted.  
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T-shirts with at least a four finger sleeve may be worn; however they must be free from inappropriate slogans. Tank tops and belly tops are not permitted.

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Hats are not permitted unless otherwise noted. (i.e. Hat Day)  
Jewelry must follow uniform policy.

### **Jewelry**

Delicate jewelry (gold or silver) may be worn under the uniform only. Students may wear one bracelet only.

\* **Chains**

Delicate gold or silver – under uniform only

\* **Bracelets**

One bracelet only

\* **Earrings**

may be 1” in length in Middle School

\* **Rings**

One ring only

### **Backpacks**

Middle School backpacks must fit in locker (locker dimensions 10” x 33”)

### **The following are not permitted to be worn at school.**

- Makeup – (all traces must be removed)
- Unnatural hair color or colored hair products (i.e. gel, hair spray)
- Body glitter, temporary tattoos or Henna
- Dark colored or glitter nail polish - pale pastel colors only
- Pins (except for Student Government star)

All of the above are at the discretion of the administration

### **Immediate Corrections of Uniform Infractions at School**

### **Back Of Auditorium (BOA)**

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## **BOA Station**

Make Up	Purchase make up remover wipes
Socks	Purchase a pair of socks
Belt	Rent a belt
Nail Polish	Purchase nail polish removal pads
Outer Wear	Rent a DMS Fleece
Neo2	Rent a Neo2
Pens/Pencils/Looseleaf	Purchase item needed

## Likely Consequences

The chart below describes the Dream Middle School's likely response when consequences need to be enforced. For a first offense, the consequence may include any or all of the sanctions listed. For students who have already committed a first offense, the breaking of any major rule will be considered a second offense. Note: Conferencing is almost always a consequence of a disciplinary event. In some cases it is required and in others it is recommended. All situations are evaluated on a case by case basis.

Offense	Consequence
<b>Uniform Infraction</b> This includes make up and jewelry.	1 <sup>st</sup> : Note sent home via email 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Loss of privilege 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Parent or Guardian is called to bring the correct uniform 4 <sup>th</sup> : Suspension
<b>Abusive, Inappropriate Language or Conduct</b> This includes bullying.	<b>Possible Consequences</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student/Teacher Conference</li> <li>• Student/Administration Conference</li> <li>• Parent/Guardian and administration conference</li> <li>• Loss of privilege</li> <li>• Probation</li> <li>• Suspension</li> <li>• Expulsion</li> </ul>
<b>Alcohol/Drugs</b>	<b>Possible Consequences</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent/Guardian and administration conference</li> <li>• Suspension</li> <li>• Expulsion</li> <li>• Contacting authorities</li> </ul>
<b>Cheating</b>	<b>Possible Consequences</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero on assignment</li> <li>• Parent/Guardian and administration conference</li> <li>• Probation</li> <li>• Suspension</li> <li>• Expulsion</li> </ul>
<b>Plagiarism</b>	<b>Possible Consequences</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero on assignment</li> <li>• Parent/Guardian and administration conference</li> <li>• Probation</li> <li>• Suspension</li> <li>• Expulsion</li> </ul>
<b>Lying</b>	<b>Possible Consequences</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student/Teacher Conference</li> <li>• Student/Administration Conference</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent/Guardian and administration conference</li> <li>• Loss of privilege</li> <li>• Probation</li> <li>• Suspension</li> <li>• Expulsion</li> </ul>
<b>Fighting</b>	<b>Possible Consequences</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student/Teacher Conference</li> <li>• Student/Administration Conference</li> <li>• Parent/Guardian and administration conference</li> <li>• Loss of privilege</li> <li>• Probation</li> <li>• Suspension</li> <li>• Expulsion</li> </ul>
<b>Theft of School or Personal Property</b>	<b>Possible Consequences</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student/Administration Conference</li> <li>• Parent/Guardian and administration conference</li> <li>• Loss of privilege</li> <li>• Probation</li> <li>• Suspension</li> <li>• Expulsion</li> </ul>
<b>Weapons at School</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent/Guardian and administration conference</li> <li>• Suspension</li> <li>• Expulsion</li> </ul>
<b>Internet Abuse</b> <b>This includes going on non-school assigned websites during the school day. (i.e. My space, face book, e-mail)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent/Guardian and administration conference</li> <li>• Suspension</li> <li>• Expulsion</li> </ul>
<b>Cell Phone Use</b> <b>This includes phoning/texting, including parents or guardians as well as using the camera or mp3 player of the phone.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent/Guardian and administration conference</li> <li>• Suspension</li> <li>• Expulsion</li> </ul>

### Expulsion

The Dream Middle School may dismiss or expel a student at any time and for any reason. The staff will try to protect the confidentiality of information relating to expulsion decisions. Therefore, many in the community will not have access to the information upon which many of these decisions are based. The Administration has final authority to decide all expulsions from The Dream Middle School.

# ACADEMICS

## Homework Policy

Homework matters! Students are responsible for recording, completing, and turning in assignments on time. Students are expected to write down all of their assignments, when they are given, in each class. Students can expect between one and two hours of homework nightly. This does not include work that was not completed at school. These guidelines may vary depending on the student's ability. Class projects, book reports and studying for tests will also require additional time.

To ensure good homework practice, Dream Middle School students will:

- Establish a system of recording homework in an assignment book or Neo. Students and parents/guardians should always be able to find a reliable list of assignments-to-do and those completed.
- Write each assignment down correctly with subject and due date.
- Check with a reliable student when absent from class.
- Ask a parent or guardian to print the Dream Line (homework is emailed daily)
- Students should speak with their teacher if they are overwhelmed or consistently spending more than three hours a night on homework.
- Please do not call the IDEAL front desk for homework.

At Dream Middle School, homework is a relevant extension of classroom learning. Homework will be given at the teacher's discretion based on daily objectives and individual student's academic needs. It is essential that homework be completed and handed in on time. Homework is 10% of the student's semester grade. Each homework assignment is worth two points. A point breakdown is listed below.

Possible points	Criteria
2	Homework is turned in on time, is neat and complete.
1	Homework is turned in on time; however it is either not neat or is incomplete
0	Homework is either late or not turned in.

## Tutorials

Dream Middle School students have regular periods during the school week in which they can get individual help from subject teachers.

## Semester Grades

Dream Middle School students' final grades in each subject are derived from  
50% Chapter/Unit Tests and Projects  
20% Semester Exams  
10% Quizzes  
10% Homework  
5% Classroom Participation, Preparedness and Enthusiasm  
5% Material Organization and Presentation

## School Materials

## Books and School Supplies

Students at the Dream Middle School borrow their books from the school. They are responsible for their books and academic materials. Students are expected to treat their books respectfully. Most middle school textbooks are accompanied by a copy of the text on cd rom as well as the ability to access the text and its components on the Prentice Hall website ([www.phschool.com](http://www.phschool.com)). Students are given a copy of the cd rom and an online access code for the website. Students are responsible for returning their textbooks, cd roms and access code at the end of the year. **Parents or Guardians are responsible to replace any textbooks or cd roms that are lost or not returned in the same manner they were dispersed.**

Dream Middle School students are given an accordion portfolio, two pens, two pencils and a sleeve of loose leaf paper. When these need to be replaced they may exchange them with a teacher. There are other necessary supplies available to be borrowed in each of the DMS classrooms. It is recommended that each student have a set of these supplies at home to complete homework assignments. Students are expected to maintain their supplies and replace them if they become lost or broken.

Students may purchase school supplies of their choice with the exception of the accordion folder. Please note all supplies must be efficient and practical. Teachers may refuse to allow the use of a student's school supply choices at the teacher's discretion.

### Community Supplies

Fine point highlighters

6" and 12" rulers

1- 6" ruler

Erasers

Scissors

Crayola Erasable Colored Pencils, fine and broad tip markers, crayons

**Algebra and Geometry students may be required to purchase a scientific calculator. Permanent markers are not permitted.**

## Extraordinary Minds

Dream Middle School recognizes that extraordinary individuals are distinguished less by their impressive raw abilities than by their ability to identify their strengths and use them effectively. Extraordinary individuals may fail often and sometimes dramatically. Rather than giving up, however, they're challenged to learn from their setbacks and to convert defeats into opportunities.

Each semester, the Dream Middle School teaching team meets to identify students that unite their cognitive ability with their sense of responsibility. The teachers complete the criteria form (attached) for each student and administration reviews them. The top 20% are chosen to be an Extraordinary Mind. The Extraordinary Minds are recognized with a plaque on the wall in Dream Middle School, as well as at school assemblies, weekly letters, school newspaper and on their report cards.

## NON-ACADEMIC

### Lockers

Dream Middle School students are each assigned a locker to store their books and backpacks. The lockers are located in the middle school auditorium and are to be kept neat and organized at all times. Students are allowed to decorate the inside of their lockers using magnets to adhere their decorations. Items displayed in their lockers must be appropriate and school approved. Food may not be stored in the locker overnight. Only school issued locks may be used. Students should expect random locker checks at least once a month. Any misuse of the locker will result in the loss of the locker. At the end of each year, students are responsible for leaving their lockers clean and decoration-free for the next person to use.

### Lunch

Parents/Guardians are responsible to pack a balanced, nutritious lunch. If a student forgets lunch, he/she can purchase and make a peanut butter and/or jelly sandwich in the Middle School Lunch area. It is the students' responsibility to keep the PB&J area clean. If it is not maintained, it will be shut down until further notice. Please prioritize good nutrition and minimal packaging when making your lunch. The following chart lists lunch guidelines.

Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pack a lunch every day that is nutritious and delicious. Think Protein!</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do NOT pack more than you need for lunch.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pack fresh and minimally processed foods</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DO NOT pack carbonated drinks</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pack enough to keep your mind and body energized for the rest of the day.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DO NOT pack soda or energy drinks</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Store food in reusable containers with a name marked on them.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do NOT pack candy, gum or other foods with high sugar content.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use a sturdy lunch box or lunch bag clearly marked with a name.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do NOT rely on parents/guardians to pack your lunch for you</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clean up responsibly</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do NOT beg, mooch, or take food from other students.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drink water</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do NOT pack food that needs to be refrigerated. or micro waved</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Purchase snacks from the Snack Shack</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DO NOT pack glass containers</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DO NOT pack coffee drinks</li></ul>

Please note: Our school has several students with severe (life threatening) peanut allergies. Therefore, Dream School is COMPLETELY PEANUT FREE. Students may not have any peanuts or peanut flavored products as the residue may induce a reaction. If your student has peanut butter prior to arriving at school, please ensure he/she has washed his/her hands and does not have any residue on his/her clothing.

## **Snacks**

Dream Middle School students may bring a snack from home on full school days to eat. The snack must be in a disposable package complete with utensils and napkins if necessary, and should not require refrigeration. Please keep in mind the students have a limited amount of time for snack.

## **Snack Shack**

The Eighth Grade class operates a snack bar for profit. Students may buy credit in advance and then make their purchases against their account. The Eighth Grade decides what nutritious items will be available. Proceeds benefit Middle School activities, including dances.

## **Birthdays**

Dream Middle School parents or guardians may come and have lunch with the birthday child on the patio. If you want to bring in a dessert it will be distributed during lunch. Birthday students may wear their favorite casual but appropriate clothing on their special day. Please follow the non-uniform day guidelines. The dessert must serve 50 students and include all necessary utensils, plates, napkins, etc. Pizza is not permitted. The students will sing to the birthday student during town meeting.

## **Our Neighborhood**

Remember that consideration and friendliness go a long way with our neighbors. Our school makes a big impact on the neighborhood with all our cars, people, construction, and parking issues. Be especially polite and well-mannered to guests, neighbors and pedestrians.

## **The Purple Cow Student Lounge**

The Dream Middle School students are privileged to have a student lounge. The student lounge is open to students during recess and lunch each day. Students may sign up to use the lounge each week. Appropriate teen magazines, games, and music will be available for the students. The lounge is a privilege that is given to all Dream Middle School students. However, inappropriate behavior or misuse of the lounge will result in the loss of this privilege.

## **Community Service**

The Dream Middle School is committed to developing the mind, body and spirit of each student. Students are challenged daily to live a life of integrity, exemplify responsible citizenship and shape the future beyond the educational realm. The school places priority on community service that reaches beyond our campus grounds and teaches students life lessons.

Students are required to complete 20 community service hours a year or the equivalent of 60 community service hours by their eighth grade graduation.

2010 graduates are required to have 40 community service hours, earned during the 2008-2010 school years, upon graduation.

The total hours each term is recorded on the student's report card. Once a student selects a community service, it is his/her responsibility:

- to obtain a form from administration,
- have the form signed by the supervisor of the activity,
- have it signed by parent or guardian,
- return the completed form to administration.

These steps must be followed to achieve the credit for the community service. The completed community service forms are filed and recorded on the student's report card. A Dream Middle Student must complete at least 15 community service hours a semester to be eligible for Extraordinary Minds.

Dream Middle School has set up opportunities for students to obtain these community service hours at school. Throughout the year, community service activities are posted on the student's FYI board in the auditorium. The students are responsible to check the board frequently and sign up. Once a student signs up for an activity he/she has made a commitment and is expected to fulfill that obligation.

The activities may include: tutoring elementary students afterschool,  
assisting preschool teachers on the playground at 7:30 a.m. ,  
supervising staff teacher's children Wednesdays from 3:00-4:30 p.m.  
during staff meetings.

Students are encouraged to find opportunities in their community to assist and volunteer. All community service activities must have school administrations approval.

## **Student Government and Town Meeting**

The Student Government offers students leadership opportunities and a mechanism for identifying, discussing, and solving Middle School issues. Each year, an election committee reviews and revises the election procedures and then conducts an election. The procedures include nominations, two weeks of campaigning, a democratic election, and an inauguration. All middle school students are eligible to run for student council. Candidates must be in good academic standing, meeting his/her academic potential and represent Dream Middle School proudly. This is a year long commitment that requires leadership, decision making, organization skills and responsibility. The Dream Middle School Student council will consist of a President (8<sup>th</sup> Grade) Secretary / Treasurer and two Student Representatives from each middle school grade (6, 7 and 8).

Once elected, the Student Government meets weekly after school to examine the needs of the Middle School. The Student Government has a part in the daily Town Meetings. Middle School Town Meetings provide a forum for disseminating information and solving problems; it is a place where student voices are heard. They also DJ during lunch, plan school dances, fundraisers, and special events. Student Government is required to attend all IDEAL and Dream School special events and activities.

## **Technology**

The Dream Middle School technology curriculum provides students with the foundation for using computers in an academic setting. The laptop computer lab is located on the second floor of the Dream Middle School. Our goal is to build technology skills that will allow students to understand when and how to use technology in a creative and intuitive way. Most courses use an integrated studies approach as the basis for student projects. Students learn skills as they create projects, which are integral parts of their studies in other subjects.

### **Internet Usage**

The Dream Middle School curriculum involves the use of the internet for research and assignments. Student textbooks are available online and students are often requested to complete an assignment on the textbook website. The computers in the computer lab are protected with True Vine, an internet filtering system. However, nothing is 100% and therefore the Dream Middle School uses the honor system with regards to computer use. Students are expected to respect the rules and procedures of the school and to practice virtues and safe internet usage at all times.

### **Google Doc and Gmail**

Dream Middle School students will be given a gmail account with a school assigned password. Students are not permitted to change the password. The students are to use this account for school related assignments only. These assignments may include uploading/downloading class work and homework documents and emailing class work and homework documents to their teachers' class email accounts. Please note these accounts are for student work only. Communications to teachers must be through the IDEAL office ([idealschool@bellsouth.net](mailto:idealschool@bellsouth.net)). Passwords for these accounts are private and should only be shared with teachers and parents/guardians. Any ill use of these accounts may result in school suspension or expulsion. It is recommended that parents/guardians frequently visit this email account to assist with monitoring. The Dream Middle School uses the honor system and students are expected to respect the rules and procedures of the school and practice virtues and sage internet usage at all times.

### **Neo 2**

All students in Dream Middle School are responsible to purchase and maintain a Neo 2 from the Dream Middle School. Students are required to use this electronic device to complete school related assignments which include but are not limited to recording homework, taking notes, and answering essay questions. The Neo 2 communicates with Google Docs and students are expected to upload their assignments frequently to serve as a backup.

Students will be given instruction on how to use the Neo 2; however, it is up to the student and parent/guardian to read the manual and newsletters of the Neo 2 to troubleshoot any dilemmas prior to requesting repair.

New and Sixth Grade students will need to purchase a Neo2 from Dream Middle School for \$300.

## **REFERENCES**

Gardner, H. *Frames of Mind. The Theory of Multiple Intelligences.* New York: Basic Books, 1983.

Gardner, H. *Multiple Intelligences. The Theory in Practice.* New York: Basic Books, 1993.

PLEASE SIGN AND DATE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU HAVE READ THE POLICY BOOK FOR THE 2009/2010 SCHOOL YEAR.

THANK YOU

Student Name (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_