

Dyess Elementary

**6733 Jennings Dr
Abilene, Texas 79606
325-690-3795**



School Mascot: Jets
School Colors: Red, White & Blue

Principal – Chad Drake
Assistant Principal – Ronald Owens
Instructional Coordinator – Brittney Lomax
Counselor – Kayce Chambers
School Nurse – Becky Chamness
School Secretary – Kara O'Meara
Reception/Parent Coordinator – Manuela Stelzriede
Cafeteria Manager- Gracie Romo

Dyess Mission Statement:

We believe that every child can succeed, and we expect our students to achieve a foundation of academic and social skills that will enable them to be productive and successful citizens. It is our goal to help every student meet his or her academic potential and become responsible, self-disciplined individuals.

Dyess School Motto:

One Team, One Mission, Every Child

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year. We are looking forward to a fantastic year at Dyess Elementary!

-Chad Drake, Principal

Dyess specific information for 2021-2022

Arrival, Dismissal and Traffic Procedures

Early Arrival

We understand that some students need to report to campus early; but for the safety and security of your child, we ask that students not be left on campus before **7:15 a.m.**

Students who must arrive on campus before 7:40 a.m. are to report to the gym and sit in an assigned location or go to breakfast. Entry into the school should be through the east doors. The students will be dismissed to go to their classrooms at 7:40 a.m. by the adults on duty. The school cafeteria will be open at **7:15 a.m.** each day. Students waiting up front for the doors to open at 7:40 must be accompanied by an adult.

Arrival

The school cafeteria will be open at **7:15 a.m.** each day. Parents and students are asked to **not** enter the hallways prior to 7:40 a.m. The time prior to 7:40 a.m. is for teachers and staff to prepare for the school day. If you need to talk to your child's teacher, please do so during their scheduled conference time. Parents will be permitted to escort their children to the classroom the first week of school. Beginning the second week of school, please allow your child to walk into the classroom and put up his/her belongings as your child will be encouraged to do this and will be proud to have this responsibility.

School Dismissal

All parent pick-up students and walkers will exit the north side of the campus. All bus riders will exit the south side of the campus.

Traffic and Parking

The Delaware Gate has been designed to be a pedestrian walk-through gate by Dyess Air Force Base. Typically, the gate is open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. in the morning and again from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon. The DAFB Youth Center students walk to their vans on base weather permitting. During inclement weather, DAFB Youth Center vans will pick up students at the south drive. AISD buses will utilize the south drive.

Absences and Tardies

Reporting Absences

Please call the Dyess Elementary attendance clerk at **690-3795 Press 1** if your child is going to be absent. If an absence is not reported to the office, a call will be placed to your home or work during the school day.

NOTE: Attendance is reported at **9:30 a.m.** each day. In order for a student to be counted present, he/she must be in school **at the time attendance is taken.** If your child should miss part of a school day due to a doctor's appointment, he/she will not be counted absent **if you bring a note from your doctor upon your child's return to school the day of the appointment**—this applies to children who are in attendance at least part of the day. Doctor's notes should be turned in to the office and will be kept on file. Students who miss three or more consecutive days may need a doctor's note to return to school. Please send a note with the child the next day after an absence explaining the reason for the absence. These notes are kept on file as documentation for audit purposes.

Tardies

Students are considered tardy after 7:50. Families with excessive tardies will be contacted by an administrator to create a corrective-action plan.

Release and Return of Students During the School Day

Students will **not be called to the office to wait on a parent or guardian** for any reason; please allow time to process the student out of school. Students who need to leave during the school day must be signed out in the office by a parent, guardian or someone who is listed as an emergency contact person with AISD. Unless the principal grants approval because of extenuating circumstances, a student will not regularly be released before the end of the instructional day at 3:15 p.m. Because class time is important, doctor's appointments should be scheduled, when possible, at times when the student will not miss instructional time.

Contacting the Teacher/Conferences

Contacting the Teacher- Parents are encouraged to contact teachers with any questions or concerns. Please refer to our campus website for your teacher's email address, phone extension and conference period. We believe that effective parent/teacher communication is vital to student success.

Conferences- Parents are encouraged to reach out and schedule a parent/teacher conference at any point the need arises. Teachers will be in touch with parents to schedule a minimum of 2 conferences during the school year (fall and spring).

School Nurse

Becky Chamness, LVN, is Dyess's school nurse. Her office is equipped to handle routine medical needs. In the event of more serious illness or injury, parents will be notified immediately. You can contact her directly by calling 690-3795 and choosing option 3. Please keep the school informed with current phone numbers as soon as changes occur. If an emergency situation were to arise, we must be able to reach you as soon as possible.

Allergies: It is very important that the school nurse and classroom teacher be informed of any allergies to drugs, food, or environmental conditions that your child might have.

Medications: If it becomes necessary for a student to take medicine during the school day, the law requires that the parent come to the nurse's office with the medication in a prescription bottle and complete a medical form.

Illness: If you are unsure whether your child is sick enough to stay home for the day, you may contact Nurse Chamness to help make the determination. Here are some guidelines to follow when determining if you child can return to school after being sick:

- Your child should be free of fever without the use of fever reducers (such as Tylenol) for 24 hours before returning to school.
- If your child has been given antibiotics, he/she needs to wait 24 hours after the first dose before returning to school.
- If your child has been vomiting and/or has been having diarrhea, he/she needs to stay home for 24 hours after the last episode.

Visitors

Parents and others are welcome to visit Dyess Elementary School. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors must first report to the main office with a valid state issued ID and pick up a visitor's pass and go through a security check prior to going on campus. Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time are permitted only with approval of the principal and teacher and so long as their duration or frequency does not interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt the normal school environment.

All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct. Disruptive behavior will not be permitted.

Parents needing to pick up their children during the school day must first **stop at the main office** to sign the child out. As a safeguard for our school children, the students cannot and will not be allowed to leave with anyone not on the approved adult contact list. The adult must show identification and sign the student out.

Student Behavior Management

Our primary goal is to ensure that every classroom environment is conducive to engaged, student-centered instruction. Our teachers utilize CHAMPS to ensure safe, orderly classroom environments. Our goal is to make our expectations clear and support all students to meet those expectations. Our teachers work to build positive relationships with students and parents. We are a 'Leader in Me' campus which means that we empower our students to take ownership and proud in every aspect of campus life. If student behaviors result in an office referral, parents will be contacted.

Birthdays and Celebrations

Parents may send treats to share with their class for their child's birthday. Please check with the teacher to determine if there are any allergies or dietary concerns in the class. Parents may send birthday party invitations to school, provided that the whole class or all the boys/girls are invited. Otherwise, invitations should be distributed privately.

We have one official school party per year provided by the volunteer room parents. Teachers will send home notes with information about class parties and other special events.

Recess

1st-5th graders participate in 20 minutes of recess per day (25 minutes for kinder). Outdoor recess will be cancelled if the temperature exceeds 95 degrees or drops below 40 degrees.

Lost and Found

Lost and found is located outside of the gym. Parents are highly encouraged to label all jackets, hats, etc. with students' first and last names.

Dogs and animals on campus

Animals/pets are not permitted on campus without approval of the principal.

PTO/PTA/Volunteering

Dyess has an active PTA. All parents/teachers are encouraged to join the PTA. Any parents wanting to volunteer on campus or a field trip must check in with the office staff to complete the appropriate volunteer application/background check etc. in advance of the volunteer opportunity.

School Communication

We communicate with parents in a variety of ways including the Remind App, parent/teacher email, weekly grade level newsletters, paper flyers, Instagram @dyessjets and the Dyess PTA Facebook page.

Dyess Elementary COVID-19 Supplement to Campus Guide

Face Coverings

Face coverings are recommended, per district policy.

Visitors

Dyess Elementary will limit visitors to schools to those essential to school operations. Parents/visitors will not be permitted to eat breakfast or lunch with students. Parents/visitors will not be permitted to walk their students directly to the classrooms. (see Kinder first day plan below)

Arrival

Multiple entrances will be utilized to promote physical distancing. Beginning at 7:15 students that get dropped off will enter the north doors. Students that walk may enter the north or south doors. Students that ride the bus will enter the south doors.

Dismissal

Multiple exits will be utilized to promote physical distancing. Families waiting to receive their students need to do so in their designated pick up area. Families are expected to maintain appropriate physical distancing.

Transitions

Students will be taught appropriate physical distancing procedures and expectations related to all common areas and transitions. Hallways will be free of any non-essential furniture to maximize space. When possible, outdoors spaces will be utilized. Visual reminders and posters will be provided.

Breakfast

During breakfast students will sit by grade level. Students will sit in every other seat and never sit directly across from each other. As students finish breakfast they will move to their appropriate waiting area. Teachers may opt to have students eat in their classrooms to further minimize crowding.

Lunch

During lunch students will sit according to their classroom teacher. Students will sit in every other seat and never sit directly across from each other. Some students may eat in the alternate locations to maximize physical distancing in the cafeteria. Visitors will not be permitted to eat lunch with students. Teachers may opt to have students eat in their classrooms to further minimize crowding. Trash collection and sanitizing practices have been updated to minimize student movement.

Kindergarten arrival plan for the first day of school

While parents are not permitted into the classroom, our goal is still to facilitate a safe and comforting transition between parents and teachers. Parents of kindergarteners will meet their teacher on the front concrete behind the flag pole. Each class will be spread out to ensure appropriate physical distance. When the majority of students have arrived at the front concrete area, the kindergarten teachers and students will enter the building..