

Dodd Middle School Information and Guidelines Handbook 2018-2019

Michael J. Woods
Principal

John L. Perosino
Assistant Principal

The information contained in this guide is presented to help you to succeed in the middle school environment. We encourage every student to participate in all aspects of our learning community both inside and outside of the classroom. Utilize this agenda both as an organizational tool for work and scheduling your time as a middle school student. We will encourage students to maintain successful work habits to be successful at Dodd Middle School.

Bertram F. Dodd Middle School

Our school, Bertram F. Dodd Middle School, was named in honor of the former principal of Humiston School. Mr. Dodd served as principal from the time the school was opened in 1912 until the year 1943 when Mrs. Henry W. Babcock became principal.

Mission Statement

It is the mission of Dodd Middle School to provide a diverse and challenging educational experience which addresses the academic, emotional, and physical needs of every student. Dodd Middle School strives to be a community that values and promotes respect, responsible behavior, communication, service to others, and life-long learning within a safe and caring environment.

General Information

Dodd Middle School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The Principal has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies under Title IX legislation

School Hours

Normal operating hours: 7:55 a.m. – 3:10 p.m.

School Day: 8:08 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Students who are tardy (after 8:08 a.m.) need to obtain a pass from the Main Office. Please see Attendance Guidelines for additional information regarding tardiness and absenteeism.

After School Activities

At the close of school at 2:45 p.m., students may remain for sports, clubs, extra help, etc. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangement for transportation home after the sport, club, or extra help. All other students are expected to leave the campus after 2:45 p.m. Students and parents should formulate an emergency plan in the event that a parent cannot secure transportation to pick up their student. This plan may include the student walking to the library or police station in the event that they find themselves at school without a ride or unable to contact a parent. Emergency plans should also include other adults to contact for a ride. The number for the Cheshire Police Department is located at the entrance to the Main Office should a student find themselves in a situation where they have no way home and are unable to contact a parent or emergency contact.

It is the mission of Dodd Middle School to provide a diverse and challenging educational experience which addresses the academic, emotional, and physical needs of every student.

Attendance Policy and Regulation

Cheshire Board Policy and Regulation 5113(a)

...A student is considered to be "in attendance" if present at his/her assigned school, or an activity sponsored by the school (e.g., field trip), for at least half of the regular school day.

Students' attendance is classified into the categories of present (in attendance), tardy, excused absence, unexcused absence, truant, and habitually truant. Each category is defined below.

- Tardy – Students enter the school building after 8:08 am.
- Excused Absence – Any student who is not in attendance for the reason of:
 - A. Illness or Injury
 - B. Death in the family
 - C. Religious holidays
 - D. Court Appearances
 - E. School sponsored activities
 - F. Lack of transportation that is normally provided by the district
 - G. Limited absence from school for special activities or extraordinary education opportunities with parental consent, subject to the advance approval or the Principal/Designee, in accordance with SDE guidelines

It is required to have appropriate documentation for the above listed reasons. All documentation is to be submitted to the main office directly or through homeroom teachers. **Students are allowed nine excused absences for the reasons cited in A-G with documentation. The tenth absence and thereafter will require documentation by a medical professional for illness, regardless of the length of the absence in order to be classified as an excused absence.** Students who violate these guidelines are subject to be classified as truant.

- Unexcused Absence – Any student who is not in attendance that is not supported with appropriate documentation
- Truant – Any student who has who has four (4) unexcused absences from school in any one month or ten (10) unexcused absences from school in any school year.
- Habitual Truant – Any student who has twenty (20) unexcused absences within a school year.

When a student is absent from Dodd, his or her parent should call the school or send an email to doddoffice@cheshire.k12.ct.us by 9:00 a.m. to notify school officials. An absence may be reported via the Dodd Absence Line before 8:00 a.m. Dodd Middle School will make 'Safe Calls' to the numbers provided in PowerSchool to verify all absences. **It should be noted that generally if a student was absent from school, he or she would not be allowed to participate in any after school activities on that day. Any exceptions must be discussed with the Principal in advance.**

Arrangements between teachers and students shall be made for all missed assignments from an absence.

Early Dismissal

Parents are urged to make medical and dental appointments for their children after school hours. If a student must be excused for a medical appointment during the school day, the parent should send a note in with the child on the day of the appointment. The student should bring the note to the Main Office for approval in the morning before going to homeroom. The student should then be signed out by the parent or the parent's adult designee. If students begin the day on time, they must remain in school until 11:26 a.m. in order to be considered present for the day.

It is the mission of Dodd Middle School to provide a diverse and challenging educational experience which addresses the academic, emotional, and physical needs of every student.

Physical Education

Students excused for the year by a doctor will be reassigned to an enrichment class or independent study. Those who are excused for two or more weeks by a doctor will be required to prepare a written/oral report, which must be presented to the physical education teacher for a grade.

All other students are required to dress and participate in physical education class. Those students with slight physical injuries or impairments will be given a modified program to accommodate their individual needs.

Safety glasses are available to any student who wishes to use them during physical education class, after school sports, or intramurals.

Health

The State of Connecticut has mandated that students be offered Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) education at certain grade levels. The District Health Curriculum Committee has selected grades 2, 4, 6, 8, 9th grade Health, 10th grade Biology, and 11th grade Health Seminar to receive AIDS education. The instruction in AIDS will be developmentally appropriate for the students and assist them in making healthy decisions as they grow up in a world where AIDS is a reality. In the early grades, discussion is centered on not touching objects that are dirty or sharp and caution concerning blood contact.

If there is any reason why you would prefer your child not participate in the AIDS portion of the Health Curriculum, you must inform your school principal by phone. The request must also be submitted in writing. Arrangements will be made for an alternative activity during the AIDS portion of the program.

Assessment and Grading

Assessments are used by teachers to measure what knowledge students have attained and how it can be applied to real world applications. All Dodd assessments are aligned to the curricular areas and reflect best practices for measuring student growth. For students to be successful on assessments, they should listen and apply the recommended preparations from the classroom teacher.

The primary purpose of grade reporting is to offer feedback to students and parents. Dodd Middle School also uses grades as one indicator of several to make placement decisions in the middle school and high school and as a measure for academic counseling. Additionally, grades are used to determine eligibility for various recognition programs such as the honor roll, National Junior Honor Society, and the Presidential Academic Fitness and Improvement Awards, to name a few. For complete guidelines and eligibility criteria for these recognition programs, please visit the Dodd Middle School website.

Marking System

Letter Grades and Numerical Equivalent								
A+	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F – Below 60
A	93-96	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66	
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62	

Progress Reports

The use of our new school management software, PowerSchool, provides constant, up-to-date information on student performance. Therefore, we no longer mail home progress reports. Log on to www.cheshire.k12.ct.us/dodd and email your child's team leader, or call the guidance office for up-to-date progress reporting.

It is the mission of Dodd Middle School to provide a diverse and challenging educational experience which addresses the academic, emotional, and physical needs of every student.

Policy on Incomplete Grades

A student may be given an incomplete (I) at the end of a marking period instead of a failing grade when unfinished work remains. This is given to students on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the teacher. Student will be given ten (10) days to complete assignments or provide evidence of knowledge to the curricular standard.

Schedule

Dodd Middle School will operate on a 7 period ABCD day schedule. Students will generally repeat their schedule every two days. Teams may adjust their academic schedule to best meet the needs of their students.

Photography and Videotaping

From time to time, photographs or videos are taken of classrooms "in action" to demonstrate a particular aspect of a curriculum or the implementation of a specific program. These photographs or videos are sometimes used in a presentation to the Board of Education, teachers, parent groups, and community groups or on television via the Cheshire channel. On occasion, photographs of students are placed in newspapers concerning events at school.

Any parent or guardian who objects to a photograph or video of his or her child used in the manner described should contact the principal in writing.

Storm/Snow Days

In the event that school has to be cancelled because of bad weather, that information will be broadcast on Cox Cable Local Access Channel. After 6:30 a.m., parents may call (203) 250-2410 for a recorded announcement or visit the Connecticut Weather Center's Website at <http://www.ctweather.com>. If school is cancelled, all school-sponsored events for that day will be postponed. When school resumes, the A B C D Day Schedule will continue as originally scheduled.

If a 90-minute delay is announced, the Dodd schedule will begin at 9:35 a.m.

If it appears that weather conditions may warrant early school closing, parents should listen to T.V., or sign up for an announcement on Twitter or from news stations and make plans to care for children in the event that school is dismissed early. (See Dodd website for details.)

Services and Facilities

Breakfast and Lunch Program

Dodd food service program includes breakfast and lunch. Both hot and cold lunches are served in the cafeteria. Milk, snacks, ice cream and a variety of other items, that meet the state nutritional guidelines, may be purchased separately. Students can purchase a cold nutritional breakfast each day before school begins and can be eaten during homeroom. The cafeteria has a pre-paid lunch program so money can be kept in students' accounts. Students may bring their own lunches to school. Lunch periods are 25 minutes long. Free or reduced lunch is available for those who qualify. Informational literature will be given to students on the first day of school. It is important to note, students are not permitted to ask each other for money. If there is a problem they should see an adult. Please Note: High energy (i.e. beverages that contain a high amount of caffeine) are not allowed in school or on school trips.

It is the mission of Dodd Middle School to provide a diverse and challenging educational experience which addresses the academic, emotional, and physical needs of every student.

Nurse

The school nurse is on duty in the school building from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If a student wishes to see the nurse, he or she must obtain a pass from the classroom teacher before going to the Nurse's Office. This will assure that the teacher knows the whereabouts of the student.

Textbooks and Supplies

Within the first week of school, and throughout the course of the year, students will be issued books and material that are required for coursework or extracurricular activities. Textbook numbers and book conditions are recorded by each teacher, and the student is responsible for returning each textbook in nearly the same condition as it was when distributed. All school books must be covered unless otherwise directed by the classroom teacher. Lost or damaged books may require reimbursement from the student or family.

SRBI (Scientifically Researched-Based Interventions)

Students who exhibit areas of concern (academic, social, behavioral) may be referred to the SAT/SRBI team. An action plan is developed to provide the student with interventions that will promote improvement in a student's academic and/or behavioral performance. Students are provided with targeted interventions and data is collected to monitor the student's "response to intervention" to determine its success or the need to make the intervention more intensive. Teachers, counselors, and parents may make a referral to the SRBI team by contacting a teacher or school counselor.

Bicycles

By State Law students must wear a helmet when operating a bicycle. If a student wishes to ride his or her bicycle to school, he or she must observe the rules regarding bicycle safety. While busses are on school property, students should "walk" their bicycles to the street. Bicycles must be placed in the racks provided and must be locked. **It is important to note that bicycles are left at the student's own risk.**

Locker Room

In order to prevent the transmission of diseases or infections, students are advised to wear sandals or flip-flops if bare-footed in the locker room. Towels, clothing and/or equipment should not be shared.

Lavatories

Lavatories are located throughout the building. To reduce time out of class, students should use the lavatory closest to the room from which they have been dismissed.

Lockers

Students will be assigned lockers during homeroom on the first day of school. Each student will be given a padlock and a locker for which he or she will be responsible until the end of the year. All lockers must be kept locked and only school keyed locks are acceptable. Each student may use only the locker to which he or she is assigned and should not give out his or her combination. The school cannot be responsible for missing items if lockers are not secured properly. **If a locker is broken at any time during the school year, the student should report the problem to the Main Office immediately.**

The right to inspect lockers assigned to students may be exercised by administration with reasonable cause to safeguard students, their property and school. (Board Policy 5145.12(a)/5145.12(b))

Lost and Found

Found articles such as glasses, jewelry and watches should be brought to the office. Clothing items that are lost will be placed in the Lost and Found box located on the stage. Students who lose items are urged to check in the lost and found area or office several times for missing items.

It is the mission of Dodd Middle School to provide a diverse and challenging educational experience which addresses the academic, emotional, and physical needs of every student.

Posters/Handouts

All posters, handouts, petitions, etc., must be approved by the Main Office before being displayed or distributed. Posters must have an educational purpose in order for permission to be granted to the students to display a poster. This decision is at the discretion of the Administration.

Bus Transportation

The goal of the bus transportation system is to transport students to and from school with maximum safety. To meet this objective, bus drivers must have the total cooperation of all students riding the bus. The following rules and regulations apply to each student who rides the school bus:

- Follow the instructions of your school bus driver.
- Always make sure you can see your driver's face when you cross in front of the bus. If you cannot see the driver's face, he or she cannot see you.
- If you drop something in front of the bus or near it, don't pick it up. Ask an adult to get it for you, or wait until the bus leaves. The driver may not see you when you bend down in front of the bus.
- Remain in your seat while your bus is in motion.
- Keep aisles clear at all times.
- Remain quiet and orderly.
- Be courteous to your school bus driver and fellow passengers.
- Be alert to traffic when approaching or leaving the bus.
- Talk at a reasonable tone and keep other noise down so that the driver can hear warning signals and emergency sirens from outside the bus.
- Never use the back door except for emergencies.

If there is a need to change a bus or bus stop for one-day, the parent or guardian must send a note to the school for approval by the principal or the assistant principal. Any requested change in transportation for more than one day must be approved by the Board of Education Transportation Department. For this type of request, the parent or guardian should call (203) 272-2472.

Rules and Regulations

With about 800 students and over 100 adults in one building, we all have an obligation to contribute positively to an orderly and constructive environment. The following rules and regulations should serve as a reminder of what behavior is reasonable in a healthy school setting. The following **Student's Code** provides a clear overview of expected behavior in the middle school setting:

- 1) Students shall conduct themselves according to the rules of the school, in the classroom, in the halls, in the cafeteria, in the media center, in the auditorium and at all school activities.
- 2) Students shall conscientiously complete their assignments on time. They shall assume responsibility for making up missed work.
- 3) Students shall come to school fully prepared for the day with proper books, completed assignments, necessary glasses, gym suits and equipment and lunch money.
- 4) Students shall treat all school property with respect and care. The building, equipment, furnishings and books are public property paid for with taxpayers' money.
- 5) Students shall judge people by their individual merits rather than by their race, nationality, religion or social status.
- 6) Students shall comply with the Code of Dress established for the secondary schools of Cheshire. (See "Dress for School")
- 7) Students shall demonstrate respect for their peers by keeping their hands/feet to themselves and demonstrating school appropriate physical contact.
- 8) Students shall only use language appropriate for school.
- 9) Students shall demonstrate respect for school staff and their fellow students through adhering to this school code of conduct.

It is the mission of Dodd Middle School to provide a diverse and challenging educational experience which addresses the academic, emotional, and physical needs of every student.

Backpack & Book Bag Use

Students are allowed to carry backpacks and bookbags to and from school only. This rule will assure the safety and comfort of both students and adults. Please note: since each student has his or her own locker space, students do not need to carry all of their books and notebooks during the entire school day.

Classroom Behavior

Students must follow the rules and procedures outlined by each classroom teacher or team to assure that learning is taking place throughout each class period. Each student is expected to arrive to class on time with required books and materials. If a student becomes disruptive he or she may be referred to the office. When the bell to end class rings, students should remain seated until they are dismissed by the teacher.

Corridor Behavior

To assure safe and efficient passing in the hallways, students should adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Keep to the right on the stairs and in the hallways.
2. Never run or push, and please keep your voice at a reasonable volume. Shouting should be avoided.
3. Go directly to your assigned room to avoid being tardy. If you need to go to another place, first go to your classroom to obtain a pass from your teacher.
4. At the end of the day, students should remain in their period 7 classes until the office specifically dismisses them. Anyone who does not report to class or leaves class early may be subject to disciplinary action.

Dress for School

Keep in mind that school is more formal than informal: clothing which may be distracting to the learning process will not be permitted. Hats, or other head coverings, sunglasses and jackets may not be worn in the school building after the start of homeroom or prior to the end of school. Hats may be worn in the building going to and from busses and lockers. Ripped clothing is considered inappropriate. Bare midriffs, halter-tops, tops with spaghetti straps, strapless tops, mini skirts/shorts and any other revealing clothing are not permitted. T-shirts, etc., should only include printed information, which is appropriate to the middle school setting, and should not advertise any inappropriate topic including sexual references (whether explicit or implied), weapons, firearms, alcohol, tobacco products, or illegal substances. Parents may request an exemption from these rules for religious, medical, or cultural reasons. The Principal is the final authority as to the appropriateness of dress and grooming.

School Safety/Security

While we do not publish all of our security procedures and abilities, Dodd has taken the necessary steps to provide a safe learning environment based on the recommendations of the State Board of education and the Governor's Task Force on School Security.

Our safety program also includes regular fire drills along with other security drills such as lockdown drills and shelter in one place drills. The school has a Crisis Management Team that has developed a crisis management plan. The team meets twice a year to review procedures and update the plan. The team also meets during emergency or crisis situations to assist the entire school community.

Food and Gum Chewing

Eating or drinking is not permitted outside the cafeteria without the permission of a staff member. Gum chewing may or may not be allowed based on teacher/administration discretion. For health reasons, gum should be disposed of properly.

It is the mission of Dodd Middle School to provide a diverse and challenging educational experience which addresses the academic, emotional, and physical needs of every student.

Aerosol and Spray Containers

For various health and safety reasons, students are not allowed to bring aerosol containers into school. Spray deodorants, perfumes and colognes should be applied at home.

Lunchroom Conduct

Students are expected to behave in the cafeteria to the same standards that are held in their households. Students are provided with a lunch through Food Services or have the option of bringing a lunch from home. Additional information including Student accounts through My School Bucks can be found at <http://www.cheshire.k12.ct.us/foods--nutrition>

School Discipline and Predictable Consequences

The staff at Dodd Middle School is involved in a program to develop responsible behavior in their students. The teaching/learning process is viewed as a cooperative alliance in which process is as important as product. This approach teaches the use of positive, alternative strategies in cases where students may make inappropriate choices for behavior. Teachers and students are supported in this endeavor by administrators, school counselors, and Pupil Personnel Service professionals who assist with problematic behaviors.

By state guidelines, specific inappropriate behaviors which may require referral to the office may have predictable consequences applied to the discretion of school administration. Predictable consequences may include but not be limited to restitution measures, warnings, after school sanctions, counseling remediation, suspensions, and or request for expulsion. The following actions will have consequences applied upon referral to the Main Office:

- Fighting
- Threatening
- Cutting classes or Truancy
- Vandalism
- Possession or use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco, dangerous object
- Possession of a dangerous object
- Leaving school grounds
- Intoxication
- False alarm
- Insubordination
- Use of obscene or profane language or gestures
- Failure to observe bus rules and regulations
- Cut class/School
- Inappropriate remarks or actions determined to be discriminatory or harassing with respect to: race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, age, physical appearance, handicapping and any other inappropriate or illegal discriminatory or harassing action
- Bullying (see section on Bullying)

After School Sanctions

Students who are assigned and after school sanction (detention) may be held until 3:30 p.m. Students may be required to utilize this time for work or to carry out restitution measures.

Bullying

According to Connecticut General Statutes “Bullying” means:

- A. the repeated use by one or more students of a written, oral, or electronic communication, such as cyberbullying, directed at or referring to another student attending school in the same school district, or
- B. a physical act or gesture by one or more students repeatedly directed at another student attending school in the same school district, that:
 - i. Causes physical or emotional harm to such student or damage to such student’s property,
 - ii. places such student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself, or of damage to his or her property,
 - iii. creates a hostile environment at school for such student,
 - iv. infringes on the rights of such student at school, or
 - v. substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Under this definition, “bullying” expressly includes, but is not limited to, a written, oral, or electronic communications, or physical acts or gestures that are based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristics, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with a group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics.

Cheating and Plagiarism - (District-wide procedure)

Cheshire Public Schools believes that in order for students to develop their creative and analytical skills and their oral and written modes of expression, they must wrestle with the ideas of others as well as with their own. In doing so in a democracy dependent upon the free exchange of ideas, students must have a respect for the integrity of other people’s work. Therefore, educators must teach them the appropriate way of using resources and the moral implications of cheating and plagiarism.

Cheating and plagiarism are defined as follows:

Cheating is to act dishonestly and/or to assist another in this action. Examples of cheating in school related work include but are not limited to:

1. The fraudulent giving or receiving of information.
2. The unauthorized use of prepared materials or items during testing (e.g., cheat sheet, notes, textbook, calculators, etc.).
3. The unauthorized copying of another student’s homework or class work.
4. Collaboration of any kind with any person without the teacher’s knowledge or consent.

Plagiarism is to use the language, ideas, evidence (data) and/or organization of another source and/or person and to present this material as “the product of one’s own mind”. Examples of plagiarism in school-related work include but are not limited to:

1. Copying, summarizing or paraphrasing directly from a published or unpublished source without attribution.
2. Using information obtained from a conversation and/or interview with another without attribution.
3. Using the language or organization of another (e.g., extensive revision by a parent or peer) without the consent of the teacher.
4. Using experimental data or hypotheses without attribution.

In order to keep the concept and consequences of cheating and plagiarism firmly in the minds of students, each student in his or her own handwriting shall write and sign the following statement: *“I affirm that this work is*

It is the mission of Dodd Middle School to provide a diverse and challenging educational experience which addresses the academic, emotional, and physical needs of every student.

free from plagiarism and/or cheating and is entirely my own product,” on any work, if the individual teacher, at his/her discretion, requires it.

If your teacher feels that you have plagiarized, she/he must provide you with a timely notice to that effect. You will then have the right to hear and respond to the evidence. If you disagree with the ultimate decision, you will have the right to appeal.

Then, if it is determined that you have committed plagiarism, the teacher will report this to your parents, your school counselor, and school administration.

The first offense involving plagiarism may result in the student receiving a reduced grade or no credit for the work involved. Students will be required to make up the assignment involving the plagiarized work. Notice will also be sent to your parents, your school counselor and the administration. School Administration will be the final determination to the implementation of this procedure.

Student Activities

Athletics and Intramurals

Standards:

1. Students must turn in a signed permission slip and have a physical exam each year before trying out.
2. Students should have passing grades in each subject to participate.
3. Any student who is suspended from school during the season or who misses three practices or games may be removed from the team. Please note: a hearing may be requested which may include the student, coach, athletic director, parent and an administrator.

General Policies for Athletics and Intramurals can be found on the Dodd Middle School website.

Athletic Equipment and Uniforms

1. Equipment and uniforms are on loan and are only to be worn when authorized by the coach.
2. If equipment is lost or stolen, the replacement cost will be charged to the student and collected by the coach.
3. Please note that no sporting equipment should be carried in the hallway during the school day. Equipment should be stored in a locker or in the office.
4. Uniforms or parts of uniforms may not be worn for P.E. classes. Team members may wear their uniforms to school on picture day or when given permission by the coach.

Sportsmanship and Spectator Guidelines

All Dodd Middle School students are expected to uphold the highest standards of behavior. All sporting events are continuations of the school day and are subject to all expectations and consequences for both participants and spectators.

Additional rules and regulations will be determined by each coach. Any student or parental concerns should be voiced first to the coach, followed by the athletic director and principal only when necessary.

Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
Cross Country	Girls' Basketball	Girls' Track
Field Hockey		Boys' Track
Girls' Soccer	Boys' Basketball	Baseball
Boys' Soccer	Cheerleading	Softball
Volleyball		

Additional information can be found on the Dodd website.

Programs, Clubs and Service Organizations

Intramurals

Intramurals are an outgrowth of the physical education curriculum. Any student may elect to be involved in intramurals held after school. For more information, students should see their physical education teacher or check the Dateline Dodd newsletter or the Dodd website for dates, activities and other information.

Spartans Live

Have you ever wanted to be a newscaster or wondered what goes on behind the scenes of a newscast? Well Spartans Live might be the club for you. This club is responsible for creating the morning announcements each morning as a news broadcast, and we need students who are interested in being the anchors for the show as well as helping to run the video and audio equipment behind the scenes.

Student of the Month

Student of the Month is a program that recognizes students who show general good performance and effort in their academic work and more importantly, display the attributes of good attitude, helpfulness, and kindness. These students show respect for others and help to make the Dodd community a better place.

Community Service Projects

Community service is viewed as an important part of the middle school program. Each team at Dodd will participate in at least one community service project during the school year. Every student is urged to participate in some way.

Newspaper

Open to all interested students, the Spartan Scroll meets every other week before school at 7:15AM to 7:55AM. (a schedule is posted at the first meeting). Members plan, write, and produce articles for *The Spartan Scroll*, the written media website for Dodd. Students are required to publish at least once a month from October to June. No experience in journalism is necessary; however, a love of writing is welcome.

It is the mission of Dodd Middle School to provide a diverse and challenging educational experience which addresses the academic, emotional, and physical needs of every student.

Student Council

Members of the Dodd Middle School Student Council become involved with organizing school activities and projects supporting school and community spirit. The goals of the Council are to offer opportunities to develop leadership skills, foster school pride and develop civic awareness. In the fall, representatives are elected from the seventh and eighth grades. Because Student Council members are considered leaders, participants should be good citizens, hardworking and enthusiastic toward their fellow students, Dodd Middle School and the town of Cheshire.

Yearbook

Yearbook procedures begin early in the academic year with a nucleus of students who prove invaluable in distributing and collecting information. They collate notes and photos throughout the year. The yearbook arrives in June and is greeted with much enthusiasm. It is long remembered by Dodd students in years to come.

Drama Club

The drama club is open to seventh and eighth grade students interested in all aspects of a drama production. This includes set design, costume design, lighting, sound and acting. In addition to putting on a play, students participate in various warm-up activities and acting games.

Music Programs

Chorus

Chorus is open to all students wishing to sing in an ensemble. Chorus is a scheduled class and rehearsals are held during the school day. The Chorus performs two concerts during the year.

Select Chorus

Select chorus is open to advanced choral students by audition and invitation. The Select Chorus rehearses after school one day per week. Participation in an in-school large ensemble is a requirement for membership in the Select Chorus.

Concert Band

Concert Band is open to any student who plays a wind or percussion instrument and who demonstrates an ability to perform at the level of this performance group. Rehearsals are part of each student's class schedule. In addition, all band students attend weekly in-school instrumental lessons. The Concert Band presents two evening concerts during the year.

Marching Band

The Marching Band is open to any student who plays a marching band instrument and who demonstrates the ability to perform at the level of this performance group. Traditionally, the Marching Band performs at the Cheshire Memorial Day Parade.

Jazz Ensemble

Jazz Ensemble is offered to select students with an interest in playing and learning about jazz. Rehearsals are after school. Students interested in Jazz Ensemble are required to be a member of the Dodd Concert Band, Orchestra or Chorus.

It is the mission of Dodd Middle School to provide a diverse and challenging educational experience which addresses the academic, emotional, and physical needs of every student.

Flag Team/Winter Guard

Flag Team is open to seventh and eighth grade girls who wish to participate in parades with the Marching Band. Practice is after school and admission is by audition. Winter Guard is an activity for flag team members who wish to perform flag routines as a group to music on a gym floor. The group practices after school and competes against other schools during the winter months.

Orchestra

Orchestra is open to any student who plays a classical string instrument and who demonstrates the ability to perform at the level of this group. Practices are held during the school day and the orchestra presents at least three after school concerts during the school year.

Select Strings

Select Strings is open to any student who proves their ability to perform at the appropriate level. Rehearsals are after school and this ensemble performs in at least two after school concerts during the school year. Students interested in Select Strings are required to be a member of the Dodd orchestra.