



Didsbury High School Information Guide

Website: www.didsburyhigh.ca

Introduction

This information is designed to provide you with some basic details on the school's expectations and programs. If you require further information, please check our website or ask a staff member.

Mission Statement

Didsbury High School is a safe and caring community that challenges and encourages every student to

Explore, Achieve, Excel

and become responsible life-long learners.

Student Responsibility

A student shall conduct themselves so as to reasonably comply with the following code of conduct as outlined in section 31 of the Alberta Education Act (2019):

- A) attend school regularly and punctually,
- B) be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue the student's education,
- C) ensure that the student's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging,
- D) respect the rights of others in the school,
- E) refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means,
- F) comply with the rules of the school and the policies of the board,
- G) co-operate with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services,
- H) be accountable to the student's teachers and other school staff for the student's conduct, and
- I) positively contribute to the student's school and community.

School Operation

Calendar and Bell Times

Bell times will be posted on our website and hard copies will be available at the office. Calendar events are also posted on our website in "year-at-a-glance" format, as well as updated monthly calendar is included in the school newsletter. Each student will be given a yearly day rotation calendar at the beginning of the school year. This will also be available on our website.

Locks and Lockers

All students are required to use a school lock on their locker. Lockers must be locked to prevent theft and damage to personal belongings. If a locker is not going to be used, please notify the office so that it can be properly secured. Each student is responsible for the contents of their locker.

Learning Commons

The Learning Commons includes a combination of print, technology, and student work areas. Our Learning Commons is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on school days and provides students with a quiet and flexible working environment.

Student Gathering Area

Our foyer is open for all students to eat lunch or gather outside of class time. Students are expected to clean up their table when leaving it.

Student Telephone

There is a telephone in the main office which can be used by students during breaks. This phone is not to be used by students during class time.

Dress for Success

Dress is generally a matter for parent and student discretion. Students should dress as though they are going to their place of employment. In particular, offensive slogans, sayings, pictures, tobacco, alcohol, drugs and violence on clothing are prohibited and will not be allowed in the school.

Emergencies

If a student is in an emergency situation, they should immediately go to the school office, which is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If an accident has occurred resulting in an injury, the school will attempt to contact the parents. Schools are not allowed to administer prescription or over-the-counter medication to students.

School Newsletter

The school's monthly newsletter is posted on our [website](#) each month, and via email through School Messenger.

School Pictures

Each September, the school has a photographer take individual student pictures. This is mandatory for all students as this serves as part of our student demographic information, our attendance system and will be used in our yearbook. Families are not required to purchase school pictures from the school photographer. Graduation photos will be organized separately by the Graduation Committee.

Extra-curricular Activities

Each year the staff and community volunteers devote countless hours outside of school time to the development and supervision of a wide variety of extra-curricular activities for students. These programs are a great way for students to enrich their high school experience and all students are encouraged to participate in as many activities as they can. DHS students are expected to be good ambassadors and representatives of our school when participating in extracurricular activities. Students' behaviors and attitudes both in and out of school should reflect this expectation. Students are expected to travel to and from extra-curricular activities in authorized vehicles and cannot drive other students.

Academic Guidance and Counseling

Academic counselors will assist with academic planning, study techniques and career counseling, in addition to post-secondary and scholarship applications.

Our Family School Wellness Worker has expertise in personal and family counseling. To meet with the wellness worker, parents must sign a consent form after an initial meeting. If there is a problem or immediate concern, either the counselor or administration will be happy to support.

School Council

School Council meets four times per school year in person or via Google Meet. Information regarding the meeting specifics will be provided to all parents/guardians through School Messenger. We encourage parents to participate in the School Council as important information regarding our school is often shared by administration.

School Fees

As of the 2023-2024 school year Chinook's Edge does not charge families a basic school fee. However, some CTS courses such as Industrial Arts, Home Economics, Art and many other option courses will require additional fees. If school fees are not paid or provisions made to be exempt, participation in Graduation Cap and Gown will not be permitted.

Student Conduct

It is expected that students will bring a cooperative and positive attitude each and every day. Students are expected to be respectful to school staff, fellow students and school property. Below are some specific expectations that students will follow:

Attendance

Regular on-time attendance is very important as it directly affects marks and sets good habits. When a student is absent, parents are asked to call and notify the school. Our main office can be contacted at any time and messages may be left on the answering machine at 403-335-3356.

When a student has an unexcused absence parents/guardians will be notified. A phone/text/email message will be sent out twice a day.

Lateness

We encourage punctuality as a courtesy to both staff and fellow students and as the formation of good habits for the future. Lates will be dealt with by individual teachers.

Signing Out

Students are to sign out at the office when leaving the school during class time. Parents are asked to notify the office when taking a student out of school for an appointment.

Harassment & Bullying

Each situation will be dealt with on an individual basis. The goal of each intervention will be to stop unacceptable behaviors, and allow everyone to attend school in a safe environment. Harassment and bullying through the means of technology will be dealt with by school administration when brought to our attention.

Smoking & Vaping

The use of any form of tobacco, including the possession of a vape and/or accessories on school property is forbidden. In alignment with Alberta laws, students under the age of 18 years cannot be in possession of tobacco products. Tobacco products and vapes will be confiscated and a consequence assigned as follows.

Possession of any of the above items will result in a 1 day out of school suspension and the confiscation of the associated items.

Use of the above mentioned items on the school property (including the grounds and parking lot) will result in a 3 day out of school suspension and the confiscation of the associated items.

Refusal to surrender the items listed above will result in a 5 day out of school suspension.

Drugs and Alcohol

Students found to be in possession or under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs on school premises will be immediately suspended, and may be recommended for expulsion. Students may not attend school or a school sanctioned activity (including graduation events) under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Anyone selling or providing alcohol or illegal drugs to other students will be turned over to the R.C.M.P. to be dealt with by our legal system.

Fighting

Students involved in violence of any kind, either before, during or after school may be suspended or recommended for expulsion. Students are responsible to the school for their behavior during the school day, which includes lunchtime and the journey to and from school.

Weapons

Any student in possession of any item which is or can be defined as a weapon will have the item confiscated and the student will be suspended.

Littering

It is expected that the school building and surrounding yard shall be maintained free of litter by students. The general rule is to clean up after yourself before you leave the area, whether that is outside or inside the school.

Electronic Devices

Appropriate use of electronic devices is expected at DHS. Each teacher will inform students when devices can and can't be used. If a staff member confiscates a device for inappropriate use, it will be returned to the student by the end of the school day. Cameras are strictly prohibited from change rooms and no pictures or videoing of school staff or students can be done without prior consent.

Fire Drills

Fire drills will be held throughout the year. Students are expected to leave the school in an orderly fashion with their class, and stay well away from the school until given the "All Clear" sign by office staff.

Bussing Expectations

Students are expected to demonstrate suitable behavior on their buses to avoid putting anyone at risk. Improper behavior is referred to school administration. Riding privileges may be withdrawn. Parents should notify the bus driver if their child is not going to be riding the bus at any time. Cancellation of a bus run due to inclement weather will be determined by the Director of Transportation in consultation with the Superintendent of Schools.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, the school division will issue a "yellow" or "red" school advisory. Yellow indicates that some busses may not be operating but classes will continue. New instruction can/will be covered on yellow days and students that cannot attend will be responsible for making up missed work. Red indicates that it is considered dangerous to travel to school and students/staff should not put themselves at risk. There may be instruction and homework provided on the Google Classroom, it is the responsibility of each student to check their Google Classroom and CESD email.

Student Parking

The student parking at DHS is limited to a first come first serve basis. Students are expected to park in an orderly manner within the indicated stalls. Students are NOT allowed to park in the teacher stalls or the visitor stalls under any circumstance. Students driving in an unsafe manner (stunting, speeding, music too loud, etc.) will be denied access to the parking lot.

Class Time

During scheduled class time, students on spares who remain in the school must be in the foyer or Learning Commons. Students are not to loiter in the hallways or shop/gym corridor during class time. The vending machine does provide change, however, if students require change from the school office, this can only be done during breaks. Please avoid interrupting the office during class time.