

STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK



Principal: Tawny Wagner
Associate Principal: Laura Ontiveros
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2025-2026 NORTHSIDE ISD Academic Calendar



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| '25 August S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 Aug 4-8 Teacher Work Day/Staff Dev. | September S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 Sept 1 Holiday | October S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 Oct 13 Student Holiday/Teacher Planning Day | November S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 Nov 4 Student Holiday/Staff Dev. Nov 24-25 Student Holiday/Teacher Choice Nov 26-28 Thanksgiving Break |
| December S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 Dec 22-Jan 2 Winter Break | '26 January S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 Jan 5 Student Holiday/Teacher Planning Day Jan 19 Holiday | February S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 Feb 16 Student Holiday/Staff Dev. / Bad Weather Makeup Day | March S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 Mar 9-13 Spring Break Mar 16 Student Holiday/Teacher Planning Day |
| April S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 Apr 3, Apr 6, Apr 17 Holiday | May S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 May 22 Teacher Work Day/Staff Dev. May 25 Holiday | June S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 June 19 Holiday | July S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 July 3 Holiday |

Calendar Key

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Holiday | Student Holiday/Teacher Choice |
| Teacher Work Day/Staff Development | First & Last Days of School |
| Student Holiday/Staff Development | Grading Period Start/End |
| Student Holiday/Teacher Planning Day | Bad Weather Makeup Day |

Grading Periods

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| 1ST GRADING PERIOD August 11 - October 10 |
| 2ND GRADING PERIOD October 13 - December 19 |
| 3RD GRADING PERIOD January 6 - March 6 |
| 4TH GRADING PERIOD March 16 - May 21 |

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
August 11, 2025

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
May 21, 2026

FIRST SEMESTER
Aug 11 - Dec 19

SECOND SEMESTER
Jan 6 - May 21

5900 Evers Road, San Antonio, Texas 78238



Northside ISD

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approved 12/12/23

August 11, 2025

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year!

Attached to this letter is a supplement to the NISD Student-Parent Handbook. This supplement will hopefully answer some questions regarding this school year. Please review this supplement and the handbook carefully and discuss the information with your child. If you need information about our campus policies, services and activities, this should be the first place for you to look. Keep in mind that the school will always be pleased to help you with any additional information you might want or need.

The school front office is open from 7:00 AM until 3:45 PM each day. To accommodate our parents' busy schedules, we are often available earlier or later by appointment only. The staff at McDermott ES look forward to entering into a successful partnership with your family to make this school year a positive experience for you and your child. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Tawny Wagner

Tawny Wagner
Principal

Laura Ontiveros

Laura Ontiveros
Associate Principal

Lawrence Beebe

Lawrence Beebe
Administrator Intern

MCDERMOTT ELEMENTARY ATTENDANCE CONTRACT 2025-2026

You miss a day, you miss a lot!

McDermott Elementary values the time that children spend at school. We believe that the first step toward academic excellence and student growth is great attendance. As a team, we can work together to encourage our students to attend school and to be prompt. The State of Texas has compulsory attendance laws that we are required to follow. Consistent tardiness and chronic absences from school may result in students not being promoted to the next grade level or an Attendance Court action.

School begins at 7:45 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m

ABSENCES

- Please send a written note to your child's teacher each time he/she is absent. In the note, state the reason your child missed school and the date(s) he/she missed school. We will accept 10 parent notes per school year. Thereafter, all parent notes will be reviewed by school administration on an individual basis to determine if they will be accepted as an excused student absence.
- If your child misses school and they visit the doctor, please send a doctor's excuse to school.
- If you need to take your child out of school during the school day, you must come into the office to sign your child out of school
- Students arriving after 9:00 are considered absent for the school day unless they bring a health/doctor excuse.
- We highly encourage you to make any appointments on our scheduled Early Release Days or after school hours.
- Excessive absences will be addressed by the NISD Attendance Liaison and may result in the issuing of an Attendance Warning Notice or Court Action.

TARDIES

- If your child arrives after 7:45 am, you must escort your child into the office and sign them in. Students arriving after 7:45am are considered tardy.
- Classroom teachers document tardies beginning at 7:45am.
- Excessive tardies are also addressed by the NISD Attendance Liaison.
- Students with three or more tardies or early outs are not eligible for Perfect Attendance Recognition.

ARRIVAL

Students may be dropped off at the front driveway. The doors will open at 7:00 am. For the safety of our students, do not leave students unattended before our doors open.

Please do not drop off students at the back Bus Loop, as they will not be supervised and will not be able to enter the building.

- 7:00 am – Students will report to the cafeteria to eat breakfast or report to their hallway.
- 7:40 am – Bell rings and students walk into classrooms. Instructional day begins.
- 7:45 am – Tardy bell rings. Students arriving past this time will be given a tardy slip. Please note that in order to receive perfect attendance recognition, students may not have more than 1 tardy or early out in a nine week period.

A child who is not present at 9:00 a.m. is counted absent for the day. A child who arrives after 9:00 a.m. must be accompanied by the parent and the school should be provided with a written note explaining the reason for the absence. The school shall determine whether or not the absence is excused according to district guidelines.

EARLY DEPARTURES

We do not sign out students after 2:30pm. At this time, teachers are preparing students for the end of the school day. Any time that a student leaves prior to 2:55 pm, it is noted as partial absence. Please note that in order to receive perfect attendance recognition, students may not have more than 1 tardy or early out in a nine week period. If your child has an appointment, please send an excuse within three days. Early departures with a doctor's note will not be considered partial day absences.

DISMISSAL & TRAFFIC

School buses & daycare vans are the only vehicles allowed in the bus loop area. The parking lot located beside the school is for staff only. The parking lot in the front of the building is for parents and visitors. Student pick-up/drop-off will occur in the front of the school via the front driveway. The front driveway is divided into two lanes: one for student drop off/pick up and one that leads to the front parking lot for families wishing to park and enter the school. At no time, should a car drop off any student in the parking area. Your children's safety is our priority. Students that are dropped off in the mornings will enter the building through the front gate entrance. Afternoon pick-up will also take place in the front of the school.

In order to keep all children safe, we ask that no children be allowed to walk across any street or parking lot without an adult escort. Also, be aware that cars parked on the red curbs need to have a licensed driver behind the wheel at all times. City laws require this and drivers found in violation of this policy can be issued a ticket. This rule is designed to allow the quick removal of vehicles in case an emergency vehicle (ambulance, fire truck) is needed to help assist in a crisis.

Students riding skateboards, scooters or bikes to school should get off their skateboard, scooter or bike and walk when they are on school property. Failure to do so will result in a warning. After one warning, the student will not be allowed to bring the item to school for a period of time. After that, it will result in not being allowed to bring the item the rest of the school year.

SAFETY DRILLS

We conduct safety drills in order to prepare for emergency situations. Drills include Lockdown, Tornado, and Fire Drills. If you visit our campus during one of these drills, please follow the staff lead and participate appropriately.

AIR QUALITY ALERT DAYS

When there is an orange-level alert, air quality is predicted to be unhealthy for individuals with lung ailments such as asthma and emphysema, for young children whose lungs are still developing, and for those who work or exercise outside for extended periods of time. On these days, students with asthma stay indoors, unless their physician sends a written notification allowing them to participate in outdoor activities.

VISITORS

Parents/Guardians are welcomed to visit their students' classroom with advanced approval by the school administration, so long as their duration or frequency does not interfere with delivery of instruction or disrupt the normal school environment.

Visitors must follow the school procedures regarding proper identification and check-in. Because the safety of all students is a top priority, the District has implemented a district-wide visitor and volunteer badge system.

All parents/guardians, visitors, or volunteers who come to a campus will be asked to present a valid government or state-issued identification, such as a driver's license or military I.D. The I.D. will be scanned and a badge will be printed. All visitors will then wear the badge while on campus and return it at the end of the visit.

All visitors must comply with the school's visitation procedures, including campus lunch procedures, dismissal, and are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct.

Northside Independent School District is a Drug-Free, Smoke-Free and Gun-Free District. Visitors must refrain from smoking anywhere on district grounds.

SECURE LOBBY/EMERGENCY INFO

Parents or visitors must show a valid ID anytime they wish to come on campus or sign children out. Your ID will need to be swiped every time you come on campus. For the welfare of our students, teachers cannot release students to anyone without office authorization. This authorization will only be given to parents or adults listed on the current medical emergency card. It is the parent's responsibility to update the medical emergency card if any changes occur. Changes to the card will only be made by the parent in person, not over the phone.

PARENT NOTIFICATION OF CUSTODY DOCUMENTATION

By law, if parents are legally separated or divorced, each parent has equal rights to the custody of the child UNLESS a parent has a court order indicating which parent has custody of the child. Sometimes the court order will also state certain conditions regarding the child that the school should be aware of. **The school MUST HAVE A COPY of the COURT ORDER on file**, otherwise either parent may have access to educational information and/or check the child out with proper identification.

CAFETERIA PROCEDURES

Breakfast and lunch are served daily. Milk or juice is provided with breakfast, and milk is provided with lunch. ***If there is a medical reason a student is unable to have milk or milk products, parents must provide a written note from the child's physician and juice will be substituted for no additional cost.***

Breakfast is served between 7:00 a.m. and 7:35 a.m. See your child's teacher for information regarding the lunch schedule. No purchased food is allowed to leave the cafeteria. Please stop by the school office to sign in and pick up a visitor sticker before joining your child in the cafeteria

OUTSIDE FOOD TO SCHOOL

Elementary Schools are required to follow nutrition rules established by the Texas Department of Agriculture. Parents may choose the type of food they send to school for their own child, but may not send food or purchase food for other students. The exceptions to the nutrition policy are two school parties and a third special day event as designated by the campus principal.

CAMPUS CLASSROOM PARTIES

Students will have two parties each year. A Winter Party will be held on December 19th and a Spring Party on April 2nd. Party refreshments are only allowed on these two days. Your child's teacher will be in touch with you regarding school parties.

BIRTHDAYS

Parents are welcome to send **store-bought cupcakes or packaged small treats** for student birthdays. These will be handed out during the last 15 minutes of school. Please consider that there may be students in the classroom with peanut/nut or other allergies. **Balloons and/or flowers are not allowed to be delivered to classrooms.** Let your child's teacher know if you do not want your child to participate in birthday recognitions.

DRESS CODE

Appropriate footwear must be worn; footwear which has toes reinforced with steel, hard plastics or similar materials are specifically prohibited. Please make sure your child brings or wears tennis shoes on P.E. days.

Hats & Headwear, or hoodie hoods may not be worn in the school buildings unless there is a designated event (ex: Field Day). Failure to comply will result in the item being held in the office for parent/guardian to pick up.

Hair must be neat and clean. Unconventional hairstyles that distract from teaching and learning will be prohibited. Pink/Purple and other unconventional colors will not be permitted.

Pants are to be worn at the waist (no “sagging”) Tight fitting pants (e.g. tights, spandex, bicycle pants, etc.) are also prohibited. Frays or holes above the knees are prohibited.

Earrings - Girls are allowed to wear earrings if they are small and do not dangle. Only one earring per ear may be worn. Boys may wear only one earring total. No gauges in the ears may be worn.

Any clothes that are suggestive or indecent or which cause a distraction will be prohibited. Specifically, oversized clothing, tank tops, muscle shirts, halter/crop tops, spaghetti straps, exposed backs or midriffs, and see-through garments are prohibited.

No mid-thigh length skirts, skorts and dresses may be worn at all levels. There should not be a cut or slit in the clothing that extends above the mid-thigh. Suggestive and/or indecent styles will be prohibited. These requirements also apply to school uniforms.

Aromas- Children should be clean and free of perfume or cologne.

Every Friday is Spirit Day. Students may wear a McDermott shirt or they may wear a blue or green shirt. Every Wednesday is College Spirit Day. Students can wear their college gear to show their spirit.

GRADING/ PROGRESS REPORTS/ REPORT CARDS/ HONOR ROLL

Progress reports will go live on HAC Sept. 10, November 12, Feb 4, and April 15.

Report cards will go live on HAC on October 17, January 9, March 20, and May 20.

The honor roll for grades 3-5 consists of two categories, (1) students having all A's and (2) students having all A's and B's with at least one A.

To be on the honor roll, students may not have any N's or U's for Citizenship.

HOMEWORK

Homework is not required at our campus. However, teachers may assign homework at their discretion to support and reinforce classroom instruction. Any homework given will be purposeful and aligned with grade-level learning objectives.

LOST AND FOUND

Please label all of your children's jackets, backpacks, lunch boxes and other items with their first and last name. Anything found around the campus will be placed in the lost and found box located at the end of the hallway leading to the gym. Each year we have many items not claimed at the end of the school year. Those items are donated to a local charity.

SICK CHILDREN/SCHOOL NURSE

If a student is sent to the clinic because of illness, only the school nurse will determine whether the child needs to go home. If the child needs to go home, you will be called to come to school and pick up your child. We do realize this can be inconvenient at times; however, sick children need to be taken home for their own well being and the well being of those students with whom they come in contact.

It is a Northside I.S.D. policy that children be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. Please keep your emergency phone numbers updated. All medications must be taken to the school nurse. The nurse can advise you on medication policies for prescription and over the counter medications.

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS AFTER SCHOOL DISMISSAL

Teachers are on duty until 3:15 pm each afternoon. After 3:15 pm, students who remain at school will be brought to the office and parents will be called. You must park, come into the building and sign your child out after 3:15 pm.

If your child is consistently picked up late, you will be asked to attend a conference with an administrator. If the problem persists, we will consult with Northside Police for the next appropriate action.

TELEPHONE

Students will be asked to limit their phone calls to emergencies. We request that you do not ask for your child to be taken from class instruction to receive a phone call, unless it is an emergency. If your home or work phone number changes, please notify the school office immediately. It is imperative that we always have up to date/current phone numbers in case of illness or emergency.

STUDENT CELL PHONE USE

Students must keep their devices (cell phones, smart watches, etc.) in their backpack for the duration of the school day: class time, lunch time, recess, discovery time, etc.

Safety Monitoring Application (B.A.R.K. for Schools):

As an additional safety measure, the District is implementing a new student safety monitoring application called Bark for Schools. The implementation of this safety monitoring application at the middle and high school level will help provide the District yet another important tool to leverage in order to better protect our student's online activity while utilizing their school Google account.

Bark for Schools, an extension of Gmail, Google Drive, and Google Chat, is a content monitoring tool that leverages powerful artificial intelligence technology to help detect potentially dangerous or inappropriate situations that students may be facing both in and out of school including cyberbullying, threats of violence, predatory advances, inappropriate language, sexual content, and suicidal ideation.

If potential digital concerns arise on school-issued accounts, Bark for Schools is able to send designated school representatives specialized alerts to ensure they can address the situation in a timely manner. These alerts are important because they also provide insight that could help us continue to promote the well-being and safety of the entire student body.

Finally, it is important to understand that both NISD and Bark have a strong commitment to protecting student privacy. The District will not utilize this tool to monitor communications other than what is flagged in the previously mentioned categories with the intention of student safety in mind.

VOLUNTEERS

We love parent volunteers and appreciate it when you can volunteer in the classroom for a special event, party or go on a field trip. All volunteers must complete a Volunteer Background check before participating in an event. You can complete the background check by visiting: <http://nisd.net/volunteer/partnerships/volunteers-mentors> You can complete it in the library at the parent station or on your own internet accessible devices.

COMMUNICATION AND PARENT CONFERENCES

Good communication between home and school is the key to a successful year. Staff members can be reached by email or phone. Staff members check their email and voicemail before and after school and during conference periods, when possible. Teachers are NOT allowed to respond to emails or phone calls during instructional time. Our goal is to respond to all communication within 24 hours.

E-mail and other electronic communication is an extremely useful tool for communication. Used efficiently, it can promote improved home/school communication. However, excessive email may actually inhibit responsive communication and distract from teachers' other responsibilities such as working with children and planning/preparing for diverse student needs.

The following guidelines for staff and families are provided to help ensure e-mail enhances our ability to work together for our children:

- Use email to communicate general information or questions (i.e., attendance, scheduling, special events, deadlines, brief comments/questions).
- In-depth conversations or dialogue regarding a child are best held in person.
- During instructional time, teachers are focused on the children, and therefore cannot read and respond to email as quickly as it arrives in the Inbox.
- Emergency messages requiring immediate attention (such as an emergency change in a child's dismissal plan) should be called-in to the office to better ensure the information is transferred in a timely manner.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are encouraged throughout the school year and are to be pre-arranged at the request of the parent or the teacher. All parents will be invited to a conference during the first semester. Building a positive partnership between home and school is a priority for our staff. Please trust that our teachers sincerely care about each child and want to work with you to ensure your child's success.

Please note that teachers cannot stop instruction or traveling with the class during arrival or dismissal time to discuss an individual student. Teachers often arrive early to get materials ready and mentally prepare for the day. Please respect this time and do not "pop in" for an informal conference. If there is an immediate need, please call or e-mail to set up a conference at a mutually agreeable time when you can talk in private with no distractions.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips must be based on current curriculum and reflect NISD Standards. Teachers may ask parents to chaperone small groups of students, but the teacher is ultimately responsible for all students and should have his/her own group as well. Parents may NOT pick up their children from the field trip site. All students must return to school and be dismissed as usual. If a parent is a chaperone, we ask that they commit fully to their duties by not bringing any siblings on the field trip. If you think you may volunteer as a chaperone, please go to www.nisd.net and click on the "Volunteers and Mentors" link. You will find an online volunteer background check form to complete. This must be completed 72 hours in advance of attending any field trips with your child.

Parents that are not acting as chaperones are welcome to attend field trips to public locations, but will not be responsible for supervising any students.

HOME ACCESS CENTER (HAC)

HAC allows parents to view information regarding their child's grades and attendance at any time throughout the school year. It also allows parents to sign up for School Messenger voice, text and emails directly from the campus as well as cafeteria account information and payments. To login to HAC, go to <https://hac.nisd.net>

PTA

Please consider joining our McDermott PTA. The membership dues are only \$8.50, which supports fun instructional experiences for our students. Joining does not commit you to volunteer or give a time commitment. However, if you wish to volunteer we welcome your time and services. There are many ways parents may volunteer including tutoring students, helping teachers make instructional materials, copies, and/or serving as a room parent or field trip chaperone. All parent volunteers must complete a criminal background check and be cleared prior to volunteering. Forms are available at <https://hrvolunteer.nisd.net> or you may come to the school library to complete the form online using one of the school's computers. Each parent volunteer must update their background check annually.

SCHOOL MESSENGER

NISD has an automated phone system that allows us to send out phone call reminders and text messages. Parents must sign-up for this service at the NISD Parent Connection page (<https://nisd.net/parent-connection>)

TOYS/GAMES/GADGETS

Toys/games/gadgets may not be brought to school unless the teacher sends home a note (For example: show and tell, special events, Game Day, etc.). Please note that the school is not responsible for lost or damaged items.

**THANK YOU FOR BEING OUR PARTNER IN YOUR CHILD'S
EDUCATION!**