updated 7/13/2026

# DOLPH BRISCOE MIDDLE SCHOOL
# CAMPUS POLICY

## DOLPH BRISCOE MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

| | |
|---|---|
| Joe Bishop | Principal |
| Nicole Gomez | Associate Principal |
| Francesca Parker | Academic Dean |
| TBD | Assistant Principal |

**Section A**
**Campus Handbook**
**2026-2027**


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# WELCOME

Welcome to Briscoe, home of the mighty Bengals. As a student of Dolph Briscoe Middle School, you have the opportunity to continue the traditions and standards of excellence for students to follow in the future. The educational programs will offer you many opportunities, the most important of which is setting the traditions and the standards by which future students will be evaluated. Students are expected to do their best and always demonstrate respect and courtesy. This Student-Parent Handbook has been prepared for your information and guidance on how to get the most out of your middle school experience. Keep in mind at all times that you, the student, are the most important aspect of school life at Dolph Briscoe Middle School. Be proud and respectful of taking care of your school. As a Bengal, you are expected to conduct yourself with dignity. You will be challenged in the classroom to excel and will be given opportunities to grow as a young adult and to enjoy a variety of experiences associated with middle school, e.g., dances, games, clubs, and concerts.

Dolph Briscoe Middle School is dedicated to the purpose of teaching students to use their minds well and build skills that will be useful and required now and in the future. Therefore, it is necessary to have certain rules to ensure each individual has the opportunity to benefit from their educational opportunity. This handbook outlines some of the basic policies around which your school functions. Frequent references will keep you informed of guidelines and allow you to take full advantage of all school offerings. Please feel free to contact teachers and administrators when you deem it necessary. The cooperation of school patrons, based on the knowledge of the school, will result in a more efficient and successful school program. Conferences may be scheduled by calling the school at the following number: 210-398-1100.

## OUR NAMESAKE - DOLPH BRISCOE

Dolph Briscoe, Jr., born April 23, 1923, was a Uvalde rancher, businessman, and philanthropist who was the 41st Governor of Texas between 1973 and 1979. Briscoe graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1943. As a proud Longhorn, Briscoe was selected as a New Man in the Texas Cowboys. In addition, he was a member of the UT Friar Society, the oldest and most prestigious honor society at the University of Texas at Austin, which recognizes students who have made significant contributions to the University. After graduating from UT, he then joined the Army, serving in Southeast Asia during World War II.

Briscoe entered politics in 1949 when he was elected to the state legislature and served as a representative until 1957. He then returned to Uvalde, Texas, to manage his family's ranch and other businesses. In 1968, Briscoe competed unsuccessfully in the Democratic gubernatorial primary.

His political journey did not end in defeat. In 1972, Briscoe returned to politics, receiving the Democratic nomination for governor of Texas. The newly elected governor believed in better schools, better roads, and water conservation. Being a successful veteran rancher himself, Governor Briscoe worked to help the farmers and ranchers of Texas during his term. As the youngest person to become president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Briscoe and the organization raised over $3 million in public contributions to support the "worm" eradication program. The program was considered to be the most important and beneficial development in the history of the ranching industry.

In the 1974 general election, the first for a four-year term in Texas since 1873, Briscoe was victorious by a wide margin. Because of his re-election following an amendment to the Texas Constitution doubling the Governor's term to four years, Briscoe became both the last governor to serve a two-year term and the first to serve a four-year term.

During his successful tenure as governor, Briscoe secured $4 billion in additional funding for public education and increased teacher salaries by the highest percentage in history. Possibly one of the greatest accomplishments of his political career was the co-sponsorship and passage of the Colson-Briscoe Farm to Market Road Program. The program supported the much-needed improvement and creation of rural roads in Texas.

Briscoe won many political and civic awards over the years, including the designation of "Mr. South Texas" in Laredo. He was the largest individual landowner in Texas. Dolph Briscoe was a modest philanthropist in the local community, giving several million dollars to various Texas institutions, mostly centered in and around the San Antonio area. In 2006, he gave a sizable donation to the Witte Museum. In 2008, he donated $5 million to the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio to support cardiology research and women's health, a gift made in honor of his late wife, Janey. Within the same year, he donated $15 million to the Center for American History. The center was later renamed the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History for which

he served on the Advisory Council.

Briscoe wrote a book that ended with the following inspirational passage for school-aged children:

“To the younger generation of today, I would like to say this: think about the past, think about those who came here seeking a better way of life, and how, through hard work, they achieved it for themselves and their children, and then think about the opportunities that exist today that they didn’t have. You can truly say that we have a great history and heritage, as unique as it is, but I also firmly and unequivocally believe that the best is yet to come.”

Dolph Briscoe passed away on June 27, 2010.

## SCHOOL COLORS

Maroon and Gold

## SCHOOL MASCOT

Bengal Tiger

## VISION

*“Every day, every student grows in confidence, curiosity, and capability.”*

## MISSION STATEMENT

*“Transform the learning experience for students.”*

## CORE BELIEFS

- Each student deserves a quality education which honors their voice and prepares them to engage, contribute, and succeed.
- Students’ health, safety, engagement, challenge, and support are directly linked to their academic achievement and future success.
- Meaningful relationships among students, families, educators, and the community are vital to student success.
- Classroom teachers impact student achievement most, followed by campus principals.
- Public schools are essential to foster community and develop engaged citizens.

## PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP YOU

### THE PRINCIPAL

The Principal is responsible to the Superintendent of schools for proper administration of Dolph Briscoe Middle School. It is her duty to organize, supervise, and administer all of the affairs of the school as they affect students, teachers, and patrons. She will be glad to help you with any of your concerns. Conferences can be scheduled by calling 398-1100.

### THE ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL/ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

The Associate Principal and Assistant Principal work directly with the principal in managing and organizing the school. They handle the school's day-to-day operations and assume the Principal's responsibility in her absence.

Due to morning duties and responsibilities on campus, administrators are not available for conferences prior to 9:00 a.m. We strongly suggest that if you wish to speak to an administrator or have a conference with them, call 210-398-1124 to schedule an appointment. If you are unable to reach an administrator directly by phone, please leave a message, and a campus administrator will return your call within 24 hours.

### THE ACADEMIC DEAN

The Academic Dean works directly with the Principal in the instructional processes of the school to improve student performance at Dolph Briscoe Middle

School. She is in charge of all campus testing, both at the district and state levels. She handles the day-to-day operations of the school that address academics and may assume the responsibility of the Principal in her absence. Conferences may be scheduled by calling 210-398-1100.

### THE COUNSELORS

All students are assigned a guidance counselor. Your counselor will be happy to assist you with problems concerning both school and your personal life. If you want an appointment with your counselor, this can be arranged with the secretary in the guidance office before and after school. Parents can refer their child by contacting the counseling office, and students can refer themselves through the online referral system posted in areas around the campus. If your counselor cannot see you that same day, he/she will make an appointment with you for the next day. Conferences with students receive first consideration of the counselor's time. ***The function of the counselor is advisory, not disciplinary, and all information is confidential.***

### THE NURSE

The school nurse is available to help you at school with medical emergencies and will work closely with your parents and physician in administering prescribed medication. The clinic is located in the main office. Please notify the school nurse of any medical conditions that may be of concern. The school nurse is unable to administer over-the-counter medication to your child and can only administer prescriptions in their original container.

### THE POLICE OFFICER

The Police Officer assists students when needed and helps maintain a safe environment. He/she helps supervise after-school events and helps monitor traffic. The SAFE hotline number is 397-7233, or text safe@nisd.net.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

All school and UIL rules apply to the conduct and dress code for students who attend after-school activities. Written permission and/or an admission fee may be required for many events. Transportation to and from school is the responsibility of the parents for these activities; parents are expected to pick up their child immediately at the conclusion of each activity. Children should not have to wait longer than 15 minutes for parents to pick them up after a school event. If a parent or guardian does not pick up their child in a timely manner, the protocol and procedure set forth by NISD in the Crisis Handbook could be followed by the administrator or staff member if they deem it necessary. Students who are not picked up in a timely manner after a school event or school function could be denied the right to attend future after-school functions for the remainder of the year. Students who exhibit inappropriate behavior will be removed from the activity. Formal attire and/or limousine transportation are not appropriate for these events. Any clothing deemed inappropriate or suggestive is not permitted.

**Circumstances that restrict students from attending after-school events are the following:**

- out-of-school suspension/in-school suspension assigned for the day of the event
- other disciplinary actions that may warrant non-attendance of the event
- absence from school on the day of the event
- repeated misconduct at after-school events
- assignment to an alternative educational campus
- withdrawal from Briscoe Middle School (athletic events may be permitted.)

### ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Following any absence, students should bring a dated note signed by the parent explaining the reason for the absence. If a doctor saw the student, a note should be obtained from the doctor explaining the absence. All doctors' notes should be sent to the school to substantiate absences. All notes should be turned in to the attendance office within three days of the student's absence. Parent notes are accepted at the discretion of the campus. Students should bring all notes to the attendance office between 7:55 and 8:40 a.m. A note for a student's absence may also be faxed to the attention of the Attendance Secretary at 397-1108, can be emailed through the CONTACT SCHOOL link on the Briscoe website, or can be submitted using the link Google form in the Attendance portion of the Briscoe website. Please add your child's ID number to the note to ensure the absence is appropriately processed.

### BACKPACKS / BOOK BAGS

Backpacks and/or book bags may be used to carry books and supplies to and from school and may be taken to classes during the school day. Rolling backpacks are only allowed if there is a documented medical need.

## BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROCEDURES

All students will enter the cafeteria in an orderly manner. There are specific rules on how students sit in the cafeteria, and the majority of the time, students will be allowed to sit with their friends as long as cafeteria rules are followed. Students can purchase breakfast or lunch in the cafeteria, or they can bring food from home. **Due to safety, food deliveries are not permitted. This includes parent fast food drop-offs, Uber Eats, DoorDash, etc.** Students must raise their hand for permission to leave their seats. Duty teachers will dismiss students by tables to discard trash and return trays. Students may not leave the cafeteria before permission is granted. Students are required to keep their area clean. While in the cafeteria line, students are to only touch the food items they intend to buy.

Visitors must sign in and receive a visitor's pass before entering the cafeteria. No celebrations (e.g., birthdays) are permitted in the cafeteria. Parents who bring outside food and drinks should eat lunch with their children at a designated table in the cafeteria to ensure that other students do not feel uncomfortable or left out.

Breakfast/Lunch Money—The school does not loan lunch money to students. Go to https://www.nisd.net to access your student's cafeteria account and add money as needed. We encourage parents to monitor their student's lunch account online to prevent problems with their child's purchases.

## BUS ASSIGNMENTS AND TRANSPORTATION

Students are required to ride the designated bus assigned to them by transportation. Riding a bus is a privilege, not a right. Students may be assigned a specific seat on their bus. Only a family emergency would warrant assignment to a different bus. (Staying overnight with a friend is not an emergency.) In order to ride a different bus home and receive an official bus change form, a note must be sent by a parent/guardian the day prior to or the morning of and brought to the associate principal's office for administrative approval. **This approval must be obtained prior to the end of the school day** (these will not be approved after school in the bus loop) for a student to ride a different bus. Students will be given a note from the Associate Principal's office that needs to be given to the bus driver. The number of students assigned to buses and the systemized route system is disrupted when ineligible students ride on alternate routes. All bus routes and assignments of students are done through the district's transportation offices.

## CAMPUS OPERATING HOURS

- Classes begin for Dolph Briscoe Middle School students at **8:40 a.m.** and end each afternoon at **3:55 p.m.** each day, Monday through Friday.
- The doors will open to all students at 7:40 a.m., and supervision will start at 7:40 a.m. Students who arrive at school before 8:30 a.m. are allowed to eat breakfast (if they choose) and report to the designated morning areas.
- Front Office Hours are from 7:45 - 4:15 PM.
- **Students will not be allowed to be checked out after 3:15 PM due to dismissal procedures.**

## CAMPUS VISITORS

All Parents and Visitors are required to register in the Front Office with the Principal's secretary regardless of how long they plan to stay on campus, and must indicate the reason for visiting the campus. They are also required to sign out prior to leaving the campus. Upon sign-in, all Parents and Visitors should receive a Visitor's Pass and must wear this pass where it can be visible to staff. These precautions are taken to ensure a safe environment for our students and staff. All volunteers and mentors are also required to do a criminal background check before volunteering on campus or on field trips. The background check may be done online through the NISD website.

## DELIVERY OF ITEMS/ OUTSIDE FOOD ITEMS

In an effort to minimize interruptions and maximize instructional time, **we do not deliver items directly to students**. However, we also recognize that students will sometimes forget an item at home. We will deliver glasses, school items (books, assignments, etc), house keys, and lunch money. The student is expected to come by the office BETWEEN classes for all other items to retrieve their belongings. **Due to safety, food deliveries are not permitted. This includes parent fast food drop-offs, Uber Eats, DoorDash, etc.** This procedure helps the school to maintain an academic environment and is effective in helping students practice personal responsibility.. **Flowers, balloons, birthday presents, etc., will not be delivered and will be held in the office until the end of the day, when students can pick them up to be taken home.**

## DRESS FOR SUCCESS

The district's dress code is implemented (Section D); therefore, students will be expected to follow the guidelines set forth by the district. Dress code standards are extended to extracurricular activities held on the campus. In an effort to promote a safe and positive school environment that is conducive to learning, students should wear appropriate clothing that will not cause disruptions in learning or safety. Inappropriate, indecent, suggestive, or distracting clothing will not be allowed. Changes in dress code deemed appropriate and necessary by the school principal may be announced, implemented, and enforced during the course of the academic school year.

**In addition to the district dress code, at Briscoe Middle School:**

- No PE/athletic uniforms during the school day outside of the school gymnasium.
- Pants cannot have frays or holes above mid-thigh.
- Pants may **NOT** be worn on or below the hip bones.
- Pajamas are **NOT** allowed.
- Clothing should not advertise and/or endorse weapons, alcohol, drugs, gangs, profanity, or tobacco.
- Shirts should **NOT** expose the midriff.
- Undergarments must be covered.
- Headwear (caps, beanies, hoods, etc.) is not allowed except for special days designated by the principal or his/her designee. Hoodies must be off the head during school hours.

Students out of compliance will be addressed by campus administration, and parent contact will be made and documented. Repeat offenders of dress code violations will be subject to a parent conference to address any issues or concerns. Book covers, folders, book bags, school property, body parts, and/or personal property or clothing displaying obscenities, alcoholic beverages, narcotics, controlled substances, weapons, gang-related materials, or any design or inscription that the administration determines to be unacceptable are not permitted at Dolph Briscoe. These items will be confiscated and documented, if necessary, in the student's discipline record.

**Final determination of acceptable dress code and grooming rests with the Principal or his/her designees**. **Changes in dress code, deemed appropriate and necessary by the school principal, may be announced, implemented, and enforced during the course of the academic school year.**

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES/ TECHNOLOGY

School districts throughout the country, including Northside ISD, have moved into the "Information Age" by providing network and Internet access for students. Technology will be used abundantly at Briscoe Middle School. Everything from testing students' reading levels to accessing the Library's card catalog database requires networked computers. With this privilege comes responsibility. Students must use the Northside network and the Internet in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner in accordance with the Northside ISD Acceptable Use Policy. At the beginning of each school year, two forms must be signed and returned to the school before your child can use a networked computer at Briscoe Middle School or have their work published on the Briscoe website.

**Please be advised that, as part of our commitment to maintaining a focused and respectful learning environment, all personal electronic devices must be turned off and kept out of sight from 8:25 AM to 3:55 PM. This policy applies to hallways, restrooms, locker rooms, the cafeteria, and classrooms.**

To function effectively in this environment, students must assume personal responsibility to behave ethically, even when technology provides them the freedom to do otherwise. The use of the Northside network and the Internet is a privilege, not a right, which may be revoked at any time for inappropriate behavior. Users assume responsibility for understanding the Acceptable Use Policy and guidelines as a condition of using the Northside network and the Internet. Use of the Northside network or the Internet that is inconsistent with this policy may result in loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action.

## PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICE POLICY

In compliance with state law, the use of personal communication devices by students is not allowed at any NISD campus during the school day, from the first official bell to the last official bell. Use of these items will also not be allowed during passing periods or lunch periods.

Personal communication devices include cell phones, smartwatches, earbuds, tablets, or any other similar items.

Devices of this nature should be powered off and placed into student backpacks and kept in a designated location in each classroom. Students without a backpack will be required to place their device(s) into an identified storage container in the classroom.

Students in violation of this State law and district policy will be subject to progressive disciplinary consequences, to include possible confiscation of the device. Confiscated items will be released to the student's parent/guardian.

## GRADE REPORTING THROUGH HOME ACCESS CENTER (HAC)

Parents are encouraged to use NISD's online Parent Portal to monitor their students' progress throughout the year. Students will receive a progress report in the middle of each nine-week grading period. The progress reports are designed to inform parents and students of current classroom performance and grades. The teacher may require the students to have you sign and return each progress report sent home to verify that you received your child's report. If the teacher deems it necessary, you may be contacted by phone to ensure you received the report. This is especially true if your child's progress is not acceptable or if the grades or conduct are below average.
Report cards will be issued at the end of each grading period. They provide the student's academic grades, citizenship grades, plus other pertinent information. We implore you to make sure that you receive a report card every six weeks. If a parent did not receive their child's report card, please contact the counselor's office for assistance. If a parent/guardian has any questions or concerns regarding your child's education, please start by contacting the teacher; then, if the question or concern is not answered/solved, then contact the counselors' office and administration.

## LOCKERLESS CAMPUS

Hallway lockers will not be issued to students. Students are encouraged to bring only the necessary school materials, such as notebooks, pens, and pencils. Expensive items should be left at home. Textbooks are in the classrooms for students to use while at school. If your child needs a textbook for home use, contact the school, and one can be issued.

Students will be issued a P.E. locker to store their uniforms and clothes during P.E. Students may only access lockers during their scheduled P.E. time.

## LOST AND FOUND

IF YOU FIND ANY ARTICLE OF VALUE, PLEASE TURN IT INTO THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.

As **the school assumes no responsibility for lost articles**, students are encouraged to take every precaution to protect their possessions. Students should not bring expensive or valuable items to school. Students should carefully label each article, such as clothing, books, and supplies, for easy identification. If you are in possession of an item that does not belong to you, you will be subject to disciplinary measures. Lost and found items collected and not claimed by the end of each grading period will be donated to charity.

## NUISANCE ITEMS

Briscoe is a gum-free campus. Items that cause a distraction from the school's academic atmosphere are not permitted. The school cannot be held responsible for any of these lost or stolen items. Confiscated items will be returned to the parent only. Students who bring these items to school are subject to disciplinary action.

## PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

In order to maintain a professional atmosphere of learning and mutual respect on campus, intimate physical expressions of affection (holding hands, kissing, or embracing) are not permitted at school, on the school bus, or at any school-related events and activities.

## REGISTRATION/WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

Registration - To register your student, please go to https://www.nisd.net/schools/registration and complete the pre-registration. A counselor will contact you and schedule an appointment to complete the registration process.

Withdrawal of Student - When it is known that a student is going to withdraw, the parents or guardians should notify the Counseling Office at least one day in advance, if possible. All textbooks and library books must be returned. Any fines owed to the school need to be paid before records may be released. On the day of withdrawal, the student should report to the Counselor's office and pick up a check-out form, which must be signed by each teacher. Textbooks must be returned to the Textbook administrator. The check-out form must be returned to the Counselor's Office before a final clearance can be granted. NO records will be released until all obligations (textbooks, fines, release forms, etc.) have been fulfilled. A parent's signature will be required for final clearance to be given.

## TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Please refer to Section B of Northside's Student and Parent Agreement for the Acceptable Use of the District's Electronic Communication System policy.

## BRISCOE BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS/PBIS

Briscoe implements a PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) system that encourages and rewards positive student behavior and clearly defines

student expectations. We aspire for every student to be:

- **R**espectful
- **R**esponsible
- **S**afe
- **K**ind

****Note: As policies and procedures change, the administration reserves the right to update the campus handbook.**