

# Bear Valley Middle School

3005 South Golden Way - Denver, CO 80227

Main phone: (720) 423-9600

Attendance 720-423-9666

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Website = [bearvalley.dpsk12.org](http://bearvalley.dpsk12.org)



## FAMILY & STUDENT HANDBOOK

*A school designed by the community, for the community.  
We are a district-run, neighborhood school option focused on  
growth and achievement for **all students!***

## Bear Valley Administration

*To reach any of our administration, please call the front office and they can connect you to the right person!*

### **Rachael Sutherland**

Proud Principal

[rachael\\_sutherland@dpsk12.net](mailto:rachael_sutherland@dpsk12.net)

### **Chris Plesko**

Assistant Principal

[christopher\\_plesko@dpsk12.net](mailto:christopher_plesko@dpsk12.net)

### **Sarah Masten, aka Mama Yeti**

School Operations Manager & Athletic Director

[sarah\\_masten@dpsk12.net](mailto:sarah_masten@dpsk12.net)

### **Taylor Sisneros**

Restorative Culture Team Lead

[taylor\\_sisneros@dpsk12.net](mailto:taylor_sisneros@dpsk12.net)

Click [HERE](#) to access our full staff directory on our website!

## Vision, Mission & School Values

**BVMS Vision:** Bear Valley Middle School is a pillar of academic excellence and service in its local community, immersing students in educational experiences focused on leadership, active citizenship, and a culturally affirming curriculum.

**BVMS Mission:** Bear Valley Middle School engages students in whole child, restorative, and community based learning that is comprehensive, personalized, and engaging to prepare them to be active members of society.

**Our Core Values:** At Bear Valley we commit to enacting the values of our Yeti community at all times, all staff and students will work to exemplify these core values each and every day as we are One Yeti, One ROAR.

## **I am Yeti, hear me ROAR:**

**Relationships:** I build relationships with peers, staff, and community members through trust and mutual respect. I believe in supporting those around me and I model solidarity every day as I unite with those in my school, local, and global communities. I do not accept mediocrity in myself or my peers, instead pushing for continuous improvement towards excellence.

**Open-mindedness:** I embrace the expansion of my mindset and look for opportunities to gain further understanding of struggles, victories, and experiences that are not my own. I contribute to our school being a Safe Place for everyone through supporting the well-being of all. I believe that I and my community can transform only by growing the capacity for empathy.

**Antiracist and Inclusive School:** I am an agent of change and work to understand how I can and will disrupt systems of oppression and bigotry in all levels of community. I take action in ways that ignite and bring about sustained empowerment of those whose voices and rights continue to be disregarded.

**Responsible:** I am responsible for being a part of my community via service and a commitment to Restorative Practices. I cultivate ways in which I can consistently improve my school and community by utilizing my strengths and passions. I learn from failures and risks to innovate and relentlessly aim towards success, development, and greatness. I embrace humility and commitment to healing any wounds I cause within our school and local communities and they embrace me with trust and confidence, lifting me up with support as we move forward.

## **Family Communication**

For the most immediate information and updates around school wide events, as well as emergency notifications, please expect the DPS auto-dialers, text and emails based on the preferences you choose during Registration. If at any point you would like to adjust how you receive communication (i.e. phone calls, emails, texts) please call the front office to request the adjustments.

Our website, <https://bearvalley.dpsk12.org/> and our [Facebook page](#) (@bearvalleyinternational) is kept up-to-date with the most current information and calendar updates. Similarly our Instagram page ([@BVMSYetis](#)) is often updated with fun videos and photos of our students engaging in learning so please be sure to follow us!

## **Restorative Practices**

Our goal at Bear Valley is to provide our students with the skills to be successful in the World.

Restorative Practices are built on the philosophy that we are all a part of a greater community. When we are involved in a conflict, it is our responsibility as members of the community to restore the damage caused by that conflict.

Bear Valley has a restorative culture team. They are available to speak with students and to help them find their voices to advocate for themselves. They work with families, students and staff to repair and restore relationships within our school community. If an RP (Restorative Practices Conversation) is facilitated involving your student, you will be contacted.

### **Restorative Practices is...**

- Building meaningful **RELATIONSHIPS** with the people around us
- Mutual **RESPECT** for each other and the values we share
- Sharing **RESPONSIBILITY** for taking care of others and our environment
- **REPAIRING** the community when it has been broken/harmed
- **REINTEGRATING** those who have caused harm.

## **School-wide Expectations**

At Bear Valley, we expect **all** students to uphold the following expectations. **You will receive a monthly progress report from your student's LC mentor informing you on their current progress:**

1. 93% attendance or higher
2. C's or better in all classes
3. On track iCAP
4. No major or repeated behavior issues
  - a. Students will be placed on Yeti Watch if they are not meeting behavior expectations. This will be determined by the number of times a student is called for support from their teachers in a week. If your student is put on Yeti Watch, the grade level RCT in which your student is in will reach out and explain the next steps on what Yeti Watch looks like.
  - b. Students on Yeti Watch will be ineligible for any after school programs they are a part of (to include playing in sports games). If behavior does not improve, students will have In School Suspension and possibly Out of School Suspension. Families will be asked to come for support meetings and shadowing their student at BVMS.

### **Quarterly Celebrations**

Each quarter, our student council plans a school-wide celebration. Students will be rewarded with this experience if they are "on track" with the above expectations. Additionally, there will be incentives and rewards throughout each quarter. LC mentors will conference with students regularly regarding on track / off track progress and will send families their monthly progress reports.

# Attendance Policy

At Bear Valley we value community and learning. We believe it is our collective responsibility as leaders, educators, families and community members that our students not only succeed, but thrive!

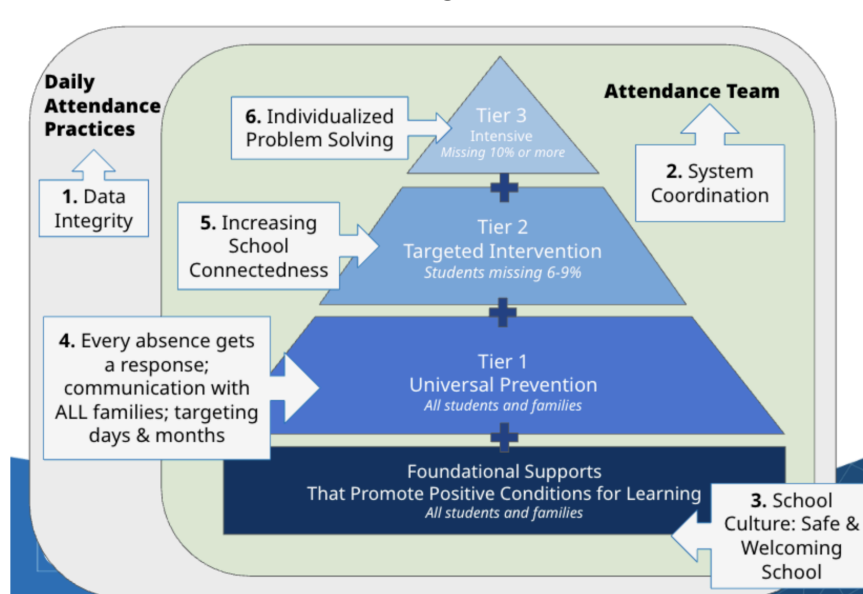
One critical component of ensuring our students' success is identifying and removing barriers that keep our students from coming to school each day. **Strong attendance helps each student develop socially, emotionally, and academically.** Not only does one student's strong attendance help that individual student, but it also helps their classmates, teachers and broader school community by ensuring consistency and stability. Teachers help students make up learning when they are absent but online assignments and lunch tutoring do not have the same impact as classroom instruction. With these values, student attendance is incredibly important and we expect students to **maintain an overall attendance percentage of 93% or higher.**

This means a student can only **miss 12 days total** throughout the school year, whether or not those days are excused. In addition to excused or unexcused full day absences, all tardies count against this percentage.

## What is Chronic Absenteeism?

All missed learning, regardless of the reasons for missing school, impacts student success.

Because of this, DPS focuses on decreasing **Chronic Absenteeism**: which is *defined as missing at least 10 percent of the time enrolled in a school year for any reason, including excused and unexcused absences and suspensions.* The focus is on the impact on academic and social emotional learning as a result of missed school attendance.



**We are here to partner with students and families to ensure students are at school, in turn, maximize their overall success at school.**

- We will be having monthly attendance celebrations and awards to celebrate high attendance and attendance growth!
- Please CALL (720-423-9600) or email ([bvoffice@dpsk12.org](mailto:bvoffice@dpsk12.org)) the front office if your student will be absent. We need to know that you know they are not at school.
- If families need assistance with transportation or other barriers please email [bvoffice@dpsk12.net](mailto:bvoffice@dpsk12.net) so we can connect you with available resources.
- Families can support their child in checking their attendance percentage and tardies regularly through DPS parent or student portal
- **Excused absences still count against a student's overall attendance percentage**
- We understand that circumstances arise for families and students must be out of school for more than two days. Please call the front office as soon as you are aware of these extended absence circumstances so we may properly support your student to keep them on track.

Excused Absences	Unexcused Absences
As per Denver Public Schools' Board Policy, absences can be excused if both the parent/guardian and the Principal excuse the absence. Parents/guardians must contact the school each time the student is absent, arriving at school late or being picked up early in order for the school to know that the parent/guardian is aware of the absence and excusing the absence.	An unexcused absence is any absence without the permission of <u>both</u> the parent/guardian <u>and</u> the school principal (or someone the principal designates). When a student is absent, arrives late or leaves early without an absence request from the parent/guardian, the time missed will be considered unexcused.

### **How Sick is Too Sick?**

Keep your child home or seek care if they:	Send your child to school even if they:*
Have a fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher	Have a mild cold, which may include a runny nose and/or cough
Have vomited two or more times in the last 24 hours	Have eye drainage without fever, eye pain or eyelid redness
Have a persistent cough, difficulty breathing or trouble catching their breath or if they develop a fever with the cough	Have a mild stomach ache
Have a rash with blisters that are draining, are painful, look like bruises and/or if a fever	Have a mild rash with no other symptoms

develops	
Have eye swelling, eye pain, trouble seeing or an eye injury	Has head lice. Though they are annoying and should be treated, lice are not a reason to exclude a child from school
Have a sore throat causing drooling, trouble swallowing or a fever and/or rash	Have not had a fever overnight and they have not taken fever-reducing medicine during that time

*\*If you do not know whether to send your child to school or have specific concerns regarding your child's health, contact your child's health-care provider, a local urgent care or the school nurse*

## Tardy Policy

Students are expected to be in every class, on time, every day. Students are expected to be in their Learning Community classrooms in their seats and prepared to start the date by 8:50am. **Students with excessive (3 or more) or habitual tardiness in a single class will be in ISS the following day that they reach their 3rd tardy.** Our staff is committed to supporting your family in getting your student to school on time. For students who struggle with getting from class to class on time, our teams will implement targeted interventions to support those students.

## Grading Policy

Grading expectations at BVMS have shifted for the 25-26 school year. Please review the information below to understand these changes. At BVMS we understand that students make progress towards mastery of grade level standards and content when they receive specific, timely, and accurate academically-focused feedback that provides precise next steps. Academic grades are an important way students and families can understand student progress towards mastery of grade level standards. Students should always understand what is being graded, how they will be assessed, and the criteria for mastery of every assignment. Assignments at BVMS are divided into three categories throughout the quarter.

Product: 50%	Process: 40%	Engagement: 10%
<p>Large assignments or assessments that reflect <b>mastery</b> of grade level standards and grade level content of a Unit.</p> <p><i>Typically one or two grades per unit. These grades <b>can</b> be re-attempted.</i></p>	<p>Assignments given <b>throughout</b> a Unit that reflect <b>students' learning process towards mastery</b> of grade level standards and grade level content.</p> <p><i>Typically one to five grades per week. These grades <b>can</b> be re-attempted.</i></p>	<p>Anything that reflects participation but is NOT directly linked to measuring mastery of standards. This category is based 50% on timely attendance to class and 50% effort. Unexcused tardies to class will result in a maximum grade of 50% on engagement assignments.</p> <p><i>Typically one grade per class period. These grades <b>cannot</b> be re-attempted.</i></p>



<b>Examples:</b> Final unit projects or essays, unit assessments, interim assessments	<b>Examples:</b> Exit tickets, class assignments, quizzes	<b>Examples:</b> Do Nows, class participation
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- Any tests or assignments that are not submitted will be marked as “missing” in Schoology to inform students they need to be completed. These assignments will earn a 0 until they are completed or the grading deadline passes.
- Students are welcome to complete **missing product or process** assignments or **re-attempt product or process** work up until the end of a Unit. The end of a Unit is determined by the date of the Unit test or due date of a Unit project or essay.
- Unit assessment corrections (ex. test, project, essay) can be submitted during the two weeks following a Unit assessment or the end of a Quarter, whichever comes first.
- Assignments or assessments that are submitted for a re-attempt or corrections can earn back a **MAXIMUM** of one letter grade from the original grade.
  - For example - F (40%) to D (60%) or C (71%) to B (81%)
- **Feedback** is **always** provided so students know their next steps in the learning process
- Student receive monthly progress reports which are communicated home via email
- It is our expectation that families review student grades on a weekly basis using Schoology, therefore report cards for each quarter are typically available for pick-up by request only. End of Year report cards will be available online via Parent Portal. Paper copies will be printed by request only.

## Schoology

Families and students can receive up-to-date academic information using Schoology by logging in to the DPS parent portal. All grades, assignments and other academic resources can be accessed through this Platform. Teachers are expected to update grades regularly. We recommend that families sit down with their students on a weekly basis and review schools. This will hold students accountable with late or missing assignments and their academic goals. If your family requires support with Schoology. Please contact the front office. Click [HERE](#) on how to log in!

## Chromebooks

Through the MyTech program every DPS student is assigned a chromebook. Below outlines the Verbiage that is provided and acknowledged in the waiver portion of DPS Online Registration.

### BVMS Chromebook (CB) Expectations and Care

- We strongly encourage students to plug in their chromebook in their LC cart at the end of each day to ensure it is safe and charged for the next day.
  - However if they do need to bring the CB home to complete school work, they must tell their LC mentor and ensure they remember to return the next day fully charged.
- Students that do not have their assigned chromebook will need to sign out a loaner computer between LC and P2.
- If a student has damaged or lost their chromebook, they must let a staff member know immediately.



- If a student is found to intentionally damage/disrespect their CB they will be held accountable by either receiving a fee in MySchoolBucks to cover the repair or could lose CB privileges resulting in having to do all their school work on paper,

In consideration of the use of a district-issued device and network resources used in school and, if applicable, at home, the parent/caregiver and student agree that:

1. Student will use the district-issued computer (device) at school and district-issued device and/or Network resource at home. Student may not use a personal device for instruction in school.
2. Student will use the district-issued device according to instructors' guidance while in school and, if applicable, at home.
3. Parent/caregiver acknowledges that while the District makes every effort to ensure the security of the device, students may be able to access unsecured and unfiltered networks outside of the control of Denver Public Schools. Responsible use of network resources is the sole responsibility of the student and parents.
4. Parent/caregiver and student will be personally responsible for any accidental or intentional damage to or loss of the device, network resource and/or related accessories while in the student's care - on or off of school property. Damage or loss fees will be invoiced to student MySchoolBucks account based on the following fee structure:

- Accidental damage (claimable by warranty): there is NO fee for this, please encourage your student

to notify their school as soon as possible if they have damage to their device.

- Intentional/ negligent damage (non-claimable by warranty): the full cost of the part(s) needing to be Repaired
  - I.e. a screen is roughly \$153 and a keyboard is roughly \$50. In cases where damage can't be claimed, the school will receive a quote of how much it would cost to replace the part(s), which will be passed on to the parent/ guardian

• **Lost/misplaced/stolen device: the full cost to replace the Chromebook, approximately \$399.13**

• **Chromebook charger: \$27.95**

• **Chromebook case: \$19.89**

• **Hotspot or hotspot charger: \$20**

Note: the final cost will reflect the actual replacement cost of the part(s) and/or device. The prices may

change based on factors outside of DPS' control, such as inflation or tariffs.

The damage fee will be determined by the DoTS Hardware Repair team, who are certified to diagnose and repair Lenovo Chromebooks. They will provide the school with a quote on what the total repair cost is, based on the damaged part(s), up to the cost of a replacement Chromebook. Fees may be paid on an alternative payment plan or waived, based at the discretion of the school.

5. Parent/caregiver and student will return the device and network resources upon request in the condition as it was received, taking into account normal wear and use.
6. It is understood that the intentional failure to return related district property to the school under some circumstances may constitute theft of district property.

7. Device and network resources are property of Denver Public Schools as is any installed software. As such, the district can monitor its use remotely and any violations of Denver Public Schools' policy can result in discipline in line with district policy.
8. Devices may be erased as part of maintenance or repair. Backup of student-owned data is solely the responsibility of the student and neither the school nor the district is responsible for loss of stored files, music, video or software.
9. Student will keep the device and network resources clean and in proper working condition. Student will notify a school representative immediately if the device does not work as expected or shows unusual wear.
10. Any text, imagery, or audio that is illegal according to local, state, or federal law (e.g., threats, hate speech, obscene or sexual images or text) will be immediately reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
11. Parent/caregiver and student will comply with all additional terms and conditions set forth in any Addenda included in the Hotspot Use Agreement, as applicable. Such Addenda will be enforced by DPS. v This agreement ends, upon:
- The student's transfer to a charter school, withdrawal from the district or upon the request of the school principal or other school representative, whichever occurs first, AND
  - After the device has been returned in good working order and all applicable

## Cellphones & Personal Technology

Having a cell phone policy will ensure a positive and distraction-free school day. When students enter the building and head to lockers before LC, **all cell phones, airpods and any other electronics should be powered off and put locked in lockers.** If a family is concerned that this is not a secure location, please keep the phone at home. Students are able to use the front office courtesy phone after school. Students choosing to bring cell phones and other electronics to school resume responsibility for those devices, the school is not responsible for lost, stolen or broken items.

- **Grade levels will be able to EARN the privilege to use cell phones during lunch time.** The expectations for lunch are the following:
  - Take pictures of friends or film them ONLY with their consent
  - Access school appropriate content while on school grounds or using school devices

**Electronic devices that are seen or heard in school during the academic day will be addressed with the following process:**

- **1st Violation:** RCT will take the students phone/airpods and give it to Mrs. Sutherland
  - RCT will call home for the student and let them know their student is able to pick up their device. RCT will let the student and guardian know the students next offense the guardian will have to pick up the phone or airpod from Mrs. Sutherland.
- **2nd Violation:** RCT takes the device and gives it to Mrs. Sutherland.

- RCT will call home and let the guardians know they will have to pick the phone up at the end of the day. If the guardian is unable to pick up the phone/airpods, there will be a safe that the device(s) will be stored in.
- Students and guardians will be made aware of the steps if there is a 3rd violation.
- **3rd Violation:** Students device will be taken and given to Mrs. Sutherland
  - The student will have a meeting with Mrs. Sutherland regarding their 3rd violation.
  - Guardians will be notified of the incident and the next steps in which a student receives a full day of ISS
  - Guardians will be requested to come in and go over a technology device contract

***The school is not responsible for loss or theft of cell phones or other electronic devices.***

**Investigation of theft will only take place upon receiving reliable tips.**

## Dress Code

To develop commUNITY and Yeti Pride, BVMS upholds a [Dress Code policy](#) for all students. School culture will become more unified as students learn the skill of dressing to create a professional and inviting atmosphere for all students.

- **Students who reach THREE incidents (per quarter) of being out of compliance with dress code expectations will be assigned 1 day of In School Suspension (ISS).**
- Attire must not disrupt the school's learning environment. It must meet reasonable standards of cleanliness and show respect for themselves and others.
- Jackets and hoodies are allowed, but at no time are the students allowed to wear their hood in the building and must match our color wheel.
- Throughout the year BVMS will have scheduled "Free Dress Days" and Spirit Weeks.

# Bear Valley Dress Code



## ALLOWED!

- Hats & beanies!
- Pants, shorts, & skirts can be worn in any color/style but must:
  - Cover legs with no rips or shreds above the mid-thigh
  - Shorts & skirts must be at or below fingertips with arms at sides

## Shirts & Outerwear

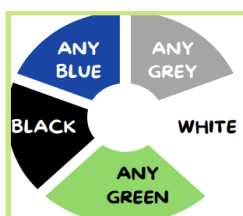
- All tops must be one of the 5 approved colors of **black, any shade of blue, any shade of grey, white or any shade of green.**
- Tops must be **plain (no stripes or color blocking) and free of logos** unless the ONE logo on the shirt can be covered by a 3in\*3in square (i.e. Nike Swoosh, Addidas logo)
- Shirts all must have **straps that are at least 3 fingers wide** (no thin straps or tube tops)
- **BVIS logo'd t-shirts and hoodies** from previous years are welcomed!

TO DEVELOP COMMUNITY AND YETI PRIDE, WE EXPECT OUR STUDENTS TO UPHOLD THESE EXPECTATIONS EVERYDAY!

## NOT ALLOWED!

- Sunglasses inside school building
- Any article of clothing promoting drugs, alcohol, violence, discrimination, sexual innuendo, derogatory language, gangs, or any illegal activity

## Five Color Wheel



## HOODIES

Jackets, pull-over or zip-up hoodies in the 5 color wheel are allowed, **but hood must be off heads at all times** inside the building

Shirts under outerwear must be in the FIVE color wheel

## No Sleepwear

- No house slippers
- No blankets
- No fleece PJ pants

## The 3 NO B's

- No bellies!
  - No crop tops
- No butts!
  - No sagging
- No bodysuits!

## Restroom Policy

Bear Valley's restroom policy is in place to ensure that students are engaged as much as possible in class, receiving instruction and maximizing learning time. Our restroom norms and expectations also help ensure that our hallways and restrooms are safe.

- **Students use the restroom 2 times in each class per week.** There is a school-wide restroom system that will be familiar to all students
- **Students will not be permitted to use the restroom during the first and last 10 minutes of class.** This is a critical time to start and end class with success.
- If families are concerned about this policy or their student has medical related needs/circumstances, please reach out to Nurse Katiea at 720-423-9580 so we can accommodate your student.

## In School Suspension (ISS)

**Rationale:** In-School Suspension (ISS) serves as an essential disciplinary intervention designed to maintain a safe, respectful, and productive learning environment while supporting student growth and accountability. At the middle school level—where students are navigating critical developmental, emotional, and academic transitions—ISS provides a structured alternative to out-of-school suspension (OSS) that minimizes lost instructional time and maximizes behavioral reflection and correction.

### Goals:

- Promote Accountability and Reflection
- Promote Positive Behavior Change

- Reduce Repeat Offenses
- Reintegrate Students Successfully
  - Prepare students to return to their regular classes with a clear understanding of behavioral expectations.
- Provide a short debrief or reentry process to support a positive transition.
- Maintain Academic Continuity
- Ensure School Safety and Order:
  - ISS provides immediate consequences for disruptive or unsafe behaviors while keeping students on campus, ensuring the safety and order of the broader school community without excluding students from the learning environment entirely.
- Strengthen Student-Staff Relationships:
  - With proper structure, ISS becomes a setting where staff can engage with students one-on-one, discuss behavior patterns, and provide targeted interventions or referrals to school counselors or social workers.

In-School Suspension is not merely a disciplinary tool, but a proactive measure to redirect students toward academic and social-emotional success. When implemented thoughtfully, ISS helps middle school students develop the self-discipline, reflection skills, and academic perseverance necessary for long-term success in school and life. Restorative work will still be a key factor in ISS. Students will work on content while in ISS as well.

### **How does my student receive In School Suspension (ISS)?**

*In addition to high level safety incidents as per DPS Discipline Matrix (e.g. fighting, vaping) students may receive ISS by repeatedly not meeting three school-wide expectations. Every quarter the number resets and they are given a fresh start for the quarter in all categories below.*

- **Dress code (3 incidents per quarter):**
  - If a student is found to be out of compliance with our dress code policy 3 times in a quarter, they will receive ISS.
  - This includes all and ANY dress code violations.
    - If a student receives multiple dress code warnings, the consequence will go up with the days they serve in ISS and can result in OSS if the issue is habitual.
- **Cell Phones/airpods (3 incidents per quarter):**
  - Our expectation is for students to leave ALL personal technology in their personal locker.
  - If a student is caught with their cell phones and/or airpods 3 times in a quarter, the student will receive a full day of ISS.

- A cellphone contract will be made after the third offense with a family meeting required. This contract will be made with RCT and admin.
  - If a student receives multiple cellphone/airpod warnings, the consequence will go up with the days they serve in ISS and can result in OSS if the issue is habitual.
- **Dial 0's (3 incidents per quarter):**
  - A student will receive a "Dial 0" if they have...
    - Been out of class with a bathroom pass for longer than 5 minutes
    - Left class without permission
    - Responsible for a classroom safety concern
  - Once a student reaches their third dial zero they will have ISS the following day.
    - If a student receives multiple dial zeros, the consequence will go up with the days they serve in ISS and can result in OSS if the issue is habitual.
- **Yeti-Watch:**
  - If a student is put on Yeti-watch and fails to reach the release week phase, they will serve a full day off ISS.
    - If a student is still struggling with certain behaviors we will request a family meeting to discuss next steps and other interventions for the student. Consequences will still follow for habitual misbehavior.

## Hallways & Transitions

In the hallways, students are expected to stay to the right side of the hallways and stairs and walk directly and quickly to class. Students have 3 minutes to get to class on time. Students are expected to be in their assigned seat ready to learn when the bell rings. Students should have all materials for class and be working on the do now when they enter. When students are in the halls, they should keep hands, feet and objects to themselves. There is to be no horseplay, running, or yelling

### Hall Passes

Students must have a pass at all times if they are in the hallway during classes. If your student needs more bathroom passes due to a medical concern, please speak to nurse Katie.

## Illness, Injury & Medication

The school health office is open to students who are ill, injured, or have a health concern. Students come to the office with a teacher, except in emergencies when a pass is not necessary. If a student has a specific health problem that requires medication during the school day, written instructions from parents and/or physicians are required. Medication must be checked in with either the nurse, or the school secretary. No medication will be dispensed without a properly labeled

Prescription. **Students are NOT allowed to carry any medication including advil/tylenol.**

## DPS Discipline Matrix

Click [HERE](#) to access the DPS Discipline Matrix

## Harmful Substances

The use or possession or use of of alcohol, tobacco, and other substances illegal for minors is forbidden, and your student may be issued tickets by law enforcement officials if you are found in possession of these items. This rule also applies to inappropriate use of supplies provided by Bear Valley Staff. BVMS will follow the DPS Discipline Matrix for disciplinary actions.

## Inappropriate & Derogatory Language

We expect students to use school appropriate language at all times. Swearing, racial and gender slurs as well as homophobic, racist and antisemitic language will not be tolerated. This includes verbal, written and obscene gestures. Students using inappropriate or derogatory language will engage in a restorative conversation and next steps will be determined in alignment with the DPS discipline matrix. Derogatory language will not be tolerated and will result in ISS and restorative projects in which the student is required to present to the appropriate crowd affected by their behavior. If the student is unsuccessful in ISS they will receive further disciplinary actions.

## Weapons

Carrying, bringing, using or possessing a knife or dangerous weapon results in a mandatory referral to law enforcement. Weapons make our school unsafe and are absolutely prohibited, and will result in behavior referrals, suspensions, and the potential for expulsion from Bear Valley Middle School. This includes any sort of knife. BVMS follows the DPS Discipline Matrix for disciplinary actions.

## Bullying & Harassment

Denver Public Schools uses the following definition of bullying:

*Bullying is the use of coercion or intimidation to obtain control over another person or to cause physical, mental or emotional harm to another person. Bullying can occur through written verbal or electronic means, or by a physical act or gesture.*

Bullying behavior can include the following, **when it is prolonged, persistent and deliberate:**


- Physical abuse or hitting
- Verbal Abuse or name-calling
- Stealing or disrespect of property
- Malicious or hurtful name-calling, verbal threats or intimidation
- Incitement or getting someone else to do any of the previous mentioned actions
- Harassment, defined as repeated, unwanted and disrespectful attention and or any behavior which has the intention or effect of harming or intimidating others. This



includes social network posts and other communication forms that are harassing in nature.

- Harassment based on sex, ethnicity, or religion will result in DPR paperwork being submitted to Student Safety. Harassment may result in charges being pressed

## Campus Logistics

- Lost items are stored in the Main Office and then donated at the end of each quarter. Found articles should be turned in to the main office.
- Report all change of address or phone numbers to the **Attendance line** at 720-423-9666.
- All visitors to the BVMS office must enter through the school main doors and check- in with the main office staff.
  - If you plan on staying on campus for an extended period of time we will check you in through our Raptor system, please have your state issued ID available to create an ID badge.
- BVMS is a Closed Campus. Once on school grounds, including being dropped off by the school bus, students are expected to remain on campus until school is dismissed unless accompanied by a parent or guardian and signed out in the main office according to school policy.
- Click  [Safe Drop-off and Pick-up Map.docx](#) for our Safe Drop-off and Pick up locations per grade level.
  - If families have more than one child at Bear Valley we suggest those siblings to find a meeting place to connect with their ride

## School Calendar

Bear Valley has a unique [25-26 school calendar](#) that is slightly different from other DPS schools. Please be aware of the BVMS ONLY no school days.

### Save the Date: No School For Students!

*You can help maximize your student's attendance by scheduling appointments on the following days whenever possible to prevent full day absences or early pick ups.*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• September 1st 2025</li><li>• September 22nd 2025</li><li>• October 13th 2025</li><li>• October 31st 2025</li><li>• November 24th-28th<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Thanksgiving Break</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• December 1st (BVMS only)</li><li>• Dec 22nd- Jan 5th 2026<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Winter Break</li></ul></li><li>• January 19th 2026</li><li>• February 16th 2026</li><li>• February 27th 2026</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• March 13th 2026 ( BVMS only)</li><li>• Mar 30th - Apr 3rd 2026<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Spring Break</li></ul></li><li>• April 6th 2026 (BVMS only)</li><li>• May 1st 2026</li><li>• May 25th 2026</li></ul>
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# Bear Valley Middle School 2025-2026 Calendar



## FIRST & LAST DAYS

- FIRST DAY for 6th grade ONLY  
Mon 8/18/25
- FIRST DAY for 7th & 8th grade  
TUES 8/19/25
- LAST DAY for 8th grade ONLY  
WED 5/27/26  
Continuation Ceremony at 6pm
- LAST DAY for 6th & 7th  
FRI 5/29/26  
Dismissal at 1:00pm

## Attendance Matters!



**You must be at school to learn!**

### Quarter Term Dates

1st = Aug 18th - Oct 17th  
2nd = Oct 20th - Dec 19th  
3rd = Jan 6th - March 12th  
4th = Mar 16th - May 29th

### Early Release Dates

During our CMAS Testing week we will dismiss each day at 2:00pm.  
Monday Apr 13th - Friday 17th

## NO SCHOOL DAYS

- VACATION
- HOLIDAY
- DPS PLANNING DAYS
- BEAR VALLEY ONLY PLANNING DAYS

## PLEASE REPORT ABSENCES!

- bvoffice@dpsk12.org
- (720)-432-9600 option #1

## Bell Schedule

- Bear Valley's bell schedule is 8:50am to 3:50pm
- Outside supervision starts at 8:30am.
  - If the weather is below 30 or actively precipitating we open the doors at 8:40am.
- On normal days the doors open at 8:45am to allow students 5 minutes to visit their locker, grab a FREE grab and go breakfast to be in their seat in their Learning Community class by 8:50am sharp!
- To help our students start their day smoothly and on time, please plan to arrive early enough so your child is in their first classroom by the start of the school day. Dropping off at 8:50 can cause them to miss important instruction and disrupt their daily routine.

Period	Time	<b>Learning Communities (LC)</b> Students will be assigned to a learning community (LC) with their assigned mentor. LC is
LC	8:50-9:16	
Period 2	9:19-10:16	
Period 3	10:19-11:16	

Period 4	11:19-11:50 ( <b>7th LUNCH</b> ) 11:19-12:16 ( <b>6th &amp; 8th in class</b> )	similar to a “homeroom” and will be where they begin their day. Social Emotional learning (SEL), iCAP and other LC announcements will occur during this time. Your student's LC mentor will serve as your primary point of contact throughout the school year.
Period 5	12:19-12:50 ( <b>6th &amp; 8th lunch</b> ) 11:49-12:47 ( <b>7th in class</b> )	
Period 6	12:53-1:50	
Period 7	1:53-2:50	
Period 8	2:53-3:50	

## Morning Entry

**School starts at 8:50am.**

- Doors will open at respected grade level entries at 8:45am. Students are expected to place their personal belongings in their lockers, grab breakfast and proceed directly to their LC classrooms ready to learn when the bell rings at 8:50am.
- If the weather is below 30 degrees or actively precipitating we will open the doors at 8:40am
- If students are late they need to use the main entrance so they can be check-in and receive a tardy pass.

## Breakfast & Lunch

During the 2025/2026 school year, all students will be able to receive a *complete* FREE breakfast and lunch for no cost. Students must bring money or have money in their [MySchoolBucks](#) accounts to purchase things like second entrees and/or a la carte items. All families are still strongly encouraged to [complete an application for their household](#) as the information determines critical funding for Denver Public Schools and a qualifying application may make the student eligible for other benefits.

### Grab and Go breakfast

- There will be (FREE) breakfast in each grade level hallway every morning. LC is a perfect time for our students to eat breakfast. If your student is tardy our front office has a limited amount of breakfasts to give out.

### Lunch & Recess

- Students are expected to follow behavior expectations during lunch, including a reasonable voice level, cleaning up after themselves, and being kind and respectful of others and their property. Students may not leave the building for lunch unless signed out by and accompanied by your parent/guardian.

## Food Delivery Services

Students are **NOT allowed to access food delivery services** (Uber Eats, DoorDash, Grubhub... etc) at school. Any food ordered will be held by Bear Valley front office staff and returned after the end of the school day. Families who deliver cold lunches can be delivered to students if we receive before their scheduled lunch time.

## Lunch Repair

Lunch repair will be requested by the teacher. This is a time for students to repair directly with the teacher in their room to ensure students meet behavior expectations going forward.

## Lunch Service

**Students will be assigned lunch service (for following day) due to following:**

- Hall Sweeps - these are periodically run during the day to ensure students are moving class to class with purpose. If they are tardy during this hall sweep, the next day they will serve Lunch Service.

## Lockers & Backpacks

Lockers provide students a safe and secure place to store their personal belongings throughout the school day. **To maximize school safety, students are not permitted to wear purses, bags or backpacks throughout the day.** All personal items should be locked in their locker. Students only need their chromebook and class materials for the day.

1. **Locker sharing is not permitted.** Extra support will be provided if students struggle to get their assigned locker opened.
2. Only students officially assigned to a locker have the right to use the locker.
3. Students should report any locker issues or challenges to their LC mentor immediately.
4. **Students may only use their lockers during morning entry, before and after lunch and during afternoon dismissal.**
  - a. *If a student needs materials for class from their locker, teachers can write them a pass. However, this should be a rare occurrence and students should be prepared for the day.*
5. **Cell phones must be powered off, not silenced and placed in lockers throughout the duration of the school day.**
6. Locker combinations should not be shared. It is the student's responsibility to keep their locker combinations private and to be responsible for their possessions. Students should keep only their own belongings in their locker.
7. All lockers are the property of the school and are assigned to students for their use for approved purposes only. All lockers are subject to periodic inspection.
8. School officials may, without prior warning, search property assigned for the students use, including assigned lockers.
9. Security of a locker is the responsibility of the student assigned to the locker.
  - a. Teachers should not hold on to student personal possessions in place of locker

- b. Teachers should not support students in opening lockers beyond the first two weeks of school. They should never hand a locker key to a student. Rather, they should work together to build the skill of opening a combination locker
- 10. It is the responsibility of the assigned student to keep the locker clean and orderly.
- 11. Bear Valley Middle School is not responsible for the valuables in the locker (including money, jewelry, electronic equipment or phones)
- 12. Do not keep contraband items including weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco products or any other inappropriate materials.

## After School Activities

After-school activities are a great way to get involved and make new friends.

### After School Clubs

Students must be registered in advance in order to participate. Notification for clubs will go out via

texts/emails to families and in flyers around the school and LC announcements.

- Student voice will determine what clubs are offered for the year. Families will receive additional communication with details of the club options throughout the year.
- Positive behavior that is compliant with BVMS and after-school rules is expected of all BVMS students. Continuing behavior that violates these expectations will result in students barred from participation in after-school activities for time periods ranging from two weeks to a full school year. Students must report to their clubs by every day and must leave immediately after the club is done. Students are not allowed to stay on school grounds without adult supervision.
- Students who are actively assigned Yeti Watch and/or are on their release week are not permitted to stay after school for clubs.

## Athletics

Bear Valley proudly offers all DPS Prep Sports! Tryouts are announced to students via Learning Community announcements and hallway flyers and will be communicated to families via text/email, social media and newsletters.

### In order to participate in athletics, students must:

- Be academically eligible, no Ds or Fs!
- No discipline concerns!
  - If a student is assigned to Yeti Watch they are unable to play in games, but can still practice.
- Have a sports physical no older than 1 calendar year!
- Pay the appropriate fee \$25 FRL or \$35 per season

- In order to determine your status, you must fill out the [You Benefit! form](https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application) at <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>

### **Before try-outs, families must complete the Arbiter Student**

#### **Registration:**

- Families will register their students for each sport on Arbiter Registration. This system is where current physicals, emergency contact information, and consent forms will be updated.
- In order to process the registration, the pay to play fee must be paid through the Arbiter registration
- If a student does not make the team, a full refund will be provided

### **DPS Prep Sport Middle School Programing Calendar\*\***

\*\*sport offerings are contingent on having a qualified coach and the total required number of participants to build a team roster per sport

<b>Early Fall 9/3-10/19/24</b>	<b>Late Fall 10/21-12/14/24</b>	<b>Winter 1/7-2/22/25</b>	<b>Early Spring 2/18-4/12/25</b>	<b>Spring 4/7-5/17/25</b>
Boys & Girls Cross Country	Girls Flag Football	Girls Volleyball	Girls Basketball	Girls Softball
Baseball	Boys Flag Football	Boys Volleyball	Boys Basketball	Boys Soccer
Girls Soccer				

All of DPS middle schools have moved to Arbiter Registration. Prior to tryouts, the specific link to said sport will be communicated to families to register the child.

Students are unable to try-out for any sports until this registration form is filled out!

Please note: this is the same system currently being used for DPS High School sports so if you already have an account you can just add Bear Valley Middle School to your profile and add your middle schoolers to your account!

## **Emergency Response: Fire, Lockdown, Secure Perimeter & Shelter in Place Drills**

Safety drills are conducted on a periodic basis, and at least once per semester. Exit routes are placed in each room. Students are to remain silent while walking from the building during drills and during all lock-downs. Once outside, students may talk quietly, but are expected to maintain order and a sense of urgency.

Families will be notified when drills are conducted. In the event of a real emergency you will receive



phone/text/email updates as we are able to share information.



## **HOLD! In your room or area. Clear the halls.**

### **STUDENTS**

Clear the hallways and remain in room or area until the "All Clear" is announced  
Do business as usual

### **ADULTS**

Close and lock the door  
Account for students and adults  
Do business as usual



## **SECURE! Get inside. Lock outside doors.**

### **STUDENTS**

Return to inside of building  
Do business as usual

### **ADULTS**

Bring everyone indoors  
Lock outside doors  
Increase situational awareness  
Account for students and adults  
Do business as usual



## **LOCKDOWN! Locks, lights, out of sight.**

### **STUDENTS**

Move away from sight  
Maintain silence  
Do not open the door

### **ADULTS**

Recover students from hallway if possible  
Lock the classroom door  
Turn out the lights  
Move away from sight  
Maintain silence  
Do not open the door  
Prepare to evade or defend



## **EVACUATE! (A location may be specified)**

### **STUDENTS**

Leave stuff behind if required to  
If possible, bring your phone  
Follow instructions

### **ADULTS**

Lead students to Evacuation location  
Account for students and adults  
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults



## **SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.**

### **STUDENTS**

Use appropriate safety strategy for the hazard

#### **Hazard**

Tornado  
Hazmat  
Earthquake  
Tsunami

#### **Safety Strategy**

Evacuate to shelter area  
Seal the room  
Drop, cover and hold  
Get to high ground

### **ADULTS**

Lead safety strategy  
Account for students and adults  
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults