

DFMS Everything You Need to Know

Middle School 101



Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Open House

August 17th from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.

Teachers will be in their classrooms to Meet and Greet students. Students can walk around to their schedule. Students can try out locker. Counselors and administration will be available.

Student t-shirts will be given out in 7th period the first day of school.

Link to school map at dfms.nebo.edu under School Information

[2021-22 DFMS School Map](#)

First Day of School, Pods, E-Time, Bell Schedule, Before and After School, Lunch and Breakfast, Vending Machines, PE Classes, and Rewards

August 18th 8:05 am - 2:45 pm

We will walk all students through the day. Since all students will be new to the school this year there will not be a 6th or 7th Grade Day. Teachers and admin are always in the halls to help.

Pods - All students will be placed in a pod of core classes, math, science, and English. Pod time is either in a block of classes in the morning or afternoon. Each student in the same pod will have the same group of core teachers. Pods provide a transition from elementary school, a place of belonging. Reteach and enrich will happen through the pod teachers.

E-Time (E for Enrichment or Extra Help) E-time works through pod teachers. Students have one E-Time a day through their pod. Teachers will determine if students need to stay in with a pod teacher for extra help. Students released for enrichment can choose outside play (equipment can be checked out each day), drama improv, choir karaoke, movie room, library for maker spaces (a variety of STEM activities) or reading, movie room, computer labs, art, dance, band or orchestra practice rooms, game rooms, and more! Students have two E-Times a day, one is with pods, and one is a free E-Time similar to a recess break with choices for enrichment.

Link to **Bell Schedule** at dfms.nebo.edu under School Information

MM- We will start each day with a Mindfulness Minute teaching the students healthy social and emotional skills.

HH- We will end each day with a Happiness Hunt where students will reflect and express gratitude for something positive that day.

Before School Arrival- We ask that students do not arrive before 7:30am as there is no supervision until this time. Breakfast starts at 7:30. Students will have outside time (play equipment can be checked out) on the field and blacktop area or go to the library. On bad weather days gyms will be open.

Bus Pickup- Administration will be outside to help students board the busses the first week. Please have students write down their bus number.

After School- Students may stay after school to work with a teacher until 3:15. Students not working with a teacher and not involved in an after school activity must leave the building to go home.

Intramurals and Activities- Intramurals and other activities will be offered at different times throughout the term both before and after schools. Parents will be notified of the week's activities through the weekly emailed parent newsletter, social media,, and students will be notified through school announcements.

Lunch- School lunch and breakfast are free this year again. But parents should also go to the school website <https://www.nebo.edu/child-nutrition> to check eligibility and apply for free and reduced lunch as other benefits may be available. Also at the school nutrition site, parents can access the daily menu. If your child has medical condition that requires special dietary needs, the link to that form is also on the district nutrition website.

We have two lunches. The lunches are mixed 6th and 7th grade. Students will have either 1st or 2nd lunch based on their 5th period class. Lists will be posted on our website, at Open

House, and 4th period teachers will explain how lunch works. Students may bring a lunch from home or eat school lunch. Students may eat in the school cafeteria or outside on our picnic tables (when they arrive) on good weather days.

Vending Machines - We have vending machines with healthy student friendly choices outside of the cafeteria. Students can use cash, Apple Pay, or a debit card to purchase snacks before or after school, at lunch, or if they are really speedy, inbetween classes. . **Food and drinks except for water bottles are not allowed during class.**

PE Classes- Students will not dress out for PE. Just as in elementary school, PE will be co-ed and dressing out will not be required. However, students with a PE class will need to wear closed toe shoes (tennis shoes are best) and clothes appropriate for participation in physical activities. We are very excited to be including the core 6th and 7th grade health curriculum in our PE classes as well.

All Kinds of Fun Rewards- DFMS will be a little like Harvard and a little like Disneyland! We will have Pod Parties, Diamondback Days, Diamondback Cards, Intramurals, After School Activities, E-Time every day, Plays of the Day, Students of the Month, Stand 4 Kind Group, HOPE Squad, National Junior Honor Society, Battle of the Books, Math Olympiad, DF News, Character Ed, Student Leadership, and so much more!

Schedule Changes and Secondary School Fees

Counselors are available from 9:00 to 3:15 M-F starting Aug. 2nd. Call the school and ask to speak to a counselor if you have schedule questions.

Registration needs to be completed and fees paid on myschoolfees.com before parents talk to a counselor.

Remember that classes have been carefully balanced so schedule changes will be limited.

Fee Waivers

Forms for fee waivers are on our school website under parents dfms.nebo.edu The form will explain the qualifications for fee waivers. Parents need to come in and meet with an administrator and show documentation and sign the forms. Administrators will be available on Aug 3rd and 4th from 8am to 3:15 pm or arrangements can be made for a different time by calling the school for an appointment.

School Supplies, Cell Phone Policy, Lockers

Supplies - There is no set supply list. We suggest students have a backpack, a notebook with paper and a way to organize for different classes, and pen and pencil each day. Water bottles are also recommended. Only water is allowed in the classrooms.

Teachers will let students know if there are any special items needed for their class.

Disclaimers documents for each class will be posted on our website by the first day of school.

Cell Phone Policy - If a student brings a cell phone to school, phones will be required to be in the student's backpack or the teacher's charging station during class time. This practice helps limit the distraction of cell phones. Students may bring their backpacks to class or leave them in their locker. We ask parents not to text students during class, but parents may always call the front office and we will deliver an emergency message during class time to a student or call the student down to the office phone to speak to a parent. Students are also required to be engaged in enrichment activities as an E-Time class period. Students may check messages on phones during passing time or lunch. Students may have a bathroom pass when needed, but cell phones stay in the classroom during a **bathroom break**.

A **strict anti-cyberbullying policy** is in place. Students may not text or post any unkind, embarrassing, or disparaging remarks about another student while at school or at any other time as bullying affects the school day no matter when it occurs.

Lockers- Students are assigned lockers, but locker use is not required. . The locker number and combination will appear on their schedule. Students may choose to use a locker or not to use a locker. Because textbooks are now limited, lockers may really only be needed as a place to store a coat. Students can try out lockers at our school Open House.

Grades, Citizenship, Attendance, Good Night Sleep, Tardies, Homework, Chromebooks, Canvas and iCampus,

Grades- Students will receive letter grades this year. Our grading scale will be A, B, C, or I (In progress- reteach and remediation provided). Parents and students can always check grades on iCampus. Parents are sent a weekly progress report by email each Monday along with a parent newsletter.

Citizenship Grades - Students receive citizenship grades S (Satisfactory), N (Needs Improvement), or U (Unsatisfactory) based on the rubrics for our core values of Respect, Compassion, Courage, Curiosity, Integrity, and Perseverance. Parents and students can see these grades on iCampus. Satisfactory citizenship is required for students to be eligible for rewards. Teachers have a plan for students to make up citizenship.

Attendance- Daily attendance is crucial to student academic progress. Parents need to call or email (may reply to the parent email sent for attendance) to excuse a full day absence within two school days. Students must be checked out and in at the front office by a parent or approved contact if missing any part of the day. Administration will meet with parents for excessive excused or unexcused absences to see how we can help to improve attendance.

A Good Night's Sleep - Sleep is so crucial to school performance and attendance. We will be teaching students healthy sleep habits and the importance of at least an hour of screen free time before bed as well as no screens in the bedroom during sleep.

Tardies- Being on time to class is part of our school value of respect. Tardiness disrupts the teacher and the class. Students have a four minute passing time in between classes. Fun

music (Different each day, students may request songs) plays at the start of a two minute warning. Students can use their Diamondback Cards for three free tardies each term. After that students will need to serve lunch detention to make up tardies. Only 1st period and only five a term tardies a term can be parent excused by parent phone call, note, or email.

Homework - Students are expected to work hard during class time. Most school work is done in classes (Another reason why attendance is so crucial.) Students will make-up missing work in E-Time. Daily reading at home M-Th and occasional math practice will be the only homework required at home. E-Time will be required for any homework missed. Students may also stay after school until 3:15 each day to work with a teacher.

Chromebooks- Every teacher has a Chromebook cart. Students have access to Chromebooks when needed in class. Because homework is limited to reading and occasional math assignment, Chromebooks will only be checked out if a student is quarantined. Students will make up missing work if needed during E-Time at school. Students may also stay after school until 3:15 each day to work with a teacher.

Canvas- All teachers will use Canvas as the Learning Management System. Parents may access their student's Canvas pages and see all assignments. A parent tutorial will be on our website. Canvas works with **iCampus**. Parents can check student grades, attendance, citizenship, etc. anytime on iCampus.

[2021-2022 Bus Routes Link Here](#)

[Click on Bus Route Finder](#)

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https://www.instagram.com/diamond_fork_middle_school/