

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR SLAUSON MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK



Mission Statement:

"At Slauson Middle School we are committed to educational excellence, the development of self-esteem, and the cultivation of academic and social skills in a safe and supportive environment where respect for individual differences and the rights of others guides school behavior."

School Colors: Red and Gold

School Mascot: Golden Bear

Feeder Schools: Bach, Dicken, Eberwhite, Lakewood, and Lawton

Our school was built in 1936 and was named in honor of Herbert M. Slauson, former superintendent of the Ann Arbor Public Schools. Born in Syracuse, New York in 1853 and raised in Iowa from the age of 10, Mr. Slauson attended public schools growing up in preparation for his university studies. Mr. Slauson initially moved to Ann Arbor in 1873 when he was accepted to the University of Michigan. He served as superintendent of several Michigan schools prior to becoming the superintendent of the Ann Arbor Public Schools.

slauson@a2schools.org

"Home of the Golden Bears"

1019 W. Washington Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Office 734-994-2004

Fax 734-994-1681

Welcome Slauson students and families to a new school year. Thank you for choosing us. The Slauson staff is committed to providing a safe, challenging, enriched learning environment through a partnership of family, staff and community. Excellence and high quality instruction are valued. Participation and exploration among students are encouraged, and citizenship and service are cultivated. It is our goal that each student become involved in school activities such as clubs, sports, and the arts.

Home of The Golden Bears, Slauson is located on the West side of Ann Arbor, near downtown and The University of Michigan central campus. Parents, students, and staff partner to promote a Caring and Cooperative community, designed to meet the unique and challenging individual needs of all students.

Educators at Slauson collaborate to create, and enhance experiential learning connections. Families are supportive and teachers are highly skilled and committed to the mission of the middle school. Our staff values the development of the whole child. The leadership philosophy at our school is about building and sustaining teacher leaders. We have incredible people serving your children each day. There are seven qualities that we look for in great teachers.

1. Connects with children
2. Teaches children first and the curriculum second
3. Focuses on learning goals vs performance goals
4. Believes in a growth mindset
5. Reflective about practice
6. Courageous
7. Authentic

Best wishes as you begin the school year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Brandon Szejewski, Principal & Mr. Christopher C. Roberts, Assistant Principal

This parent student handbook is a tool for general use and reference. All Ann Arbor Public Schools policies and procedures will be enforced using the [AAPS Rights & Responsibilities Handbook](#).

SLAUSON FACTS

Slauson Colors: Gold and Red

Mascot: Golden Bear

Slauson's Feeder Schools: Bach, Dicken, Eberwhite, Lakewood, Lawton

High Schools: Slauson students primarily attend Pioneer High School. Some students elect to attend Community High, Skyline High, Huron High, or Pathways to Success.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS:

All students will increase proficiency in English Language Arts

All students will increase proficiency in Math

All students will improve proficiency in Science

All students will increase proficiency in Social Studies

Establish a school culture focused on strong support and high expectations for all students

School and Office Hours:

School hours are from 8:15 AM to 3:03 PM. Students should not arrive before 7:50 AM or remain on campus after 3:20 PM. The Main Office is open from 7:45 AM to 3:30 PM. Office phones are checked periodically throughout the day. If you call the school after hours, please leave a message and allow office staff a minimum of 24 hours to respond to inquiries.

Daily Schedule:1st hour 8:15-9:092nd hour 9:14-10:093rd hour 10:14-11:08**Lunch/Advisory**6th Grade Lunch 11:13 -11:377th Grade Lunch 11:13-11:378th Grade Advisory 11:13 -11:375th hour 11:42-12:36**Lunch/Advisory**6th Grade Advisory 12:41 -1:057th Grade Advisory 12:41 -1:058th Grade Lunch 12:41 -1:056th hour 1:10-2:047th hour 2:09-3:03

Contact	Phone Number
Attendance for Grades 6, 7, 8 (Please call and leave a message on this dedicated line to report your child's absence at any time but no later 9AM on day of absence)	734-994-2008
Brandon Szejewski – Principal	734-994-2004
Christopher Roberts – Assistant Principal	734-994-2004
Kevin Chung – Counselor	734-994-2008
Jenna Smith – Counselor	734-994-2008
Stacy Kissel – Counselor	743-994-2008
Rosalie Klein – Main Office Professional	734-994-2004
Brianna Clifton – Class Office Professional	734-994-2007
Nancy Meyers - Class Office Professional	734-994-2005
Lead Department Teachers: Sarah Suchanek – English Language Arts; Nicole Kedroske – Mathematics; Vivian Lee – Science; Corey Williams – Social Studies; Kim Jaster – Clubs & Sports Coordinator	

What Parents Can Do: Concerns about a discipline or academic problem and its resolution should first be expressed or questioned at the point where the problem occurred. A discipline or academic problem involving a student in a particular class should be brought to the attention of the teacher of that class. If this step does not result in a satisfactory resolution, please consult the student's counselor, advisor, or principal.

SLAUSON DROP-OFF and PICK-UP**Unloading/Loading (Drop-off AM/Pick-up PM Only)**

- Recommended drop off is 1-2 blocks away from the Main Entrance on W. Washington Street.
- Allow students to walk 1-2 blocks to the deck/Main Entrance with peers.
- Drivers stay in cars.
- Always allow students to exit vehicles only on the passenger side of the vehicle, onto sidewalks.
- Students must always use crosswalks to cross the street safely.
- Parents may not pull into the Staff Parking Lot to drop off or pick up students for safety reasons.

TIPS FOR ALL MOTORISTS

- Slow down and obey all traffic laws and speed limits. AAPD will be monitoring.
- Drivers should be alert to tow away zones and no parking zones in the lot and in neighborhood streets.
- Be alert and ready to stop. Prepare to stop for a school bus when overhead yellow lights are flashing. Drive with caution if you see the yellow hazard warning lights are flashing on a moving or stopped bus. Watch for children walking in the street, especially where there are no sidewalks.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Help your children learn and practice the safety rules for walking, bicycling, or riding in a passenger car, school bus or transit bus. Be a good role model, especially when you are with your kids. Always buckle up in the car, always wear a helmet when biking, and always follow pedestrian safety rules. Supervise young children walking or biking to school or as they wait at the school bus stop.

As always, thank you for following the Slauson Traffic Safety Rules. If you have just begun to drive your child to school for the first time this year, please review the rules. If you have questions, please ask. We'll do our very best to answer your questions. The speed limit on streets around Slauson Middle School is 25 miles per hour.

Arrival at School: Students may arrive at school up to 15 minutes before the start of the school day and are to report to assigned areas. All students are to be in class by the school's designated start time.

Morning Drop-Off: Children who are driven to school may not be dropped off before 7:50 AM. Student safety is our main concern. Recommended drop off is 1-2 blocks away from the Main Entrance on W. Washington Street. Please only let your student out on the passenger side of the street and avoid stopping your vehicle in crosswalks. Pack your patience and watch your speed.

Dismissal Procedures: Safe dismissal procedures will be established at the building site. Students should be picked up at dismissal time. Parents and guardians will receive communication from the school if a student is not picked up within 15 minutes of the end of the school day.

Students on Premises After School: All students must vacate the premises at the end of the school day unless participating in an approved extra-curricular activity, receiving after-school tutoring, or participating in other activities scheduled in advance. All students must be under the direct supervision of a staff member. Students should have transportation available within 15 minutes after all student activities end and are to wait in the designated area.

COURSE SELECTION

Course Selection is done early in the spring with the assistance of the counseling staff. Course descriptions will be offered to assist in course selection. Parents/Guardians must sign-off on course selection sheets by the specified spring deadline each year.

Advisory Class: All students are assigned to advisory groups. Their primary purposes are:

- 1) Personal and social development
- 2) Successful adjustment to school
- 3) Opportunities for extra help

Advisors do the following:

- Orient their advisees to the building and Slauson's program
- Engage in goal setting, planning, shared problem solving and decision-making
- Serve as interested, caring adults who provide encouragement, support, and assistance to the students in the advisory group
- Facilitate activities to build student's social emotional skills.

Medications: The Ann Arbor Public Schools medication policy states that the on-site administration of any medication requires written authorization on file. The authorization must be signed by both a physician and a parent, whether the medication is prescribed or over-the-counter. Life-saving medications with forms must be turned in to the Main Office before the child may attend. All medications must be in their original containers and clearly labeled (a Medication Authorization Form is included on the Parent Portal). Parents must provide separate, original, labeled containers of medicine in the school Main Office. Slauson follows the district policy governing the use of Epi-pen injections for insect or food allergies.

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Assistance and Special Needs:

Some students need a Special Education Program provided within the general education setting. Some students may need assistance such as individual academic support or special education classes. Our staff utilizes a collaborative service model for students. Please ask your counselor for additional details.

GOAL

- Maximize school success of the child: social, emotional, and intellectual.
- Support for independent learning.
- Facilitate accomplishment of the goals established in the IEP

FEATURES

- Communication among the child's teachers, including sharing of IEP goals, awareness of special needs, regular planning opportunities, and frequent communication.
- Collaboration among Special Education and General Education teachers in the classroom.
- Services for a wide range of needs.
- Student support in a variety of settings, including classroom, small group, and individual as needed.
- Accessibility to all middle school opportunities -- academic, elective, and co-curricular.
- Monitoring of the child's progress with adjustments and modifications as needed.
- Specific support for study skills, organization of materials, homework completion, social & personal skills, speech & language skills and other needs as identified in the IEP.

Achievement Team: Each school site has an A-Team. The purpose of the A-Team is to provide for the collaboration of parents/guardians, teachers, resource personnel, administrators, and students in evaluating the strengths and needs of students having academic, attendance, or behavioral difficulties, and in identifying strategies and programs that may assist the students. The school counselor shall establish student A-Team meetings as needed to address individual students' needs. A request to have an A-Team meeting should be made directly to the student's teacher, counselor or principal. Each team shall develop intervention strategies to assist the student. Such strategies may include changes in program placement or instructional methods, recommendation of supplemental educational services, parent involvement strategies, behavioral interventions, discipline, referrals to other agencies or resources, and/or other appropriate interventions.

Students Differently Able: The needs of students with disabilities are met through the general education program, special education, and 504 service plans. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act Students with disabilities who meet eligibility criteria under Section 504 are offered a service plan. The service plan is individually designed to eliminate discrimination based on the student's disability, and offers reasonable accommodation to the general education program.

Slauson Middle School is continuing implementation of a collaborative approach to delivering Special Education Services. Collaboration is based on the principle that each student represents a unique combination of abilities and educational needs and may require individual assistance at varying times in order to achieve success. Students eligible for Special Education services are provided support from Special Education teachers in the general education classroom. Team meetings with the school staff allow effective response to the diverse needs of students. Support staff is assigned specific responsibilities for students and work with those students throughout the school day. Special Education teachers, Speech & Language teachers, Social Workers, and general education teachers work together to provide instruction appropriate to each child's needs. Students are involved in their educational planning and are expected to share responsibility for accomplishment of goals.

An IEP establishes direct and/or indirect service time to be provided collaboratively so that the Special Education teacher can communicate with the many teachers interacting with the student during each school day or week. Specific accommodations may be written into the formal plan and are shared with the child's teachers. Assistance is given to provide each student with strategies, workload adjustments, and reinforcement to build on individual strengths and promote successful learning.

In a collaborative approach, most special education students participate in general education classes for the full day. They are afforded a full range of elective class opportunities as well as access to all academic classes. In addition, Special Education staff is available during the school day to provide support for students individually or in small groups in a variety of ways. Support can be in the form of additional time for tests, reinforcement of concepts being learned, and assistance in problem solving, dealing with social or emotional issues, or making necessary accommodations in assignments or programs.

English Language Learners: Students whose primary language is not English may require specialized instruction. The Ann Arbor Public School District offers a program to teach the English language that includes listening, reading, writing and speaking. For more information on English Language Learner (ELL) program services please contact Trish Hayes, Slauson ELL Liaison hayest@aasp.12.mi.us or visit the website: <http://www.a2schools.org/Page/596>.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELING

Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program

SCHOOL COUNSELOR PRIMARY FUNCTION The professional school counselor provides a comprehensive school-counseling program for students in the middle grades. The school counselor coordinates activities to address the needs of the students; consults and collaborates with teachers, staff, and parents/guardians to support student success; and supports other middle school educational programs consistent with the school counselor management agreement.

DIRECT STUDENT SERVICES *Implement the Middle School Counseling Core Curriculum:* Conduct learning activities in the classroom based on the academic, career, and personal/social domains to facilitate the infusion of the school counseling core curriculum integrated into the total education curricula.

Provide Individual Student Planning activities: Provide orientation activities for students new to the school; participate in orientation programs for parents/guardians and students; inform students and their parents/guardians of test results and their implication for educational planning; provide resources and information to assist students in the development of the state-mandated Education Development Plan (EDP); assist students in the transition from middle school to high school; provide resources and information to assist in career exploration activities.

Provide Responsive Services by facilitating small groups and counseling individual students with specific needs, and providing crisis response services: Conduct structured, goal-oriented counseling sessions to meet the identified needs of individuals or groups of students. Session topics at the middle school level may include self-concept development, academic concerns, behavior problems, social skills, peer relationships, family concerns, grief and loss issues, child abuse, substance abuse, depression/suicide, sexuality, etc.

INDIRECT STUDENT SERVICES Consult and collaborate with teachers, staff, and parents/guardians regarding the developmental needs of students: Participate in building level child study teams; facilitate conferences with teachers, students, parents/guardians; assist other school staff in the placement of students; and assist families in addressing school-related issues.

Refer students, as needed, to district and community resources in consultation with their parents/guardians: Consult and coordinate the referral process with district personnel including school psychologist, social workers, nurses, administrators and community resources.

PROGRAM PLANNING AND SCHOOL SUPPORT *Provide Program Management and Operations:* Manage time to insure delivery of a comprehensive and balanced school-counseling program.

Professional Development: Implement a plan for professional development.

Data Analysis: Demonstrate accountability through the use of student achievement and achievement-related data for program modification and continuous improvement.

Fair-Share Responsibilities: Participate in school improvement initiatives, supporting other school programs, and accepting fair-share responsibilities (those duties expected of all staff members).

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

Attendance and Absences: All absences from school must be called into the Attendance number by a parent or guardian at 994-2008 by 9:00 AM. When calling, please leave your name, student's name, date, time of day and the reason for being absent. If you are unable to call the school, you must send a signed note stating the reason for the absence. For absences longer than two days you may call the Main Office and request homework assignments.

Absence During the Day: When a student is going to be absent for any reason, the parent or guardian is requested to call the Main Office as early as possible. When a student returns to school, he/she must report directly to the Main Office, sign in, and receive a pass to be admitted to class. Students who do not have a

medical note or legitimate, approved absence will be marked tardy. In all cases of absence, students should bring a note from home unless the parent has called the Attendance Line to report an absence. Students are allowed to make up their work when they have an excused absence or tardy.

Health Care & Illness During School: The Clinic is located in the Main Office. There is a registered nurse available on a limited schedule. If your child becomes ill during the school day, we will notify you by telephone. If your child is too ill to remain in school you will be called to pick up your child. When you pick up an ill child please go to the Main Office to sign out your child at school. All medications must be delivered to the nurse or Main Office Secretary for review and distribution with the proper form filled out by a doctor before the first day of school. Medications cannot be administered without a doctor's note. This includes over the counter as well as prescription medication.

Pre-Planned Educational Vacations: All planned extended absences require the completion of an Extended Absence Form, which will be signed by each classroom teacher and approved by administration prior to the absence. Request forms are available in the Main Office and should be signed by a principal five (5) days in advance.

Tardiness: If a student arrives late to school, he/she must stop at the Main Office and sign in before proceeding to his/her classroom. A tardy student should arrive with a note or parents can call the school to notify the secretary. Unexcused tardiness will result in a referral, loss of PBIS incentives, parent contact by the teacher, and/or other teacher directed intervention.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation:

Students who qualify are provided transportation based upon the district guidelines.

Bus Transportation Rules:

- 1) Observe the same conduct as in the classroom.
- 2) Be courteous, use no profane language.
- 3) Do not eat or drink on the bus.
- 4) Do not video record or photograph others.
- 5) Keep the bus clean.
- 6) Cooperate with the bus driver.
- 7) Do not spit.
- 8) Do not throw items out windows.
- 9) Do not be destructive.
- 10) Stay in your seat.
- 11) Keep head, hands & feet in the bus.
- 12) Bus drivers are authorized to assign seats.

Students who do not comply will lose bus privileges.

Late Buses: Late buses typically run on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday of each week. The bus drops off at more locations than regular buses, so anticipate a longer ride. Only students who participate, that day, in school sponsored activities are allowed to ride the late bus. No exceptions.

Sharing a Friend's Bus: Students who wish to take another bus after school MUST have a written note from a parent which includes: current date, child's full name, name of friend and bus number that the child will take for the day, parent phone number, and parent signature. Students are NOT allowed to call home during the day to make arrangements and notes MUST be dropped off in the Main Office before school or during the first period. Principals will review the note and give final approval. If a request is not approved, students will call home to make alternate arrangements.

NUTRITION

Breakfast & Lunch Options: MyPaymentsPlus provides an easy to use, efficient way to make payments quickly and securely anytime using a simple internet connection. New to MyPaymentsPlus? Visit mypaymentsplus.com to register. You'll need your student's 6 digit student ID number to register -- please contact us if you need that information. Students are expected to bring a bag lunch or to utilize the services of our lunch provider Chartwells. Forgotten lunches may be brought to the Main Office. No deliveries are permitted. For food safety reasons, unclaimed lunches will be discarded at the end of the school day. Please

do not send lunches with glass bottles, soda, energy drinks, or plastic/paper cups with snap on tops. We do not accept deliveries from restaurants for student lunches. The district has a continuing policy of providing free or reduced priced lunches to students whose parents qualify for the program. Application forms are available in the school office.

Cafeteria: Lunch is served in the cafeteria. Students may bring lunch from home or purchase a hot/cold lunch. Many a la carte items are offered daily. Free and reduced lunches are available for students from families who qualify under federal guidelines. An application needs to be completed for free/reduced lunch every year. Breakfast is available from 7:55 AM - 8:10 AM.

Lunchroom Rules:

- 1) Be on time to lunch
- 2) Stay seated unless getting lunch or throwing away trash
- 3) Respect lunchroom supervisors
- 4) Do not throw food
- 5) Speak in a normal, indoor appropriate voice
- 6) Students must eat before going outside for recess
- 7) No food or drink may be taken from the cafeteria

SLAUSON'S ACADEMIC GRADING PHILOSOPHY

- Report achievement distinctly to communicate more clearly about learning.
- Focus instruction on key rigorous learning goals.
- Provide feedback to students based on learning goals.
- Build assessments based on reporting topics and with greater rigor.
- Support differentiated timelines for learning.
- Make assessments more formative.

Assessment Literacy refers to the teaching practice of using multiple types of assessment to provide feedback to students in order to improve their learning. The Assessment Literacy Model focuses on how teachers figure out what students know, what students need to know, and how to teach strategies that help students meet the learning targets. Many Slauson teachers use this model.

Learning Targets are student friendly statements that are derived from the state and national standards. They are clearly communicated to the students and serve as the basis for all assessments. Students will be assessed regularly on their understanding of each learning target.

Summative Assessments are assessments (tests) that measure a student's learning at the end of a certain time period such as the end of a unit. Summative assessments serve as a summary of a student's ability to meet the learning targets. These assessments appear in PowerSchool and count towards the student's final grade in the class.

Formative Assessments are practice assignments for students to complete as they learn the targets. These assignments help teachers and students know what the student knows and what the student needs to learn in order to be prepared for the summative assessment.

Rubric of Quality is a tool that describes in writing the quality of work that is expected for a student to meet the learning targets. It helps the student know what is expected. Rubrics also provide feedback to the student on how to improve.

Final Grade is a letter that indicates the current level of progress a student has made in regards to meeting the learning targets.

- A = student has demonstrated mastery of the target
B = student is almost at full mastery of the target
C = student has only partially met the target
D = student has demonstrated minimal mastery of the target
E = student has demonstrated no mastery of the target

Homework is a necessary part of each student's educational program. It is an important way of developing study habits. Homework should extend the understanding of a class, reflect on what has been learned,

provide an application of the learning, and make preparation for the work that will follow. General daily homework per grade level guidelines:

Grade 6th = 60 minutes

Grade 7th = 70 minutes

Grade 8th = 80 minutes

Make-up work should be done immediately after an absence, per district guidelines.

PowerSchool: Teachers maintain student grades in an online system called PowerSchool. Students and parents can log into the system with an issued ID to view grades and assignment status. PowerSchool is updated weekly.

Interim Reports are available in PowerSchool midway through each marking period. Grade Reports are also available in PowerSchool at the end of each academic quarter. These dates are listed on our school website calendar.

Report Cards: Parents may access student grades and attendance through the online PowerSchool student information system throughout the year. Hard copies of report cards will be available to view online at the end of each quarter. The final grade card of the year will be mailed home to parents.

Supplies: All textbooks, Agenda Planners, and materials are provided to the students free of charge. There are no fees or assessments in Ann Arbor middle schools. A teacher may have recommendations for additional materials that will help with organization, study, and lesson preparations. The student may be asked to bring something for a special project. For questions, contact the teacher.

Textbooks are issued to each student free of charge for the school year. At the end of the year, the same book, which was issued, must be returned in good condition. If a book is lost, stolen, or damaged, the student will be assessed a replacement fee.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Bad Weather can happen on short notice. When the weather is poor, the Ann Arbor Public Schools will notify families through School Messenger and local radio stations 1600 AM, 1050 AM, 91.7 FM, 1290 AM, 89.1 FM, 760 AM. Listen to one of these stations regarding school cancellation. Cancellation of public school bus service will affect all public school buses all day. If buses run in the morning, they will transport students home. Emergency school closings will also be posted on the Slauson and AAPS district web page and a School Messenger will be sent to the contact/s we have on file. If school is closed due to bad weather all scheduled evening activities will also be canceled. Every attempt will be made to reschedule them.

Tornadoes: The Civil Defense Office notifies all schools by radio if there is a Tornado Watch. We will be alerted immediately if there is a Tornado Warning. Students will be taken to protected areas. If a Warning condition exists at the end of the school day, students will be kept in the school building. They may leave in a Tornado Watch but after-school activities are canceled.

Fire and Severe Weather Drills: are conducted at regular intervals. It is essential that when the first signal is given, everyone promptly clears the building by the prescribed route. The teacher in each classroom will give students instructions on how to exit. All students are expected to remain quiet during a fire, storm, or drill.

ALICE Safety Drills: A.L.I.C.E is an acronym that stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. It is a series of responses that is meant to keep students and staff safe. A.L.I.C.E teaches options. It does not rely on one individual approach in order to keep our students safe. It allows teachers and students to assess the situation and follow a response plan that offers a range of options.

Emergency Numbers: Are required for each student. A current home, work and emergency number must be on file for each student. Please update this information IMMEDIATELY when changes occur. Students cannot participate in sports, clubs or other school activities until this emergency card is on file. The card allows us to take emergency action if a student is hurt and parent or designee cannot be reached.

MESSAGES AND DELIVERIES TO STUDENTS: MESSAGES AND OTHER ITEMS CANNOT BE DELIVERED TO STUDENTS. By delivering messages and other items to the students during class time, the learning process is disrupted, thereby causing inconvenience and disruption to both the teachers and the

students. Please coordinate all appointments at home, and if any uncertainty exists, the student should contact the parents (using a school phone) during a free moment. Any items for your child may be left in the Main office.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND SLAUSON EVENTS

A2 Unified Day: A celebration of the work throughout the district focused on bringing peer to peer opportunities to our students with disabilities, to build meaningful relationships, honor diversity, and showcase athletic skills. Unified Sports pairs one student with a disability with one general education peer.

Common Sense Digital Citizenship: As educators know, technology brings not only tremendous opportunities for learning into the classroom but also presents many challenges. The Common Sense Media curriculum (commonsensemedia.org) provides students with skills they need to be respectful, responsible and safe online through interactive instruction. Slauson's goal is to become a certified school for the upcoming school year and moving forward for our school's dedication to teaching young people how to be safe, responsible digital citizens.

Constitution Day: Area lawyers to visit sixth, seventh, and eighth grade classes to speak about various Constitutional amendments as follows: 6th grade: Sixth Amendment right to an impartial jury in a criminal matter 7th grade: First Amendment 8th grade: Fourteenth Amendment, equal protection under the law. Presenters will introduce the amendments and then facilitate interactive simulations to demonstrate the real-world significance of these amendments.

Curriculum Night: We are looking forward to meeting with all Slauson families for Curriculum Night in early September. Please arrive by 5:45 PM so that the classroom rotations may begin promptly at 6:00 PM. Parking is always challenging during school wide events so please plan accordingly and only park in legal parking spaces in the lot and throughout our neighborhood. This evening is designated to talk about the school year and what is taught at school. We want every family at Slauson to come that night. The evening will begin in your child's classroom. Parents will use an abbreviated "school day," by following their student's schedule to visit classrooms. Announcements over the PA will signal movement to the next period.

Field Trips: Field trips are considered a part of the total school program. Prior to a trip, each student must bring a signed permission slip from a parent or guardian. Per School Board Policy, students who do not return the permission form may NOT participate in the activity. In most cases, school buses are used for field trips. School behavioral expectations apply to all field trips.

Fun Nights: are sponsored by our PTSO and are for Slauson students only. They are held during the school year from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. Students will be admitted no later than 6:10 PM and must stay until the end. Activities include basketball, board games, food and dancing. There is an admission fee and refreshments can be purchased. The profits support student activities. Students must arrange a ride home before attending. Proper conduct is expected, and school rules apply. Students must be picked up promptly at 7:30 PM. Students who are picked up after 7:45 PM will not be invited to the next Fun Night. **Fun Nights will resume based on health and safety guidelines post pandemic.

Green Schools Status "Emerald": To earn a Michigan Green School designation, schools must do at least 2 activities in each of the four categories listed below and have their application approved by their county coordinator. These new categories and activities went into effect on July 1, 2009 after approval by the Michigan Legislature. Category I: Reduce /Reuse/ Recycle / Use of Renewable Resources at School, Category II: Energy, Category III: Environment, Category IV: Miscellaneous Projects.

Heroes in the Hallway: October is Anti-Bullying Month and at Slauson, we bring attention to this issue as a school community by making an intentional effort to confront bullying each and every day. During the month of October, staff will utilize advisory to discuss and review key factors in encouraging students to positively contribute to a safe school environment. Topics include social media etiquette, creating a safe hallway community of learners, cafeteria conduct, and peer engagement. Staff will be "Heroes in the Hallway" during passing time and will model and encourage students to demonstrate leadership and care when interacting with peers at Slauson.

NAAPID: NAAPID is held the second Monday of February. ALL parents are invited to participate in these programs and visit your child's classroom. Of course you are always welcome to visit Slauson any school day. When you spend time at the school volunteering or visiting and checking PowerSchool weekly, you send a powerful message to children that they and their education are important.

The Library is located on the second floor. It is a center of activity during the day, where students can check out books and do reference work. Computers are available.

Lockers are provided for each student near their advisory class. PE locker rooms have lockers for student use. Students supply the lock for PE lockers. *Lockers are the property of the school. Students should not share their locker combinations.* Students are asked to respectfully handle their locker and keep all their personal items locked up at all times. Sharing lockers with friends and/or sharing locker combinations is not allowed.

Lost and Found is located on the 1st floor, across from the Cafeteria. PLEASE claim lost items. Items unclaimed are periodically donated to a local charity.

Musical Instruments: Students are expected to provide their own musical instruments except for those instruments, which the district deems too large or expensive for families to acquire. These instruments will be provided by the school and include: viola, cello, string bass, oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor and baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone, tuba, and large percussion. Instruments students need to provide include: violin, flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, cornet, trumpet, trombone, percussion sticks and mallets. Band and Orchestra teachers have information on purchasing these instruments. For those students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch, the district maintains a limited inventory of these smaller instruments for free use. Parents or guardians and students must sign a guarantee card accepting responsibility for accidental damage or loss. Contact the Band or Orchestra teacher for more information.

Mandatory State Student Assessments: M-STEP Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress. That State Student Assessment window is in the spring. Each grade has a three week testing window beginning after Spring break. Detailed information and grade specific information is available on line at the Michigan Department of Education website:

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_70117-191626--,00.html

National Bullying Prevention Month: Every October, schools and organizations across the country join STOMP Out Bullying™ in observing National Bullying Prevention Month. The goal: encourage communities to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying by increasing awareness of the prevalence and impact of bullying on all children of all ages. We will continue to spend time on reviewing this ever-important topic. Daily announcements to support this work will continue throughout the school year.

Project Healthy Schools Initiative: Ten lessons are presented once a week and are taught by community volunteers with the assistance of Slauson advisory teachers. Lessons include topics about healthy eating and physical activity. The goal of the lessons is to have students eat more fruits and vegetables, eat less fast and fatty foods, choose better beverages and spend less mindless time in front of a screen. Our Healthy Schools committee promotes healthy choices at all of our school events. We want students to have experiences that they will carry on throughout their lives. Our activities always include fun, physical activities and messages about eating well and avoiding unhealthy choices like tobacco. The Healthy Schools committee decided we wanted a dedicated Fall event and teamed with the American Cancer Society about 6 years ago to host a Recess Relay. Two years ago, we considered the fact that we have had students use Mott Children's Hospital resources as they were fighting cancer while at Slauson and some who were diagnosed before or after their time here who also benefited from Mott. The team decided to give our event a local connection.

Slauson Week Of Service: In honor of Earth Day, Slauson students engage in a day of service activity held during the third week of April. Each Advisory class participates in cleaning/sprucing up an area of the Slauson campus during the week. This is a very important activity as it helps the students develop a sense of ownership and responsibility toward our school and grounds. Plus the school looks really great when the work is done.

Student Count Day: Each year there are two official count days where we report to the State of Michigan our student enrollment. October and February will be an official count day. Please help students be on time and remain in school all day. If for some reason you need to take your child out of school be sure to contact the Main Office to excuse them.

Student Planners are provided to assist all members of the Slauson Middle School community to better understand our school and our expectations. I encourage everyone to read the information in this planner to become familiar with our school. Students will be expected to have this planner with them during school hours throughout the year. It is an excellent organizational tool. If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this planner, please ask the advisory teacher. Student planners also serve as hall passes and should be signed by a staff member and carried any time a student leaves the classroom during

instructional time.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

School Messenger: The School Messenger keeps parents apprised of upcoming events. The SchoolMessenger system will be used to send emergency and non-emergency messages to faculty, staff, and parents/guardians. Messages will be sent as phone calls and/or emails. Parent and guardian information is updated in the SchoolMessenger system automatically every night. The information for the updates comes directly from the district's student information system, Powerschool. Imported data for each parent/guardian includes home phone number, cell phone number, and email address. You will receive a "Principal Update" each month at minimum.

Parent – School Communication: It is our experience that students do best when the communication between home and school is timely and consistent. Communication among parents, teachers, and school personnel is essential to a successful educational program. Routine communications include school, PTSO Monthly Newsletter, regular Principal updates, parent-teacher conferences, report cards, school meetings with classroom teachers, and school visits. Other communication are notes in student planner books, emails, and phone calls. Parent concerns should FIRST be addressed with the student's teacher. A team approach between home and school is the most effective way to support your child. The next level is your child's guidance counselor and finally the administration.

Parent Concerns/Complaints 1. Parent complaints regarding classroom activities or procedures should be directed initially to the classroom teacher. Usually, the classroom teacher is in the best position to provide information or work directly with parents in order to resolve problems and concerns. 2. If the parent elects to bring a complaint initially to the attention of the principal, the principal will be expected to make the complaint known to the teacher and to encourage the parent and teacher to meet in order to resolve the problem. If the principal determines that this will not result in an appropriate solution to the problem presented, he/she will make every effort to personally resolve the problem.

Parent Teacher Conferences: Two times during the school year fall and spring have been set aside for parent-teacher-student conferences. Parents will meet with teachers and/or advisors to discuss progress, grades, etc. During arena-style conferences, parents or guardians have the opportunity to meet with individual teachers of their choice. Parents may take the time to meet with all teachers. No pre-arrangements will be required, but you may need to wait in line to meet with one of your child's teachers. Teachers will be available in the cafeteria and recreation rooms on the 1st floor. If you would like to speak with a teacher at any other time, please feel free to contact him/her via email or leave a voicemail message for that teacher. On our website, click on OUR SCHOOL then on the Staff Directory for contact information. Email is the most effective way to contact someone. Please don't wait until conferences if you have a concern.

Passes & Internet Access Approval: Agenda Planners contain a page for hall passes. Students are required to have a hall pass at all times when they are in the hallway. Students may use the internet only if parents have signed a **Computer Use Policy Form**.

Physical Education: The PE Department provides an opportunity for students to participate in a wide variety of team sports, individual activities and swimming. Personal fitness through daily conditioning activities is promoted. Students are encouraged to develop a plan to maintain a high level of fitness throughout their lives.

Physical Education Dress Requirements: Shirt, shorts, sweats; swimsuit and athletic shoes are to be kept in the gym lockers. Students may not wear school clothes in gym class.

After-School Activities/ Athletics: Students are encouraged to participate in the after- school activities and athletics. Athletic and club start up dates are posted on the school website under Athletics. There is NO SUPERVISION for students who are not involved in a specific club or sport activities.

Pay To Participate: Middle School: There is an annual fee of \$150 for each student which includes all five sports seasons. <http://www.a2schools.org/Page/8079>

Sports: The 6th grade athletic program offers students a less competitive sport experience. Basic skills and good sportsmanship are stressed. There are no cuts for 6th graders. The culminating activities for each sport are designed to give each competitor a chance to challenge themselves by meeting with students from other middle schools from TBD yearly. Physicals are required; a permission slip will be sent home on the first day of practice.

Sports: Interscholastics - Athletics for 7th and 8th grader players include tryouts and organize students by ability level. Most sports will have two competitions per week after three weeks of practice. Strategy, skills, team play and good sportsmanship are stressed. All athletes must be academically eligible and must be in good citizenship and PBIS standing each week to participate in Interscholastic Sports - (passing all academic classes). The Sports seasons and offerings will be announced at the beginning of school and posted on the school website and through daily announcements. We recommend you obtain your physicals before school starts. You will need a sport physical and a signed parent permission slip.

Visitors to the Building: Parents/guardians are welcome to request a visit to the school. When planning to visit, please contact the office at least one day in advance so the building principal can set a schedule. The principal has the discretion to set reasonable parameters on school visits (length of stay, number of visitors, etc.). Visitors should limit their visit to the area(s) of the building they have indicated upon check-in with the office. 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 to sign in. Friends of students may not be brought to school as visitors.

Walk/Bike to School Day: International Walk to School Day is a global event that involves communities from more than 40 countries walking and biking to school on the same day. It began in 1997 as a one-day event. Over time, this event has become part of a movement for year-round safe routes to school and a celebration – with record breaking participation. Today, thousands of schools across America – from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico – participate every spring.

SAFETY AND BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Cell phone/ Electronic Devices/ School Telephone Policy: The Main Office phone may be used with permission from a teacher or administrator. Except with prior consent for health reasons, all electronic devices shall be turned off during school hours including, but not limited to, cellular/digital telephones for voice usage, digital imaging, or text messaging or other mobile communication devices **Students bring these devices at their own risk. The school will not be responsible for lost or stolen electronic devices and cell phones.** Confiscated phones/electronic devices will be returned at the end of the day for a first offense. Parents will be notified for continued offenses and will be asked to pick up the item from an administrator.

Student Dress Expectations: Students are expected to dress appropriately for school. Any clothing or accessories that are considered dangerous, disruptive or potentially dangerous or disruptive to the learning environment are prohibited. Offensive symbols may not be displayed and clothing that depicts alcohol or drugs may not be worn. Hats, coats and backpacks must be left in lockers during the school day. On colder days, sweaters, sweatshirts and fleece tops may be needed for students to be comfortable in all areas of the school. **Undergarments should not be visible.** We ask that parents assist their child in making good decisions about appropriate school attire for academic success.

Appropriate Dress Reminder... At Slauson we have reminded our team to use care when responding to our students and reiterate that our aim is to promote a culture of respect. We will be sure to avoid making value judgment or statements as it relates to attire. Parents you can assist by engaging with your children around this topic and emphasize school appropriate attire. We will continue the business of teaching and learning and adjust accordingly. Slauson staff will emphasize appropriate dress. When addressing a student about the appropriateness of her/his dress, this will be done privately and discreetly.

Harassment/Bullying: Slauson has “**No Tolerance**” for any type of harassment including gender, sexual orientation, racial, ethnic or religious. Bullying will not be tolerated. Students who engage in bullying will be disciplined according to the Rights & Responsibility Handbook <http://www.a2schools.org/domain/2464>. Students should report bullying incidents to adults immediately. A student should report incidents of harassment to the counselors, staff or administration with any supportive evidence that is available by writing a student statement to be submitted to the principal or assistant principal.

Bicycles: MUST be walked on school property. Always ride on the bike path. All bikes must be locked in the Slauson bike racks for safety. Students should wear bike safety helmets.

Skateboards & Rollerblades are NOT permitted on school grounds at any time. If a student brings a skateboard, rollerblades, or Ripstik to school a parent will be called to pick the item up. Our school will not be responsible for these items.

Positive Behavior Support (PBIS): Positive Behavior Support is a school-wide system of behavior expectations that include the establishment of clear and consistent school expectations for behavior, a comprehensive plan for teaching and reinforcing those expectations, a system of predictable consequences and a system for positive student recognition when the expectations are met. The staff at Slauson Middle School has adopted **Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe & Caring** as the overarching expectations for the school. Students and staff developed a detailed behavior expectation matrix that shows the expected behaviors in each location of the building (see Behavioral Expectations Matrix below). If a student fails to meet the behavioral expectations, this may result in a violation of expectation (VOE) slip. If a student receives this VOE, it will be entered into our database. The student will be assigned a consequence based on the severity and frequency of VOE's within a 14-day period. The student will be notified of their consequence and interventions will be issued by the staff member initiating the VOE. Students who earn a VOE or administrative consequence risk losing the privilege of participating in PBIS incentive field trips occurring within the 14-day period or academic marking period.

Slauson students will be randomly selected for rewards. Examples include drawings for school spirit clothing and accessories, free admission to fun nights, and food items. Students who earn VOEs may be excluded from ALL PBIS field trips, Fun Nights, Movie Nights, co-curricular activities, and athletic activities. Every 14 days, students have the opportunity to regain positive citizenship status.

Everyone has a right to feel safe. Make good decisions and make Slauson a positive learning community. Thank you for making Slauson a GREAT PLACE TO LEARN!

SLAUSON BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS MATRIX

[Click here to view a larger version of our PBIS Matrix.](#)



SLAUSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Home of The Golden Bears

	Class Rooms/ Media Center	Restrooms/ Locker Room	Office/ Counseling	Cafeteria	Free Time (Arrival/ Departure/ Recess)	Hallways	Auditorium/ Assemblies	Conflict/ Problem- Solving
Be Respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use appropriate & positive language Listen to the teacher and our peers when they are speaking Wait your turn to speak Do not touch other people Be open minded of other people's ideas and opinions Value others personal space Enter quietly Use appropriate volume Listen attentively to morning announcements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honor the privacy of others Clean up after yourself Flush the toilet Do not write on walls, mirrors, stalls, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk in quietly and use appropriate tone, volume, and language. Greet the adults and ask politely for what you need Wait quietly & patiently Respect the personal space of others Stay out of individual offices unless invited in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use appropriate & positive language Follow all staff directives the first time given, respectfully Keep voice at conversational level When joining the lunch line, go to the end of the line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use appropriate & positive language Do not block doors/entryway/stairs Move to allow others to pass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk quietly Do not touch or deface hallway displays Respond positively to greetings Keep food and drinks (except water) out of hallways Use appropriate language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen attentively, without talking Use appropriate & positive language Applaud, when appropriate Sit quietly & still Exit in orderly fashion Restroom/water fountain breaks before or after 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use appropriate & positive language Remains calm Listen to the other person until they are finished Give the other person the opportunity to tell their side
Be Responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Come to class prepared with materials Follow all staff directives the first time given Take care of your personal belongings & clean up after yourself Complete & turn in work on time Give your best effort Ask questions, for help when needed Participate in class discussions Return borrowed items on time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean up after yourself Report bathroom damage to an adult Quickly return to where you are expected to be (no socializing) Alert office of missing supplies (toilet paper, soap) or needed cleaning Report inappropriate behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be honest Only arrive with a pass from current hour teacher or when called down Return to class if counselor is not available after signing up for an appointment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep all food in the cafeteria Clean up after yourself Follow all staff directives the first time given in a respectful manner Remain seated and stay at your table until you are dismissed Ask permission to leave the cafeteria for any reason 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay in your designated area Report disturbances, accidents, and injuries to staff members Leave building and get directly on bus or walk home at the end of the day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk Keep voice level conversational Keep moving, do not block the hall Get to class on time Respect other's privacy and feelings, don't spread rumors Respect lockers & school property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sit with your teacher and class Report directly to designated area after assembly Fill each seat in the row Keep feet on the floor and hands to your self 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If someone is in danger of hurting themselves, another, or destroying property tell an adult immediately Be honest Be willing to compromise Be accountable for your actions Use problem solving method facilitated by School Counselor
Be Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet, & objects to self Keep open areas clear Keep backpacks in locker Push chairs in Keep passwords private 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet, & objects to self Wash hands with soap Report bullying behavior Do not spray perfume/deodorant/body spray (Axe) in excess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet, & objects to self In an emergency, contact the nearest adult Be open minded to other people's point of view when resolving conflicts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet, & objects to self (no throwing food) Clean up spills Report bullying behavior Line up in single-file line to get your lunch, keeping voice conversational level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet, & objects to self Stay in your designated area Report bullying or roughhousing Enter & exit in orderly fashion (no pushing, running) After school go directly to designated area (home, club/sport with adult supervision) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet, & objects to self Walk on the right side of the hallway Report adults without badges or visitor passes to a known adult Clean up or report spills/trash Keep locker combinations private Report bullying behavior Go through right-hand door 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet, & objects to self Enter and exit in an orderly manner Sit with your teacher and class Stay seated until you are dismissed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet, & objects to self Tell an adult if there is a problem that you cannot handle on your own If someone is in danger of hurting themselves or another, or destroying property tell an adult immediately If someone is being hurt tell and adult immediately
Be Caring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get to know your classmates Work cooperatively with all peers Be helpful—assist students who need help Recognize the strengths of each student 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave the room clean for the next person Tell an adult when you come upon a student that is upset 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect privacy and confidentiality Use the conflict resolution model to solve problems with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite students to sit with you Remind your friends to clean up after themselves Be positive, do not mock or taunt others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be fair and inclusive during social time and activities Practice random acts of kindness Take "found" items/money to the office immediately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greet others and respond positively to greetings Hold the door for those in need or with full hands Help someone who has dropped things Practice random acts of kindness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide positive feedback and ask questions if opportunity presents itself Be open to new viewpoints & ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not provoke someone who is already upset Be considerate of those with special needs Apologize "Playing/teasing" is not an acceptable reason to tease, tease, or mock another student

Slauson Middle School Mission Statement

We are committed to educational excellence, the development of self-esteem, and the cultivation of academic and social skills in a safe and supportive environment where respect for individual differences and the rights of others guides school behavior.

Slauson Violation of Expectation (VOE) Form

**SLAUSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
VIOLATION OF EXPECTATION**

Student: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Date of Incident: _____ Staff Name: _____

RESPECTFUL- RESPONSIBLE - SAFE - CARING

Expectation Violation		Expectation Violation	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Arrive to Class on time (RESPONSIBLE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use Appropriate Language (RESPECTFUL)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Come to Class With Necessary Materials and Assignments (RESPONSIBLE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Treat Peers/Staff With Respect (RESPECTFUL)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Be On-Task in Class (RESPONSIBLE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Respect School & Other's Property (RESPECTFUL)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Follow Classroom Rules (RESPONSIBLE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Horseplay/Physical Contact (SAFE)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appropriate Use of Cell Phone/Electronics/Earbuds (RESPONSIBLE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Move Through Hallways Orderly (SAFE)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appropriate Dress (RESPONSIBLE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	Misuse of Technology (RESPONSIBLE)		

Location of Violation		Location of Violation	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Classroom/Instructional Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	Halls/Stairs/Gathering Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Locker Room/Restrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outside of the Building
<input type="checkbox"/>	Offices	<input type="checkbox"/>	Busses
<input type="checkbox"/>	Auditorium/Assemblies	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cafeteria
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Description of Violation:	Frequency of Violation: 1 2 3 4 5
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Prior Interventions (Check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> Conference with Student/Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Student Contract <input type="checkbox"/> Individualized Instruction <input type="checkbox"/> Regrouping Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Detention <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of Privileges <input type="checkbox"/> Conflict Resolution/Mediation <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
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Resulting Intervention: <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service (With Parent Permission) <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Student Conference <input type="checkbox"/> Detention with Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/> Loss of Privilege <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Duration of Intervention: _____
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Description of Intervention:

Parent Notification: Parent Contacted: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Call <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Message with Request for response <input type="checkbox"/> Email with request for response <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Contact entered in Google

Staff Signature: _____ Student Signature: _____