



Ashford Elementary School

Parent-Student Handbook

2022-2023

If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of a disability, please contact the campus principal.

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August 22, 2022

Dear Students and Parents,

The School Handbook has been written to provide important information concerning specific rules, policies and procedures related to the safety and operation of our school. For Ashford Elementary School to operate safely and efficiently, you and your student(s) must be familiar with and abide by the expectations, procedures and rules outlined in this handbook.

The student handbook summarizes district policy and contains general guidelines and information. Refer to official policy and regulation documents for specific information at <https://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/592>. In the event of a conflict between this handbook and a Board policy or regulation, the Board policy or regulation takes precedence and controls. In the event of a conflict between this handbook and any applicable law, the applicable law takes precedence and controls.

This handbook's content may be changed from time to time throughout the 2022-2023 school year. An up-to-date version will be maintained online at <https://www.houstonisd.org/ashfordes>. Ashford Elementary School will provide notice of changes through campus mail and/or call outs. We will also utilize our social media platforms to keep our families informed. It is the responsibility of students and parents to review such changes and to remain apprised of the current version of the handbook. If you have any questions regarding this handbook, please contact me at 281-368-2120.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kylene Vasquez
Principal

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Board of Education

- **Elizabeth Santos**, District I, First Vice President
- **Kathy Blueford-Daniels**, District II, Second Vice President
- **Daniela "Dani" Hernandez**, District III
- **Patricia K. Allen**, District IV
- **Sue Deigaard**, District V, Secretary
- **Kendall Baker**, District VI
- **Bridget Wade**, District VII
- **Judith Cruz**, District VIII, President
- **Myrna Guidry**, Esq, District IX, Assistant Secretary

The Board of Education is the official policy-making body of the Houston Independent School District. The nine trustees, elected from separate districts, serve staggered four-year terms. The board holds public meetings at 5:00 pm on the second Thursday of every month in the HISD Board Auditorium, 4400 West 18th Street. Agendas and meeting notices are available online at <http://www.houstonisd.org/domain/7947>.

Communication in the District

Child Protective Services	800-252-5400
Family and Community Empowerment (FACE)	713-556-7290
HISD Information Center	713-556-6000
Parent and Community Assistance Office	713-556-7121
RISE Area Schools Office	713-556-6984
Transportation	713-613-3040

If you have a question concerning your child, please follow the chain of command below unless directed otherwise:

1. Teacher
2. Grade Level Administrator
3. Principal
4. School Support Officer
5. Area Superintendent
6. Superintendent
7. Board of Education

Most questions can be addressed at the building level. If further assistance is needed, contact the [Parent and Community Assistance Office](#) at (713) 556-7121 or at ParentAssistance@houstonisd.org

Notice of Nondiscrimination and Prohibition of Harassment

It is the policy of the Houston Independent School District to comply fully with the nondiscrimination provisions of all Federal and State laws and regulations by assuring that no student shall be discriminated against, or harassed, based on by age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, handicap or disability, marital status, religion, veteran status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression, or any other basis prohibited by law. A substantiated charge of harassment against a student or employee shall result in disciplinary action.

The policy of Houston ISD is that all students and employees shall be free from bullying and sexual harassment, including violence in students' relationships. Students, faculty, staff, administration, and parents must take all charges of bullying, sexual harassment, and dating violence very seriously. The District will make every reasonable effort to handle and respond to every charge and complaint filed by students and employees in a fair, thorough, and just manner. Every reasonable effort will be made to protect the due process rights of all victims and all alleged offenders.

Notice Regarding Directory Information and Parent's Response Regarding Release of Student Information

Certain information about students is considered directory information. It will be released following federal laws, Board policies, and guidelines. A parent must notify the District in writing within a designated period if he or she objects to releasing directory information about his or her child. Understand that once information on your child is included in student publications, district publications, yearbooks, or on the district's website or social media, it may be subject to public release.

Directory information for Houston ISD students has been classified into three categories:

1. Items for use only for school-sponsored purposes;
2. Items for use for non-school-sponsored purposes; and
3. Items for all other purposes.

School Use

For the following school-sponsored purposes—all District publications and announcements—directory information shall include student name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, photograph, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, awards received, and the most recent previous school attended by a student.

Non-School Use

For the following non-school-sponsored purposes—

1. Directory information of current and former students may be released upon request to publicly elected officials in Texas. Directory information released to publicly elected officials may include student name, address, telephone listing, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, dates of attendance, and the most recent previous school attended by a student.
2. Directory information of former students may be released upon request to alumni groups and student reunion committees. Directory information released to alumni groups and student reunion committees may include student name, address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, and the most recent previous school attended by a student.

All Other Purposes

For all other purposes, directory information shall not be released.

Ashford Elementary School

Ashford Elementary School opened in 1971 in West Houston's Shadowbriar community. Originally, Ashford was a primary campus serving students in pre-kindergarten through second grade until the 2014-2015 school year. At the start of the subsequent year, Ashford yearly added a grade level and now serves students from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. Additionally, Ashford school's architecture served as an *open-space school* with no physical walls separating classrooms, a popular theme emergent in the 1970s public school system. However, today the classes are self-contained by classroom spaces. With the opening of our two new wings, all grade-level school rooms have become housed in permanent buildings specifically designed to meet the young learner's needs.

Mission Statement

Our mission at Ashford Elementary School is to provide the foundation to empower each student to become a life-long learner with the skills needed to thrive in today's global society.

Vision Statement

We believe in working with families and community members to ensure we provide the best holistic educational experience for all Ashford Eagles.

Our vision is that Ashford Elementary becomes a premier elementary campus in West Houston that is recognized locally and nationally for producing an exceptional foundation for future global graduates thriving in college, career, and society.

Core Values

- Ambition
- Benevolence
- Demeanor
- Diligence

Creed

We will go to college, we will succeed. This is our motto. This is our creed. Ashford Eagles are number one. We think learning is lots of fun! Go Eagles!

Pride and Spirit

Ashford's school colors are navy blue and white. These are used in all the school letters and uniforms worn by the various clubs/organizations. The school mascot is the Ashford Eagle, which exemplifies the courageous and determined spirit of Ashford students.

Contact Us

Address	1815 Shannon Valley Houston, Texas 77077
Main Office Phone	281-368-2120
Main Office Fax	281-368-2123
School Website	https://www.houstonisd.org/ashfordes
School Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/AshfordES/
School Twitter	https://twitter.com/Ashford_Hisd
School Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/ashfordeagles/

Hours of Operation

Office Hours	7:15 am to 4:00 pm
School Hours for Students	7:30 am to 3:00 pm
School Hours for Teachers	7:25 am to 3:15 pm

Bell Schedule

7:00 am	Building Open to Faculty – Please do not allow students to arrive on campus before this time, as there will be no adult supervision until 7:15 am. Parents/guardians are responsible for their minors before 7:15 am.
7:15 am	Building Open to Students – Students report to their assigned waiting area and begin to eat breakfast between 7:15 am and 7:45 am. Breakfast is not served after 7:45 am. A few staff are on morning arrival duty between 7:15-7:25 am. At 7:25 am, teachers report to duty & pick up their students from specific locations.
7:30 am	Class Begins – All students must be on campus at this time, and instruction begins.
7:35 am	Tardy Bell Rings - Students are marked tardy after this time.
9:00 am	Attendance Bell – Students not in class are marked absent for the day. Students who arrive after this time are marked absent unless they have a medical doctor's excuse timestamped.
2:20 pm	Building Closed to Visitors – Students will not be signed out after this due to dismissal transitions and safety.

3:00 pm

Dismissal – All students exit the campus at 3:00 pm and must be picked up by 3:15 pm. **A few staff are after 3:15 pm, and late pick-ups do not guarantee your student is monitored.**

Ashford ES Faculty and Staff Directory

Special Education Program & Services Team			
SPED Resource Teacher	Horace Price	SPED Resource TA	Shahana Afroj
SPED BSC Teacher	Clarence Warmsley	SPED BSC TA	Nusrat Jahan
SPED PALS Teacher	Clinton Wilson	SPED PALS TA	Symphony Picou
SPED PALS Teacher	Maria Balanay	SPED PALS TA	Janet Maclin
SPED PALS Explore Teacher	Ashley Barroso	SPED PALS Explore TA	Brenda Blanco

Pre-Kindergarten Team			
PK Dual Language Teacher	Ana Doulati	PK Dual Language TA	N/A
PK Teacher	Andrea LaFleur	PK TA	Esther Nanyangwe
PK Teacher	Jonah Davis	PK TA	Fouzia Rashid

Kindergarten Team	
Kinder Dual Language Teacher	Viktoriya Tymoshchuk
Kinder Teacher	Ingrid Lathers
Kinder Teacher	Alexandra Yglesias

First Grade Team	
1st Dual Language Teacher	Elizabeth Hinojosa
1st Teacher	Stephanie Gibson
1st Teacher	Jacqueline Pirtle
1st Teacher	Kady Michaelis

Second Grade Team	
2nd Dual Language Teacher	Esperanza Fernandez
2nd Teacher	Sia Petrou
2nd Teacher	Daphne Neal
2nd Teacher	Chynna Bunyan

Third Grade Team	
3rd Dual Language Teacher	Zoila Latoni
3rd Teacher	Linda Rose
3rd Teacher	Brittney Manuel
3rd Teacher	Melody Lowe

Fourth Grade Team	
4th Dual Language Teacher Spanish	Daniel Torres
4th Dual Language Teacher English	Ruth Ruiz
4th Math Teacher	Cinthia Conde
4th Reading, Writing, Science Teacher	Dylan Alexander

Fifth Grade Team	
5th Dual Language Teacher	5th Grade Dual Language Teacher
5th Reading, Writing, & Social Studies Teacher	Zecina Haulcy
5th Math Teacher	Joshua Jones
5th Science Teacher	Tiffanie Jarrett

Ancillary Team	
Physical Education Teacher	Kevin Selden
Music Teacher	Mario Lira
Media Specialist	Julio Petersen III
Art Teacher	Ariana Galvan

Due to unforeseen circumstances, faculty and staff can change in roles or as HISD employees throughout the school year for a variety of reasons. The campus will communicate changes to parents/guardians promptly. To see an updated faculty and staff roster, please click on this [link](#).

General Information

After-School and Evening Events

A parent or guardian must accompany students and siblings during after-school/evening events (e.g., music programs, academic nights, etc.). A student may not attend an after-school/evening event unless the student was in attendance for the full school day on the day of the event. With the building administrator's approval, exceptions may be made to this practice on a case-by-case basis.

Arrival and Dismissal of Students

Students may arrive at school at 7:15 am Teachers will pick up students at 7:25 am from designated location areas. All students are to be in class by 7:30 am

- ALL students enter the Cafeteria Breezeway entrance
- Reporting locations for students to wait for teachers:

PALS / PK / KINDER

CAFETERIA

FIRST / SECOND

PRIMARY HALLWAY – BUILDING 1

THIRD / FOURTH/ FIFTH

PLC HALLWAY – BUILDING 1

Parents are not permitted to walk students to class on the first day of school. Students will adjust to school policies and learn to engage with peers and adults. There will be a “hug zone” (outside of the building) for parents to hug their little ones and say see you later!

School is dismissed at 3:00 pm Your child should be picked up no later than 3:15 pm We understand that events may require a parent to be late.

Please call the office to inform us of your arrangements. Please make after-school childcare arrangements if you cannot pick up your child/children on time. The proper authorities will be contacted on behalf of those students who are consistently not picked up by 3:15 pm due to child well-being concerns if a solution can't be determined for the wellbeing of the students between the parent/guardian and school. If you are late picking up your child, you must come into the building and complete the late pickup sign-out log.

PLEASE NOTE: IN THE INTEREST OF STUDENT AND STAFF MEMBER SAFETY AND BUILDING SECURITY, PARENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO WALK STUDENTS INTO THE BUILDING FOR DROPOFF DURING MORNING ARRIVAL TIMES.

PLEASE NOTE: Before 7:30 am, only office visitors or parents/guests with a scheduled appointment will be admitted into the building. After 7:30 am, parents or guests must check in at the front desk and have a visitor badge to proceed to their respective locations on campus.

Car riders are picked up at the front of the school on Shannon (in a separate area from the bus pick-up/drop-off zone, which is located on Whittington Dr.). Cars are required to enter the line from the Shannon Valley Dr. Lining up on Waldemar, Brandywyne, or Rincon Street, or turning onto Shannon Valley is prohibited by law during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal times.

A student is a “walker” only if he/she is walking home on his/her own. **Parents must sign a release form that authorizes the student to walk home and acknowledges that students (regardless of grade level or age) dismissed as walkers are not supervised by Ashford staff anywhere on campus after regular school hours, including the Ashford SPARK Park.**

Walkers exit at the first gate at the Spark Park field that connects to the Ashford school gate. Parents can meet their students on the Spark Park track between the dividing gate to receive their student(s). There are rows showing how parents should line up to receive their students if they meet them at the Spark Park track.

The first students released are independent walkers that walk directly home. The second round of walkers includes students meeting their parents on the track, with 5th grade being called first and finishing with pre-kindergarten.

Older siblings are responsible for finding younger siblings inside the gate & will wait in a section of the inside field until their grade level is called. Once siblings are together, then they are released to exit.

Those parents picking up their students from where the walkers exit may **not** park in the small U-drive parking lot or obstruct the carpool line. Crossing the street illegally is done at your own risk, and those infractions are subject to fines from Harris County Police Department or HISD Police Department.

DRIVING, PARKING, AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY: Please obey posted signs and driving laws and exercise good safety practices when dropping off and picking up students in the mornings and afternoons. Please follow these rules:

- Do not use a cell phone while driving in the school area. Distracted driving presents a danger to car riders and pedestrians alike.
- Adhere to the school speed zone limit of 20 mph.
- Do not pull out of the Shannon Valley car rider line early or go around the line as this presents a safety hazard. Students should remain in the car until reaching the cafeteria entrance.
- Cars parking or standing within 30 feet of crosswalks is prohibited by law.
- Cars should not block intersections at any time.
- Do not make U-turns on streets around the school during heavily congested times.
- Do stop while school buses are stopped to load and unload students.
- When dropping off or picking up students, stop your car on the right-hand side of the street and have your children get in and out of the car on the curbside.
- When crossing the street, students should cross with the crossing guard at the crosswalk.
- Do not park your car in areas marked “No Parking.” It poses a safety risk to students, and police give tickets in these areas.
- Follow directions of the faculty and staff guiding traffic.

PARENTAL CHANGE OF STUDENT DISMISSAL PLAN: As an extra safety precaution, any changes requested to a student's afternoon dismissal plan must be communicated directly to the Ashford Elementary office. An email to your child's teacher is encouraged but will not suffice as the only means of communicating a dismissal change. The office will require that a parent communicating a dismissal change over the phone must provide the driver's license number written on the student's enrollment form with the school. To inform your child of a change in his/her dismissal plans, please notify the office by 1:30 pm, and the message will be relayed to your child's teacher. This time provides the school with enough notice to communicate the updated dismissal change to the appropriate parties.

For arrival and dismissal maps, see the last page of this handbook.

Appointments / Early Departures

We encourage you to schedule your child's doctor and dental appointments around school hours and advise you to keep early departure requests to a minimum. The last minutes of a class day is as important as the first minutes of the day. Teachers use this time to summarize and recap what was learned during the day. They also use the time to organize information for homework. Children must complete the day with their classes.

If scheduling an appointment before or after school is not possible, you must: Come to the main office to sign out your child for your child to be released. Your name must appear on the enrollment card. Present a picture I.D. If your child is cleared by the doctor/dentist to return the same day to school, present the doctor/dental note upon return. The attendance office will monitor early releases. Regularly leaving the school early is also grounds for automatic retention, non-renewal of transfer, and/or court action for you and your child. We request a 24-hour notice of doctor appointments so we may prepare any work the student may miss and send it home with them to complete.

To help us ensure the safety and security of our children, students will not be dismissed after 2:20 pm. Students will only be checked out to adults who are listed on the enrollment form. Students who leave campus before dismissal will **not** be called to wait in the front office before the parent/guardian arrives. They will be called to the front office when the parent arrives at the office and completes sign-out procedures. If an emergency requires that your child be released to someone else, you must provide written notice. Students will not be released to anyone under the age of 18.

Attendance and Tardies

Ashford Elementary is committed to the philosophy that every student should attend every class, every period, every day. Daily attendance and promptness are expected in all classes and are essential for success in school. Since attendance represents a critical part in the overall success of each student, when a student's absenteeism is excessive, the school will send a letter to the student's parents/guardians. The letter states the total number of student absences and the importance of school attendance. If the student's attendance does not improve, the school will take additional steps to ensure the parent/guardian is aware of the student's poor attendance.

The official attendance for the day is taken at 9:00 am. A student who is not physically on campus at 9:00 am is absent unless they present official documentation of a visit made that same day to a doctor, dentist, or other medical/clinical professional.

Attendance Guidelines:

1. Daily Absence Reporting:

- a. Parents/guardians should notify the school by telephone each day a student is absent. If the parent/guardian fails to notify the school, the school will attempt to contact the parent/guardian. The district will also communicate every time a student is absent to the parent/guardian.
- b. All absences, including those approved in advance by parents or guardians or school officials, except those for school-sponsored activities, will count against a student's attendance.
- c. The school encourages parents to schedule doctor and dental appointments after school hours.
- d. Excessive absences can result in automatic retention, non-renewal of transfer, and/or court action for you and your child.
- e. Notes received after 3 days will automatically be considered unexcused.
- f. Parents/guardians may be required to submit supporting documentation to excuse their student's absence if student absenteeism is excessive. For example, for the absence to be excused, parents/guardians may be asked to submit a written notification from a licensed physician stating the reasons why a student is unable to attend school.

2. Tardiness: A student is tardy if she or he is not present at the start of class. A student arriving at class after 7:35 am without proper authorization is considered truant. Students arriving late to school must report to the office for a tardy pass **with their parents**. Students who are frequently tardy may result in disciplinary measures for parents/guardians. A pattern of regular tardiness is also grounds for automatic retention, non-renewal of transfer, and/or court action for you and your child.

3. Excused Absences: The only acceptable excuses for an absence to be excused are:

- Personal illness (fever, vomiting, or diarrhea)
- Dental or doctor appointments (note required from a physician)
- Death in the family
- Quarantine
- Weather or road conditions making travel dangerous determined by district and county authorities
- Emergencies or any unusual circumstances recognized by the principal
- Observance of religious holidays
- Health services provided to Medicare-eligible students
- School sponsored or school-sanctioned activities away from the campus (no parent note required)
- Court appearance of the students-documentation required

When we receive notes from parents with acceptable reasons for absence or notes from a doctor on their stationery, these absences are considered excused absences. Excused absences will cause a student not to have perfect attendance but will not be considered truancy unless there is an extreme number. **Written excuses from parents will only be accepted for 3 absences to be counted as an excused**

absence. Written excuses from your child’s doctor will only be accepted for 5 absences to be counted as an excused absence. If you need additional absences to be counted as excused absences, the parent will need to meet with the Principal or School Nurse to have them excused; otherwise, they will count as unexcused absences.

4. **Unexcused Absences:** Family vacations and midyear trips are unexcused. Please plan your family vacations/trips around the 2022-2023 school calendar. Research shows that more than five days of school loss could greatly impact social and academic achievement. All other reasons will be considered an unexcused absence if not approved by the Principal.

Every moment is a learning moment when your child is at school. We work to make the most of your child’s educational experience when they are here.

Compulsory School Attendance Laws

TO PARENTS OR TO PERSONS STANDING IN PARENTAL RELATION TO CHILDREN

This section is to inform you of Senate Bill 1432 as passed by the Texas Legislature effective September 1, 2001. The law states that if a student is absent from school three (3) days or parts of days in a four week-period without parental consent or is absent without an excuse for ten (10) or more days or parts of a day in a six-month period:

- The student’s parent or legal guardian is subject to prosecution under Texas Education Code 25.093
- The student is subject to prosecution under Texas Code 25.094

It is your duty to monitor your child’s attendance, require your child to attend school and request a conference with a school official to discuss absences. Parents or legal guardians are subject to prosecution under Texas Education Code 25.093 (b) for failure to require their child to attend school.

Once enrolled in a Texas public school, all children beginning at age 4 (PK) are subject to the Compulsory School Attendance laws.

Perfect Attendance

Perfect Attendance will be awarded to students without any absences and tardies at the end of the school year.

Birthday Treats

Per Texas Department of Agriculture policy regarding birthday treats at school, if a parent wishes to celebrate a child’s birthday, they may bring store-bought cupcakes or cookies (one per student) to school. No other items are permitted, such as candy, sheet cakes, juice, sodas, or fast food items. To address any known allergy concerns, label listing ingredients should be affixed to the package. Homemade treats will not be distributed to students. Items that do not meet these guidelines will not be served and sent back home at the end of the day. Healthy snacks are encouraged.

To maintain our instructional focus, teachers will allow your child to share store-bought cupcakes or cookies with classmates at the end of the day. Parents should send the food items to school in the morning in a sturdy container. **Parents cannot interrupt instructional time to drop off items or supervise this activity.** No party-type activities will take place, including group photographs, balloons, gifts, or party favors. Please do not hand out party invitations at school unless all children in the class are to receive one. We ask that parents notify their child's teacher if they prefer their child not to participate in birthday celebrations or if a child has a food allergy.

Breakfast, Lunch and Snacks

Ashford offers a state- and federally approved breakfast and lunch program. Menus can be found on the district website.

Food service maintains an account for each student. An account balance, a listing of student purchases on the student's account as well as other account options are available for parents at www.schoolcafe.com. Students are encouraged to purchase meals in advance in lieu of carrying cash daily. We recommend all breakfast and lunch payments be made online at www.schoolcafe.com. If there are any outstanding balances for lunch, your child will not receive a regular lunch but will receive a sandwich and milk until the outstanding balance is taken care of. New students will incur the daily charge until the application has been approved.

Students may also bring lunch. Please label lunch boxes with your child's name. Soda and fast food lunches are discouraged.

Free and Reduced Lunch:

Breakfast is free for all Ashford students and is provided in the classroom or cafeteria, depending on the grade level.

Students may be eligible for free or reduced-price lunch based on federal income guidelines. Forms are available in the school office and on the district website. Surveys must be submitted for each household annually, and they may be submitted at any time during the school year should the need arise. Disclosure of free and reduced-price meal applications and eligibility information will be limited following applicable law.

Breakfast: Monday through Friday, 7:15 am to 7:45 am

Lunch: The teacher will provide a daily lunch schedule to parents.

FEDERAL CAFETERIA GUIDELINES

- Food cannot be shared (siblings, parents, and classmates may not eat off each other's plates).
- Outside food can only be brought for your child.
- Food may not be taken out of the cafeteria.
- Under no circumstances is a parent or guardian to eat off a child's plate

Calendar

Please refer to the [2022-2023 Academic Calendar](#) for important dates such as holidays and report card dates. A school monthly calendar will be sent at the beginning of each month. All

school-wide communications will be sent home on Wednesdays in the students' "Communication Folder."

Cancellations and Emergency Closings

Make a plan for rainy or "bad" days. Ensure your child is familiar with your plan and can follow it. **Please do not call the school office with instructions and messages. This should be handled in advance.**

If it is necessary to close school for the day because of weather conditions, this information will be carried by all local radio and television stations. **Please do not telephone the school**, the Police Department, or local stations. This will tie up needed communication lines. Whenever possible, the decision will be made before 6:30 am

Occasionally, it is necessary to dismiss school during the day. Please have a plan for your child to follow in such a case. HISD buses will run in these instances, and all local radio and television stations will carry information. Please do not plan to call the school with last minute instructions; this will be impossible with the number of students we have enrolled. If school is closed during the day, parents should come as quickly as possible to pick up their students.

If Houston has severe weather conditions, watch the TV or listen to the radio; HISD will inform the media when schools are closed.

The principal does not have the authority to cancel or close school. HISD's superintendent has the authority to cancel or close schools. **Please listen to the news for any decisions made by the superintendent.**

District Announcements via School Messenger:

Take control of how you are notified about meetings, events, and other district news at HoustonISD.org/SchoolMessenger. Select how you want to be communicated with – calls, texts, or emails. Keep your contact information updated. Make changes to your settings at any time. Mobile users: Download the free SchoolMessenger app to have notifications at your fingertips.

Carpool Car Tags

All students will receive a carpool tag. Parents **MUST** place this tag on the rearview mirror to expedite the carpool process. If you need additional tags, please come to the front office with your ID and we will provide you with another tag.

Cellphone/Electronics

Students are allowed to have a cell phone in their backpack to use only to communicate with parents after school starting at 3:00 pm. Cell phones and other electronics are not allowed to be on or used during the school day. Cell phones and electronic devices that are visible (seen or heard) during the school day will be confiscated and turned in to the office. The parent will be contacted by either the teacher or an administrator. The student's parent will have to come to the office to retrieve the phone by paying a \$15.00 fee as stated in the Code of Student Conduct to pick up the phone. The school will not be held responsible for lost cell phones and other electronic devices.

Note: Ashford Elementary is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged electronic communication devices or any charges incurred while said phones & electronic devices are on campus.

Cell Phone During Testing

Teachers will collect all student cell phones, label them, and secure them in a large ziplock bag until the end of testing. Any student who violates the Cell Phone Policy during testing will be subject to having his/her test invalidated and will be removed from the testing environment. Parents will be notified of this decision. Students will not be allowed to make up any portion of their assessment missed due to this infraction. This infraction is also considered a state irregularity/procedural issue filed with the Texas Education Agency.

Change of Address/Telephone Number

For the school to handle emergencies, maintain communication, and keep records current, please notify the school office immediately of address or telephone number changes.

Civility Policy

Ashford Elementary has adopted a civility policy (Board Policy GKA). The policy relates to the use of respect and courtesy in relationships and communication among school officials, students, parents, and public members. A copy of Board Policy GKA is available for review in every school building and on the district's website. The policy's purpose is to maintain a safe, harassment-free workplace for students and staff to the extent possible and reasonable.

Uncivil behavior is defined as any behavior that is

- 1) physically or verbally threatening, either overtly or implicitly, as well as behavior that is coercive, intimidating, violent, or harassing, and
- 2) directed toward employees, students, parents, patrons, visitors or anyone having business with the district.

Examples of uncivil behavior include, but are not limited to

- 1) use of profanity;
- 2) personally insulting remarks;
- 3) attacks regarding a person's race, gender, nationality, religion, disabling condition, or any other personal characteristic, or
- 4) behavior that is out of control.

Students who violate this policy may be disciplined. **Parents who violate the civility policy may be restricted from being present on school district property, have restrictions placed on their communications with district personnel, or have Houston ISD Police Department contacted for disorderly conduct and related offenses.**

Classroom Parties

Class parties are limited to two (2) per year by HISD policy. Ashford will hold parties before Winter Holiday and at the end of the school year. Students may distribute Valentine's Day cards, but students will not have a party on this day.

Classroom Placement

Ashford Elementary assigns students to their next year's class through the collaborative efforts of their current classroom teacher, administrator, and principal. Special education teachers and/or intervention specialists provide input when applicable. Many factors are considered in creating balanced classroom groups, including learning styles, gender equity, academic achievement level, behavior, study work habits, and peer relations. Parent requests for specific classroom teachers are not accepted. However, some parents may like to offer input as to their children's learning needs. Once class placements have been made, requests for changes will not be considered.

Communication Folder

Teachers will communicate with parents via telephone, e-mail, school agenda/notes, or personal contact. You are always invited to schedule a conference with your child's teacher during their conference period. Remember not to interrupt your child's teacher during instructional time as they are responsible for all children's learning.

Parents should expect a Communication Folder to be sent home with each student every Wednesday. This folder will be a regular form of communication between school and home. Each student should return the folder to school every Thursday to be used each week. For additional information, please contact your child's teacher.

Parent Signatures:

To keep track of your child's progress in school and maintain awareness of school activities, parents need to monitor what students bring home. The school monitors parent awareness through parent signatures. Please help us keep an open line of communication by signing student folders and reading log sheets, field-trip permission forms, discipline notes, etc.

School Counseling and Counseling Programs

School counselors are uniquely qualified to address all students' academic, career, and social/emotional development needs by designing, implementing, evaluating, and enhancing a comprehensive school counseling program that promotes and enhances student success. School counselors are employed in elementary, middle/junior high and high schools, district supervisory positions, and counselor education positions. School counselors serve a vital role in maximizing student success through leadership, advocacy, and collaboration. School counselors promote equity and access to rigorous educational experiences for all students. School counselors support a safe learning environment and work to safeguard the human rights of all members of the school community, and address the needs of all students through culturally relevant prevention and intervention programs that are a part of a comprehensive school counseling program. The development of the school counseling program is based on the following areas of The American School Counselor Association ASCA National Model: foundation, delivery, management, and accountability.

NOTE: School counselors adhere to the Texas Administrative Code Standards, Rule 239.15

Criminal Code Notifications

Pursuant to Chapter 62, Article 62.03 and 62.04 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, effective September 1, 1997, notification is hereby made of our procedures for school notification of registered sex offenders.

The official notification is received by the Superintendent of Schools, who then forwards copies to each school. A file is maintained in the main hallway for public inspection of all offender notices received.

The notice may include any information deemed necessary to protect the public, including name, gender, race, date of birth, street name and zip code of offender's residence, offense, age of the victim, and date of registration. Information is available during regular business hours.

Curriculum and Online Resources

Houston ISD provides the [HISD Curriculum](#), an aligned, standards-based, balanced, and rigorous curriculum that specifies the standards (the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) for each grade level, subject area, and course. This curriculum supports academic growth and achievement and meets state guidelines to prepare students for national, state, and local assessments, including the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR). The required HISD Curriculum includes: • a core foundation curriculum consisting of reading and language arts (reading, writing, listening, and speaking), mathematics, science, social studies, dual language, and • a core enrichment curriculum consisting of languages other than English, health, physical education, fine arts, and technology applications. The HISD Curriculum defines the expectations for student learning district-wide. The HISD Curriculum aligns to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS), and the College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS).

NOTE: Teaching these state standards is required by Title 19, Part II, of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC)

Custody

If you and your spouse are separated/divorced, and you have legal/primary residential custody of your child(ren), we need to have a copy of your custody papers on file. If at any time you feel that a problem may occur, we need to have knowledge of this in the school office. This is the only way we can help prevent additional problems from happening at school.

Deliveries to School / Forgotten Items

Occasionally, as students exit their cars in the morning, they realize that they have forgotten a lunch, backpack, instrument, etc. You may leave those items with the front office, and we will ensure your child receives it.

Items (homework, lunch kits, etc.) forgotten in the classroom after dismissal may not be retrieved until the following day due to safety concerns and encouraging student responsibility for items.

Personal items needed during the school day must be dropped off by a parent/guardian, adult household member, or person authorized by the parent/guardian. **Please don't make a habit of dropping off lunch every day for your child. If this becomes an issue, the school reserves the right not to accept items daily due to parent irresponsibility.**

Dress Code

The faculty and staff of Ashford Elementary School expect students to come to school each day dressed appropriately to ensure a focus on learning and to preserve the health and safety of everyone on campus. Each student's appearance should always reflect a positive image of the school while on campus or during school-related activities off-site. Our campus values and needs the support of parents in upholding our dress code. The following guidelines outline appropriate dress for all students

Bottoms:

Standard uniform pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, or jumpers in khaki, navy blue, black, or denim jeans.

- Cargo, jogging, sweat, athletics, and leggings are prohibited.
- Trousers must be worn at waist level.
- Underwear may not be visible above the waistband of the trousers.
- Belts must be worn if needed.

Tops:

Students have assigned colors by grade level to support with safety and immediate recognition of student in correct or incorrect locations. We have three large, detached buildings, and our youngest students in PK and Kinder enter and exit buildings with buddies. The colors support us to make sure we always prioritize safety.

Additionally, Ashford Spirit Shirts, School Club Shirts, or College Shirts can be worn on any day of the week with the corresponding bottoms listed above. Please review for the colors below by grade level.

5th Grade



4th Grade



3rd Grade



2nd Grade



1st Grade



PK/K/PALS



PK/K/PALS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Light blue	Green	Gold	Black	Navy	Red

Shoes:

Safe shoes must always be worn and must be appropriate for all school activities

- For safety reasons, sandals, opened-toed, or backless shoes are not allowed
- Additionally, tennis shoes with wheels are not permitted

Other:

- Hair color and style may not be disruptive to the educational process.
- Students should not wear jewelry that is distracting or valuable.

New students:

Students who come to Ashford after the school year has started will have two weeks to follow dress code requirements.

Dress codes are implemented to promote school safety and minimize distractions. Please see the Student Code of Conduct for actions that may be taken for disregarding the school dress code. Students who fail to comply with the standards may be warned, sent home to change, or provided an alternate article of clothing if available. Extreme disregard to follow the dress code has additional discretionary consequences that an administration can enforce.

Families requiring support for dress code assistance can contact Ashford’s Wraparound Resource Specialist, Ms. Claudia Garcia Reyes, at claudia.garciareyes@houstonisd.org.

Electronic Devices

The possession of laser pointers and other unsafe electronic items is prohibited in school buildings. All other electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, tablets, e-readers, headphones, and iPods/MP3 players, may be in the student’s possession as long as the device remains off and is not visible during the school day. The school district will not be responsible for lost or stolen items.

Any cell phone usage, picture-taking, or text messaging is prohibited during school hours.

After 30 days, the principal or other administrator will notify the parent of the intent to dispose of the device. Any electronic device not claimed will be sent to HISD Property Management for disposal.

Emergency Drills

Our school has developed an emergency plan for any crisis. This emergency plan is devoted to the welfare and safety of your child during school hours. We have a crisis management team that reviews, updates, and trains the staff to care for your child at school. The school is one of the safest places students may be located during most crises or natural disasters.

Students will be informed of the appropriate action to take in an emergency. Drills for fire, weather, and other emergencies shall be conducted each school year following the requirements of the district and Fire Marshal. Evacuation routes are posted in each room.

You will be notified of crises. For this reason, do not telephone the school during such an emergency. Telephone lines may be needed for emergency communication. Therefore, you must provide the school with the correct home telephone, work, and cell phone numbers. By providing as many telephone numbers as possible, the chances of our being able to contact you in the event of an emergency increases.

While all of us certainly hope the need for an emergency evacuation never arises, it is important that parents be aware that staff and children will be prepared in case of an emergency.

The campus emergency operations plan addresses the following:

- Entry and egress to-and-from the campus
- Procedures for sign-in and identification of all visitors including parents, volunteers, patrons, contractors and/or vendors (a visitor management system is required)
- Procedures for contacting police for the removal of unauthorized access intruders
- Security of administrative offices
- Security of files
- Location of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)
- Security of classrooms
- Safety Council meetings/minutes/follow-up actions
- Routine facilities and grounds (general and specific) safety inspections

The campus emergency operations plan includes:

- An updated Incident Command System (ICS) chart, including names, titles, and functions
- A list of members of the Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness Council IV-53
- Names of individuals on campus trained in CPR, AED, and Standard First Aid
- Name of the individual(s) responsible for unlocking pedestrian/perimeter gates during emergencies/evacuation
- Bus pick-up location for use during a bus evacuation
- Evacuation site plan specifying pre-designated relocation sites north, south, east, and west of the campus, including the names of location sites where students will/may be reunited with parents (e.g. a church, restaurant, hospital, campus/college)
- Procedures for activating fire/emergency alarms for emergency notification
- Directive to teachers to carry, on their person, the class roster/grade book during emergency practice drills or real emergencies
- An employee fan-out system
- Areas to be used by parents during emergencies if/when perimeter gates are locked
- Training dates when teachers on the locations and use of fire extinguishers and emergency procedures
- Campus map with a key/legend that identifies the location of parking lots, sidewalks, gates, flagpole, driveways, ambulance loading, and emergency entrance/exits

Enrollment Information Sheet

An enrollment information sheet for each student must be on file in the office. If there is a need to contact you during the day, school personnel will use the telephone numbers listed. **If there is a change of address or telephone number during the school year, please notify the**

school office. It is very important for the safety of our students that the parent's home, business, and emergency numbers are kept current during the school year.

Registration & Enrollment Requirements

Students entering kindergarten must be 5 years old before midnight on September 1. First-grade students must be 6 years old before midnight on September 1. All students entering Ashford Elementary for the first time must have a valid birth certificate.

Parents and guardians do not need to register their children if they are returning zoned Ashford students. If your student is at Ashford Elementary under a transfer (for example--dual language or other reason) or hardship, please notify Ms. Villarreal, our registrar, of your commitment to returning to the upcoming 2023-2024 academic school year.

Successful enrollment requires the following information:

- Proof of address
 - We need one proof of residency lease, water, gas, or electricity bill showing the parents' name
- Parent ID or driver's license
- Student birth certificate
 - Must be four by September 1, 2022, to enter Pre-kindergarten
 - Must be five by September 1, 2022, to enter Kindergarten
 - Must be six by September 1, 2022, to enter First grade
- Student last report card
- Student immunization record
 - [Houston ISD Immunization Requirements](#)
- Social security card
- Proof of income (for Pre-K only)

The enrollment applications can be picked up at Ashford Elementary School during school hours, and you can return the information in a sealed envelope to the main office. Our team will pick up the applications and begin processing the information accordingly. For enrollment and registration questions, you can contact Esmerlda Villarreal at Esmerlda.Villarreal@houstonisd.org. You can also visit www.houstonisd.org/enroll to apply to our school.

PK parents must create an application on <https://www.hisdchoice.com/login> and select the top 10 school choices for a PK program. Please select Ashford as your **number ONE selection**. Additionally, Ashford accepts spaces for tuition-paying families who do not qualify for PK by language or income. At Ashford, we believe in servicing all students.

Excused Participation from Physical Education Classes

If your child is to be excused from activity participation in physical education classes for health reasons, a written doctor's recommendation is required. Students will be required to attend the classes for the instructional component and observation and complete an alternative assignment or to complete missed activities when physically able to participate.

Field Lessons

The teachers will arrange field lessons as an extension of the school curriculum. All students are expected to participate in the field lesson as it is a learning activity. Parent approval forms will be sent home to be signed and returned. No student will be permitted to attend a trip without written permission on the appropriate form. The signed permission form must be returned to the teacher no later than two days before the scheduled field trip. A parent may be required to accompany their child on the field lesson if the teacher has concerns regarding the student's ability to stay with the group or follow directions. Our group represents the school while on field lessons; therefore, the appearance and conduct of everyone should be exemplary. School uniforms are required for field lessons.

Chaperones for Field Lessons:

Assisting teachers with field lessons is an important part of our volunteer program. Adequate adult supervision makes for a pleasant learning experience for all students. **According to district policies, all chaperones must complete HISD Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) registration and background check prior to any field lesson.** You must go online and register. Additionally, you must present a copy of your ID to the front office, where a copy will be made and placed on file. Allow 4 – 6 weeks for the approval process. You must complete the VIPS registration at the beginning of the school year. Parents are responsible for updating their status yearly. There is no rollover from year to year. **You must go through the volunteer enrollment process each school year.**

Adults must ride school buses and pay applicable bus and admission fees as required. Parents may drive personal vehicles to field lessons, but those parents may not act as chaperones for other children during a field lesson. Appropriate attire must be worn that is conducive to a school setting. Parents may not bring siblings, family members, or friends to field lessons. Parents on field lessons are there as chaperones to support the classroom teachers. Parents should not take their children away from the group or outside the teacher's supervision. **Parents are not allowed to take their children home after a field lesson. Students must complete the full instructional day and be dismissed at 3:00 pm.** The principal reserves the right to limit the number of chaperones or deny certain individuals from acting as chaperones.

Grading System

PowerTeacher Pro: HISD uses a web-based grading system called PowerTeacher Pro. Parents can use this tool to monitor their child's academic progress throughout the school year. To register for these services, go to www.houstonisd.org and click on the Parents tab. A banner is at the top of the page titled [Parent Student Connect](#). From here, you can register as a first-time user, log in, or seek help. To register, you will need the following information: the parent's first and last name, student ID number, student address, student date of birth, and the last five digits of the student's social security number. If the child does not have a social security number, or if this information has not been provided to HISD, use the last five digits of the "S-Number" provided to your child. Please call the school if you do not know this number.

Progress Reports:

Elementary progress reports are sent to parents four times during the year, during the fourth week of the six-week cycle. Ashford is participating in HISD's Primary Progress Report system

for students in Pre-Kinder and Kindergarten. This is a different type of progress report that charts a child's growth along a continuum instead of comparing a child to other children. Please see your child's teacher if you have any questions about the progress reports or your child's achievements. Students in first-fifth grade receive a letter and number report card. The grading is as follows:

Academic subjects

90-100 A = excellent
80-89 B = good; above average
75-79 C = satisfactory; average
70-74 D = below average

Citizenship Traits

E = Excellent
S = Satisfactory
P = Poor
U = Unsatisfactory

below 70 F = unsatisfactory; failing

If a student is not progressing satisfactorily in any grade level, parents are sent preliminary progress report at the midpoint of the grading period and at other times as necessary. Parents must sign and return the reports. Conferencing with the teacher is strongly recommended anytime a student's progress is affected.

Reports Cards:

A report card will be issued at the end of each six weeks for students in Pre-K through 5 grades. The grading cycle is listed on the Houston ISD website and board policy manual.

Honor Roll Recognition

Ashford recognizes Honor Roll as defined below.

- Students must be graded in all ACADEMIC SUBJECTS.
- Students must have all "As" and "Bs" with no more than two "Bs" and with an "E" or "S" in conduct on the 6-Week Cycle Report Card.

Promotion Standards:

Each student must meet state and district-required academic promotion standards before being promoted to the next grade. These include grades, passing Standardized tests, and meeting standards on a norm-referenced test. Your child's teacher can explain these requirements to you. In addition, the standards can be viewed online at www.houstonisd.org information will also be sent home with students. Students may also be retained due to excessive absences. Please be sure your child is at school every day.

Hall Passes

To ensure a safe and secure learning environment, students who need to leave the classroom should have permission from the teacher and the appropriate hall pass and required identification. Failure to comply with building expectations may result in disciplinary action.

Homework

Homework is an essential part of the learning process in that it provides students with an opportunity to practice and reinforce those skills taught in class. It will also allow parents to become actively involved in their child's learning and be aware of the skills being taught. Usually, thirty minutes maximum is the time a child should spend on homework each day. Those in grades K and 1 may require less time completing written work at home, while those in upper grades may have a few assignments which require a little more time. Also, in the lower grades, an adult's signature might be required to validate the night's reading assignment. Homework will generally be assigned Monday through Thursday. Generally, no homework is assigned on the weekends or holidays; exceptions may include special projects and/ or extensive make-up work. Students are encouraged to read for pleasure daily and may be asked to log such reading on the weekend.

Average Homework Times:

- K-1st Grade 10 – 30 minutes daily
- 2nd Grade 25 – 45 minutes daily
- 3rd Grade 20 – 60 minutes daily
- 4th Grade 30 – 60 minutes daily
- 5th Grade 40 – 60 minutes daily

Lost and Found

Many items are carelessly left in the building or on the playground. All unclaimed articles are placed in the lost/found area in the building. These things may be reclaimed upon proper identification. Please properly label any of your child's possessions that might be misplaced at school. These items may include lunch boxes, coats, and sweaters. All unclaimed items are given to charity in December and in May.

Medical Information

For the safety and protection of all students, medication (prescription or over the counter) may not be brought and kept by students to be taken during the school day.

School nurses may administer medication during the school day if a medication has been prescribed for a chronic or ongoing condition.

A school nurse cannot give medication without express orders from a physician. For such medication to be dispensed, the physician must complete a form stating the need for the medication. At least one parent must request in writing that the medication be administered during school hours.

Medication must be in the original pharmacy container that shows the child's name and the type of medication.

Students who become ill at school will:

- be sent home if fever is 100 or above
- be sent home if vomiting occurs

For attendance purposes, students who are sent home due to illness will be counted absent for the day if they come to the clinic **before** 9:25 am

Students must be free of fever without fever-reducing medication (Tylenol, etc.) and/or vomiting for 24 hours before they may return to school.

If necessary, the HISD medication permission form may be requested from the nurse.

Certain communicable diseases require special handling and/or restrictions in conjunction with the school setting. For your information, the HISD policy regarding communicable disease control measures is included herein.

Communicable disease control measures for all pupils and personnel in the Houston Public Schools

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	May remain in school unless medical advisor determines that open sores or skin eruptions, behavior, or toilet training poses a risk to others.
Chicken Pox	May return to school on seventh day after appearance of eruptions if temperature normal and no complications, no moist lesions.
Diphtheria	Exclude case and/or close contacts until released by City of Houston Health Department
Hepatitis (Infectious A)	Exclude until no fever and no jaundice, or statement of physician that person is non-infectious.
Impetigo	Exclude until treatment begun. Keep covered while in school.
Lice	Exclude until the hair is free of live organisms and nits.
German Measles (Rubella)	May return to school seven days after appearance of rash.
Measles (Rubeola)	Return to school 4 or 5 days after rash appears, if other symptoms are gone. Family contacts, no restrictions. Optional notification
Meningitis Meningococcal (epidemic-type)	Exclude until statement from physician that person is non-infectious. No restrictions on contacts.
Mononucleosis (Infectious)	Exclude until recovered or released by physician. Contacts no restrictions.
Mumps	Exclude for 9 days or until all swelling is gone and temperature normal. Contacts, no restrictions.
Conjunctivitis (Pink eye)	Exclude until recovered, or physician's statement that person is non-infectious.
Poliomyelitis	Exclude until release by physician. Contacts, no restrictions.
Ringworm of scalp	May attend school provided under treatment by a physician. Contacts, no restrictions.

Ringworm of skin	May attend school provided the areas are covered. Contacts, not restrictions (Treatment recommended)
Scabies	Exclude until released by physician. All in household should be treated at same time. School contacts, not restrictions.
Streptococcal Infections: Scarlet fever Scarlatina “Strep” sore throat	Exclude until released by the physician. Contacts no restrictions. (Usually 24 hours from date antibiotic treatment begun).
Tuberculosis	Exclude until released by a physician. Household contacts must have release from physician.
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	Exclude until free of cough or until released by physician. Contacts, no restrictions.

Parent and Adult Dress Code

Parents and other adults coming onto campus need to be appropriately dressed. Remember that we are children’s role models and what may be appropriate at home may not be appropriate in the school setting. If an individual is dressed inappropriately, such as having profanity or vulgar words or images visible, see-through clothing, or cleavage showing, they will be asked to leave the campus and change before returning.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Teachers are responsible for instruction and the supervision of students during school hours. To ensure maximum instructional time, Ashford maintains a no interruptions policy within each classroom. Generally, teachers are not available to meet with parents/guardians outside of scheduled plan times. We encourage consistent communication with parents and staff. Parents who would like to meet with a teacher are welcome to leave a message with the office staff to request the teacher contact the parent to set up a meeting time. Whenever possible, please use email to communicate with your child’s teacher. Teachers are expected to return your call/email with a 48-hour turnaround.

Parent Meetings:

There are many parent meetings that may take place over the course of the school year at the parent or teacher’s request. Being a participant in these meetings will further enhance the parent/teacher/school relationship. You will be advised on the parent meetings in advance to coordinate a day and time. Your participation in these meetings is beneficial to your child’s success.

Parking

Parking is permitted across the street (on the curb closest to the campus on Shannon Valley) from the school at any time during the day. Parking is also permitted in the small U-lot between the front playground and Spark Park. Parking is not permitted on the carpool lane from 7:00 am – 8:00 am and from 1:40 pm to 3:15 pm Please heed the NO PARKING signs posted and respect areas designated as “Handicap Parking.”

The parking lot on the back side of the campus is reserved for Ashford faculty and staff only. Please show courtesy to our neighbors when parking around the school by not blocking driveways or alleys. **Persons blocking driveways may have their cars towed by residents or have local authorities called on them. Standard traffic laws apply to parking, so Houston ISD PD and Houston PD can issue citations for violations.**

Payment of Fees

When paying for pictures, school-sponsored fundraisers, or other school activities, please submit payment in exact cash. Change may not be readily available; any checks that are returned due to insufficient funds will result in a \$35 charge. Payments must be sent to school with the students. Payments for school pictures and/or field lessons will not be accepted at the Main Office unless notified otherwise.

Pedestrian Regulations

HISD places a crossing guard at the corner of Waldemar and Shannon Valley and at Brandywyne and Whittington from **6:45 am - 7:45 am and 2:45 pm - 3:45 pm** to supervise our students. Children must cross at one of the supervised areas. No child will be allowed to cross the street in the middle of the road.

Parents who illegally cross the street are subject to citation by local authorities or HISD police. Further, they are solely liable for any risk involved in illegally disregarding the cross regulations.

Personal Property

Ashford Elementary is not responsible for recovery, reimbursement, or replacement of lost, stolen, or damaged personal property brought to school by students and strongly recommends that valuable personal property remains at home. Personal property should never be left unattended and, when present, should be secured in the backpack. Examples of personal property include but are not limited to; purses, wallets, watches, jewelry, band instruments, electronic devices, credit cards, cash, checks, books, notebooks, and book bags.

PTO

Ashford’s Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) invites every parent or family member of an Ashford student to be a member of the PTO. The PTO is involved in various events designed to support the school and its endeavors. PTO meeting dates can be found on the school website and will be sent home on the monthly calendar. This is a great opportunity for students to see their parents support their learning community and become involved in their education. Please contact the PTO president for more information or check the [school website](#).

Recess

Students are expected to go out for recess each day. Appropriate clothing and shoes should be worn for outside activities. School administrators will determine if weather conditions permit outdoor play. Weather considerations include rain, lightning/thunder, temperature, heat index, air quality, wind chill, and precipitation. If your child is to be excused from recess, a note of explanation is required. A written doctor's recommendation is required to be excused for more than three days. The building principal will determine the equipment allowed on the playground.

Request for Records

Parents may request records from the school. Requests should be made by email. The parent should allow 48 hours for the school to respond.

Reporting Concerns Regarding School Safety

Students, parents, and staff members are highly encouraged to report all dangerous and potentially dangerous situations and/or events directly to the Main Office or to an administrator. Such situations include, but are not limited to: threats, harassment, bullying, acts of violence, drug activity, or the possession of weapons on school property.

School Supplies

Each student will be expected to have the supplies necessary for him or her to successfully function in the learning environment. Copies of supply lists will be provided by your child's teacher or are listed on [Ashford's Website](#). If you need assistance, please contact the Main Office.

Shared Decision-Making Committee (SDMC)

The Shared Decision-Making Committee is an advisory group composed of four classroom teachers; two other professional staff members, one non-professional staff member; two parents; two community members; one business leader chosen by the principal; and the principal. The purpose of this committee is to set goals and objectives related to student achievement.

Meetings are held throughout the year, and minutes are available to all parents and interested community members on [Ashford's website](#). We are always looking for parents who want to serve on this committee. If you are interested, please see the principal.

Special Education

Houston ISD provides a continuum of special education services to meet the needs of eligible students with disabilities. We advocate for students with disabilities to receive inclusive instruction with their non-disabled peers and support them in their learning. For more information, contact your child's school or the Office of Special Education Services.

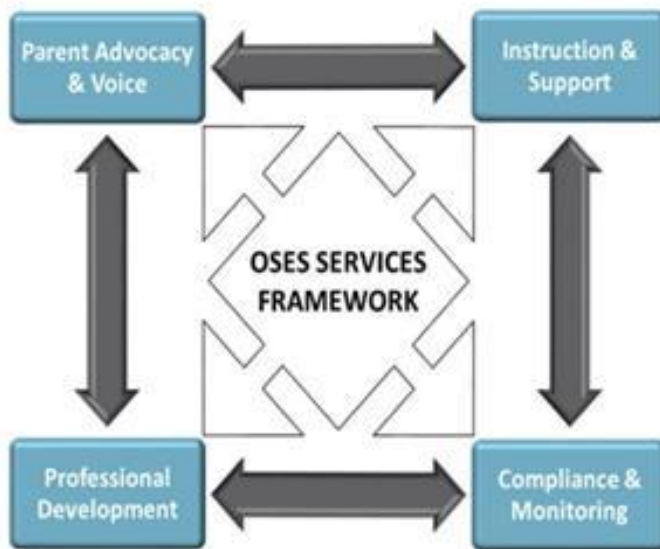
OSES Mission and Vision

The Office of Special Education Services aims to provide support and guidance to parents, teachers, campus leaders, and other stakeholders that directly improve student outcomes while removing barriers and raising expectations for students with disabilities.

The Office of Special Education Services' vision is for students with disabilities to receive an exceptional education that will allow them to achieve their highest educational level and reach their greatest potential as caring, responsible, and independent citizens.

OSES Framework

The Office of Special Education Services Framework is a fluid framework that guides the services we provide to parents, teachers, campus leaders, and other stakeholders. We believe this framework illustrates the true collaboration needed to make every student a successful learner.



The Office of Special Education Services supports students with disabilities in gaining college and career readiness, and independent living skills through active engagement in grade level curriculum.

Child Find

HISD has systems in place to locate, evaluate, and identify students with disabilities transitioning from Early Childhood Agencies (ECI) and those ages 3 to 21. If you suspect that your child has a disability, please contact your child's school or Evaluation Services.

- [How do I get my child tested for a disability?](#)
- [Evaluation Request Flowchart](#)

Section 504/ADA

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a civil rights law that protects individuals with a disabilities from discrimination. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, state and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation. The ADA was amended in 2008.

Dyslexia

Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of

effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede the growth of vocabulary and background knowledge (International Dyslexia Association, 2002).

The Houston Independent School District is committed to providing students identified with dyslexia with instruction that is individualized, intensive, and includes phonetic methods and a variety of writing and spelling components as outlined in the [Texas Education Agency's Dyslexia Handbook](#). To learn more about dyslexia services, please visit the [Dyslexia Services HISD website](#).

Transportation

[Transportation](#) is a related service that provides eligible students with disabilities access to their academic programs and services. Some students with disabilities may require additional support such as

- specialized or adaptive equipment for specialized positioning or seating
- a skilled nurse to conduct invasive procedures during a bus ride
- bus attendant to help curtail behavioral challenges
- wheelchair or other mobility devices for accessibility

Student Media Consent and Release

Throughout the school year, the district or school might print, photograph, or video students for use in efforts to promote HISD's activities and achievements. Examples might include but are not limited to

- Materials to train teachers and/or increase public awareness of HISD schools through digital, and print media
- A special event or program at a school might be covered by a newspaper or radio/television station, resulting in student interviews and pictures.
- Award-winning students might have their names and photos published in a local newspaper, a school newsletter or the district's newsletter
- The district or school might post pictures of school activities on web pages and social media.

If a parent or guardian does not want their child's image or information shared for this purpose, please contact your child's school to complete the [Student Media Consent and Release Form](#).

Student Use of Technology Resources

Students can access web-based tools, digital resources, and applications that support curricular objectives. These online services may collect, use and disclose personal information (such as student names and email addresses). These online services only extend the student's learning and classroom activities. Following Board policies and regulations, students will be strongly discouraged from providing any other personal information. Parents and guardians should contact their child's teacher if additional information is needed about websites and online services for learning in their child's classes.

Students on Premises After School

All students must leave the premises at the end of the school day unless participating in an approved extracurricular activity, receiving after-school tutoring, or participating in other activities that are properly scheduled in advance. All students must be under the direct supervision of a staff member. Students should have transportation at the conclusion of their activity and are to wait in the designated area.

Telephone Usage

Messages for students may be taken by the office when there is an emergency or when it is essential for a student to receive information. Students are not called to the phone. Since office telephones are constantly in use for school business, students may not use an office telephone to call home unless there is an emergency.

Textbooks and Library Books

All textbooks are owned by the State of Texas and library books by the school. Lost books must be paid for if lost or stolen. Another book cannot be issued until payment has been made for the lost book. Refunds are given if books are found after payment is made. Payments must be made to the front office, and a receipt will be issued.

Tobacco-Free Policy

Students, staff members, and visitors are prohibited from possessing or using tobacco, tobacco products, and smoking-related products (including, but not limited to, e-cigarettes) following Board policy. This includes, but is not limited to, all district buildings, on or about district grounds, school buses, vehicles, and all school activities.

Use of School Cameras

There are school cameras in several locations throughout the school. The cameras are intended to be used for supervision and safety purposes. Information obtained via a school camera may also be used during disciplinary procedures.

Visitation During Lunch

Due to limited space in our cafeteria, you are welcome to eat lunch with your child once a month during their lunch period on the third week of the month. All visitors and parents/guardians must be V.I.P.S. approved to ensure the safety of our students and staff when visiting for lunch. Lunch visitations start in September 2022 and end in March 2023. Lunch visitations are not permitted during the month of STAAR testing in April and May.

- Parents/guardians will only be permitted to converse with their child and not any other Ashford students.
- Parents/guardians will only be allowed to have lunch at the designated table and interact with only their child.
- Parents/guardians are not allowed to leave the cafeteria with their child for any reason nor visit the classrooms.
- Parents/guardians are not allowed to photograph or record other students. Failure to do so will result in an administrative conference and rights revoked.
- Parents/guardians must leave at the end of the student's lunch time when instructed by

the administration and teachers on the first notice.

- Parents/guardians who have multiple children need to coordinate eating lunch with their child based on the respective days. **Accommodations will not be made to satisfy families with multiple children to eat on the same day if the grade levels are different.**

Speak to your child’s teacher regarding the time they report to lunch. Any other times must be pre-approved by the Ashford Administration.

PALS/Pre-Kindergarten	Monday
Kinder	Tuesday
First & Second	Wednesday
Third	Thursday
Fourth and Fifth	Friday

Failure to respect and adhere to the visitation expectations, will result in an administrative conference, and rights may be revoked. We appreciate your compliance as we know that your priority is also SAFETY FIRST.

Visitation to the Classroom

Parents wishing to observe their child in his/her classroom are invited daily from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm Parents may only visit classrooms and programs in which their child is enrolled. Visits shall be restricted to 30 minutes to avoid disrupting the educational process. Arrangements must be made 24 hours before your visit to the classroom teacher or campus administrator and approved by the principal. Visitations are not permitted when substitute teachers or long-term teachers are assigned. There shall be no photographs, video, or sound recordings permitted. The principal reserves the right to deny visitations that disrupt the educational process. In addition, the principal or designee may opt to accompany visitors to classrooms. The frequency of visitations may be limited by the principal.

Visitors to the Building

We encourage parents and the community to visit our school. When planning to visit, please contact the office at least one day before the building principal can set a schedule. The principal can set reasonable parameters for school visits (length of stay, number of visitors, etc.). No visitors are allowed on-site during secure testing such as STAAR administrations or district assessments.

Visitors should limit their visit to the area(s) of the building they have indicated upon check-in with the office. Unauthorized persons found on school property may be subject to arrest or other legal action. Unruly or disruptive conduct by visitors that interferes with the educational environment or extracurricular activities may result in limited access or revocation of visitor privileges to school property or functions.

Please note that the exterior doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must enter the building using the front doors and report to the office. If a visitor needs to enter a building other

than the school office or check out a student, **the visitor, including parents, must register by presenting a valid, state-issued ID to the school's office staff.** Visitors entering the school beyond the office must receive a printed ID sticker that must be worn and visible during the entire stay. Please return your pass when leaving the building so that you may be logged out of the system.

NOTE: Anyone other than Ashford students and staff entering the building is considered a visitor and must sign in at the office. This includes district visitors, vendors, contractors, and or parents employed through HISD.

Volunteering at Ashford

Ashford's volunteers make valuable contributions to our school. Parents, guardians, grandparents, and community friends are encouraged to be volunteers at our school. According to district policies, all interested persons must complete HISD Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) registration and background check before serving as a volunteer. You must go online and register.

Additionally, you must present a copy of your ID to the front office, where a copy will be made and placed on file. Allow 4 – 6 weeks for the approval process. You must complete the VIPS registration at the beginning of the school year. **Parents are responsible for updating their status yearly.** There is no rollover from year to year. You must go through the volunteer enrollment process each school year.

Volunteers are used in reading programs, in the offices or cafeteria, and in the teacher's workroom to prepare materials for teachers, for field lessons, and with Ashford projects and other areas of need. Once cleared through VIPS, sign in at the office upon arrival and get a Volunteer badge. Always record the amount of time you volunteer. Our goal is to have every parent and family involved in our school!

NOTE: Volunteers may not discuss confidential information such as student progress or discipline issues of students who are not their children. Volunteers must follow all district policies and regulations when on campus. Violations of policy can result in the loss of the ability to volunteer.

Walking, Riding Bikes and Riding Skateboards

Ashford Elementary asks that parents discourage their children from riding bicycles, skateboards, and/or walking to and from school. Due to safety concerns, skateboards, skates (including shoes with rolling wheels such as "wheelies"), and scooters are not allowed on school property before, during, or after school. However, should it become necessary for a student to ride a bike to school, the student must obey the same rules as a motorist, and it is recommended a safety helmet be worn. Students should dismount and walk their bicycles to the approved school site for bicycle parking. **It is highly recommended students use bike locks during school hours.** The district and the school are **not** responsible for the theft of or damage to a bicycle parked on school property.

Withdrawing a Student

Please call the office at least two business days before withdrawing a student from school. Bring the forwarding address and phone number if available. You must provide the name and district of the school your child will attend next. Records will be sent to the new school.

Student Behavior / Discipline

Bus Conduct

Students riding a bus should become familiar with the following bus rules, as safety is extremely important for safe transportation. While on a bus, students are directly supervised by the bus driver. Students reported by the bus driver violated transportation rules may be deprived of the privilege of riding the school bus by an appropriate school administrator. Additionally, parents and students should be aware that students at a designated bus stop awaiting school transportation or riding a school bus are considered to be engaged in a school-sponsored or school-related activity and are subject to the general rules for the administration of discipline as specified in Code of Student Conduct in addition to potentially losing the privilege of receiving transportation. Students should be at their bus stops 10 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time in a visible location. Buses will load at schools for seven minutes after the designated dismissal time. Once the buses have shut their loading doors to leave the school, students should not approach the buses in order to eliminate the potential of buses striking students.

Bus Rules

Misbehavior on the school bus will result in the student being referred to his/her school administrator for appropriate disciplinary measures, including being deprived of the privilege of riding the school bus. A video-monitoring system is used on buses, and the video may be used as a basis for determining disciplinary action. A change in transportation services for a student with a disability for whom transportation is a related service requires ARD committee action. A change in transportation services for a Section 504 student requires Section 504 committee action. Bus drivers have the authority to enforce the rules listed below for the safety of students, drivers, and other persons. Student riders are expected to obey these rules for their safety and welfare:

- Students shall wait in a safe place, clear of traffic and away from where the school bus stops.
- Students shall wait in an orderly manner and avoid horseplay.
- Students shall enter and exit the bus in an orderly manner.
- Students must use and securely fasten three-point seat belts, when available, any time the bus is in motion. Students are encouraged to use and securely fasten lap belts, when available, any time the bus is in motion.
- Students shall remain seated in an orderly manner while the bus is in motion and until the bus comes to a complete stop. Students must sit in their assigned seats at all times. Bus drivers have the authority to assign seats and/or make seat-assignment changes.
- Students shall not tamper with bus windows, emergency doors, or any other bus equipment. Emergency doors and exits will be used in the event of a declared emergency or evacuation drill.
- Students shall keep arms, legs, head, and all personal effects inside the bus and out of the aisle.
- Students shall not mark or deface the bus and/or its equipment. Any damage done to the bus is chargeable to the parent of the student responsible for the damage.
- Students shall not fight, scuffle, throw objects, or possess/ use laser pointers inside or outside of the school bus or at the bus stop.
- Students who must cross the roadway before entering or after leaving the school bus shall cross the roadway 10 feet in front of the bus and only after the bus has come to a complete stop and upon the bus driver's direction.
- No one except school personnel, authorized adults, and school children assigned to a particular route or schedule may ride a bus unless the appropriate school

administrator has received written permission. • Students shall not eat or drink, including candy and gum, or use any tobacco product while on the bus. • No student shall take or remove from another passenger's personal effects. • Students shall use appropriate language while on the bus and shall not engage in conversation or activities considered to be vulgar, abusive, or demeaning. • Students shall wear classroom-acceptable attire while on the bus. • Students are not permitted to leave or board the bus at any location other than the assigned stops at home or school. Should the above rules be broken, students shall be reported to an appropriate school administrator, and discipline may be imposed in accordance with the rules contained in this Code.

Cafeteria Expectations

The same general rules for behavior apply in the cafeteria as in the classroom. Classes will sit together at their assigned table. Students will follow the cafeteria policy and rules regarding talking periods, noise levels, and systems to enter and exit the space and remain seated until otherwise noted.

- Always walk quietly when entering and leaving the cafeteria.
- Keep hands to themselves.
- Pass through the lunch line only once.
- Classes should leave tables, seats, and floor clear of paper and trash.

School-Wide Expectations

All students are expected to obey the following rules as stated in the Ashford Discipline Management Plan which states that students will:

Demonstrate respect and courtesy toward all school personnel, community patrons, and fellow students

- by walking in the hallways and outside corridors
- by adhering to Level 0 in the hallways and outside corridors
- by keeping their hands and feet to themselves (use *Eagle Hugs*)
- by using appropriate language
- by wearing a school dress code
- by NOT bullying, threatening, or disrespecting others with words or actions

Participate in instructional activities to the best of their ability

- by being present in class by 7:30 am
- by completing all class work and homework assignments
- by working cooperatively on class and/or team assignments

Respect school property

- by keeping the building, furniture, and grounds clean and in good working order

Other

- Know the School-Wide Expectations and Behavior & Discipline Policy and immediately report any infractions to the school personnel.
- Students may not bring or use laser pointers, electronics, or toys that disrupt the classroom.

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

The Houston Independent School District has established as one of its primary goals the provision of a high-quality educational program for each student in a safe school environment free of disruptions that interfere with the educational process. This Code of Student Conduct aims to inform all school staff, students, and parents of HISD's expectations regarding behavior and conduct. The *Code*, reviewed and approved by the HISD Board of Education, is based on the policies of the Board of Education and Administrative Regulations. Administrative Regulations communicate District administrative procedures and practices.

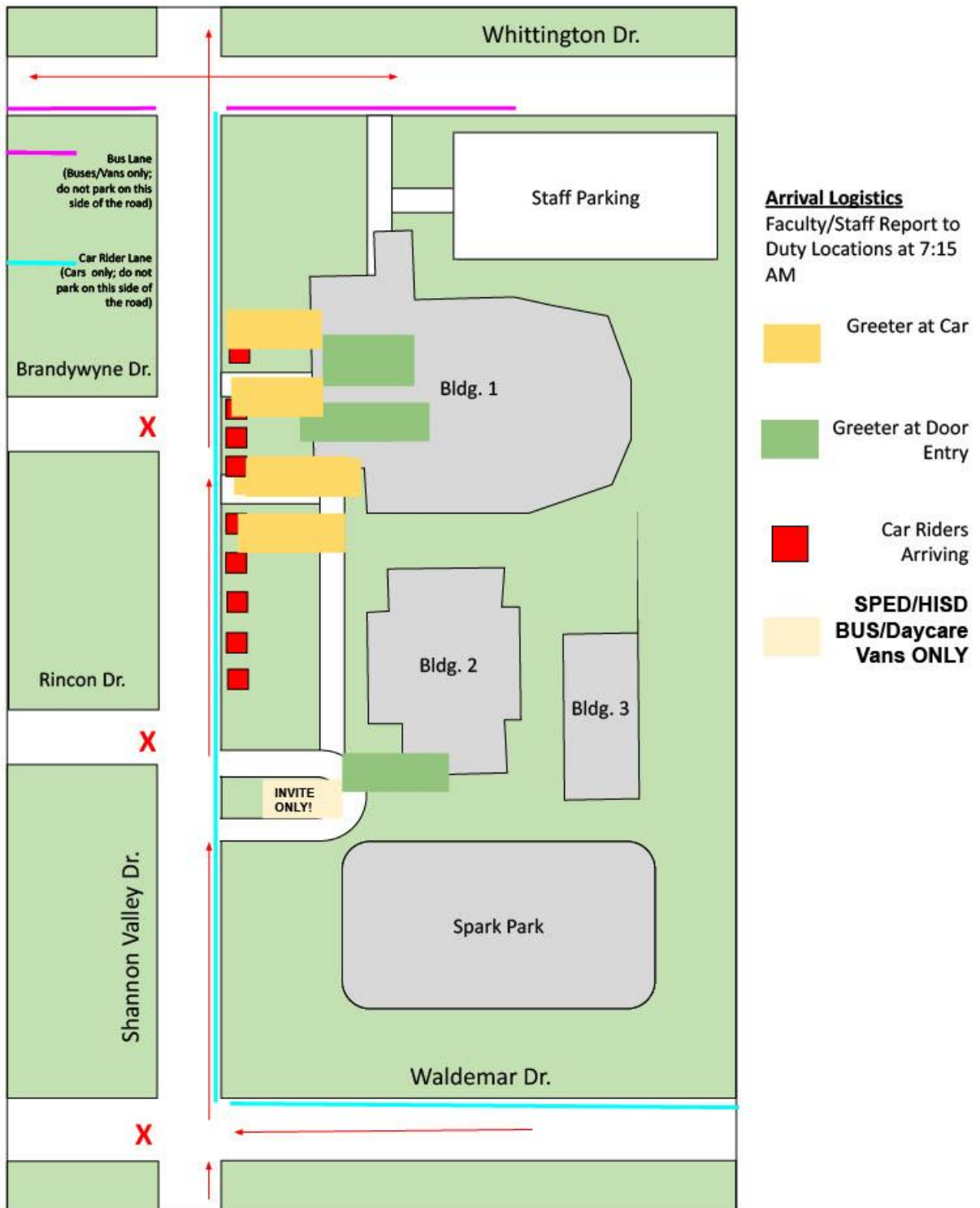
This *Code* was developed to protect the rights of all students by

- providing a districtwide discipline management plan
- specifying the behavior that is expected of all students
- describing the broad range of student misconduct, and providing appropriate disciplinary consequences or options for the various kinds of misconduct
- outlining student rights relating to school
- listing procedures that must be followed when applying consequences

School staff, students, and parents are expected to become familiar with the provisions of the district-wide *Code of Student Conduct* and the rules and regulations adopted and implemented by individual schools based on their School-Based Discipline Management System. Students are also expected to abide by the policies outlined in the *Code* to get the most out of their years in school.

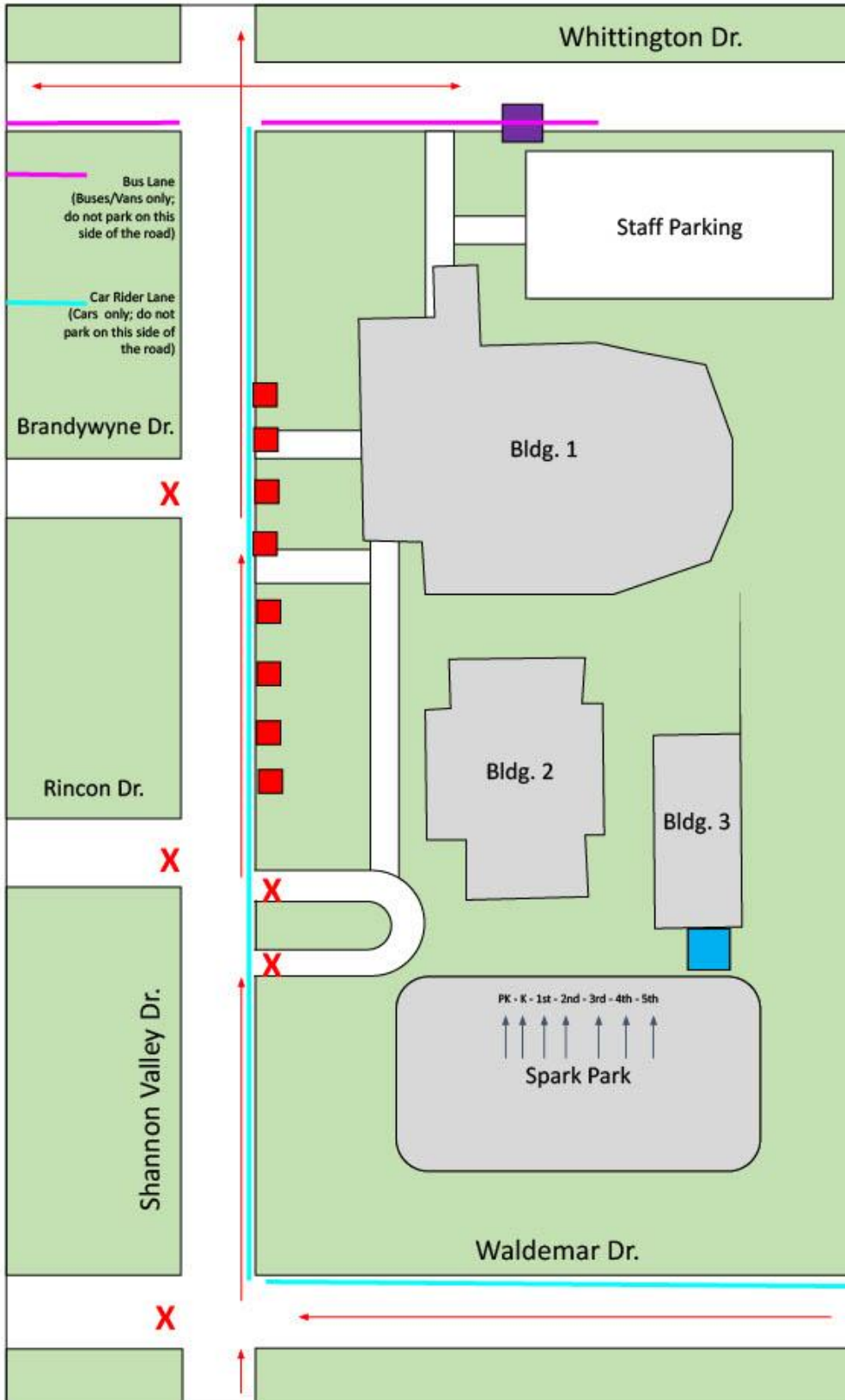
Ashford Arrival Map Parent Version

2022-2023



Ashford Dismissal Map Parent Version

2022-2023



- Carpool
- Walkers
- Buses and Daycare

Ashford Elementary School Dismissal Plan

Safety is our #1 priority. Please make sure your children know how they are dismissed and display your car tags when participating in car pool.

Dismissal Plan policy is outlined in the Ashford Elementary Student-Parent Handbook. Ensure you are highly familiar with processes to remain in compliance with campus and district policy, and pedestrian traffic laws.

Walkers that walk home by themselves exit through Spark Park Gate first. Then walkers who have parents join them walk out next by grade level. Siblings are paired inside the gate before they leave. Older sibling is responsible for finding younger sibling in designated area. Parents can wait for their kids in rows behind the Spark Park track by grade level to walk with their students.

Parent and Student Acknowledgement

We look forward to a great 2022-2023 school year. This handbook was designed to help you be informed about our school policies, procedures, and expectations.

Your signature below indicates receipt of the Ashford ES Parent/Student Handbook 2022-2023. Please read and discuss this handbook with your child. Then, please sign and date this acknowledgment and return it to your child's classroom teacher.

The Ashford Elementary Student-Parent Handbook is on the school website, and if a hard copy is requested, one can pick up a paper-printed handbook at the school's office.

Print Student Name

Teacher Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date