



**CHALLENGER ELEMENTARY  
STUDENT AND PARENT HANDBOOK  
2020-21**

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

At Challenger Elementary, we ALL share the responsibility of providing a safe environment, where ALL students will grow academically, socially, emotionally, and physically.

**SCHOOL DAY  
8:00-3:35**

Upon arrival at school, all students will social distance in the main hallway where they are to study or read under supervision until 7:30 a.m. At 7:30, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will go to the old gym and 3-4 grade students will walk to the new gym where each grade level will be supervised by a grade level teacher. At 7:45 students will be escorted to their grade level hallways and into their classroom. The tardy bell rings at 8:00 a.m., if students are not in their seats when this bells rings, they are considered tardy. **Students should not be brought to school before 7:15 a.m. Monitors are not on duty before 7:15 a.m.** Hughes Ranch Rd. is a very busy road in the mornings. Please ensure that your child does not arrive to the crosswalk before the cross guard is on duty. The Crossing Guard will not be on duty until 7:15 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is taken at 10:00 a.m. If the student has an appointment, please try to schedule it at a time other than the attendance time to avoid loss of valuable instructional time.

The only excusable reasons for a child to miss school are personal illness of the student, communicable disease control or death in the immediate family. A student is also excused for a temporary absence resulting from a visitation to a health care professional if the student commences classes or returns to school on the day of the appointment. A note from the health care professional verifying the appointment **will need to be turned in upon arrival** in order for the student to be counted present. Any other absences are unexcused. Excessive unexcused absences constitute a violation of the law for which the parent or guardian may be held responsible. Parents will be warned in writing for children who are failing to comply with compulsory school attendance laws. Students are required to be in attendance for at least 90% of the total days school is in session in order to pass the current grade level.

**In the event of illness of a student, a written excuse from the parent is required within three days.** The note should be given to the teacher upon the child's arrival at school following the absence.

At Challenger Elementary, **a student is tardy after 8:00 a.m.** All children must be encouraged to arrive at school and class on time. Tardiness is a matter of habit and once formed is very difficult to break. Three tardies will prohibit a student from receiving an annual perfect attendance award. Parents will be notified if tardiness is persistent. Please see the Texas Education Code and Pearland ISD Student Handbook references to attendance, below:

#### Texas Education Code

Sec. 25.085. COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE. (a) A child who is required to attend school under this section shall attend school each school day for the entire period the program of instruction is provided.

Sec. 25.087. EXCUSED ABSENCES (this section details reasons an absence may be excused)

#### Pearland ISD Student Handbook

Pg. 25 “Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student’s mastery of the instructional materials; therefore, the student and parent should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences.”

Pg. 27 “School employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent without permission from school; from any class; from required special programs, such as additional special instruction termed “accelerated instruction” by the state; or from required tutorials will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.”

Pg. 28 “A court of law may also impose penalties against a student’s parent if a school-aged student is deliberately not attending school.”

Pg. 29 “Please note that, unless the absence is for a statutorily allowed reason under compulsory attendance laws, the district is not required to excuse any absence.”

## **SCHOOL SAFETY**

Parents should urge their children to exercise safety precautions at all times in their play, in their journey to and from school, and while at school. For safety reasons, parents driving their children to school are requested to load and unload them from **one single lane of traffic in the front of the school only**. Additionally, **please do not pass other cars in the drop of line**. Do not park and leave cars unattended along the red marked curbing in front of the school. A crossing guard is on duty from 7:15 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. each school day.

Any student riding a bicycle to school should place it in the designated area. Students should secure their bicycles since the school is not responsible for damage or theft. No motorized vehicles are allowed.

**For our students’ safety**, Pearland ISD will restrict all visitors to schools to only those essential to school operations. Visitors will not be allowed to visit during lunchtime. Excluding the parental drop-off and pick-up times, before visitors are allowed onto campuses, campus staff must screen all visitors for COVID-19 symptoms. Essential meetings will be done by appointment or through a virtual format. To ensure the safety of students and staff, no outside food deliveries will be accepted (i.e. food, gifts, DoorDash, etc.). If possible, campus staff will establish a “no contact” system to allow parents/guardians to drop off essential items to students during the school day. Until further notice, field trips will be postponed. Until further notice, there will be no large student assemblies. **Any time you visit the school or check your child out of school, you will be required to present your driver’s license/Valid I.D.** For your child’s safety, anyone picking up a student must be on the emergency card or the child will not be released. You are encouraged to update the emergency card as needed.

## DISMISSAL DURING SCHOOL HOURS

If you change your child's routine of going home, please write a note to the teacher advising them of **the change**. Also, we ask that students not be picked up early except in case of an emergency (**NOT MERELY FOR CONVENIENCE**). **The last check out time will be 2:30 P.M.** All messages regarding going home changes must be received by 2:30 P.M. to ensure delivery before school is dismissed.

## DISMISSAL PROCEDURES- 3:35 PM

*Nothing is more precious than our children, and we must work together to ensure their safety. Rules and procedures are in place to protect them. Thanks so much for your willingness to work with us to keep all of our students safe.*

**Parents are not allowed to walk up to the school to pick up their child for dismissal.**

### Walkers and Bikers

- If your child is a north walker or south walker, you will need to stay across the street .
- You may not park in the teacher parking lot. Students will not be allowed to cross the parking lot to get in a parked car.
- Teachers will walk your child across the street and you can get them from there.
- All kinder students must have an adult present in order for them to be released. If no adult is there to get them, they will be escorted back to the office and the parent will be contacted.

### Car Riders

- Parents should remain in their cars in line. DO NOT park in the parking lot.
- Parents should post their number card (given by the principal) in their front window
- Parents will be instructed to go to an orange cone with a number on it. Your child will walk to the cone and get into the car.

### Bus Riders

- You must live greater than two miles from the school in order to receive free bus service. For information on bus pick up/ drop off stops and times log on to [www.pearlandisd.org](http://www.pearlandisd.org).
- If you live within two miles of the school, the transportation department will provide bus service at a fee. **See the chart below.**
- Good student behavior on the bus is very important for the safe transportation of the children to and from school. If the bus driver feels a student's behavior is too disruptive and the student does not respond to the driver's effort to discipline him/her, the driver will send a discipline report home to the parent. **Upon receipt of the second discipline report, the student may lose bus riding privileges. The district has the authority to discipline and revoke a student's transportation privilege.**

Regular	Reduced Meals	Free Meals
\$640 for one child per year	\$320 for one child per year	\$160 for one child per year
\$740 for two children per year	\$370 for two children per year	\$190 for two children per year
\$840 for three or more children per year	\$420 for three or more children per year	\$210 for three or more children per year

## RAINY DAY PROCEDURES

Due to the large number of parents that work and are unable to get their child and depend on their child to walk or bike home, we will release all bikers and walkers when the rain subsides to a drizzle. **If you do not want your child**

to walk or bike in the rain, it is your responsibility to call the school by 2:30 PM to put your child in the parent pick up line.

### REPORTING TO PARENTS

**Kinder – Fourth Grade:** A progress report will be sent home the third and sixth week period to inform parents of their child's progress prior to the report card coming home. Students will be issued a computerized report card each nine weeks. Honor Rolls will be printed in the local newspapers to recognize students for outstanding achievement.

### MAKE-UP WORK

If a student has an excused absence, the teacher will determine the need for make-up work. If a student is absent for more than three days, the school will provide make-up work to be done at home upon parent request. Parents may request make-up work by calling the school office before 8:15 a.m. to pick up the work after 3:10 p.m.

### PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Should you have the need for a conference with your child's teacher, please call the office at (281) 485-7912.

### E- MAIL GUIDELINES/ PHONE MESSAGES

In order to better serve you and ensure your child's rights to confidentiality, the following guidelines will be followed. Teachers may respond to parent emails before school, during their conference period, or after school. In some instances the teacher may request a conference by phone or email. Please note that teachers have 24 hours to respond to parent phone messages and e-mails.

### CAFETERIA

Breakfast and lunch are served in the Challenger cafeteria on each school day. Breakfast is served from 7:15 until 7:50. Lunch is served from 10:35 – 12:50 with classes going at intervals. Lunch and/or breakfast may be purchased in advance or on a daily cash basis. When paying advance payment, the child should bring the payment, cash or check, to the cafeteria manager upon arrival at school in the morning. The payment should be in an envelope with the child's name and teacher's name on it. **When writing a check you must put your driver's license number on the check and your child's name on the memo line of your check.** Your cancelled check will be your receipt. When possible we encourage the **parent** to come and make payment for prepaid meals. You may also access and pay your child's account on-line at [www.parentonline.net/public/login.aspx](http://www.parentonline.net/public/login.aspx). **No charges will be allowed.** If your child does not have money, they will be given a cheese sandwich with milk. A note from the cafeteria will be sent home with your child when more money is needed. Below is a schedule of lunch/breakfast prices:

Student Breakfast - \$1.40 Daily

Adult Breakfast -\$1.75 Daily

Student Lunch - \$2.50 Daily

Adult Lunch - \$3.50 Daily

### SEVERE WEATHER AND DRILLS

In case of emergency or inclement weather, tune in to your radio, television stations, district Facebook page, E-News, Twitter, district web site [www.pearlandisd.org](http://www.pearlandisd.org) or [www.SafeSchoolAlerts.org](http://www.SafeSchoolAlerts.org). A Connect Ed message or Skyward e-mail may also be sent from the district to inform you as well. Emergency drills will be practiced by the students once a month.

## **MEDICATION DISBURSEMENT**

If possible all medication should be given by the parents at home. However, if the student needs to take medication during school hours, medication should be dispensed according to the following guidelines:

1. Written permission and specific directions must be signed by a parent or guardian. Directions must include student's name, dates, time to be given, and name of medication.
2. Prescription and non-prescription medication must be in the original container.
3. If prescription and/or non-prescription drugs are to be administered or kept at school for longer than ten (10) days, a written request must be received from a physician.
4. The student should not carry the medication with him/her or administer it to himself. The health care assistant will supervise the storing and dispensing of medicine.

## **EMERGENCY FIRST AID CARE**

Any treatment given at school is limited to first aid. When a student becomes ill or is injured at school, parents are notified. If they cannot be reached and the situation requires medical attention beyond our resources, it may be necessary to send the child to a hospital emergency service for needed care until the parents can be reached.

Parents should supply the school with information concerning special health problems, as well as how they may be reached and the family physician's name and phone number. The name of a friend or relative who might be contacted when we are not able to reach parents has proven very helpful. Parents are responsible for emergency care costs. The district is not responsible for costs of treating injuries and cannot assume liability for any other costs associated with an injury (FFD LEGAL).

**Please inform the school of work or home phone number changes.**

## **PERSONAL ITEMS**

Students should not bring large amounts of money or valuables to school. Students must leave their personal toys and playthings at home. Toys are not allowed at school unless a teacher gives permission for a particular event. During the school year students misplace some personal items, such as clothing. When found, these items are placed in the **lost and found**. Valuable items such as watches and glasses will be turned in to the office.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES**

### **Possession and Use of Personal Telecommunications Devices, Including Mobile Telephones**

For safety purposes, the district permits students to possess personal mobile telephones; however, these devices must not be visible and must remain turned off during the instructional day, including during all testing unless they are being used for approved instructional purposes..

The use of mobile telephones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event.

If a student uses a telecommunications device without authorization during the school day, the device will be confiscated. District employees will confiscate the telecommunications device when in violation of the student's handbook provisions. The student or student's parent may pick up the confiscated telecommunications device from the principal's office for a fee of \$15.

Confiscated telecommunications devices that are not retrieved by the student or the student's parents will be disposed of after the notice required by law. [See policy FNCE.]

In limited circumstances and in accordance with law, a student's personal telecommunications device may be searched by authorized personnel. [See Searches and policy FNF.]

**Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. The district is not responsible for any damaged, lost or stolen telecommunication device.**



## **Instructional Use of Personal Telecommunications and Other Electronic Devices**

In some cases, students may find it beneficial or might be encouraged to use personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for instructional purposes while on campus. Students must obtain prior approval before using personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices for instructional use. Students must also sign a user agreement that contains applicable rules for use (separate from this handbook). When students are not using the devices for approved instructional purposes, all devices must be turned off during the instructional day. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

## **Acceptable Use of District Technology Resources**

To prepare students for an increasingly technological society, the district has made an investment in the use of district-owned technology resources for instructional purposes; specific resources may be issued individually to students. Use of these technological resources, which include the district's network systems and use of district equipment, is restricted to approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign a user agreement (separate from this handbook) regarding use of these district resources. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

## **Unacceptable and Inappropriate Use of Technology Resources**

Students are prohibited from sending, posting, accessing, or displaying electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition applies to conduct off school property, whether the equipment used to send such messages is district-owned or personally owned, if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content, commonly referred to as sexting, will be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct and may, in certain circumstances, be reported to law enforcement.

Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, possessing, or sharing obscene, sexually oriented, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or other content, commonly referred to as sexting, will be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct, may be required to complete an educational program related to the dangers of this type of behavior, and, in certain circumstances, may be reported to law enforcement. Because engaging in this type of behavior can lead to bullying or harassment, as well as possibly impede future endeavors of a student, we encourage you to review with your child <http://beforeyoutext.com>, a state-developed program that addresses the consequences of engaging in inappropriate behavior using technology.

In addition, any student who engages in conduct that results in a breach of the district's computer security will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, and, in some cases, the consequence may rise to the level of expulsion.

## **SUPPLIES**

Each child is responsible for furnishing his/her own dispensable school supplies. These supplies will vary from grade to grade.

## **DRESS CODE**

Pearland ISD has a student dress code. The dress code guidelines can be accessed online at [www.pearlandisd.org](http://www.pearlandisd.org). Please adhere to the dress code. We appreciate your support.

## **WITHDRAWALS**

Any student moving from the district should have his/her parents come to school to withdraw them. Textbooks and library books must be returned and all records must be cleared before the student may withdraw.

## **STUDENT RECORDS**

A student's school records are confidential and are protected from unauthorized inspection or use. A cumulative record is maintained for each student from the time the student enters the district until the student withdraws or graduates. This record moves with the student from school to school.

Parents have the right to access student records and to determine whether directory information will be released to the public or remain confidential. 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.

## **COUNSELOR**

Challenger Elementary has a full time counselor on staff that would be glad to talk to you about counseling services for your child. Please contact the counselor if you are concerned with your child's emotional or mental well-being or if you think your child is abusing illegal or prohibited substances.

## **RECESS**

A safe and well-supervised recess offers cognitive, social, emotional, and physical benefits. Each day, all students will receive a 30 minute uninterrupted recess consisting of free play. Additionally, recess will not be taken away as a punitive action. Please send your child with a cap or apply sunscreen at home before school. The school will not provide sunscreen nor will the teachers apply sunscreen during the school day. A water bottle is acceptable.

## **LIBRARY**

Students are encouraged to use the library. They will be taken to the library on a regular basis. Any library materials lost or damaged will be paid for by the student.

## **PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION**

The P.T.A. asks each parent to join and support the local unit of Challenger Elementary. Membership applications will be sent home to parents by the P.T.A.

## **TOBACCO FREE DISTRICT**

Pearland ISD declared our schools "Tobacco Free." No employee or visitor may use tobacco on our campus. We hope this will help set an example for our students not to begin a practice which could be detrimental to their health in the future.

## **DRUG FREE SCHOOL**

We have an ongoing program in our school which endorses the Texas Education Agency's declaration that  
*"The use of illicit drugs and unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful."*



# Challenger Covid Amendment

## Student Health Protocols

- All parents are responsible for ensuring that a daily self-screening of each student occurs prior to coming to school or boarding school transportation.
- All students will be instructed on methods to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 at school.
- All students should practice appropriate social distancing, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- All students should regularly wash their hands for 20 seconds.
- All students will be trained on proper handwashing techniques and participate in scheduled handwashing times throughout the day.
- All students (health exceptions) are required to use non-medical grade face coverings, covering nose and mouth.

## Face Coverings

- Following federal, state and local mandates, the use of non-medical grade face coverings will be enforced in all Pearland ISD facilities.
- Face coverings will be required for all Pearland ISD staff.
- Face coverings will be required for all students (health exceptions).
- Any individual coming to campus during the instructional day will be required to wear a face covering for building access.

## Health and Hygiene Practices

- Hand sanitizer stations will be at the entrances of each facility.
- Campuses will have structured times for student handwashing.
- Students and staff will be instructed in proper handwashing techniques.
- Students and staff will be trained in proper health hygiene and disease transmission prevention measures.
- Signage for proper hygiene practices will be posted throughout the buildings, in the restrooms and at the entrances.

## Meal Service

All Food Services staff will use PPE while performing job responsibilities and will be trained to practice health and hygiene regulations. ***To ensure the safety of students and staff, no outside food deliveries will be accepted. Visitors will not be allowed during breakfast/lunch times.***

**Parents are encouraged to make online payments to student meal accounts in order to reduce exchange of cash at the point of service.**

### Breakfast

- Students will be seated to allow social distancing (when applicable).
- Cafeteria and serving areas will be cleaned as students transition.

### Lunch

- Students will utilize the cafeteria for lunch on a limited basis.
- Students may eat in various locations throughout the building to maximize social distancing.
- Cafeteria, serving and eating areas will be cleaned between uses.

## Transportation

***As a response to COVID-19, Pearland ISD encourages all families, with the ability to do so, to transport students to and from school.*** Bus transportation will be offered; however, the standard number of transported students compromises the ability to socially distance. ***For this reason, students utilizing bus transportation will be required to utilize face coverings.***

- Students in all grade levels will be required to complete an online transportation request form through Skyward in order to be scheduled for bus service. **Online transportation requests must be completed by August 1, 2020, in order to receive service when school begins.**
  - Bus seating will be assigned for all students.
  - When possible, siblings or students residing in the same household will be seated together.
  - Hand sanitizer will be available on each bus and students will use the hand sanitizer upon entry to the bus.
  - All bus drivers and monitors will wear appropriate face coverings.
  - All students (age and health exceptions) will be required to wear face coverings. Families are required to provide these for their students.
  - Each bus will be sanitized between routes and Transportation staff members will be trained in proper sanitizing procedures.
- 
- When possible, windows and roof vents will be opened while the bus is operating to increase the fresh air flow through the bus. Air conditioners will continue to be used in conjunction with the open windows.
  - Bus stop locations may change from previous years in some areas to reflect the actual students who are utilizing bus service. As a result, some locations may require a student to walk a bit farther to a bus stop than in the past.
  - For students choosing to use the optional bus fee service, payment may be made in full for the entire year once the fees are added in Skyward, or monthly payments may be made throughout the year. **If monthly payments are made, payments are due on the first day of each month (August through May.) If payment is not received within 15 days, bus service will be discontinued for the student. The parent or guardian may request to have service reinstated, but it is subject to the delinquent payments being made and the availability of route service and capacity to accommodate the student.**

## Visitors/Deliveries/Miscellaneous

- Pearland ISD will restrict all visitors to schools to only those essential to school operations.
- Visitors will not be allowed to visit during lunchtime.
- Excluding the parental drop-off and pick-up times, before visitors are allowed onto campuses, campus staff must screen all visitors for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Essential meetings will be done by appointment or through a virtual format.
- To ensure the safety of students and staff, no outside food deliveries will be accepted (i.e. food, gifts, DoorDash, etc.).
- If possible, campus staff will establish a “no contact” system to allow parents/guardians to drop off essential items to students during the school day.
- Until further notice, field trips will be postponed.
- Until further notice, there will be no large student assemblies.

## **COVID -19 Student Scenarios**

### **Student is either lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19**

- The student does not report to school or participate in other school activities.
- The student may return to campus after 10 days have passed from positive test result or symptom onset, the student has improvement in symptoms **AND** at least 72 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- Upon notification of a lab-confirmed COVID-19 on a campus, the district will communicate with teachers, staff and families of students who were potentially exposed.

### **Student reports one or more symptoms BEFORE entry to building using screening tool**

- The student does not report to school or participate in other school activities.
- The student may return to campus after 10 days have passed from symptom onset with improvement in symptoms **AND** at least 72 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medication.

### **Student reports experiencing one or more symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day**

- The student will be sent to the campus isolation room.
- The campus will follow the Illness Isolation Plan (plan follows).

### **Student reports having prolonged close contact\* with someone who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19**

- The student does not report to school or participate in other school activities.
- Student should contact their primary care physician for guidance and remain home to monitor symptoms for 14 days.

### **Student reports someone in their home was exposed to someone who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19**

- Student may report to school as usual. This is

## Challenger Elementary

### Receipt of Student Handbook

I acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Challenger Elementary Student Handbook 2019-2020. I have read and understand the procedures contained within the handbook and agree to abide by them.

The information in this handbook is subject to change as situations warrant. I understand that changes in the procedures may modify or eliminate the procedures summarized in this booklet. I accept responsibility for keeping informed of these changes.

My child and I have been offered the option to receive a paper copy or to electronically access a copy at [www.pearlandisd.org](http://www.pearlandisd.org) under Challenger Elementary. I understand that the handbook contains information that my child and I may need during the school year and that all students will be held accountable for their behavior. All students will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

- I have received a paper copy of the Challenger Student Handbook which was issued to me on \_\_\_\_\_ (date).
  
- I accept responsibility for accessing the Challenger Student Handbook by visiting the web address listed above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Classroom Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date