

SHERMAN MIDDLE



2021-2022 School Supplement to the District Policy Guide

SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Welcome to Sherman Middle School!

Sherman Middle School is an important part of the Northside community. We consider ourselves a family. Our team is working hard to ensure that Sherman is a place where all students are able to be their most authentic selves. We are currently on a positive trajectory and we are looking forward to even more opportunities for our future students. We are proud that Sherman is a place where MMSD's core values of excellence, belonging, racial equity & social justice, voice, creativity, and focus are centered. #ShermanFamily

Excellence.

Students will have rigorous, grade level, culturally relevant curriculum delivered by teachers. Through the expansion of our exploratory classes, students will have more opportunities to experience a well-rounded school community. With our expanded advisory time, students will now all have additional time each day for social-emotional development and all students will now have access to health curriculum.

Belonging.

Based on student interviews showing a desire to have stronger classroom communities, we have designed our schedule to focus on students' sense of belonging. We are shifting away from our previous instructional model in order to have smaller class sizes. Students will still have one teacher for literacy and social studies and one teacher for math and science. Additionally, advisory will be taught by one of the core teachers. Students will travel as a group to their core classes and advisory allowing the time to build deep relationships with their teachers and classmates.

Racial Equity and Social Justice.

One of Sherman's greatest strengths is our diversity. 72% of our students identify as students of color. We have both a Spanish dual language program and a traditional English only program. A variety of nationalities and languages are represented by our students. Our staff professional learning centers around deepening our racial equity lens. We are working to eliminate racialized outcomes for children and youth of color through anti-racist practices and providing all students with access to expanded opportunities.

Voice.



Our 2019-20 school year will be focused on elevating student and family voice. Sherman students will have opportunities to share their ideas, opinions, and brilliance with us through focus groups, a leadership council, advisory, extra curricular opportunities, and classroom activities. Additionally, we depend on our families to partner with us. We will not only hear them, but listen to them as we make school based decisions. We will ensure that student and family voice is a driver of our actions and decisions. We will use email, newsletters, and listening sessions to ensure transparency in this process.

Creativity.

We are thrilled to be offering even more opportunities for students to express their creativity. Students will have the option of either Spanish or French for a world language. Students can also choose from a wider array of exploratory classes. Music options include band, orchestra, chorus, piano, ukulele, and hip hop. Other opportunities for creativity include culturally responsive literature, visual art, spoken word, broadcasting, hands on science, and a technology based makers class.

Focus.

We know that in order to pace this work, we must remain focused on a narrow set of priorities. Our focus will be on race, relationships, and rigor. We are partnering with local and national organizations in order to ensure that our work achieves excellent outcomes for all students.

Contact Information

Telephone

ATTENDANCE / SAFE ARRIVAL: (608)
204-2110
OFFICE: (608) 204-2100
FAX: (608) 204-0501

Address

1610 Ruskin St
Madison, WI 53704

Website: sherman.mmsd.org

Email: sherman@madison.k12.wi.us

School Equity Vision

We will use student voice and experiences to guide our practices and disrupt/dismantle negative narratives.

Each student will understand and view themselves as a unique, accomplished, and valued member of a diverse cultural community.

School Calendar

Sherman Middle School Events: sherman.mmsd.org/calendar

MMSD Calendar: mmsd.org/event



Key Policies and Guidelines

Absences

If your child is going to be absent or late, call 204-2110 (available 24 hours a day) and leave a message. Speak clearly and leave the following information:

- Student Name
- Grade
- Date(s) of absences
- Reason for absence/tardy.
- Caller Name
- Caller Phone Number

Students returning to school after any absence, tardiness, or appointment must check in at the front door entrance. If you do not excuse your child for an absence, either with a phone call or note -- they will be marked an unexcused absence. Five days of unexcused absences results in truancy and a truancy meeting may be held with the parent, student, truancy staff, and principal.

Anti-bullying

The Madison Metropolitan School District strives to provide an environment where every student feels safe, respected and welcomed and where every staff member can serve students in an atmosphere that is free from significant disruptions and obstacles that impede learning and performance. Bullying can have a harmful social, physical, psychological and/or academic impact on students who are the victims of bullying behaviors, students who engage in bullying behaviors and bystanders that observe acts of bullying. The school district does not allow bullying behavior toward or by students, school employees or volunteers on school/district grounds, at school/district-sponsored activities or on transportation to and from school or school/district-sponsored activities. Sherman staff works with students and families to understand the definition of bullying, how to report bullying, and how to work together to prevent it.

Childcare/After-School Programming

Sherman has an after-school program that offers a variety of opportunities for our students. Again this year students will have the opportunity to attend grade-level academic centers that offer tutoring provided by the Urban League and MSCR staff. As long as your child attends either the academic center or is working with a Sherman staff member, they will have the opportunity to participate in clubs, intramurals or to attend the drop-in center from 3:30-5:00. At the drop-in center, we offer a variety of activities including basketball, jump rope, various games, music, movies, field trips, and much more. At 5:00 p.m., a late bus arrives to take the students home.

Dress code

Safety and belonging are important components of a positive school culture. The dress code policy is focused on promoting both. Students may dress in any style they desire and may present themselves in a way that is consistent with their identity, as long as their chosen attire does not cause a disruption or compromise safety in the school environment. The following examples are intended to represent these limitations:

Items not to be worn include:

- Clothing or accessories that cover your face
- Clothing or accessories that may be used as a weapon



- See-through clothing
- Clothing or accessories with statements or images that are vulgar, obscene, or promote illegal drugs, alcohol, sex, violence, or gang activities
- Clothing or accessories that expose undergarments or the buttocks
- Clothing or accessories with words, pictures, or caricatures based on stereotypes of a specific gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, or disability
- Clothing or accessories with Native American team names, logos, or mascots that depict stereotypes

Additionally:

- Clothing or accessories with sincerely held religious affiliations or purposes are allowed
- Shoes or footwear must be worn at all times

Electronic devices

Students are to keep all cell phones and other electronic devices off and away during instruction. If a staff member sees or hears a student's device during instruction, this may result in the phone being stored in the office or in a Yonder bag. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones or electronic devices.

Entering and Leaving the Building for Parents, Guardians, and Guests

To ensure your child's safety and our building safety we follow district directed entry procedures at Sherman. When arriving during the school day as a student, parent, guardian or guest you will be asked to identify yourself and state the purpose of your visit. A student who needs to leave school for any reason during the school day must bring a note from a parent/guardian indicating the time to be excused and the reason for the excuse. The student must take the note to their homeroom before school so that they can obtain outside authorization. Board policy states students should only be excused upon the request of parents or guardians. Parents or guardians must come to the office to sign the student out. You may be asked for identification to verify your relationship. Students must check in at the main office upon returning to school regardless of the time.

Family engagement

Families and community members are essential partners in Sherman's success. We have and will continue to work hard to engage our families and community members. When schools engage with parents and communities in authentic and mutually-supportive ways, parents and communities will be equipped to ask questions, make decisions and expect the best from their schools for their children and all children. When we align our efforts and everyone has a charge – educators, parents and community members alike – children will benefit. We will do this through building a respectful inclusive school community.

Releasing Students During School Day

Attempt to schedule appointments at times other than during school hours. Only medical and other appointments that are necessary and impossible to schedule at other times should be made during the school day. Students who need to leave the building during school hours must bring a signed note from their parent/guardian to their Homeroom Teacher before school on the day the pass is needed. Help make the classroom a smooth learning environment by sending a note to school.



Students who become ill during the day will be sent to the health office with a staff escort.. All students going home during the school day due to illness will be processed through the health office. It is against school policy for students to communicate directly with a parent or guardian in case of illness without going through the health office. Students leaving for any other reason will either need a note or phone call from a parent or guardian excusing them, with verification.

NOTE: Only people on a student's contact list are able to pick them up unless we receive explicit instruction. Siblings are not granted access into Sherman, unless parent permission is provided and pre-approved by administration.

Safety & Security

Families play a key role in school safety. At sherman.mmsd.org/safety, you can read about school-specific resources for helping keep students safe. You'll find more information on district safety and security, including how we communicate with you in an emergency, at mmsd.org/safety.

School Breakfast/Lunch

Sherman is one of several schools across the district that was selected to receive a grant that allows all students at Sherman Middle School to receive a free breakfast and free lunch. Students can stop in the cafeteria for breakfast each day. Students will be offered a choice of up to 4 lunch meals daily, and they are encouraged to take a fruit and/or vegetable and milk.

School Fees

Along with the district fees (\$72), and a lock (\$6/lock). Students are encouraged to keep their lock over the summer as they are able to use it throughout their time at Sherman. Therefore, if your child is going into 7th or 8th grade and has kept their lock, they will not need to purchase a new one.

Student Messages

Student messages from parents are delivered during lunch period or again before the end of the school day. Unless it is an emergency, messages will only be delivered during those designated times. Make sure that your student knows what to do after school each day. If plans are unclear, arrange to have your child call you during their lunch period or at the end of the day from their classroom. Students are able to use the office phone in case of an emergency.

Student personal property

Each student is assigned a hall locker near their teaching team. This locker is intended for storage of outer clothing, hats, books, backpacks and needed school supplies. The teaching team assigns these lockers. Students should keep lockers locked at all times. Students can purchase a school-issued lock (\$5 per lock.) Students should keep their lockers locked at all times.

Supervision of the Building and Grounds

The building is supervised from 7:20 - 2:55. Students are allowed in the building each morning at 7:20. Students have the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities and clubs after the bell rings at 2:47 or 1:47 when there is an early release Monday. However, students must be under the supervision of an adult or take part in our after-school program if they are going to be in the building after school.



Transportation

Students that live too far from the school to walk can take the Sherman designated Metro Bus. These buses make stops around the neighborhoods.

Supplemental School Service Routes 2021-22

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/Metro/schedules/supplemental/>

Students must purchase a bus pass in order to ride the Metro Bus; however, if a student meets certain financial qualifications, they are given a bus pass for free. Students that are eligible for a bus pass from the district are reminded of the importance of keeping track of it.

District-provided Metro passes are available for students:

- Who reside more than one and one-half (1.5) miles from their attendance area school and
- Have demonstrable financial need, including qualifying for free or reduced lunch

Madison Metro's EZ Rider passes can be purchased through the mail (free shipping on all orders) and at Metro's Administration Office located on the second floor at 1245 E. Washington Ave.

To purchase a bus pass visit: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/metro/fares/>

Madison Metro is charged with enforcing the passenger code of conduct and may revoke riding privileges. If a student has his/her riding privileges revoked by Madison Metro, the District is not obligated to provide an alternative form of transportation. In addition, a student's bus pass may be restricted based on his/her behavior.

Traffic Safety

If you are dropping off/picking up your student, please do not stop in front of the school or in the Sherman parking lot as this area is reserved for the buses. Rather, pull up Ruskin St and stop by the playground/field area to let your student out. You can also wait for students on the side streets that feed into Ruskin St.

Find more information in the district policy guide, found at www.mmsd.org/policy-guide.