



DELTA High School Student Handbook

2025–2026 School Year

School Information:

655 S Monaco Pkwy, Room 120
Denver, CO 80224
Phone: 720.423.8740
Website: www.delta.dpsk12.org

Administration (click for contact info)

Principal: April McLaughlin

Assistant Principal: ADULIS DESTA

Counselor: EMILIE SENEFF

School Psychologist: Renee Paxton

Dean of Culture: JAMES HARTSFIELD

Non-Discrimination Statement

Denver Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, or disability in providing educational services, activities, and programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

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Mission and Vision

Mission: Preparing students to thrive, take ownership, and confidently lead in their lives and communities.

Vision: DELTA empowers learners to live a fulfilled life of their design through rigorous learning, educational equity, and collective responsibility. Our supportive learning environment allows students to flourish, grow confidence, and prepare to lead locally and globally with empathy and integrity.

Faculty Directory

Name	Title	Room
April McLaughlin	Principal	116
ADULIS DESTA	Assistant Principal	118
JAMES HARTSFIELD	Dean of Culture	118
Toluwanimi Obiwole	Office Support III	120
EMILIE SENEFF	Counselor	112J
Renee Paxton	School Psychologist	223F
	Security	242
RAMONA RILEY	CTE	224

CHERRY JOHNSON	Language Arts / ELD	115
COLBY STERLING	Language Arts	220
Skyler Addington	Mathematics	117
William Biancarelli	Mathematics	119
Janet Damon - She & Her	Social Studies	219
TBD	Science	218/238
DANNA WELCH	Exceptional Student Services	217
SOPHONCE CHAN	Student, Parent, Family, Community Liaison	217

Bell Schedule

Period	Time
Period 1	8:57 am – 9:30 am
Period 2	9:33 am – 10:38 am
Period 3	10:41 am – 11:46 am
Lunch	11:49 am – 12:36 pm
Period 5	12:39 pm – 1:44 pm
Period 6	1:47 pm – 2:52 pm

Period 7	2:55 pm – 4:00 pm
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Academic Calendar

Calendar Notes:

- Dates and times are subject to change. Stakeholders will be updated as soon as possible in the event of any calendar changes.
- Report Cards for each quarter will be sent by email on file within the two weeks following the end of the quarter.
- Collaborative School Committee (CSC) – Parents and guardians are encouraged to join the CSC. This committee allows you as a parents/guardians to work with administration and participate in providing feedback for DELTA's future regarding staffing, school budget, updates on technology, as well as DELTA's marketing, social media, branding, and website.
- Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)- Parents and Guardians of our Multi Language learners meet once per semester to review our MLL programs, data, and student experience.
- Please see [DPS District Calendar](#)

Date	Event
August 7–8	Student Registration (8am to 3pm)
August 11–15	Staff Learning Week
August 18	First Day of School / Start of Q1 Half Day ¹
September 1	Labor Day (No School)
September 22	Staff Learning Day No School
September 25	Back to School Night (4–6pm)

¹ On half days, students are released by 12pm with lunch provided

October 13	Family Conferences
October 16–17	Q1 Finals / End of Q1
October 20	Start of Q2
October 31	Staff Learning Day No School
Nov 24–28	Fall Break (No School)
Dec 19	Half Day
Dec 22 – Jan 2	Winter Break (No School)
January 6	Students Return from Winter Break
January 8–9	Q2 Finals / End of Q2
January 12	Start of Q3
January 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School)
February 16	Presidents' Day (No School)
February 27	Staff Learning Day No School
March 12–13	Q3 Finals / End of Q3
March 16	Start of Q4
March 27th	Half Day
March 30 – April 3	Spring Break (No School)

April 6	Students Return from Spring Break
May 1st	Staff Learning Day No School
May TBD	Finals
May 25	Memorial Day (No School)
May 29	Last Day of School

Academic Expectations

DELTA High School sets high academic standards for all students. Courses are rigorous and based on standards and competencies. Students are expected to:

- Arrive to class on time
- Participate actively and avoid disruptions
- Bring all required materials
- Academic integrity and use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) must be aligned with support of student academic growth and must not be used to create original student work ([more info here](#))
- Submit neat, legible assignments on time
- Complete MAP Testing and course assessments
- Use door #26 for all entry/exit
- Remove earbuds/headphones during instruction

Attendance Policies

Regular attendance is vital. Absences should not exceed one per month unless medically or religiously excused. Parents/guardians must notify the school on or before (i.e, vacation) the day of the absence. Students may not excuse themselves. Non-English speaking parents or guardians must call the office and translation will be provided. Students are not permitted to leave campus (without verbal or written communication from a parent or guardian) in between the instructional hours of: 8:57am-4:00pm (not including lunch hour).

Excused Absences:

- Illness
- Medical/dental appointments

- Court dates
- Funerals
- Religious holidays
- Extenuating personal reasons

Partial Absences: Must be approved in advance by a guardian. Check in/out required through the front office.

Tardies: Must be excused by a guardian at arrival time. Students cannot excuse their own tardiness.

Unexcused Absences:

- Automated calls home
- Possible home visits
- Mandatory family meeting after 5 unexcused days
- Academic probation or removal after 10 unexcused days

Work Obligations/Transportation

- Students with work obligations cannot leave campus before 4:00pm.
- Students are not permitted to leave campus early to catch the bus home before 4:00pm.

Truancy: Violates Colorado compulsory attendance law. Patterns of unexcused absences may result in court action.

Dress Code

DELTA students are expected to dress appropriately:

- No offensive or derogatory content on clothing
- Shoes must be worn at all times

Violations:

- Students will be asked to change or wear school-provided attire
 - Repeated violations are considered defiance and may result in disciplinary action
-

Cell Phone Policy

Students will be required to shut down cell phones and turn them into the classroom teacher at the beginning of each period. Phones will be collected by teachers at the beginning of each period for the duration of class and

returned to them at the end of each class period. If parents need to reach their students they should call the front office and their call will be routed to the classroom teacher.

Note: DELTA is not responsible for lost or damaged cell phones.

Consequences for Policy Violation:

1. **Restorative Discussion with Teacher:** A one-on-one conversation between the student and the teacher will be arranged to address any issues and provide guidance on optimal cell phone usage.
 2. **Teacher and Parental Discussion:** If difficulties continue, the next step may involve contacting the student's parents or guardians through a phone call home or email. This communication will serve to share insights and jointly explore potential resolutions.
 3. **Restorative Dialogue with Teacher, Student, and Dean:** In cases where concerns persist, a restorative conversation involving both the teacher and the dean with the student will be initiated. This aims to address the challenges and develop an effective solution collaboratively.
-

Building Information

- **Supervision:** Required before 9am and after 4:15pm
 - Students must be supervised at all times. Students who arrive between 8 and 9am will be directed to the main office where they may sit quietly and work on classwork to await the opening bell. Unless there is involvement in an extracurricular activity or after school program students should exit the building promptly by 4:15 pm Monday - Thursday, and Friday at 4:00pm.
- **Cafeteria:** Open for breakfast 8:30–8:57am and lunch 11:49–12:36pm
 - Food may be eaten in the cafeteria. School areas must be kept clean. All food or drinks (outside or cafeteria) must be consumed before the lunch period ends. Students cannot bring full meals into the classroom. Students have a 45-minute lunch period daily and should plan appropriately. Water (in bottles) is allowed in class.
- **Outside Food Delivery:** Must be picked up outside during lunch only
 - Students must be present to pick up their delivery. Staff will not be responsible for locating students or receiving deliveries to the main office.
 - If a student fails to abide by the above conditions, they may lose the opportunity to order food to campus.
- **Open Campus:** Students must return on time from lunch
 - DELTA High School has an open campus for lunch. Students are expected to be back at school and in their classrooms at 12:39 pm on time for 5th period. Meals must be consumed before classes resume. Reminder: Students may eat a snack in class (granola bar, fruit etc.) however no fast food meals or plated meals should be eaten in class.
 - If a student leaves campus for lunch and fails to return to class on time, they will receive a verbal warning.
- **Emergency Drills:** Follow staff direction; no cell phone use during drills or instruction unless permitted
 - Fire drills are held once a month. When a drill (or real emergency) takes place, the emergency lights will be flashing, along with a tremendously loud ringing that will sound until the drill is over. Students will be instructed by faculty and staff to either evacuate the building, or take shelter in the designated area inside (there will be a fire and tornado map posted in each room). Students should

walk quickly and quietly and stay with their teacher/designated staff so that the student can be accounted for. When the “all clear” is issued by an administrator, students will return with their teacher or designated staff back to the classroom or previous location.

- In case of an emergency, parents should call the office and have a message sent to the student. If the news is serious in nature and may result in an emotional response, please contact the Principal first. We will then provide the student with support services, as needed. (please reference Late Arrival - Early Release section)
-

Health Services

Students must check in with the nurse using a pass obtained from their teachers. For health clinic visits, inform teachers beforehand. If the nurse is not available, students should report to the Main Office. Students should not go to the clinic between classes.

Immunizations:

- Students must have complete and up to date immunization records in order to attend DELTA HS unless they are recorded as exempt. An exemption form can be found on the Colorado Department of Health and Environment web site (<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/vaccine-exemptions>). If you receive a notice requiring immunization, you must bring evidence of having received the immunization to the school nurse.

Medications:

- Must be stored with the nurse
- Require completed form signed by guardian and physician

Accidents and Emergencies:

- If a student is injured or has an accident while at school, they should report to the nurse’s office. If the nurse is not at school, students should report to the Main Office. Students’ injuries and needs will be assessed and appropriate support will be provided. When possible, students will complete an accident form, and if necessary or requested by the student, the student’s parent/guardian will be notified.
- If a student has an injury or a medical emergency at school or during a school-related activity, the parents/guardians and emergency contact(s) of the student will be contacted and if necessary, 911 will be called. If the parents/guardians and emergency contacts cannot be reached, the school will call 911 and the student may be transported to the hospital. Parents and guardians are asked to keep emergency care information up-to-date (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, etc.) to ensure communication during injury or emergency. Please contact the school nurse to update any medical information. Neither DELTA HS or DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS are responsible for medical expenses associated with a student’s injury.

School-Based Health Center:

The School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) of Denver Health are continuing on their mission to ensure that Denver's children have access to the medical care when they need it. Our network of 17 health centers located in Denver Public Schools across Denver provides a convenient option for parents and students to care for their health.

Each medical office is staffed by physician assistants and/or nurse practitioners and health care partners who treat a number of medical conditions. Each location functions just like a primary care center, only it is located inside of a school. Here are just a few examples of the services that SBHCs can offer:

- Physical exams/ Well Child Care (Well Child Checks also meet the requirement for sports physicals)
- Immunizations
- Prescriptions
- Acute Injury and illness care
 - Care for common chronic concerns such as asthma, diabetes, and depression
 - Mental Health Care including therapy and psychiatry

This unique service provides medical and mental health care to DPS students at NO COST or LOW COST and also helps families enroll in health insurance programs if needed. All DPS students and families are eligible to receive services. To start receiving vital primary care services such as vaccinations, physicals, and care for illnesses from an SBHC, students will need their DPS identification number and a signed parental consent. Appointments are strongly encouraged and can usually be made for the same day or next day. For locations and more information visit our website at DenverHealth.org/SBHC or call 303.602.8958.

As of January 2022, there is a school-based health clinic on our shared George Washington campus. Place Bridge Academy houses the nearest school-based dental health clinic.

Grading and Report Cards

- **Progress Reports:** Will be sent weekly via email
- **Report Cards:** Will be emailed at the end of each nine week period
- **Infinite Campus:** Provides real-time access to grades and attendance

Grading Philosophy:

The grading system at DELTA High School is process and product based. This means all subjects are taught within the framework of demonstration of mastery of standards and competencies as well as the process by which mastery was attained. These philosophies strike at the heart of the content areas and explicitly outline what students should know and be able to do. Teachers have designed units, lessons, and assessments; all with the goal of supporting students in their development of flexible thinking within these essential standards and competencies. Grading will be consistent using two grading categories (products and processes). Product grades are worth 100% and process grades are an opportunity for students to practice the skill before mastery. Product grades refer to the demonstration of learning/knowledge. Examples of products include, but limited to: assessments, projects, and essays.

Teachers will create digitized assignments using Schoology's Google Drive integration and organize assignments in weekly lesson folders. Missing work will be assessed at 50% of possible points and 55% if an attempt is made in alignment with our grading for equity policies.

Teachers will assign two product assignments each week. Students will have two weeks from the original due date to complete and/or revise product assignments (with rubrics attached). After the two weeks assignments and/ or revisions will not be accepted.

Percent Range	Letter Range
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
50-59	F

- Product grades = 100% of final grade
- Process work supports learning but is not counted
- Late or missing product assignments receive 50–55% based on effort
- Two product assignments required per week

Grade Changes:

An examination or course grade is final and may not be changed unless the grade is arbitrary, erroneous, or not consistent with school or district grading policy. Faculty members must initiate all grade changes and the Principal must approve any changes. The Principal or counselor will not arbitrarily change grades issued by faculty members. Grades may only be changed at the school where they were issued.

Grade appeals by the parent must be addressed to the faculty member and the Principal first. If the parent believes that the faculty member has violated DPS or school policies and procedures regarding grading, and the faculty member and/or Principal do not settle the appeal, the parent may appeal to the Collaborative Director.

Transcript Requests: Made through Main Office or Counselor only

Graduation Requirements

To earn a DPS diploma, students must complete:

- ICAP (Individual Career and Academic Plan)
- 24 units of coursework
- Demonstrate competency in Math and ELA

Coursework Requirements:

- 4 units English
- 4 units Math
- 3 units Science
- 3 units Social Studies
- 1 unit PE
- 1 unit Fine Arts/CTE
- 8 electives

Competency Options:

In order to graduate from DPS, every student will demonstrate competency in English, math and/or career readiness by completing one or more items in the competency menu.

- Accuplacer
- AP Exams
- Concurrent Enrollment
- DPS Capstone
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)
- ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate
- ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)

More information regarding Graduation Requirements can be found here: <https://collegeandcareer.dpsk12.org/>

Grade Level Classification of Students
0 credits (0 units) 9th grade Freshman
60 credits (6 units) 10th grade Sophomore

120 credits (12 units) 11th grade Junior
180 credits (18 units) 12th grade Senior
240 credits (24 units) Award Diploma

Student Code of Conduct

Infractions Include:

- **Being under the influence**
 - Any students who are suspected to be under the influence of any illegal substances will be sent to the nurse to be assessed. If the student is determined to be under the influence, a parent or guardian will be required to come and pick up the student and bring them home for the remainder of the day. The school may recommend counseling as a next step.
- **Suspension or expulsion**
 - Suspension is used for level 3 and 4 offenses. In the event that a student is suspended, they cannot return to the campus until the suspension is completed. If a student arrives on campus during the term of suspension, they shall be treated as a trespasser. A reinstatement conference with the parent/guardian and Principal is required before the student is allowed to return to school.
- **Expulsion**
 - A student can be removed from school for certain level 4 offenses and for repeated and chronic infractions. Expulsions are for the duration of a semester only, but can be for a full year for the most serious violations. Students submitted for expulsion are entitled to a hearing before the district expulsion officer.
- **Cheating/plagiarizing**
 - Cheating or plagiarizing of any kind is not permitted at DELTA High School. This means that students cannot use deceit, trickery, and/or fraud on an assignment or a test. It could also include, but is not limited to: using written notes on a test, giving or receiving hand signals, looking at another person's test, allowing another student to copy one's answer, taking someone else's work, ideas, or words, and using them as if they were your own.
 - The first time a student is caught plagiarizing or cheating, the parent will be notified and teachers will provide students with an alternative assignment to prove mastery. Teachers will determine the time and date that students must complete the assignment. The teacher will document the event in Infinite Campus (IC). Students will have the chance to earn full product points.
 - **Habitual cheating or plagiarizing will result in the following further action:**
 - Second Offense:
 - Conference with student, parent, teacher and administrator
 - Students will get an alternative assignment and cannot score higher than a 70% on their product grade
 - The offense is documented in IC
 - Third Offense
 - Conference with student, parent, teacher, and Principal

- Students will not receive an alternative assignment and will not be able to makeup points on their product grade
 - The offense is documented in IC
- **Hazing**
 - Hazing is against state law and is not permitted at DELTA High School. Hazing is defined as persecuting or torturing somebody in a subordinate position.
- **Loitering**
 - Only students of the school, parents of the students, employees of the District and persons having business with schools are allowed on campus during normal hours. Visitors must have a visitor pass. Special exceptions may be made in extreme cases, but these must be cleared with the Principal in advance. Students are not to sit in parked cars on campus, vacant classrooms or other unsupervised areas.
- **Smoking or vaping**
 - All of the Denver Public schools are smoke-free, therefore smoking is strictly forbidden on campus. Any student smoking including vaping, dipping, chewing, or found in the possession of a tobacco or drug product will be subject to municipal fines and disciplinary action.
- **Inappropriate displays of affection**
 - Any public display of romantic affection will result in being told to separate and go to class.
- **Bullying/threats**
 - We do not tolerate a hostile environment. Verbal and/or physical threats or bullying of any kind, including online, by students to a teacher/staff member or other students are not tolerated and are taken very seriously. If a student is threatened in any manner, they are required to report this to the Principal. Confirmed threats or bullying will result in a suspension.
- **Weapon possession**
 - Weapons of any kind or in any form (including replicas, functional or non-functional) are strictly prohibited on campus. The District's "zero tolerance" policy will be strictly enforced

Discipline Ladder: Levels A–F ([Click here for details](#))

- Level A: Teacher–Student conversation
- Level B: Add parent/guardian
- Level C: Add support staff
- Level D: Admin referral
- Level E: In-school suspension (1–3 days)
- Level F: Additional suspension or expulsion

Campus Policies and Safety

Visitors: Must sign in and wear a visitor badge

- To assure the safety and well-being of all students and staff, all visitors must sign-in and receive a visitor's badge in exchange for a picture ID. Any visitor who is found in the building without authorization and/or

without a visitor pass will be directed to the Main Office. All visitors are expected to abide by the school's rules and core values in all their interactions with faculty, staff, administration, and other parents/guardians and students. It is not appropriate for students to bring friends or siblings to school. All visitors are asked to turn off the ringers on their cell phones when inside of the building.

Posting & Selling: Requires prior approval from the principal

- No signs, notices, pictures, photographs, films, or any other visual or auditory materials of any kind are to be posted, placed, distributed, circulated, or sold around the school without the explicit permission of the Principal. Students may not sell any articles or food on school property without the permission of the Principal.
- Students may not make a collection of money or materials for their own purposes or for an organization to which they belong to outside of the school without prior permission of the Principal.

Hall Passes: Students must be assigned an Infinite Campus (IC) hall pass; no hall travel during first/last 10 minutes of class

- Students traveling in the hallways during school hours must have a visible hall pass. IC Hall passes are required and issued by the classroom teacher, administrator, or other staff members. Teachers should not allow students to leave class during the first 10 minutes or last 10 minutes of class. Please take care of your personal needs during passing periods.
- Students given permission to leave the room are required to:
 - Ask their teacher for permission to leave the room
 - Teacher will initiate the hall pass in IC
 - Student will return in the allotted time (5:00 mins)
 - Teacher will end hall pass in IC upon student's return
 - Students who repeatedly do not follow hall pass regulations will be subject to the disciplinary process.

Lost and Found: Located in Main Office

Free Lunch: Available to all students; must complete lunch application

Fees:

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided at no charge to you. However, you are expected to provide your own pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks. You may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including but not limited to:

- Costs for materials for a class project that you will keep.
- Personal apparel used in extracurricular activities that become your property.
- Fees for lost or damaged textbooks.
- Senior Fee \$60 - covers cost of graduation ceremony and supplies,
- as well as diploma printing and diploma cover
- Field trips

Bus Passes:

Bus passes will be given to students at the school's discretion. Students who may qualify for passes include:

- Must live minimum of 2.5 miles from school AND must live in Denver
- Maintain 86.6% or higher attendance each month
- If attendance drops below 86.6% for the previous month, you will not be eligible to receive a monthly pass.
- Your attendance must improve to 86.6% to earn the next month's pass.
- Demonstrate hardship/need

Please Note:

Students can only receive one monthly bus pass per month.

Students will not be issued an additional pass if their pass is lost or stolen

Campus Safety:

The campus safety officers and school resource officers enforce the district and school policies while promoting positive public relations and a rapport of trust between the officers and our school community.

The safety officers can request the Denver Police Department, in accordance with the Denver Code of Criminal

Procedures, to issue citations for offenses and regulate the traffic in the streets. They may also enforce the city ordinances for the violation of the day/time curfew. Tickets may be given for persons in possession of contraband. Tickets for other offenses may be issued as well.

The security officers ensure the safety of all students. The security officers are expected to enforce the district and school policies and procedures. All students are expected to comply with their requests.

Student Records & ID Cards

Your school records are confidential and are protected from unauthorized inspection or use. A cumulative record is maintained online for each student from the time you enter the district until the time you withdraw or graduate. This record stays with you from school to school.

By law, both parents, whether married, separated, or divorced, have access to the records of a student who is under 18 or a dependent for tax purposes. A parent whose rights have been legally terminated will be denied access to the records if the school is given a copy of the court order terminating these rights.

The Principal is custodian of all records for currently enrolled students. The Superintendent is the custodian of all records for students who have withdrawn or graduated. Records may be reviewed during school hours upon completion of the written request form. The records custodian or designee will respond to reasonable requests for explanation and interpretation of the records.

If circumstances prevent a parent or eligible student from inspecting the records, the district will either provide a copy of the requested records, or make other arrangements for the parent or student to review the requested records.

Copies of records can be requested in the Main Office. Making your request in advance can help you avoid unnecessary waiting. Records will always be furnished within 24 hours of an approved request.

Technology Use Agreement

Permissions:

- Internet use must follow handbook rules
 - Computers are for educational use only
 - Misuse may result in loss of access
-

Handbook Acknowledgment Form

We acknowledge receipt of the DELTA Student Handbook and agree to follow its policies.

Parent Name (print) _____

Signature _____

Date _____



Student Name (print) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Return signed form to Main Office.
