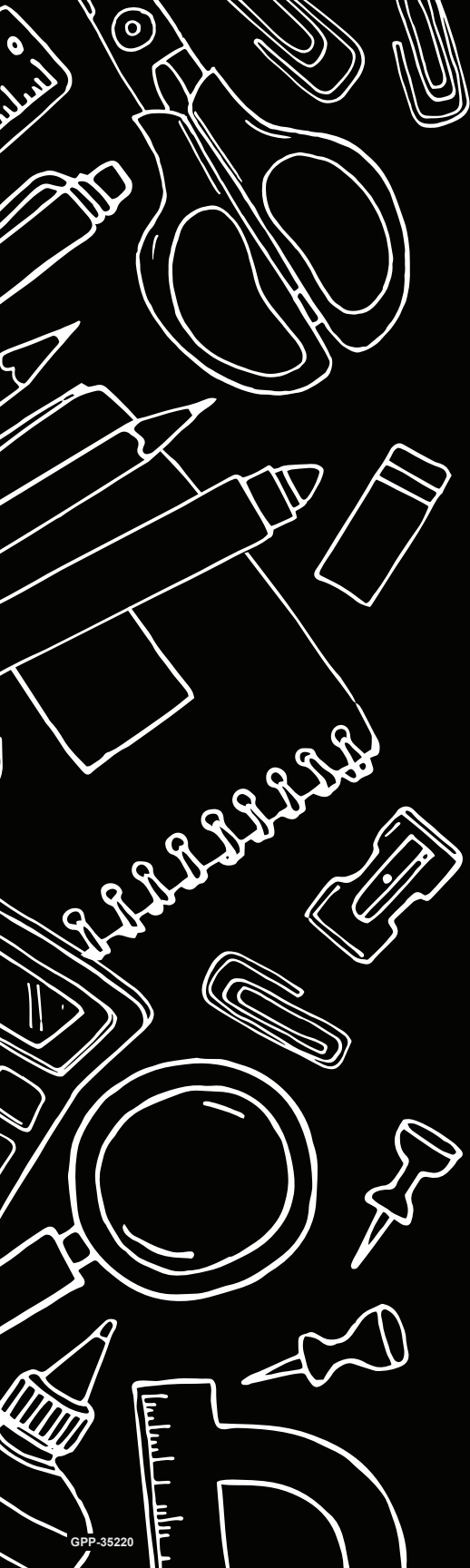




**2026
2027**

STUDENT PLANNER

**Hall County
Middle School**

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
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HALL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOLS STUDENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027

Academies of Discovery at South Hall

3215 Poplar Springs Road, Suite A
Gainesville, GA 30507
(770) 532-4416, Fax (770) 531-2348

Principal –Kristi House

Cherokee Bluff Middle

5458 Union Circle
Flowery Branch, Georgia 30542
(770) 967-0071, Fax (770) 967-0078

Principal –Leigh Wilson

Chestatee Academy

2740 Fran Mar Drive
Gainesville, Georgia 30506
(770) 297-6270, Fax (770) 297-6275

Principal – Jennifer Kogod

C.W. Davis Middle

4335 Falcon Parkway
Flowery Branch, Georgia 30542
(770) 965-3020, Fax (770) 965-3025

Principal – Dr. Mike McQueen

East Hall Middle

4120 East Hall Road
Gainesville, Georgia 30507
(770) 531-9457, Fax (770) 531-2327

Principal – Dr. Christy Hastings

The Foundry

2723 Tumbling Creek Rd., Suite B
Gainesville, GA 30504
(770) 531-2330

Principal –Bryan Gray

North Hall Middle

4956 Rilla Road
Gainesville, Georgia 30506
(770) 983-9749, Fax (770) 983-9993

Principal – David Wagner

West Hall Middle

5470 McEver Road
Oakwood, Georgia 30566
(770) 967-4871, Fax (770) 967-4874

Principal – Amy Wade

World Language Academy MS at AOD

3215 Poplar Springs Road, Suite B
Gainesville, GA 30507
(770) 533-4004, Fax (770) 533-4018

Principal – Dr. Danny Waxter

This School Agenda Belongs To:

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Homeroom _____ Bus Number _____

Name: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____

Counselor: _____

CLASS SCHEDULE

PERIOD	CLASS	TEACHER	ROOM
1 st			
2 nd			
3 rd			
4 th			
5 th			
6 th			
7 th			

CONNECTIONS SCHEDULE

	1 st 9 weeks	2 nd 9 weeks	3 rd 9 weeks	4 th 9 weeks
First Connections Class				
Second Connections Class				

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Welcome

The middle school is designed especially to meet the unique characteristics and needs of pre-adolescents. It offers a sensitive, caring, supportive learning environment that is designed to provide experiences that will assist students in making the transition from late childhood to adolescence. The middle school is also designed to help them bridge the gap between the self-contained structure of the elementary school and the departmental structure of the high school.

Enclosed in this handbook a student will find general information regarding Hall County Middle Schools. Please read it carefully in order to become familiar with school policies and procedures. Always remember that cooperation and communication between home and school are vital if we are to provide a quality education for students. Education will be much more effective and enjoyable when dedicated staff, concerned parents and conscientious students work together to reach common goals. As we seek to provide the very best learning experience, a student can expect to find the following in the Hall County Middle Schools:

- An academic focus
- High expectations for students and staff
- A safe, orderly climate
- Monitoring of academic progress
- Administrators who are instructional leaders

Philosophy

The mission of the Hall County Middle Schools is to provide a positive transition from childhood to adolescence by offering each student the opportunity to develop intellectually, psychologically, and physically. This mission will be accomplished through a program that addresses the unique nature of the middle school learner including appropriate and innovative teaching techniques and a secure and nurturing atmosphere.

The staff of the Hall County Middle Schools works to implement this philosophy through the following goals:

- To provide a positive and safe learning environment.
- To develop a positive, cooperative and caring attitude toward others and self.
- To develop a positive attitude toward learning in each student.
- To develop a strong sense of responsibility for self and community in each student.
- To develop positive habits of health and physical well-being in each student.
- To provide students with a strong content curriculum.
- To provide each student with the opportunity to achieve academic success.
- To provide a curriculum that integrates all areas of study into a total learning experience.
- To provide the opportunity for each student to explore individual areas of interest and ability.
- To provide an overall positive experience.

Student Responsibilities

Students at all Hall County Middle Schools are expected to be familiar with and follow the Hall County Board of Education Code of Conduct as well as the guidelines established at the local school level. Students will be asked to follow three basic rules: Be responsible, be respectful and be resourceful. Students are asked to remember the following applications:

In class: During periods of organized instruction, each student should act respectfully and responsibly so as not to distract themselves and others from the learning environment.

In assembly: Each student should act respectfully and responsibly while moving to and from the assembly and while the performance is given.

On the bus: Conduct on the bus is expected to be the same as that in the classroom. Safety depends on the skill of the driver and nothing should occur that would impede the driver's performance.

In the lunchroom: Students are expected to act responsibly and respectfully while moving to and from the lunchroom and during lunch. Students should form orderly lines to get their food and to return trays and discard trash. The student dining area is to be maintained by the students as a civic responsibility and student resources will be used to accomplish this.

In the halls: Students should move from room to room and from lockers respectfully and responsibly during scheduled locker breaks or under the direction of a teacher.

In the Media Center/Learning Commons: Students should utilize the media facilities with respect and should be responsible to follow established media policies while with their classes or while working on their own.

The goal of the Middle School staff is to develop and foster self-discipline by establishing guidelines and consequences for behavior choices.

Policies and Procedures

ABSENCES

Regular school attendance is essential to gaining a quality education. Students need to participate in the experiences, discussions, activities, and special projects integral to the learning process. State law requires that students between the ages of six and sixteen attend school except for the specific reasons listed below. Consequently, regular attendance is essential to maximizing academic achievement, and parents and legal guardians have a legal responsibility to assure that students attend school regularly.

A student shall not be absent from school or from any class or other required school hours except for conditions specified below, or upon written permission of the teacher, principal, or other authorized school official. Absences will be excused if validated for the following reasons:

- Personal illness or when attendance in school endangers the student's health or the health of others
- Serious illness or death in a student's immediate family necessitating absence from school
- Court order or an order by a governmental agency, including pre-induction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school
- Observation of religious holidays, necessitating absence from school
- Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety
- To allow visitation with a parent or legal guardian serving in the U.S. armed forces or National Guard – Students will be granted up to five days of excused absences per school year to visit with the parent prior to the parent's deployment or during the parent's leave.
- Any other absence not explicitly defined herein but deemed by the local school board of education to have merit based on circumstances.

Students are to be counted present for the following activities:

- Serving as a page in the Georgia General Assembly
- Foster care students attending court proceedings related to the student's foster care
- Participation in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H

For an absence to be excused, a student's parent or legal guardian must submit a written excuse within five (5) days of the student's return to school and shall specifically state the date(s) and reason for the absence. Written excuses should also include a parent phone number in the event verification is needed.

Makeup Work: Students shall be permitted to make up all work missed, except for absences caused by out-of-school suspension. However, students who have been suspended shall be allowed to make up tests and major assignments missed while on suspension. **All make-up work must be completed within five (5) days of the student's return to school, unless the principal or designee allows the student additional time for completion.**

If a student is absent on the day of a test or on the day an assignment is due and has been notified of the test in advance or was aware of the assignment, then the student may be expected to make up the test on the date of return or turn in the assignment on the date of return to school.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

One important aspect of a student's education process is to learn honesty in all endeavors. This includes academic honesty. Students are ultimately responsible for ensuring that all work submitted is authentic, with the work or ideas of others fully and correctly acknowledged. Academic dishonesty is giving or receiving information among students when they are expected to be working individually, plagiarism (to take and use as one's own writings or ideas of someone else) and other related acts. Repeated violations of the code will result in referral to an administrator.

The following situations are examples of academic dishonesty:

- Misrepresenting someone else's work as a student's own
- Giving answers to specific questions from a test to others between classes
- Plagiarism (to take and use as one's own writing or ideas of someone else)
- Purposefully looking at someone else's paper during a test
- Copying someone else's homework

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN NOTIFICATION

The Hall County School System AHERA Management Plan is available for public inspection upon request at the School System's Department of Facilities. This notification is provided to fulfill the requirement of section 763.93(4) of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, 40 CFR Part 763, October 30, 1987. All interested parents, teachers, employees or other persons are invited to review the plan, which includes the following items:

- Location, amounts, and types of asbestos-containing materials.
- Response actions to the asbestos-containing materials.
- Plans for re-inspection and periodic surveillance.
- Public notification procedures.

Anyone interested in reviewing this plan should contact Pam Cravero in the Department of Facilities at 770-534-1291.

ASSESSMENT SECURITY

The Hall County School System conducts the assessment program as required by federal and state law. The Hall County School System interacts with state and federal agencies relative to the assessment program and accountability mandates. The testing department handles assessment documents and reports including secure test materials, individual student score reports, and school/district data reports, primarily in electronic format. The Hall County School System delivers training/guidance related to the assessment program, assessment data, and accountability mandates to all stakeholders.

Both the district and school-based administrators have provided school personnel with the Code of Ethics for Educators. The Code of Ethics defines the professional behavior of educators in Georgia and serves as the guide to ethical conduct. Within this Code of Ethics is Standard 10 which specifically addresses ethics in testing. Teachers in each building are required to sign off that they have read and understand the Code of Ethics.

ASSIGNMENT BOOKLET

Each student will be furnished with a student academic assignment text (i.e., School Agenda) for the purpose of developing responsibility for assignments and emphasizing the importance of study and homework. Students who lose this agenda will be assessed **\$5.00** for a replacement.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROGRAM

Cafeterias offer nutritious breakfast and lunch daily at all schools. Free and reduced-price meal applications can be completed online or obtained at the school (<https://foodservices.hallco.org/web/free-reduced-applications>). Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year. Applications must be approved for students to participate in the free or reduced meal program.

Pricing:

- Full Price Breakfast: \$1.50
- Full Price Lunch: \$2.20
- Reduced Price Breakfast: \$.30
- Reduced Price Lunch: \$.40

Breakfast and lunch menus, charge procedures and contact information is available online at <https://foodservices.hallco.org>

BUS LOADING ZONES

Parents are asked to avoid bus loading zones at school during the times when buses are loading or unloading students.

CHECKING IN/OUT OF SCHOOL

Students are to be dropped off on school grounds no earlier than **7:30 a.m.** and picked up no later than **4:00 p.m.**, unless involved in school sponsored and supervised activities. A student who arrives at school after the tardy bell must report to the main office to sign in. If the student is not accompanied to the office by a parent, the student must have a note from a parent stating the reason for the tardy.

Parents are urged to make student's dental, medical and/or other appointments after school hours. If it becomes necessary for a student to check out during the day, parents are asked to report to the office to sign the student out. Office personnel will call the student from class. Students must have a parent or guardian permission before early checkout will be permitted. No student will be allowed to check himself out, walk home, or leave the school campus with a friend or relative without confirmed parental permission. Individuals checking out a student must present a **photo ID and have their name on file as being permitted to check out that student.**

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Each school has a variety of student clubs and organizations. For a complete listing of those offered by Hall County Schools, see "Appendix C – Clubs and Organizations".

COMPLAINT PROCESS

Most concerns of students and parents can and should be resolved by honest and open communication between the teachers, administrators, students, and parents. Students should first discuss the problem with his/her teacher or counselor. If this person cannot help resolve the problem, then students may talk with either an assistant principal or principal. All matters not settled at the school level may be referred to the superintendent's office, whose decision shall be final.

COMPLAINTS OF DISCRIMINATION / HARRASSMENT

The Hall County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, sex, religion, or disability in any student program. It is the policy of the Board of Education to comply fully with the requirements of Title VI, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act and all accompanying regulations. Any student, parent or other person who believes he or she or any student has been discriminated against or harassed based on any of the factors listed above should promptly report the same to the principal of the school or the appropriate coordinator listed below, who will implement the board's discriminatory complaints or harassment procedures. Students may also report harassment or discrimination or retaliation for making the report to their school counselor.

The Section 504 Coordinator is Mr. Thomas Stegarp, Hall County School District, 711 Green St., Gainesville, GA 30501, 770-534-1080.

Title VI Coordinator is Mr. Stan Lewis, Hall County School District, 711 Green St., Gainesville, GA 30501, 770-534-1080.

The Title IX Coordinator is Mr. Stan Lewis, Hall County School District, 711 Green St., Gainesville, GA 30501, 770-534-1080.

The Equity in Sports Act Coordinator is Mr. Stan Lewis, Hall County School District, 711 Green St., Gainesville, GA 30501, 770-534-1080.

The Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator is Dr. Monique Frazier, Hall County School District, 711 Green St., Gainesville, GA 30501, 770-534-1080.

The McKinney-Vento Act system liaison for Homeless or Unaccompanied Minors is Ms. Melissa Sutulovich, School Social Worker, Hall County School District, 770-967-5846.

DRESS CODE

Students who reflect neatness, cleanliness and good taste are dressing for success. Student dress should not violate common safety, be a distraction, or cause a disruption of the educational process or the orderly operation of the school. In general, clothing should be clean, neat, and not frayed. Clothing should fit properly, neither too loosely nor too tightly. All students should be dressed in a manner that reflects, rather than distracts from the learning process.

The following lists some of the types of clothing that cannot be worn in any middle school

- Excessively baggy pants (must fit at waist)
- Strapless dresses
- See through clothing
- Items with suggestive lettering, pictures, symbols, alcohol or drug depictions
- Miniskirts or mini dresses
- Sundresses
- Shirts without side seams
- Blouses, dresses or shirts that expose the stomach, sides or back; all shirts must reach the waist and cover the shoulders
- Sleeveless shirts
- Gang related attire
- Leggings without appropriate skirt, short, and/or dress coverage
- Clothes with holes or slits above the knee

Students are required to wear appropriate undergarments and shoes. Outerwear is at the discretion of each school principal. Other general guidelines for what may or may not be allowed at school (including hairstyles and coloring, jackets, jewelry, sunglasses, caps, hats, bandanas, etc.) will be given to students by the individual schools.

When in the judgment of the administration the dress requirements have not been met, students will not be permitted in classes or halls until the situation is corrected. Students wearing inappropriate clothing may be sent to in-school suspension for the remainder of the day, or parents may be called to bring a change of clothing. Second dress code violations may result in additional disciplinary action.

DRUG TESTING OF STUDENT ATHLETES

The Hall County School System is one of only a handful of systems across the state that has a mandatory random drug testing program for all high school student-athletes who wish to participate in interscholastic Georgia High School Association (GHSAA) sports. This program is conducted through partnership with the Northeast Georgia Medical Center Toxicology Department. The current program guidelines can be viewed in the Document Library under 'Athletics' on our system site at www.hallco.org.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligibility for participation in any interschool athletic activity will be based on grades earned during the semester prior to that activity. Therefore, a student must have passed either five out of six or 70% of classes enrolled (depending on the structure of their particular school's daily class schedule).

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Drills: Fire, intruder and tornado drills are held on a regular basis during the school year. It is important that students remain silent and follow all instructions of school personnel during these drills. Each school has detailed crisis management plans and evacuation plans which are reviewed and updated each year. In the event of these plans being used, parents will be notified by the media.

Severe Weather: Should severe weather necessitate closing or early dismissal of school, this information will be posted on the Hall County Schools website at www.hallco.org and district social media sites. This information will also be broadcast over WDUN Radio (550 AM) and other area radio stations. School closing announcements will be released to the media by approximately 6:00 a.m. Notification is also sent to all parent-approved telephone numbers and email addresses using Infinite Campus Messenger. School buses will not leave school during a tornado or severe weather WARNING. Buses will run regular routes when the warning is canceled.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extracurricular activities are defined as any school-sponsored program for which some or all activities are outside the academic day. Examples include all individual and team sports, literary meets, clubs and academic bowls. Hall County's discipline policies remain in effect at all Hall County Schools extracurricular functions. To view the Hall County School District rules and regulations governing middle school athletics, parents should reference the Hall County Middle School Athletic Guidelines (<https://sites.google.com/hallco.org/hcsd-ms-athletic-guidelines/home>).

Each school has a variety of student clubs and organizations. For a complete listing of those offered by Hall County Schools, see Appendix A. (Parents who do not want students to participate in one or more clubs must indicate such on the “Participation in Clubs and Organizations” form in Parent Portal.)

To be eligible for participation in activities, an individual must be enrolled full time in the school that sponsors the competitive activity, or meets all criteria outlined in SB42 (Dexter Mosley Act) that applies to homeschool students.

Students who participate in GHSA sponsored inter-scholastic athletics must have a physical prior to beginning participation. Although insurance is not required for participation, students may purchase school insurance, which covers all sports, except football, which requires a separate policy. (Schools will make this available upon request or use the following link for application: <https://www.hallco.org/boe/site/student-insurance/>).

FEES AND FINES

No fees are required to participate in any course, but students may be asked to provide materials or equivalent fees for classes in which items are made for personal use. Fines for lost or damaged textbooks will be based on the condition of the book when issued. Additionally, fees for damaged/lost technology will be charged.

FLOWERS, GIFTS, ETC.

Flowers, gifts, balloons, etc. are prohibited. We ask for parent cooperation by not sending these items on special occasions.

GANG RELATED ACTIVITIES

Students who use, employ, or rely upon gang membership or affiliation to threaten, intimidate, or to verbally or physically harass or harm other students, employees or persons attending a school-related function, are subject to increased disciplinary penalties.

GRADE REPORTING AND HONOR ROLL

Grade reports are published at the end of each nine weeks. An INCOMPLETE (I) grade on the report card will be changed to a grade of 50 if the student fails to make up work within 10 days from the end of the grading period.

An **Honor Roll** may be published at the end of each grading period. Students are eligible for the Honor Roll if they make a grade of A in all academic and connections courses. An **Academic Recognition Roll** may also be published at the end of each grading period. Students are eligible for the Academic Recognition Roll if they make a grade of A in five of six courses, and have no grade lower than a B.

GRADING SCALE

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	Below 70 (not passing)

For thoroughness in evaluation of student progress, teachers can use various learning activities in determining the grade received. Weighted percentages for the varied learning activities in each subject area will be the basis for determining grade. Teachers will inform students of class or course expectations.

GUIDANCE/COUNSELING SERVICES

Students are invited to participate in counseling activities. Our program is designed to be preventative and developmental and includes individual and classroom guidance activities, small support groups, and skill building groups. It is our hope that the counseling programs offered will enhance open communication regarding the many development issues that arise in the middle school years.

Students and their parents may have access to a student’s permanent record file. Copies of a student’s record will be issued to designated persons, institutions, or agencies when a student’s parents give written permission.

If a student must withdraw from school, the student should talk with a counselor about the withdrawal process. It is very important to see the counselor at the beginning of the day on which the student plans to withdraw.

If a student suffers an injury or illness (non-communicable) that requires an extended absence from school (at least ten consecutive days), the student may be eligible for the hospital/homebound program. The student’s parents should notify the counselors’ office as soon as it’s believed the student may be eligible for this service.

Please refer to <https://www.hallco.org/web/student-registration/> for a complete list of documents needed for enrollment. If the student does not have an adequate Immunization Certificate or a Vision, Hearing, and Dental Screening Certificate, the student will have 30 calendar days to obtain one. After 30 days, students will be withdrawn from school if the appropriate certificates have not been presented as per state law. If the student is transferring from another state or country, the student has 90 calendar days in which to provide these health certificates.

Students and parents are responsible for maintaining adequate immunization. Parents should immediately report the health status of their child to the school principal if a physician diagnoses a communicable disease.

HALL COUNTY AI GUIDELINES

The Hall County School District recognizes Artificial Intelligence (AI), when integrated thoughtfully and responsibly, has the potential to transform the educational landscape by making learning more efficient, effective, and engaging for all students. Please refer to <https://www.hallco.org/web/hcsd-ai-guidelines/> for more information regarding HCSD AI Guidelines.

HALL COUNTY SCHOOLS PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

The Hall County Board of Education is committed to fostering a learning environment that is free from unnecessary distractions and conducive to academic success. To achieve this goal, the use of personal electronic devices by students shall be limited during the instructional day in order to minimize disruptions, promote engagement, increase meaningful interactions and focused learning experiences.

This policy applies to all students in kindergarten through twelfth grade while on school premises during school hours. Students in grades K–8 are not permitted to access or use personal electronic devices including but not limited to cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, e-readers, earbuds, and other devices with functionalities such as wireless communication, internet access, messaging, video recording, gaming, social media access, or data transmission during school hours. Students in grades 9–12 may use personal electronic devices only during class transitions and lunch periods. Instructional time begins with the bell that signals the start of the first class and ends with the bell that signals dismissal from the final class, including all classes, assemblies, and other school-related instructional activities.

This policy also applies to all school-sponsored activities that occur during the school day, including field trips, athletic events, and extracurricular activities. Students who have an approved Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Section 504 Plan, or medical plan that requires the use of a personal electronic device shall be permitted to use such devices as necessary to fulfill the requirements of that plan. Parents or guardians should contact the school office for clarification regarding these provisions.

Any student found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Hall County Schools Student Code of Conduct. The Hall County School District assumes no responsibility or liability for the theft, loss, or damage of personal electronic devices.

All users of the HCSD technology resources and facilities must agree to and sign the terms of the Hall County School District's acceptable use agreement.

The superintendent will ensure that practices regarding the implementation of this policy will be followed as outlined in the Hall County Code of Conduct.

HIGH SCHOOL CARNEGIE UNIT COURSES

Hall County students are encouraged to challenge themselves in all areas of the curriculum to the extent that individual student ability and interest permits. Each middle school offers a number of academic and elective courses for high school Carnegie credits that may be counted for high school graduation. So why begin such coursework in middle school? Students who begin meeting graduation requirements in middle school will have opportunities to begin earning college credits while in high school, often times resulting in cost savings to parents as well as expanded opportunities for students. Whether a student is challenged in an academic or in a career-technical education area, the benefits of earning high school credits while in middle school must be considered.

Frequently Asked Questions about High School Carnegie Courses

1. How do middle school students qualify to enroll in high school Carnegie unit classes?

Eligibility to take a high school *academic* course is based on Milestones test scores, writing samples, overall class performance, and teacher recommendations. Eligibility for high school *elective* courses is based on overall school performance, along with teacher recommendations.

2. Which course(s) must students successfully complete in order to earn one unit of high school credit?

Courses eligible for high school credit vary across Hall County middle schools or from year to year and must have sufficient enrollment for the course to be provided. For questions about specific high school courses available at your middle school for the coming school year, please contact your school counselor or administrator.

3. Will the grades earned in middle school appear on the high school transcript and be included in the high school grade point average (GPA)?

Once a student officially begins ninth grade, the high school credits and grade earned while in middle school are entered on the high school transcript. These courses are counted toward high school graduation requirements and are included when calculating the Hall County high school GPA and class rank. Once the credit has been “accepted” at the end of the eighth-grade year, a change in the decision to decline the credit(s) must be finalized within the first five days of the ninth-grade year.

Prior to entry into ninth grade, a student may elect to “decline” high school credits earned while in middle school. In such a case, the courses will not appear on the high school transcript, will not be counted toward the graduation requirements, and will not be included for the high school GPA or class rank. Once the credit has been “declined” at the end of the eighth-grade year, a change in the decision to accept the credit(s) must be finalized within the first five days of ninth grade.

NOTE: As an independent entity, the HOPE Scholarship GPA is NOT calculated in the same manner as the Hall County GPA. Please go to www.gsfc.org or <https://www.gafutures.org/> to learn more about the HOPE Scholarship and eligibility.

4. Are middle school students who take high school courses required to take the state’s End of Course (EOC) tests?

Any student enrolled in an EOC course, regardless of grade level, will be required to take the EOC test upon completion of that course. Middle school students completing an EOC test course must take the EOC test regardless of whether they intend to accept or decline the high school credit. The following courses currently require an EOC test:

Mathematics

GSE Algebra I/Algebra: Concepts and Connections

Science

Biology

English Language Arts

Literature and Composition I

Social Studies

United States History

5. How does the EOC test affect a student’s grade?

The EOC test is administered upon completion of one of the above courses. A student’s EOC test score is averaged in as 20% of the final course grade. The student must have a final course grade of 70 or above to pass the course and earn credit toward graduation.

6. How do I determine if my student is eligible to receive the HOPE Scholarship?

HOPE is Georgia’s unique scholarship and grant program that rewards students with financial assistance in degree, diploma, and certificate programs at eligible Georgia public and private colleges and universities, and public technical colleges. HOPE is funded entirely by the Georgia Lottery for Education. For more information regarding this scholarship, including eligibility requirements, please visit www.gsfc.org or <https://www.gafutures.org/>.

HIGH SCHOOL GPA INFORMATION

The quality point system is used to determine the weighted and unweighted GPA (traditional 4.0 scale). The weighted quality point system is used to recognize and reward the student who takes more rigorous, challenging, and demanding courses. Additional quality points are awarded to the weighted GPA for International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, Honors, Accelerated and Dual Enrollment courses. For each course, up to one full quality point is added to the student’s grade point average calculation and will be reflected in the weighted GPA on the student’s transcript. The weighted GPA is used to determine class rank.

The unweighted GPA (traditional 4.0 scale) reflects a calculation for which no additional quality points are included for Level 2 and/or Level 3 classes. All courses taken count equally in the unweighted GPA calculation in which Level 1 weights are applied.

Calculation of Course Average

The course grade is a cumulative average of all graded work completed during the course. Final exams or state-required Milestones End-Of-Course tests (EOCs) count as 20% of a course grade with other graded work accounting for 80% of the grade.

Grading Scale

A	90 - 100 +	Excellent
B	80 - 89	Good
C	70 - 79	Average
F	Below 70	Failing

Conversion of Final Numeric Grade to Quality Points Beginning in August of the 2026-27 School Year

Final Numeric Course Grade	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 1
	AP/IB/ DE Core / DE Non- Core courses at 2000 level or higher**	Honors/ Accelerated/ DE Non-Core 1000 level courses**	All other courses
90 – 100	5.0	4.5	4.0
80 – 89	4.0	3.5	3.0
70 – 79	3.0	2.5	2.0
BELOW 70	0	0	0
<70 with earned credit*	2.0	1.5	1.0
*Quality Points will be applied to GPA calculations when the transferring institution awards credit for numerical scores below 70. **DE Courses must be from GSFC Dual Enrollment Approved Course Directory.			
NOTE: AP = Advanced Placement IB = International Baccalaureate DE = Dual Enrollment			

Procedure for Calculating Weighted Hall County Grade Point Average (GPA)

Create a chart similar to the one below to list each course taken, along with the total units *attempted*, the weight of each course (Level 1, 2 or 3) and the final grade earned. For each course, use the grade point scale to list the grade points earned for each course, then total the grade points for all courses taken. Divide the total grade points by the number of units attempted. The result is the Hall County Weighted GPA. Carnegie unit credit for courses taken will be awarded at the completion of each course. **NOTE: HOPE Scholarship GPA may NOT be calculated in the same manner. Please visit <http://gsfc.georgia.gov/> or <https://www.qafutures.org/> to learn more about the HOPE Scholarship and eligibility.**

*Sample Hall County GPA calculation for
Students Entering 9th Grade August, 2018 or Later:*

COURSE TAKEN	UNITS ATTEMPTED	LEVEL 1/2/3	FINAL GRADE	GRADE POINTS	
Spanish	1.0	1	87	3.0	
Biology	1.0	2	94	4.5	
Total	2.0			7.5	GPA = 3.75

HOMEWORK

We believe that skills and concepts are reinforced through assignments completed outside the school. Through homework, students have the opportunity for enrichment, extension and/or remediation of instructional goals and the opportunity for practice of basic skills. Homework becomes more valuable when there is a strong partnership between home and school. A meaningful role of the parent or guardian, as regards homework, is to provide support, encouragement, and a place to complete homework. A responsibility of the school is to assign meaningful homework. Through a strong home-school partnership, homework has the potential to increase learning time, to accomplish academic goals and to advance the student's academic skills and achievement. Homework can accomplish any or all of the following:

1. Reinforce skills and concepts introduced in class
2. Provide opportunity for drilling and practicing skills
3. Complete classroom assignments
4. Build study habits
5. Review for exams
6. Preview material to be introduced
7. Practice reading skills
8. Demonstrate practical application of concepts through projects
9. Teach the student that he/she shares in the responsibility for his/her education
10. Provide an opportunity for a parent/guardian to be involved in the education of his/her child.

HOSPITAL / HOMEBOUND SERVICES

If a student suffers an injury or illness (non-communicable) that is projected to require an extended absence from school (at least ten consecutive days), he/she may be eligible for services from the hospital/homebound program. Parents/legal guardians should notify the counselor's office as soon as they think the student will qualify for the program. Parents/legal guardians will be given the Student Information Referral and Medical Referral/Certification forms to be completed and returned. Once parents have been notified of approval for Hospital/Homebound Services, a student will receive instruction at home virtually (or in person if recommended by the educational team) or at the hospital for the time specified and will be marked as "hospital homebound" in school if the student receives a minimum of three (3) hours of instruction from a certified teacher per week.

IMMUNIZATION/COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Every student entering a Georgia school for the first time, regardless of grade level, must present a Georgia Certificate of Immunization Form 3231 (7/2014) or a notarized Affidavit of Religious Objection to Immunization (DPH Form 2208, Rev/ June 2019) upon registration and/or prior to admittance to school. A 30-day grace period may be granted.

7th Grade Requirement: All students entering or transferring into 7th grade need proof of an adolescent pertussis (whooping cough), diphtheria, tetanus booster immunization (called "Tdap") and adolescent meningococcal MCV4 (meningitis) immunization. Proof of Tdap and MVC4 immunization must be documented on the Georgia immunization certificate (Form 3231 7/2014).

11th Grade Requirement: All students entering or transferring into 11th grade and 16 years of age or older will need proof of a meningococcal immunization booster (MCV4), unless their first dose was received on or after their 16th birthday.

All Students: If the student transfers from another Georgia school and the parent/legal guardian is unable to present a copy, this certificate should be forwarded from the last Georgia school attended to the new school.

If the Georgia Certificate of Immunization has an expiration date, the student will be given thirty calendar days after the expiration date to present a new certificate or be excluded from school.

All students beginning school in Georgia for the first time must also have Georgia Certificate of Vision, Hearing, Dental and Nutritional Screening (DPH Form 3300/REV 2013), which may be completed at the public health department, the primary health care provider and/or dentist. This information shall be turned into school officials at the time of enrollment.

Reducing Communicable Illness and Improving Attendance

Influenza Prevention: Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. Influenza, also called "flu," is a viral illness that causes fever, sore throat, muscle aches, and cough. Influenza is primarily spread through respiratory droplets. The best way to reduce the risk of flu and its potentially serious complications is by getting vaccinated each year. Contact your healthcare provider or the Health Department for more information.

Meningococcal Prevention: Meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial illness that affects the brain and the spinal cord. Meningitis can cause shock, coma and death within hours of the first symptoms. People spread meningococcal bacteria through close or lengthy contact with other people. Vaccines offer the best protection against meningococcal disease. Contact your healthcare provider or the Health Department for more information. Vaccination is required for 7th and 11th grade and 16 years of age or older.

INTERSCHOOL COMPETITIVE SPORTS

All interschool competitive sports will be governed by the Hall County School District Middle School Athletic Guidelines and the Georgia Department of Education Rules. Hall County School Board policy prohibits participation of sixth grade students in certain sports.

ITEMS NOT ALLOWED AT SCHOOL OR ON THE BUS

- Gum/candy
- Skateboards or roller blades
- Toys such as water guns, squirt toys, whoopee cushions, stuffed toys, etc.
- Harmful objects or those that disrupt the educational environment
- Glass bottles or cans: ex. Soft drinks
- Obscene magazines, pictures, or literature
- Lighters, matches
- Personal items that advertise tobacco, drug, and alcohol related products
- Weapons or dangerous instruments
- Vaping device or mechanism
- Any drug or alcoholic beverage

Items may not be brought, traded, or sold at school unless sponsored and approved by the school administration.

LOCKERS

Lockers are available in some schools for student use in storing books and school supplies. However, the school cannot be responsible for items left in lockers. Students must be responsible for their lockers. Any student using a locker other than the one assigned by a teacher will be subject to disciplinary action.

LEARNING COMMONS

The Learning Commons are an active and integral part of the school's educational program and are open throughout the school day. Contact your Learning Commons staff about specific hours and any extended hours they may offer. Learning Commons staff members assist students by:

- Providing an enriched instructional space that contains a wide array of reading and research materials, including both print and digital resources (books, magazines, online databases, eBooks, audiobooks, and more);
- Providing activities, lessons, experiences, and feedback needed for students to develop questioning, critical thinking, problem solving skills, and an understanding of digital responsibilities that are essential to creating 21st Century learners;
- Promoting and supporting multiple literacies (visual, digital, textual, and technological), by sponsoring events, school organizations, and programs that develop a lifelong love of reading and literacy.
- Creating an inviting atmosphere that welcomes all students and provides equitable access to resources and services;
- Assisting students in their search for recreational reading materials and offer appropriate research support for each student's needs;
- Assisting students with technology (some examples include Chromebook checkouts and check-ins, using school software, presentation tools, school devices, successful research skills, cyber safety, and digital responsibility) to acquire lifelong knowledge and skills in the 21st century.
- Schools may charge for overdue books or lost books, and Chromebook equipment fines. No fine will exceed the replacement cost of the book or equipment.

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION AT SCHOOL

Whenever possible, medications should be given at home. However, the school system realizes that for students to maintain school attendance, certain medications may be required during school hours. With the safety of the children and staff being our priority, the system has revised policies and procedures for medications administered at school.

NO medications will be given without prior written permission. For students to receive medication at school, parents will need to complete:

- "The Parent/Guardian Medication Permission Form" – This provides parent permission for over-the-counter and short-term (less than 10 days) medications, and physician-prescribed long-term (more than ten days) to be administered at school.
- "The Health Care Provider Medication/Permission Form" – This provides for information from a student's health care provider about medications that is to be given for more than 10 days or regularly during the school year.
- On the rare occasion acetaminophen (Tylenol), Ibuprofen (Motrin/Advil), Antacid (Tums), Pramoxine (Caladryl) may enable your child to return to class after assessment by the licensed nurse, you may indicate permission for your child to receive school stocked acetaminophen, Ibuprofen, antacid, or Pramoxine on Parent Portal. If your child requires additional doses of the approved over-the-counter medications more than 2 times in the school year, the parent will be asked to furnish this medication with a Parent Medication Permission Form.

Please take the time to read the **guidelines below** carefully. These policies will require greater cooperation and communication between parents and school personnel.

1. Medications received at school in un-labeled bottles, pills in zip-lock bags and aluminum foil **WILL NOT** be administered.
2. Non-prescription medications (over the counter medications) must be brought to the school in the **original** container along with a written parental request that includes parent contact phone number, and directions for administering that states the frequency, dose and length of administration.
3. Prescription medications must be brought to the school in the **original** prescription container labeled with the student's name, date prescribed, instruction for administering, name of drug, name of issuing Health Care Provider, expiration date, and route medication is to be given.
4. Schools will dispense medications only as directed on the **original** labeled container. **It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian** to notify the school if changes in the medication, dosage, and/or time of administration are requested and a new **original** container must be provided.
5. For ALL medications to be administered for more than 10 school days, the parent/guardian must provide specific instructions, including related equipment needed, if necessary, by completing a "Parent/Guardian Medication Permission Form" and by having the student's health care provider complete a "Health Care Provider Medication Information Record".
6. **It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian** to inform the school, in writing, of any changes in pertinent data. A new "Medication Permission Form" must be provided indicating requested changes.
7. **It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian** to deliver **ALL** medication to the principal's office or other designated school personnel.
8. A "Parent/Guardian Medication Permission Form" **and** if pertinent, a "Health Care Provider Medication Information Record" shall be kept relative to each medication taken by the student during the school day. This record will include student's name, name of medication, time, route, and correct dose.
9. Long-term medications usually need to be refilled on a monthly basis. **It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian** to keep the school supplied with adequate amounts of medication.
10. If your child takes a daily controlled medication, for safety and security reasons, please bring only a new prescription bottle dated for the current month containing a **FULL supply for an entire month of school**. Partially filled bottles will not be accepted. Your pharmacist will fill the prescription in this manner upon request. Once pills are received and counted at school they will not be redistributed back to the parent/guardian unless the student withdraws from school or at the end of the school year. If the prescription calls for a dosage of one and one half pills, please break the pills in half before bringing the bottle to school.
11. Upon receipt at school, all controlled medications must be counted by the parent/guardian and the school nurse (or designee) with the amount received properly documented.
12. Questions regarding medication administration at school should be directed to the school principal, Health Services Coordinator at 770-534-1080, or the Director of Student Services at 770-967-5846.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Hall County Middle Schools are dedicated to providing structured middle school programs that embrace current research findings on the middle school child. Each grade level is divided into teams of teachers and students who work together to achieve academic and personal goals. Teachers work together to plan instructions and to solve problems. This enables students to sense consistent expectations for them and to strive to meet clearly understood standards of achievement.

The typical daily schedule followed by all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students is composed of an academic block and a physical education/connections block. During the academic block, mathematics, science, social studies, and integrated language arts are taught. Georgia Standards for each core course, by grade level, are detailed in Appendix A - Middle School Georgia Standards. A sample reading log for the Georgia Reading Standard is shown in Appendix B – Reading Log for the Georgia Reading Standard.

Health - This course is a diversified health curriculum which includes human development, nutrition education, and safety/drug awareness. Students are also presented information concerning a variety of health careers. These concepts are taught in a sequential order of difficulty from the sixth grade through the eighth grade. Georgia State Board Rule IDB (160-4-2-.12) requires that “sex education, AIDS education, and human trafficking awareness shall be a part of a comprehensive health program.” If desired, parents and legal guardians may request an opportunity to review all instructional materials related to this program prior to their students entering the program. Parents and legal guardians may opt to exclude their child from sex education and AIDS prevention instructional programs by sending a written request to the school that their child not receive such a course of study.

Physical Education - Emphasizing the importance of total fitness, this course gives each student the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of sports and recreational games and leisure activities. Students who bring in a doctor's excuse from PE will be expected to dress-out unless the disability prohibits. Notes written by parents to excuse students will be left to the teacher's discretion. Students will still be required to dress-out for PE.

Connections - Students are randomly rotated through connections courses. Connections courses include, but are not limited to, technology, home economics, art, music, computer literacy and foreign language. The content focus varies in each grade level. Courses rotate each nine weeks. Students may elect to take full year band or chorus. Students will not take every class every year.

Gifted Education - Hall County School System endorses the philosophy that education is a means by which each individual has the opportunity to reach his or her fullest potential. We believe that all students have a right to educational experiences that challenge the level of their individual development, whether it is below, at, or beyond the level of their age peers. Special programs for gifted students are one outgrowth of this commitment.

Students in grades K-12 who demonstrate a high degree of intellectual, academic, and/or creative abilities may be nominated for evaluation to determine eligibility to participate in the SEARCH Program for Gifted Students. Referrals for consideration may be made by teachers, parents or guardians, counselors, administrators, peers, self, and other individuals with knowledge of the student's abilities.

For a summary of eligibility criteria for placement in this program or for further information about Hall County's Program for Gifted Students, please contact the SEARCH Program teacher at your child's school.

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS: STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM

A MTSS/Student Support Team may be formed to address a student's academic and non-academic needs. The team will utilize a problem-solving process based on data to make the best decisions about the student's instructional support, which may include implementing interventions designed to address the unique needs and situation of the student to help them on their path to achievement. Parent(s)/legal guardians should be a critical part of the MTSS/SST team and be informed of any recommendations. For more information, contact the MTSS (Multi-Tiered Student Supports) Coordinator at the student's school or the Hall County Department of Student Services at 770-967- 5846.

NOTICE OF PARENTAL RIGHTS TO REQUEST TEACHER/PARAPROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

In compliance with the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act, parents may request the following information:

1. Whether the student's teacher—
 - has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
 - is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and,
 - is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
2. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If a parent wishes to request information concerning their child's teacher or paraprofessional's qualifications, please contact the school principal.

In addition to the expectations of the school system, personnel who are certificated by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission must adhere to their standards for certification and ethical conduct. More information about this is available at this website: www.gapsc.com

PARENT NOTIFICATION

When important information is sent home with students, they are expected to deliver any written correspondence from the school to parents/guardians and return it to school with the parent's signature the following school day.

PARENT PORTAL

The Infinite Campus Parent Portal is a confidential and secure website where parents can access current information about a child's attendance and grades. Parents may access the Parent Portal by going to the following website:

<https://campus.hallco.org/campus/portal/hall.jsp> or click on the link for "Parent Portal" at www.hallco.org.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

The Hall County School District actively encourages parents to meet in conference with their child's teachers. Parents are considered by the schools to be an essential part of the team helping to educate each student. It is through parent support and interest, working with the faculty and staff, that every student will achieve maximum success. A parent requesting a conference with his child's teacher should contact the school by phone or email. A parent wishing for a conference with a teacher should contact the school.

PROMOTION CRITERIA

To be promoted from sixth grade to seventh grade, from seventh grade to eighth grade, and from eighth grade to ninth grade, a student must pass four of six courses or five of seven courses (depending on the structure of their particular school's daily class schedule). Students must pass both Language Arts and Math to be promoted to the next grade.

SAFETY ON CAMPUS

Hall County Schools takes seriously its responsibility to educate students in safe and drug free schools where they are free from fear of harm or intimidation by a few. Weapons, drugs, bullying and gang activities will not be tolerated. Students who violate the Board of Education rules or state laws related to these offenses will be suspended or expelled from school. Violators will also be reported to police and may be arrested. These rules apply to all students at school or school-sponsored activities including field trips and on buses, athletic fields, stadiums, parking lots, official school bus stops, and other sites used for school sponsored activities.

SCHOOL INSURANCE

Voluntary student accident insurance is available for purchase to all students at <https://www.hallco.org/web/student-insurance/>.

The Hall County School District is not liable for injury or held responsible for payment of medical bills that are associated with a student's participation in extracurricular activities.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Students may elect to have school pictures taken during the school year. All school pictures are prepaid with retakes or refunds available upon request. The date and time for pictures are announced.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Each Hall County Middle School employs a resource officer who has registered police credentials.

SCHOOL VISITORS

We are pleased to have parents visit our schools. All visitors must report to the main office to sign-in prior to visiting any area of the school.

SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a comprehensive civil rights law that addresses the rights of the disabled and applies to all agencies receiving federal financial assistance. The law states: "No qualified individual with disabilities, shall, solely by reason of his/her disability be excluded from participation in, or denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Section 504 is not an aspect of "special education," but rather, is the responsibility of the general education system. Frequently the needs of a student experiencing difficulties at school can be met through the Student Support Team (SST)/Response to

Intervention (RTI) process. If the intervention team has documentation, or reason to believe that a disability condition may exist, referral to the Section 504 Committee for consideration may be in order to determine eligibility for accommodations and to ascertain whether or not equal access to school is a concern. If access is not being denied and educational progress is being made, an accommodation plan may not be needed. For more information, contact the Section 504 Coordinator at the student's school, or the Hall County Schools 504 Coordinator, Thomas Stegarp, at 770-534-1080.

The implementing regulations for Section 504 as set out in 34 CFR Part 104 provide parents and/or students with the following rights:

1. Your child has the right to an appropriate education designed to meet his or her individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of non-disabled students. 34 CFR 104.33.
2. Your child has the right to free educational services except for those fees that are imposed on non-disabled students or their parents. Insurers and similar third parties who provide services not operated by or provided by the recipient are not relieved from an otherwise valid obligation to provide or pay for services provided to a disabled student. 34 CFR 104.33.
3. Your child has a right to participate in an educational setting (academic and nonacademic) with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate to his or her needs. 34 CFR 104.34.
4. Your child has a right to facilities, services, and activities that are comparable to those provided for non-disabled students. 34 CFR 104.34.
5. Your child has a right to an evaluation prior to a Section 504 determination of eligibility. 34 CFR 104.35.
6. You have the right to not consent to the school system's request to evaluate your child. 34 CFR 104.35.
7. You have the right to ensure that evaluation procedures, which may include testing, conform to the requirements of 34 CFR 104.35.
8. You have the right to ensure that the school system will consider information from a variety of sources as appropriate, which may include aptitude and achievement tests, grades, teacher recommendations and observations, physical conditions, social or cultural background, medical records, and parental recommendations. 34 CFR 104.35.
9. You have the right to ensure that placement decisions are made by a group of persons, including persons knowledgeable about your child, the meaning of the evaluation data, the placement options, and the legal requirements for least restrictive environment and comparable facilities. 34 CFR 104.35.
10. If your child is eligible under Section 504, your child has a right to periodic reevaluations, including prior to any subsequent significant change of placement. 34 CFR 104.35.
11. You have the right to notice prior to any actions by the school system regarding the identification, evaluation, or placement of your child. 34 CFR 104.36.
12. You have the right to examine your child's educational records. 34 CFR 104.36.
13. You have the right to an impartial hearing with respect to the school system's actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement, with opportunity for parental participation in the hearing and representation by an attorney. 34 CFR 104.36.
14. You have the right to receive a copy of this notice and a copy of the school system's impartial hearing procedure upon request. 34 CFR 104.36.

If you disagree with the decision of the impartial hearing officer (school board members and other district employees are not considered impartial hearing officers), you have a right to a review of that decision according to the school system's impartial hearing procedure. 34 CFR 104.36.

SECTION 504 HEARING REQUESTS

1. Overview: Any student or parent/guardian ("grievant") may request an impartial hearing due to the school system's actions or inactions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement under Section 504. Requests for an impartial hearing must be in writing to the school system's Section 504 Coordinator; however, a grievant's failure to request a hearing in writing does not alleviate the school system's obligation to provide an impartial hearing if the grievant orally requests an impartial hearing through the school system's Section 504 Coordinator. The school system's Section 504 Coordinator will assist the grievant in completing the written Request for Hearing.
2. Hearing Request: The Request for the Hearing must include the following:
 - a. The name of the student.
 - b. The address of the residence of the student.
 - c. The name of the school the student is attending.
 - d. The decision that is the subject of the hearing.
 - e. The requested reasons for review.

- f. The proposed remedy sought by the grievant.
- g. The name and contact information of the grievant.

Within 10 business days from receiving the grievant's Request for Hearing, the Section 504 Coordinator will acknowledge the Request for Hearing in writing and schedule a time and place for a hearing. If the written Request for Hearing does not contain the necessary information noted above, the Section 504 Coordinator will inform the grievant of the specific information needed to complete the request. All timelines and processes will be stayed until the Request for Hearing contains the necessary information noted above.

- 3. Mediation: The school system may offer mediation to resolve the issues detailed by the grievant in his or her Request for Hearing. Mediation is voluntary and both the grievant and school system must agree to participate. The grievant may terminate the mediation at any time. If the mediation is terminated without an agreement, the school system will follow the procedures for conducting an impartial hearing without an additional Request for Hearing.
- 4. Hearing Procedures:
 - a. The Section 504 Coordinator will obtain an impartial review official who will conduct a hearing within 45 calendar days from the receipt of the grievant's Request for Hearing unless agreed to otherwise by the grievant or a continuance is granted by the impartial review official.

SEVERE WEATHER

Should severe weather necessitate closing or early dismissal of school, this information will be posted on the Hall County Schools website at www.hallco.org and district social media sites. This information will also be broadcast over WDUN Radio (550 AM) and other area radio stations. School closing announcements will be released to the media by approximately 6:00 a.m. Notification is also sent to all parent-approved telephone numbers and email addresses using Infinite Campus Messenger. In order to receive these important messages, parents/guardians should keep their contact numbers current in Infinite Campus.

School buses will not leave school during a tornado or severe weather WARNING. Buses will run regular routes when the warning is canceled.

STUDENT ILLNESS/ACCIDENT

If a student becomes ill or injured while at school, he/she should report the problem immediately to the teacher. Parents or guardians will be notified if the student's condition warrants.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

FERPA affords parents and eligible students (over 18 years of age or attending a postsecondary institution) certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the principal [or appropriate official] a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The principal or designee will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. To request amendment of a student record, parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request, specifying the part of the record they want changed and why it is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. If the school decides not to amend the record, it will notify the parents or eligible students of the decision and inform them of their right to a hearing. Additional information regarding the hearing procedure will be provided with the notification of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that disclosure without prior written consent is authorized by FERPA and its implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R. § 99.31.

One exception that permits disclosure without consent is to school officials with legitimate educational interest. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. A school official is a person employed by the school district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including school nurses and school resource officers); a member of the school board; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a specific task (such as attorney, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or online educational services provider); a contractor, consultant, volunteer, or other party to whom the school district has outsourced services, such as electronic data storage; or a parent or student serving on an official committee (such as a disciplinary or grievance committee) or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. The district allows school officials to access only student records in which they have a legitimate educational interest. School officials remain under the district's control with regard to the use and maintenance of PII, which may be used only for the purpose for which disclosure was made and cannot be released to other parties without authorization.

Upon request, the district discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

(4) FERPA requires the school district, with certain exceptions, to obtain written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from the student's education records. However, the district may disclose appropriate designated "directory information" without written consent, unless the parent or eligible student has advised the district to the contrary in accordance with district procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the school to include this type of information from the student's education records in certain school publications, such as the annual yearbook, graduation or sports activity programs, honor roll or other recognition lists, or on websites or social media sites affiliated with the school or school district.

The School District has designated the following information as directory information:

- (a) Student's name, address and telephone number;
- (b) Student's date and place of birth;
- (c) Student's e-mail address;
- (d) Student's participation in official school activities and sports;
- (e) Weight and height of members of an athletic team;
- (f) Dates of attendance at schools within the district;
- (g) Honors and awards received during the time enrolled in district schools;
- (h) Photograph; and
- (i) Grade level.

Unless you, as a parent/guardian or eligible student, request otherwise, this information may be disclosed to the public upon request. In addition, two federal laws require school districts receiving federal financial assistance to provide military recruiters, upon request, with students' names, addresses, and telephone numbers unless parents have advised the school district that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent. You have the right to refuse to allow all or any part of the above information to be designated as directory information and to refuse to allow it to be disclosed to the public upon request without your prior written consent. If you wish to exercise this right, you must notify the principal of the

school at which the student is enrolled annually in writing by September 30th or within 10 school days of an enrollment after the start of the student school year.

(5) You are also notified that from time to time students may be photographed, videoed, or interviewed by the news media at school or at some school activity or event.

The principal will take reasonable steps to control access to students by the media or other individuals not affiliated with the school or district. However, your submission of a written objection does not constitute a guarantee that your student will not be photographed, videoed, or interviewed, or that such information will not be posted on websites or social media sites not affiliated with the school or district or in circumstances which are not within the knowledge or control of the principal.

(6) You have the right to file with the U. S. Department of Education a complaint concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Student Privacy Policy Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202.

(7) The Georgia Student Data Privacy, Accessibility, and Transparency Act affords parents and eligible students the right to file a complaint with the school district regarding a possible violation of rights under O.C.G.A. § 20-2-667 or under other federal or state student data privacy and security laws. Such complaints may be filed with:

Hall County School District
711 Green Street
Gainesville, GA 30501
Attn: Student Services Director

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents and eligible students (18 or older or emancipated minors) certain rights regarding the conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (“protected information survey”) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education.
 1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
 2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
 3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
 4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
 7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
 8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of –
 1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
 2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
 3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
- Inspect, upon request and before administration or use –
 1. Protected information surveys of students;
 2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
 3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

Parents and eligible students will be notified at the beginning of the school year if the school district has identified the specific or approximate dates during the school year when any of the activities listed above are expected to be scheduled. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. The Board of Education has developed and adopted policies, in conjunction with parents, regarding these rights as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The district will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The district will also directly notify parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey.

The school is required by federal law to give this notice to parents. However, the school does not have scheduled any such activities as are described above. If any such activities are initiated during the school year, parents will be notified accordingly and will be afforded all the rights described herein.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with the Student Privacy Policy Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-8520.

Student Device Acceptable Use and Checkout Agreement (aua)

The Hall County School District [HCSD] is a 1:1 school district where every student is assigned a device that provides learning resources and applications for use on and off campus. The intent for loaning students a dedicated mobile device, most often a Chromebook, is to ensure they have every opportunity to access educational resources and appropriate digital content anytime and anywhere. The device and resources are intended to be the student's personal learning device in order to enable learning and shall not be used for any other purpose. The use of the device and applications is a privilege and may be revoked at any time. The device must be returned to the school upon request or when the student withdraws or graduates from the school district. Students are issued the same Chromebook every year.

All devices and networks are monitored and filtered in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and other state and federal statutes. Content for students who are signed in with their HCSD credentials on a HCSD Chromebook are filtered off campus. Students/parents must understand that the HCSD, nor any district staff member, controls the content of the information on the Internet. Devices may be inspected at any time. Students shall have no expectation of privacy of materials found on the computing device or application. Students shall not access the internet via a virtual private network (VPN).

Login information, usernames and passwords are confidential. The student is responsible for keeping login information secure. At no time should anyone log in with another individual's user name or password. Students shall not use HCSD equipment to access, possess, or distribute any content that is obscene, harmful to minors, or pornographic. Appropriate use of digital devices and applications is governed by the HCSD Code of Conduct, all HSCD Board of Education Policies, and items in the student handbooks.

Parents that allow their child to bring privately-owned computers/other technology devices to school are personally responsible for the equipment. Parents who provide a mobile device/hot spot for their child to connect to the internet are allowing their child to access the internet unfiltered and are bypassing all district content filtering. Responsibility for the maintenance and repair of the equipment rests solely with the student/parent. Any damage or theft to the equipment is the responsibility of the student/parent. District technicians and/or school-based personnel will not service or repair hardware or software owned by the student/ staff member. No internal components belonging to the district shall be placed in any personal equipment, whether as enhancements, upgrades or replacement.

Parent/Student Financial Responsibility

If a device is damaged, other than maintenance required from normal usage, students/parents are responsible for all costs for repairing damaged mobile computing devices. Only HCSD technicians utilizing approved parts may make repairs to devices. Replacement devices purchased by students/parents will not be accepted in lieu of full device replacement cost. Below are the costs associated with the repair or replacement of Chromebooks. Determination of damage will be made by HCSD employees.

Part	Replacement Cost
Power Adapters	\$45 (If the asset tag is removed from the brick, full replacement cost of \$45 will be charged)
LCD screen	\$50
DC Power port	\$80
Keyboard	\$10
Palm Rest	\$25
Bottom Case	\$15
Top Plate	\$15
Webcam	\$10
LCD Bezel	\$10
Daughter Card	\$15
Motherboard	\$85
Whole Unit	\$395
Computer Label Removal/Destruction (Asset, Title, Serial)	\$5/label

Technical Support & Repairs

1. In the event the device needs repair, it must be reported to the local school designee, most often the media specialist.
2. All repairs will be performed or coordinated by HCSD's Technology Department.
3. Parents, guardians, students or designees are not allowed to attempt repairs themselves or contract with any other individual or business to repair any school owned computer equipment.

Loss or Theft

Upon notice of loss or theft, the assigned student and/or their parent/guardian must immediately file an official police report. Incidents of loss or theft occurring off campus must be reported to the police the day that the loss or theft occurs or when the loss or theft is first discovered. Copies of the police report must be given to the media specialist or designee the next day that school is in session. Any loss or theft occurring on school grounds must be immediately reported to an administrator.

Accept/Decline (Via Parent Portal)

Parents who chose to opt in and receive a HCSD device for their student, please select **SIGN** on the signature page below. By accepting this form parents are agreeing to the conditions of the program and have acknowledged and accepted the terms of the fee schedule.

Parents who chose to opt out of receiving a HCSD device for their student, please select **DECLINE** on the signature page below. By declining this form parents are agreeing to provide a device with similar functionality to the issued student device for school and home use. Please note that HCSD cannot provide any technical support for non-HCSD device.

Hall County Code of Conduct and Discipline Procedures

It is the purpose of the Hall County Board of Education to operate the school system in a manner that will provide an orderly process of education and that will provide for the welfare and safety of all students who attend our schools. In accordance with that purpose, the Hall County Board of Education has adopted a policy that requires schools to follow codes of conduct that focus on maintaining a good learning environment for all students. These standards for behavior require students to respect each other and school district employees, to obey student behavior policies adopted by the Board and to obey student behavior rules established at each school within the district.

The school's primary goal is to educate, not to punish; however, when the behavior of an individual student comes in conflict with the rights of others, corrective actions may be necessary for the benefit of that individual and the school as a whole. Accordingly, students shall be governed by policies, regulations and rules set forth in this Code of Conduct and Discipline Procedures. Such governing rules shall be published and provided annually to all school personnel and students. Parents are encouraged to become familiar with the policies, regulations and rules of the school system, and to be supportive of these in their daily communication with their children and others in the community.

Major discipline offenses, including, but not limited to, drug and weapon offenses, can lead to a school being named as an Unsafe School according to the provisions of the State Board of Education Rule – Unsafe School Choice Option.

AUTHORITY OF THE PRINCIPAL

The principal is the designated leader of the school and, in concert with the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. In cases of disruptive, disorderly or dangerous conduct not covered in this Code, the principal may undertake corrective measures which he or she believes to be in the best interest of the student and the school provided any such action does not violate school board policy or procedures.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The students of the Hall County School District are expected to maintain good order and discipline in the school environment. Good order and discipline may be described as the absence of distractions, frictions and disturbances which interfere with the optimum functioning of the student, the class and the school. It is also the presence of a friendly yet business-like rapport in which students and school personnel work cooperatively toward mutually recognized and mutually accepted goals.

This Code of Conduct is effective during the following times and in the following places:

- At school or on school property at any time;
- Off school grounds at any school activity, function or event and while traveling to and from such events;
- On vehicles provided for student transportation by the school system and at bus stops.

Also, students may be disciplined for conduct off campus which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony and which makes the student's continued presence at the school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process.

COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW

Consequences and Penalties for Non-Compliance with Compulsory School Attendance Law:

Assuring that children attend school regularly is an important part of a parent's responsibility. Parents are responsible for providing school officials with verification of reasons (written absence notes) for each absence. When your child must be absent, it is important that you state the reason(s) for your child's absence(s) in writing and share these with the school as soon as possible. Any absence not certified by a parent/guardian, physician or court/other agency (meeting the definition of an excused absence) is considered unexcused.

Failure to comply with compulsory school attendance as required under Code Section 20-2-690.1. Any parent, guardian, or other person residing in this state who has control or charge of a child or children shall enroll and send such child or children to a public school, a private school, or a home study program that meets state requirements. Any parent, guardian, or other person who has control of a child or children who is in violation of this Code section shall be subject to a fine not less than \$25.00 and not greater than \$100.00, or imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, community service, or any combination of such penalties, at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction. Each day's absence from school in violation of this part after the child's school system notifies the parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a child of ten (10) unexcused days of absence for a child shall constitute a separate offense.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

This Code of Conduct is based on the expectation that parents, guardians, teachers and school administrators will work together to improve and enhance student behavior and academic performance and will communicate freely their concerns about, and actions in response to, student behavior that detracts from the learning environment. School administrators recognize that two-way communication through personal contact is extremely valuable; therefore, they provide information to parents as well as on-going opportunities for school personnel to hear parents' concerns and comments.

The Code of Conduct specifies within its standards of behavior various violations of the Code which may result in a school staff member's request that a parent or guardian come to the school for a conference. Parents are encouraged to visit the schools regularly and are expected to be actively involved in the behavior support processes designed to promote positive choices and behavior.

Georgia law provides a process in which a teacher or principal identifies a student as a chronic disciplinary problem: The principal shall notify by telephone call and by mail the student's parent or guardian of the disciplinary problem, invite the parent or guardian to observe the student in a classroom situation, and request at least one parent or guardian to attend a conference to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan. Georgia law also states that before any chronic disciplinary problem student is permitted to return to school from a suspension or expulsion, the school shall request by telephone call and by mail at least one parent or guardian to schedule and attend a conference to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan.

The law allows a local board of education to petition the juvenile court to require a parent to attend a school conference. If the court finds that the parent or guardian has willfully and unreasonably failed to attend a conference requested by the principal pursuant to the laws cited above, the court may order the parent or guardian to attend such a conference, order the parent or guardian to participate in such programs or such treatment as the court deems appropriate to improve the student's behavior, or both. After notice and opportunity for hearing, the court may impose a fine, not to exceed \$500.00, on a parent or guardian who willfully disobeys an order of the court under this law.

Major discipline offenses including, but not limited to, drug and weapon offenses can lead to any state school being named as an Unsafe School according to the provisions of the State Board of Education Rule 160-4-16 Unsafe School Option.

GEORGIA CODE NOTICE

Georgia Code Section 20-2-735 requires us to advise parents that they should inform their children on the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

When it is necessary to impose discipline, school administrators and teachers will follow a **progressive discipline process**. A major consideration in the application of the code is that the disciplinary action taken by school officials be **the least extreme measure** that can resolve the discipline problem. Circumstances to be considered include, but are not limited to, the following factors: age, health, maturity, academic placement of the student, prior conduct, attitude, cooperation of the parents, willingness to make restitution, and the seriousness of the offense. Such factors may be taken into account in determining the punishment to be imposed, including any decision to impose a punishment that is more or less severe than suggested in this Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct provides a systematic process of behavioral correction in which inappropriate behaviors are followed by consequences. Disciplinary actions are designed to teach students self-discipline and to help them replace inappropriate behaviors with those that are consistent with character traits from Georgia's Character Education Program.

The following disciplinary actions may be imposed for any violation of this Code of Conduct:

- Warning and/or counseling with a school administrator or counselor
- Loss of privileges
- Time-out
- Temporary removal from a class or activity
- Notification of parents
- Parent conference
- Corporal punishment
- Detention/Saturday school
- Temporary placement in an alternative education program
- Short-term suspension

- Referral to a tribunal for long-term suspension or expulsion
- Suspension or expulsion from the school bus
- Referral to law enforcement or juvenile court officials: Georgia law requires that certain acts of misconduct be referred to the appropriate law enforcement officials. The school will refer any act of misconduct to law enforcement officials when school officials determine such a referral to be necessary or appropriate.

Students may be suspended due to repeated violations of any rule. The **MAXIMUM** punishment for any offense is expulsion, but suspension for more than 10 days or expulsion will be determined only by a disciplinary tribunal as outlined in the Hall County Board of Education Policy JCEB.

In lieu of a disciplinary tribunal, a negotiated waiver settlement may be considered based on the consequences the school administration would recommend to a tribunal. If the student/parent/guardian and a hearing officer appointed by the superintendent accept this agreement, a tribunal will not be held. A waiver agreement does not grant a student permission to enroll in the The Foundry program. However, a student can be suspended with the option to apply for admission to The Foundry. The minimum stay at The Foundry is one semester.

A conference with the student must precede any immediate suspension from school. If immediate suspension is the action to be taken by school administrators, it must not exceed 10 school days. **Parents must be notified.** School officials may involve law enforcement officials when evidence surrounding a situation necessitates their involvement or when there is a legal requirement that an incident be reported.

School officials may search a student if there is reasonable suspicion the student is in possession of an item that is illegal or for evidence of a violation of school rules. Personal property items (including personal electronic devices), school lockers, desks and other school property are subject to inspection and search by school authorities at any time without further notice to students or parents. At the discretion of administrators, students are required to cooperate if asked to open book bags, lockers, etc. Metal detectors and drug or weapon-sniffing dogs may be utilized at school or at any school function, including activities which occur outside normal school hours or off the school campus.

STUDENT SUPPORT PROCESSES

The Hall County Board of Education provides a variety of resources which are available at every school within the district to help address student behavioral problems. The school discipline process will include appropriate consideration of support processes to help students resolve such problems. These resources include, but are not limited to, Student Support Teams, school counselors, and chronic disciplinary problem student plans.

TEACHER AUTHORITY ACT

It is the policy of the Board of Education that the Superintendent shall fully support the authority of principals and teachers to remove a student from the classroom pursuant to Georgia law as cited in O.C.G.A. 20-2-738 and 20-2-751.5(d).

A teacher shall have the authority, consistent with board policy, to manage his or her classroom, discipline students, and refer a student to the principal or designee to maintain discipline in the classroom. Any teacher who has knowledge that a student has exhibited behavior which substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with his/her class or with the ability of each student's classmates to learn, shall file a report of such behavior with the principal or designee. The principal and teacher shall thereafter follow the procedures set forth in Georgia law, specifically O.C.G.A. 20-2-737 and 738.

BEHAVIOR THAT WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- **Possession, sale, attempted sale, use, distribution or under the influence of any drug, including but not limited to narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, over the counter drug, unauthorized prescription drug or drug paraphernalia, alcoholic beverage or other intoxicant, or of any substance represented as drugs or alcohol.**
 - **ALCOHOL** - First offense: Immediate suspension, system's early intervention program for student and parent (SUPER 1), possible referral to disciplinary tribunal and/or referral to law enforcement officials. The student and parent or guardian will be offered the opportunity to attend SUPER 1 in lieu of up to half the original suspension, not to exceed five (5) days. Second or subsequent offense: Mandatory referral to tribunal and/or referral to law enforcement officials.

- DRUGS - Immediate suspension pending a disciplinary tribunal, and immediate referral to law enforcement officials. Distribution, attempted sale or sale of these substances requires suspension for the remainder of the semester in which the incident occurred, plus expulsion for one full semester. Participation in the system's early intervention program for student and parent (SUPER 1) is required for first-time category one offenders to re-enroll in the regular school program; attendance does not reduce the number of days of suspension.
 - OVER THE COUNTER DRUGS - Immediate suspension, system's early intervention program for student and parent (SUPER 1), possible referral to disciplinary tribunal and/or referral to law enforcement officials. First time offenders may be offered the opportunity to attend SUPER 1 in lieu of up to half the original suspension, not to exceed five (5) days.
- **Possession of or use of a vaping device or mechanism or vaping-related paraphernalia:**
 - First Offense: Disciplinary action may include up to 3 days ISS with mandatory completion of *Consequences of Vaping* Canvas Module, out of school suspension, and possible referral to disciplinary tribunal.
 - Second Offense: Disciplinary action may include up to 5 days OSS and possible referral to disciplinary tribunal.
 - Third Offense: Disciplinary action may include up to 10 days OSS, behavior contract, referral to Super I, and possible referral to disciplinary tribunal. Super I attendance with parent/guardian may half the original suspension, not to exceed 5 days.
- **Possession or use of a weapon or dangerous instrument:** Any handgun, firearm, rifle, shotgun or similar weapon; any explosive compound or incendiary device; or, any other dangerous weapon as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-121, including a rocket launcher, bazooka, recoilless rifle, mortar, or hand grenade. Immediate suspension pending a disciplinary tribunal and immediate referral to law enforcement officials. Such infractions require a minimum one calendar year expulsion. (O.C.G.A. 16-11-127.1 - A fine of not more than \$10,000; imprisonment for not less than two or more than ten years, or both.)
- **Possession of hazardous objects or other weapons:** Possible referral to disciplinary tribunal, out-of-school suspension, or in-school suspension.
- **Assault (physical or verbal), including threatened violence upon another student, a teacher, or another school official:** Immediate suspension, automatic referral to the disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed an assault upon a teacher, other school official or employee; possible referral to law enforcement officials, and possible referral to the disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed an assault upon another student.
- **Battery, including sexual battery, upon another student, a teacher, another school official or persons attending school-related functions:** Immediate suspension, automatic referral to the disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed battery upon a teacher, other school official or employee, possible referral to law enforcement officials, and possible referral to the disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed a battery upon another student.
- **Fighting:** Possible out of school suspension, possible referral to a disciplinary tribunal hearing, possible referral to law enforcement officials.
- **Disrespectful conduct, including the use of vulgar or profane language, toward teachers, administrators, other school personnel, other students, or persons attending school-related functions:** Possible removal from class, activity, or situation, conference with teacher, parents, and counselor, detention, in-school suspension, suspension, and/or referral to disciplinary tribunal.
- **Any behavior based on a student's race, national origin, religion, sex, or disability including verbal or non-verbal taunting, physical contact, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment as defined pursuant to Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972:** Possible removal from class, activity, or situation, conference with teacher, parents, and counselor, detention, in-school suspension, suspension, and/or referral to disciplinary tribunal.
- **Inciting, advising or counseling of others to engage in prohibited acts:** Possible removal from class, activity, or situation, conference with teacher, parents, and counselor, detention, in-school suspension, suspension, and/or referral to disciplinary tribunal.
- **Classroom and school disturbances:** Possible removal from class, activity, or situation, conference with teacher, parents, and counselor, detention, in-school suspension, suspension, and/or referral to disciplinary tribunal.
- **Possession or use of tobacco or nicotine in any form or tobacco use-related paraphernalia such as lighters, matches, electronic cigarettes or vapers:** Detention, in-school suspension, Saturday School, out-of-school suspension, and/or parent conference.

- **Willful or malicious damage to real or personal property of the school or to personal property of any person legitimately at the school during school or off school hours:** Possible suspension, referral to disciplinary tribunal, possible referral to law enforcement officials, and/or possible restitution. (O.C.G.A. 20-2-753)
- **Marking, defacing, or destroying school property during school or off-school hours:** Possible suspension, possible referral to the disciplinary tribunal, and/or possible restitution.
- **Theft:** In-school or out-of-school suspension, restitution, and possible referral to law enforcement officials.
- **Extortion or attempted extortion:** Immediate suspension, possible referral to the disciplinary tribunal, and/or possible restitution.
- **Possession and/or use of fireworks:** Parent conference, possible suspension, and possible referral to the disciplinary tribunal and to law enforcement officials.
- **Activating a fire alarm under false pretenses or making a bomb threat:** Immediate suspension, possible referral to disciplinary tribunal and referral to law enforcement officials.
- **Insubordination, disorderly conduct, disobeying school rules, regulations, or directives, disobeying directives given by teachers, administrators, or other school staff:** Possible removal from class, activity, or situation, conference with teacher, parents, and counselor, detention, in-school suspension, Saturday School, suspension, and/or referral to disciplinary tribunal.
- **Violation of school dress code:** Possible removal from class, activity, or situation, parent conference, detention, Saturday School, and/or in-school suspension.
- **Use of profane, vulgar, or obscene words, gestures, images, or indecent exposure, including possession or transmission of such words or images (such as 'sexting'):** Parent conference, confiscation, detention, in-school suspension, or suspension, possible referral to disciplinary tribunal, and/or possible referral to law enforcement officials.
- **Use of personal electronic devices including but not limited to: cell phones, wireless ear buds, watches, headphones, meta glasses, tape recorders or other recording devices, radios, cd players, MP3 players, video games, and televisions:** Parent conference, detention, in school suspension, confiscation, possible referral to law enforcement officials, and/or suspension.
- **Inappropriate public displays of affection:** Parent conference, detention, in-school suspension, and/or suspension.
- **Gambling or possession of gambling devices:** Parent conference, detention, in-school suspension, and/or suspension.
- **Moving and non-moving driving violations:** Short-term or long-term revocation of driving privileges, in-school suspension, and/or detention.
- **Giving false information to school officials:** Parent conference, detention, in-school suspension, and/or suspension.
- **Falsifying, misrepresenting, omitting or erroneously reporting information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student:** Parent conference, detention, in-school suspension, and/or possible referral to a disciplinary tribunal. Any student (or parent or friend of the student) who has been the victim of an act of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by a teacher, administrator, or other school system employee is urged to make an oral report of the act to any teacher, counselor or administrator at his/her school.
- **Cheating on school assignments:** Zero grade for assignment, substitute assignment, detention, parent conference and/or in-school suspension.
- **Bullying:** Discipline for any act of bullying, including cyber bullying, as defined under the bullying definition in this document, shall be within the discretion of the principal which may range from a reprimand to out-of-school suspension. However, upon a tribunal finding that a student in grades 6-12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, the student shall at a minimum be assigned to the Alternative Learning Center.
- **Criminal law violations:** Any criminal behavior occurring on campus or at school functions or activities (whether a misdemeanor or felony or any off campus behavior of a student which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony or which could result in a felony criminal charge if committed by an adult; and which makes the student's continued presence at the school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process may be subject to disciplinary action, including in-school suspension, short-term suspension and referral to a disciplinary tribunal.
- **Willful and persistent violation of the Student Code of Conduct:** Student who chronically and/or habitually violate school rules or this Code of Conduct may be referred to the disciplinary tribunal, even if the offenses the student has committed do not include such a referral as a possible consequence.

- **Failure to comply with compulsory school attendance as required under Code Section 20-2-690.1:** Any student who is in violation of this Code section shall be subject to a referral to the court having jurisdiction. Each day's absence from school in violation of this part after the school system notifies the parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a child of ten (10) unexcused days of absence for a child shall constitute a separate offense.
- **Violation of the Hall County Schools Student Code of Conduct for personal electronic devices, computer hardware, software, network and internet access, to include any unauthorized entry into a computer network secured site.** Revocation of privilege, parent/ guardian notification, detention, in-school suspension, and/or suspension, possible referral to the disciplinary tribunal and/ or law enforcement. Warning statement: The act of entering or attempting to enter a computer network secured site (hacking) is a very serious offense that may include permanent expulsion from the school system.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

ASSAULT: Any threat or attempt to physically harm another person or any act which reasonably places another person in fear of physical harm. (Example: threatening or abusive language)

BATTERY: Actual and intentional touching or striking of another person against his or her will or intentionally causing bodily harm to an individual.

BULLYING: The bullying of a student by another student is prohibited. Any act of bullying should be reported to the school principal or his or her designee. In accordance with Georgia law, "bullying" means an act that is:

- 1) Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; or
- 2) Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or
- 3) Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that;
 - a) Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Georgia Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1;
 - b) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
 - c) Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
 - d) Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

The term applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system. The term also applies to acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic communication, primarily when electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic communication (1) is directed specifically at students or school personnel, (2) is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and (3) creates a reasonable fear of harm to the students' or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose. For purposes of this Code Section, electronic communication includes but is not limited to any transfer of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT: Physical punishment of a student by a school official in the presence of another school official in accordance with Hall County Board of Education Policy JDA.

DETENTION: A requirement that the student report to a specified school location and to a designated teacher or school official to make up work missed. Detention may require the student's attendance before school or after school. Students are given one day's warning so that parents or guardians can make arrangements for transportation.

DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL: School officials appointed by the Board of Education to sit as fact finder and judge with respect to student disciplinary matters.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT: Any act that substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of a school function, the learning environment, or poses a threat to the health, safety, and/or welfare of students, staff or others.

DRESS CODE: The current dress code is maintained in the principal's office and appears in student handbooks.

EXPULSION: Removal of a student from school beyond the end of the semester. During the period of expulsion, the student is excluded from all school-sponsored activities included practices, as well as competitive events, and/or activities sponsored by the school or its employees.

EXTORTION: Obtaining money or goods from another student by violence, threats, or misuse of authority.

FIGHTING: Mutual participation in a fight involving physical violence where there is no one main offender– does not include verbal confrontations, tussles, or other minor confrontations.

FIREWORKS: The term "fireworks" means any combustible or explosive composition or any substance or combination of substances or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible (large or small) effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation, as well as articles containing any explosive or flammable compound and tablets and other devices containing an explosive substance. (Also includes stink bombs/smoke bombs.)

GAMBLING: Engaging in a game or contest in which the outcome is dependent upon chance even though accompanied by some skill, and in which a participant stands to win or lose something of value.

HARASSMENT: Behavior based on a student's race, national origin, sex, religion or disability that is unwelcomed, unwanted, and/or uninvited by the recipient. It can be verbal, non-verbal, and/or physical and includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature.

HAZARDOUS OBJECTS OR OTHER WEAPONS: Any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any instrument of like kind, any nonlethal air gun, and any stun gun or Taser. Such term shall not include any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION: Removal of a student from class(es) or regular school program and assignment of that student to an alternative program isolated from peers.

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE: Intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of a school official; or intentionally making physical contact which causes physical harm to another unless such physical contacts or physical harms were in defense of himself or herself, as provided in GA Code Section 16-3-21.

SATURDAY SCHOOL: Principals may assign students in grades 7-12 to Saturday School for violations of the rules governing attire, tardiness, class cuts, leaving school without permission, cutting detention hall, tobacco and unexcused absences.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: Sexual harassment can take many forms and it is not possible to define or itemize every aspect of the harassment forbidden by the School District. Sexual harassment may include conduct or speech that entails unwelcome sexual advances, requests or demands for sexual favors, taunts, threats, comments of a vulgar or demeaning nature, or physical contact that creates a hostile environment. There may be other speech or conduct which students experience as inappropriate or illegal harassment, all of which is forbidden.

Sexual harassment defined in the Federal Regulations implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is defined as follows: **Sexual harassment** means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. An employee of the District conditioning the provision of a District aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's education program or activity; or
3. "Sexual assault"- an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; or

"Dating Violence"- sex-based violence committed by a person-

(A) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and

(B) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

- (i) The length of the relationship.
- (ii) The type of relationship.
- (iii) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship; or

"Domestic Violence"- sex-based violence which includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse

of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction; or

“Sex-based Stalking” - engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to-
(A) fear for his or her safety or the safety of others; or
(B) suffer substantial emotional distress.

Students, parents or other persons wishing to report alleged sexual harassment of a student should promptly notify the student’s school principal, school counselor, or Title IX Coordinator. All reports or complaints regarding alleged sexual harassment of students will be handled in accordance with Board Policies JAA and/or JCAC, as applicable.

SUSPENSION: Removal of a student from the regular school program for a period not to exceed the end of the semester. During the period of suspension, the student is excluded from all school-sponsored activities including practices, as well as competitive events, and/or activities sponsored by the school or its employees.

SYSTEM'S EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM FOR STUDENT AND PARENT: This early intervention program is for youth ages 12-18 and their parents/guardians. For a category one offense the Substance Use Prevention Education Resource (SUPER I) Program is a prerequisite for re-entry to the regular school program. For other indicated offenses, the SUPER I Program is voluntary, and the student and parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will be offered the opportunity to attend in lieu of up to half of the original suspension, not to exceed five (5) days. See your school counselor for more information about this program.

THEFT: The offense of taking or, if in lawful possession thereof, appropriating any property, of another with the intention of depriving that person of the property, regardless of the manner in which the property is taken or appropriated.

WAIVER: A waiver is a signed admission of guilt and/or acceptance of consequences in lieu of a formal disciplinary tribunal.

School Bus Guide

A public school transportation program has but one purpose - to safely transport the students. Therefore, it is extremely important that each student be aware of his/her role and responsibility in seeing that the entire operation works smoothly and efficiently. Several areas in which students are asked to cooperate are:

SAFE RIDING - 10 SAFETY RULES

1. Arrive at bus stop 10 minutes before scheduled pick-up time.
2. Dress for the weather - umbrella and raincoat for rain; coat and gloves when cold.
3. Never stand or play in the road. Wait for the bus at least 12 feet from the edge of the road in a safe location where you can clearly be seen by the bus driver.
4. Always use the handrail when boarding or leaving the bus. Do not wear clothing or carry bags that have strings or straps that could get caught in the handrail.
5. Remain seated when the bus is moving. Students' seats are designed to protect students in the event of an accident. Students should sit with their backs against the back of the seat and their bottom against the bottom of the seat.
6. Never try to reach anything under or beside the bus. If students drop something while crossing in front of the bus, do not return to pick it up. The bus driver cannot see students. After crossing safely, ask the driver for help.
7. Observe silence when approaching and while stopped for railroad crossings so the driver can hear if a train is coming.
8. Look carefully before crossing the road. Do not assume that a car will stop for students - wait to be sure it is stopped before crossing. Always watch for the driver's hand signal before crossing the road when loading and unloading. Students should look to their left and right before proceeding.
9. Always cross in front of the bus - never behind it!
10. Talk quietly. Do not "horseplay". The driver must give full attention to driving to ensure students' safety.

BUS STOP CONDUCT

- Students and parents are responsible for students' conduct at the bus stop, from home to the bus stop, and from the bus stop to the students' home. The bus stop is an extension of the classroom, as is the school bus. School rules and expectations apply to students at the bus stop as if they are in the school building.
- If students must cross a street or road to get to the bus stop on the opposite side, wait until the bus arrives and cross in front of the bus only after the stop sign on the bus is activated and only when signaled by the bus driver.
- Be at the bus stop 10 minutes early, but not too early. The bus driver is responsible for the maintenance of his schedule and cannot wait for tardy pupils. Each student should have books in hand and be ready to board the bus by the time the driver opens the door.
- Any student who leaves the school grounds while waiting for a bus to arrive will not be allowed to ride a bus home after returning to the school grounds. Individuals who leave the school grounds will be reported to the principal.
- If a student misses their bus in the morning it is dangerous to try to "meet the bus" at a later stop on the route. This action is prohibited and could result in serious injury or worse for students engaging in this behavior. If the student is late to the stop, parents/guardians should drive the student to school that day.

ENTERING AND LEAVING THE BUS

- A. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before attempting to board or leave the bus.
- B. Load starting at the rear of the bus, sitting three to a seat, unless otherwise directed by the driver.
- C. Enter and leave the bus in an orderly and quiet manner.
- D. Enter and leave the bus only at the front door, except in case of an emergency.
- E. After leaving the bus, if students must cross the highway, walk at least twelve feet in front of the bus, then:
 - Make certain the bus is stationary; the door is still open and the stop signal is extended.
 - Upon signal from the driver, proceed across the roadway in the following manner: Walk (don't run) in front of the bus within sight and hearing of the driver, look both ways and stay out of the line of traffic until the path across the roadway is free of any danger.
 - The danger signal is a blast of the horn. Stop immediately and look at the bus driver.
 - If you drop something after exiting the bus, do not return to retrieve it. The bus driver might not see you.
- F. A student will not be taken off a bus for misconduct at any place other than his home or school.

CONDUCT ON THE BUS

- A. Obey the bus driver.
- B. Do not disturb the bus driver while he/she is driving.
- C. Boys and girls will be seated separately.
- D. Stay in seat and do not change seats unless so directed by the driver - and then only if the bus is stopped.
- E. Sit down while the bus is in motion.
- F. Keep voices low. Avoid shouting or whistling.
- G. No bullying, "rough housing", pushing, fighting, throwing things, or profane or abusive language.

- H. Do not open or close windows of the bus without the driver's permission.
- I. Keep all body parts inside the bus.
- J. Keep the bus clean, sanitary, and orderly. Never tamper with the bus or any of its equipment. Willful damage or destruction of any part of the bus is prohibited and any such damage must be paid for by the student or parent.
- K. A student shall not operate the door nor stand in the driver's compartment.
- L. Always be respectful of the driver and other students on the bus.

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE PROHIBITED

Students shall be prohibited from acts of physical violence, bullying, physical assault or battery, verbal assault, and disrespectful conduct toward the driver or other persons on the school bus. Georgia law defines physical violence as (1) intentionally making physical contact with another that is of an insulting or provoking nature, (2) intentionally making physical contact which causes physical harm to another. Georgia law also mandates that students found by a tribunal to have committed an act of physical violence against a teacher, bus driver, school official, or school employee involving intentional physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature shall be disciplined by expulsion, long-term suspension, or short-term suspension. If physical violence against one of the above employees causes physical harm (unless in self-defense), the student shall be expelled from the public school system for the remainder of the student's eligibility to attend public school and referred to juvenile court. Students in kindergarten through grade eight who commit the above acts may, on the recommendation of the tribunal and at the discretion of the school system, be permitted to re-enroll in the regular public-school program for grades nine through twelve.

THE FOLLOWING ARE RESTRICTED ON THE BUS:

- A. Eating is not permitted on the bus during the school day.
- B. ***No glass container of any kind will be transported.***
- C. Beverages will not be permitted regardless of the type of container used. Exceptions may be made during particularly hot weather.
- D. The use of tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and vapers is forbidden.
- E. Students will not eat, drink, chew gum, or bring alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or any controlled substances on the bus.
- F. Students will not carry animals, glass objects, nuisance items, hazardous materials, or weapons onto the bus.
- G. Students will be permitted to carry only books and other items related to schoolwork which can be held in the student's lap. Large musical instruments, sports equipment, snakes, and live animals will not be transported. Band instruments may be transported if they can be held in the student's lap and if they do not take up seat space.
- H. Students are NOT allowed to wear headphones while loading and unloading buses.
- I. Students are allowed to "Bring Your Own Device" (BYOD) while on board the bus but shall be prohibited from using such device during the operation of the school bus in a manner that interferes with the communication equipment or the bus manager's/driver's operation of the school bus. The bus manager/driver may allow wearing of headphones with an audio system on a case-by-case basis as long as it is in accord with the local school rules.
- J. Students are prohibited from using mirrors, lasers, cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with the school bus driver's safe operation of the school bus.

School bus transportation is a privilege afforded pupils by the Board of Education; it is not a right. The purpose of the policies herein is to help create a safe and wholesome atmosphere for the students who ride the bus.

SCHOOL BUS ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Students are eligible for transportation by school bus provided they live within the attendance area of the school they attend. Bus routes are established under the direction of the Superintendent and in accord with recommendations of the Division of Pupil Transportation, Georgia Department of Education.

Additions to existing routes are based upon the following guidelines:

1. The student must live at least 3/10 miles from the present bus route and,
2. The student must live on a state or county maintained road with adequate space for the bus to turn around and,
3. The road must be wide enough for the bus and another vehicle to pass.

Students are assigned to a particular bus route and can only change buses with the approval of the Principal and the Transportation Department. Students must get on and get off from their assigned bus at selected bus stops unless written permission is granted to let off at a stop other than the designated stop. This request from the parent must be made in writing to the principal. Parents will assume the responsibility of the child when such a request is granted.

BOARD BUS DISCIPLINE POLICY

The transportation of students is an important function in our school system. Every precaution must be taken to see that students are transported safely. The same behavior is expected on the school bus as is expected in the classroom. The Code of Conduct and Discipline Procedures that apply for the school, also apply while students are being transported by any vehicle provided for the transportation of students. In addition, it is important that students abide by the bus discipline policies as outlined herein.

Fighting on the bus and abusive language or profanity toward the bus driver will result in a minimum of five days suspension from the bus. A student whose behavior warrants that the bus return to the school will be suspended from riding the bus for a minimum of twenty (20) days.

Bus Drivers will report specific disciplinary problems to the principal or assistant principal in writing on the Bus Conduct Report Form. If the driver is uncertain about who was unruly or who caused the disturbance, the driver will report the incident to the principal for investigation. After the principal administers the proper disciplinary action, a copy of the Bus Conduct Report Form will be forwarded to the parent, the bus driver, and the Transportation Supervisor that day or the following school day. This form will indicate the action taken by the principal. The principal will maintain a file of the Bus Conduct Report Form.

As required by Georgia law, a student found to have engaged in physical acts of violence* shall be subject to the penalties determined by a tribunal. If a student is found to have engaged in bullying or in physical assault or battery of another person on the school bus, a meeting involving the parent/guardian and appropriate school district officials shall be held to develop a school bus behavior contract. This contract shall provide for progressive age-appropriate discipline, penalties, and restrictions for student misconduct on the bus. Contract provisions may include but shall not be limited to assigned seating, ongoing parental involvement, and suspension from riding the bus.

It shall be the responsibility of all principals to abide by the following procedure for enforcing the bus conduct policy:

- First Offense: The principal shall take proper disciplinary action, which may include suspension from riding the bus, based on the nature or severity of the offense.
- Second Offense: The principal shall suspend the student from riding the bus for at least five (5) school days.
- Third Offense: The principal shall suspend the student from riding the bus for at least ten (10) school days.
- Fourth Offense: The principal shall suspend the student from riding the bus for at least twenty (20) school days.
- Fifth Offense: The principal shall suspend the student from riding the bus for sixty (60) school days.
- Sixth Offense: The principal shall suspend the student from riding the bus for one hundred eighty (180) school days.

Note: Students who are suspended from the bus are suspended from all buses. Unserved suspension will carry over to the next school year. Also, it is unlawful for any person to disrupt or interfere with the operation of a public-school bus or a public school bus stop as designated by local school boards of education. Please reference Georgia law 20-2-1181. If you have a need to communicate a short message to the driver, please approach from the driver side window. It is against Hall County School District policy for the bus drivers to allow non-school employees on board the school bus with the exception of first responders.

Traversa My Ride K12 Mobile App

With the Traversa My Ride K12 mobile app, parents and students can conveniently access their bus stop location, route, and pick-up time. One parent or guardian sets up the original account and has the ability to share it with others, making the process even more convenient.

Traversa Ride 360 - Phone App - Parent Access

1. Download the Traversa My RideK12 App from your App Store
 2. Open the My Ride K-12.
 3. Select Allow for the app to send you notifications
 4. At the following screen, you can either click on login or sign up. If you already have a Ride 360 username and password, you can log in with those credentials, and no further action is necessary. If not, click sign up to continue with your registration.
 5. Find your School District: **Hall County School District**
 6. Click on NEXT. A verification code will be sent to the email you signed up with
 7. At the Next Screen, click on Add student
 8. Enter Student's ID
 9. Enter the Student's Date of birth; once done you will have the choice to add another student or go back to the student information
- If you click on first tab, you can share your student information with another user
 - If you click on the middle tab, you will be able to see the route information and bus location
 - If you click on the third tab, this tab will display your child's student information

If you need any further assistance, you can always email us at bushelp@hallco.org or call us at 7702870942 x2 or visit www.hallco.org/web/using-ride-360.

(NOTE: You must stay logged into the App to Receive Push Notifications.)

APPENDIX A – Extracurricular Activities

Students who have questions about participation in specific activities should contact the school sponsor, advisor, or counselor. *Parents who do not want students to participate in one or more clubs must indicate such on the “Participation in Clubs and Organizations” form in Parent Portal.* (Note: Not all activities are available in all middle schools; where present, school name and sponsor name are listed. Counselors can provide information about activities available in each middle school.)

ACADEMIC TEAM

Mission: To foster and promote an increase of knowledge in youth

Activities: Compete in local and regional academic bowls

Sponsors:

- CA – Patrick Pitts
- CBMS – Chris Pope
- DMS - Susan Minton
- EHMS – Haynes Kaufman
- NHMS – Nathan Watson
- SHMS – Holli Greene
- WHMS – Corrie Mills

ANCHOR CLUB

Mission: To encourage the development of leadership, service, and friendship among peers with and without disabilities that create a welcoming school and community atmosphere for all students.

Activities: Socials, dances, group outings, group dinners, fundraising events, and Special Olympics

Sponsor:

- CA – Justin Reynolds
- NHMS – Jessica Satterfield

ARCHERY CLUB

Mission: The mission of the Scholastic 3D Archery program is to foster, educate, and guide youth in the areas of 3D, indoor, and outdoor target archery as well as safe, ethical bow hunting practices.

Activities: Weekly practices that prepare students for local competitions as well as national ASA tournaments. This will provide a healthy, active, and supportive team environment.

Sponsors:

- CA – Brian Smith

ART CLUB

Mission: To expand the appreciation of and skills for creating artwork

Activities: Study art techniques and history through field trips, guest artists, and community projects

Sponsors:

- CA – Taylor Seay
- CBMS – Jeannie Sandoval
- DMS – Donna McCallum
- SHMS – Naomi Saldierna
- WHMS – Alyssa Savas

BOOK CLUB

Mission: To inspire lifelong learning and a love of reading in each student

Activities: Regular meetings, may also include participation in the Hall County Reads Program

Sponsors:

- CBMS – Tricia Berry

CHESS CLUB

Mission: To foster a community of chess players and to promote the game of chess among students as a Meaningful hobby and means of intellectual challenge.

Activities: Weekly meetings for friendly and competitive play

Sponsor:

- CBMS – Ronnie Jones
- SHMS – Matt Wildeboer

CHORUS CLUB

Mission: Provides opportunities to be challenged with more difficult music and a higher level of musicianship

Activities: Additional school, county and state performances

Sponsor:

- EHMS – Lauren Davis

COLOR GUARD CLUB

Mission: The Color Guard Club is an organization that introduces the visual element of the band. The purpose of this club is to teach any interested individuals in 6th-8th grade about the sport of Color Guard and how to use different types of equipment with proper technique. We will build knowledge of what color guard is in a positive and supporting environment that builds community, friendship, work ethic, and a healthy competitive spirit.

Activities: Regular meetings, performances at scheduled events

Sponsors:

- CA – Hannah Interholzinger
- WHMS – Katy Wilson and Courtney Brooks

DEBATE

Mission: The Debate Club is a club where students who are interested in current events and community affairs can come together and discuss these situations. The members are divided into two teams to debate the topic. One team supports one view of the situation, while the other team supports the opposing view.

Activities: Practices and Debate Tournaments

Sponsors:

- CA - Brian Smith and Patrick Pitts

DECA

Mission: DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management.

Activities: Operates the school store, participates in competitive events, meets monthly

Sponsors:

- CA – Jeanne Rountree
- CBMS – Alex Mills
- DMS – Kristen Garner
- NHMS – Michelle Wiley
- WHMS – Tabatha Miller

DESPIERTATE

Mission: This is a broadcasting club in which students learn advanced life-long technology concepts, hone their planning, writing, and editing skills. Students learn critical thinkin and cooperative learning strategies as they are faced with producing the school announcements each day.

Activities: Design and produce school news each morning in Spanish.

Sponsors:

- WLA – Alfredo Hernandez

DRAMA CLUB

Mission: To provide experiences and further develop skills for participating in dramatic productions

Activities: Rehearses and performs skits and plays for students and community

Sponsors:

- DMS – Kai Bassett
- EHMS – Abbey Taylor
- NHMS – Dr. Ashley Whelchel
- SHMS –Jan Ewing
- WHMS – Jeillame Vazquez
- WLA – TBA

EL MERCADO

Mission: The purpose of El Mercado is to help students turn their ideas and passions into businesses to develop future business leaders.

Activities: Making and selling goods I the school street market.

Sponsors:

- WLA – Marian Montilla

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

Mission: To serve and protect the environment

Activities: Adopt a school animal, maintain and beautify the school, research and share ideas for science projects

Sponsors:

- CA –Jay Alexander
- SHMS – Caitlin Reed
- WHMS – TBA

FAMILY, CAREER AND COMMUNITY LEADERS OF AMERICA

Mission: To promotes personal growth and leadership

Activities: Community and school service projects with a focus on the family and family life

Sponsors:

- CA –Lorissa Crumley
- DMS – TBA
- NHMS –Hannah Smith
- SHMS - Brianna Whitlatch

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

Mission: Christian organization dedicated to character development, fellowship and service

Activities: Weekly guest speakers from local churches and organizations

Sponsors:

- CA – Casey Williams and Emilee Kemp
- CBMS –Cory Jones and Avery Jones
- DMS – Delana Crandall
- EHMS – Mia Torres
- NHMS – -Ashley Whelchel
- SHMS – Paige Evans and Crissy Ivey
- WHMS – James Stoudenmire & Zoe Kuzmowycz
- WLA – Clay Carlyle and Esther Curry

FISHING CLUB

Mission: To inspire students to build fishing skills, foster teamwork, and embrace leadership through exciting outdoor activities.

Activities: Compete in organized fishing tournaments.

Sponsors:

- CBMS – Alex Hicks

FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA

Mission: To provide innovative leadership and career development programs in the field of business

Activities: Job shadow programs and planning community service projects

Sponsors:

- CA – Tim Boyd
- EHMS – Karen Craft
- SHMS – Mason Seabolt

GAMING CLUB

Mission: Promotes community for students who have hobbies or interests in board games, anime, manga, K-Pop and other games

Activities: Regular meetings for games and activities

Sponsors:

- CA – Kevin Wallace
- CBMS – Ronnie Jones and Chris Pope
- EHMS - TBA
- SHMS – Matt Wildeboer

GOLF CLUB

Mission: “Great Opportunity Lifelong Fun” - To develop character and personal growth through the sport of golf by establishing a fun, competitive environment where integrity, sportsmanship, and leadership skills are emphasized.

Activities: Friendly and competitive rounds, practice at local driving ranges, and team building activities.

Sponsors:

- WHMS – TBA

HEALTH OCCUPATION STUDENTS OF AMERICA (HOSA)

Mission: Promotes career opportunities in the health care industry and enhances the delivery of quality health care

Activities: Conferences, competitions, meetings, health fairs, and community service projects

Sponsors:

- CA – Dr. Kimberly Reed
- CBMS – Jessica Williamson
- DMS – TBD
- EHMS – Anuel Burce
- NHMS – Damon Gowan
- SHMS – Christine Lytton
- WHMS - Lydia Richey

HONOR SOCIETY

Mission: To promote the ideals of leadership, character, and service, to reward meritorious achievement, and to encourage students to continue their education after high school.

Activities: Community Service through a canned food drive, Secret Santa program and participation in Relay for Life activities, fellowships, and field trips (pending board approval).

Sponsors:

- CA –Mandy Briscoe, Shelby Ledford, and Brian Smith
- EHMS – Katelin Baugh and Jennifer Fowler
- WHMS – Anna Beth Potter
- WLA – Maria Ortega

JUNIOR BETA CLUB

Mission: To foster hardworking, well-rounded students who are willing to help others

Activities: Junior Beta Club is a community service organization

Sponsors:

- CBMS - TBA
- DMS – Selena Nash and Jasmine Armour
- SHMS – Jan Ewing
- NHMS – Deticia Ooosthuizen
- WHMS – Anna Beth Potter

LACROSSE CLUB

Mission: Provide opportunities to learn the sport of lacrosse, to promote good sportsmanship, and to promote health and fitness.

Activities: Playing lacrosse

Sponsors:

- CBMS – TBA

MEDIA PRODUCTIONS CLUB

Mission: To promote interest in filming, video productions and public speaking

Activities: Plan, create, film, and edit special broadcasts for school productions

Sponsors:

- SHMS – Makenzie Abernethy
- WHMS – Nicole Nguyen

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Mission: An international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college

Activities: Bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and international levels

Sponsors:

- DMS – TBD

ROBOTICS CLUB

Mission: To expand the appreciation of robotics, computer programming and team cooperation

Activities: Meetings to build robots to accomplish various tasks and participation in competitions.

Sponsor:

- NHMS –TBA
- WLA – Alfredo Hernandez and Roberto Acero

RUNNING CLUB/CYCLING CLUB

Mission: To promote and lead a healthy and active lifestyle

Activities: Healthy activities, running events, cycling events

Sponsor:

- CA (Running) – TBA
- CBMS (Running) – Colby West
- NHMS (Running) – Mary Wingo
- SHMS – (Running) – Joey Hannon and Lillian Hannon
- WHMS (Running) – Colleen Rainey
- WLA – (Running) – Adam Perillo

SKILLS USA

Mission: To serve middle school students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical, and skilled service occupations.

Activities: Meetings, community service activities, region, state, national competitions, and conferences in skill and leadership categories.

Sponsor:

- CA – Tim Boyd
- EHMS – David Martin
- SHMS – Kyle Stubbs

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Mission: To provide skill, sharing, and joy

Activities: Train and compete in various sports chosen by the Special Olympics coaches

Sponsor:

- CA – Justin Reynolds

STOCK MARKET CLUB

Mission: To provide opportunities for students to learn about the stock market. Students will research companies and buy/sell stocks through a simulation. Teams are given a hypothetical portfolio to manage over a 10-week period.

Activities: Meetings, online simulation

Sponsor:

- NHMS – Ashley Durham

STUDENT COUNCIL/STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAMS/STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Mission: To represent the student body; instill in students a sense of citizenship and community service

Activities: Coordinating student/school activities, leading service-oriented projects and fundraisers, and implementing student/school recognitions

Sponsors:

- CA – Hannah Interholzinger
- CBMS – Cory Jones and Sonja Neville
- DMS – Holly Taylor
- EHMS – Jennifer Parker and Josh Chapman
- NHMS (Student Leadership Team) – Alicia Brown
- SHMS (Student Leadership Team) - Amanda Leonard and Brian Shirley
- WHMS – TBA
- WLA – Simone Griffith

STUDENTS WORKING AGAINST TOBACCO (SWAT)

Mission: To educate students about the dangers of tobacco

Activities: Various education programs in the school illustrating the dangers and effects of tobacco

Sponsors:

- WHMS – JP Eslava and Arielle Sabina

SWIM CLUB

Mission: To increase swim skill and promote personal fitness.

Activities: Participation in swim contests.

Sponsors:

- CA – Donna Smith
- CBMS – Kristi Goodwin
- DMS – TBA
- WHMS – Sandy Cantel

TECHNOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Mission: To prepare its membership for the challenges of a dynamic world by promoting technological literacy, leadership, and problem solving skills, resulting in personal growth and opportunities

Activities: Regular meetings and competitive events

Sponsors:

- NHMS –Marty Irwin
- SHMS – Makenzie Abernethy
- WHMS – Nicole Nguyen

TENNIS CLUB

Mission: To develop work ethic and personal growth through tennis by establishing a fun, competitive environment where teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership skills are emphasized.

Activities: Friendly and competitive matches, Saturday clinics, team building activities

Sponsors:

- CBMS – Colby West
- WHMS – Renee Adams

TOME

Mission: To focus on multiple literacies that allow students to read, write, and interact across a range of platforms, tools, and media. Students will explore information, digital, technology, media, and foundational literacy to identify type of information, and the correct method, format, and medium for sharing and accessing information based on an identified audience.

Activities: Conferences, service learning projects, rallies, competitions and philanthropic efforts.

Sponsors:

- CA – Lauren Moody
- CBMS – Emily Allison
- DMS – Christa Holland
- EHMS – Jennifer Parker
- NHMS – Billie DeVito
- SHMS – Kelsi Peterman & Michelle Turner
- WHMS – Deidre Kell
- WLA - TBA

YEARBOOK

Mission: To produce a quality and representative student memory book

Activities: Design, develop and market student annuals

Sponsors:

- CA – Leah Lomas and Lauren Moody
- CBMS – Suzanne Aultman
- DMS – TBA
- EHMS – Rose Griffin
- NHMS – Laura Becker
- SHMS – Xenia Chon
- WHMS – Anna Beth Potter
- WLA – Gabriela Cardenas

NOTES

2026–2027 School Year

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3



