

**PLEASANT HOME SCHOOL
STUDENT HANDBOOK
&
SUPPLEMENT TO THE
COVINGTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT
August 2023**

This Pleasant Home School Student Handbook and Supplement to the Covington County School Code of Student Conduct has been prepared to call to your attention the school policies in effect for the 2023-2024 school year. These policies have been adopted by the Covington County Board of Education. The policies are a result of recommendations of various committees composed of teachers, students, and parents.

It is the official policy of the Covington County School System and Pleasant Home School that no person shall, on the grounds of race, sex, religion, color, creed, national origin, handicap, or age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any program, activity, or employment. Inquiries or complaints regarding compliance with federal regulations on 504, Title I, Title II, and Title IX may be directed to Chris Thomasson, Covington County Board of Education, 807 C. C. Baker Avenue, Andalusia, AL 36421, (334) 222-7571.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Covington County School System is to provide students with the skills and knowledge to become respectful, responsible, and resourceful members of society.

Additions

The school administration reserves the right to implement new rules, regulations, or directions during the school year for situations that may not be covered in this handbook. These changes will always be within the current policies of the Covington County Board of Education.

Daily School Opening Routine

Each morning immediately after the tardy bell rings at 7:50 the following routine will be followed:

1. Morning Character Education message read by a student over the intercom
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
3. Moment of silence (during this time students and staff may have a time of quiet reflection, meditate, or pray silently as they choose)
4. Daily announcements

Note: Students should be in the classroom, remain quiet, and pay attention to the message, remain in place during the Pledge of Allegiance and the moment of silence.

Note: All announcements that need to be made should be on Mr. Wood's's desk by 7:45.

Character Education traits emphasized during the morning messages include:

cheerfulness	creativity	loyalty	love
citizenship	diligence	patience	school pride
cleanliness	fairness	patriotism	self-control
compassion	generosity	perseverance	self-respect
cooperation	honesty	punctuality	sportsmanship
courage	kindness	tolerance	respect for others
respect for the environment			

School Bus Transportation

School buses are used to provide free transportation for students to and from school. Students are expected to abide by all school bus regulations. Students are to always ride the bus to which they are assigned. When there is a need for a student to ride another bus for good reason, the parent/guardian should write a note to the principal or assistant principal requesting the temporary change. These notes, when approved, are signed by the school administrator and given to the student. Students then give the note to the driver of the bus they need to ride. **Requests are not approved for students to ride home with a friend on another bus simply to visit or "spend the night".**

Pleasant Home School Varsity Football Schedule 2023

Starting Time: 7:00 P.M.

Aug. 25	A.L. Johnson	Home
Sept. 8	Red Level	Home
Sept. 15	McKenzie	Home
Sept 22	Floral	Away
Sept 29	Zion Chapel	Home
Oct 5	Kinston	Home
Oct. 13	Houston County	Away
Oct. 20	Brantley	Home
Oct. 27	Elba	Away
Nov. 3	Georgiana	Away

Basketball Schedule 2023-2024

Starting Time: 4:30

Nov. 9	Kinston	B-G-V	Home	4:30
Nov. 14	Zion Chapel	B-G-V	Away	4:30
Nov. 17	Goshen	B-G-V	Home	4:30
Nov 20 - 21	Chickasaw Tourn.	VB	Away	TBA
Nov. 28	New Brockton	B-G-V	Away	4:30
Nov. 30	Goshen	B-G-V	Away	4:30
Dec. 1	Opp	B-G-V	Home	4:30
Dec. 5	Floral	B-G-V	Home	4:30
Dec. 7	Samson	B-G-V	Away	4:30
Dec. 8	Zion Chapel	B-G-V	Home	4:30
Dec 12	Opp	B-G-V	Away	4:30
Dec. 15	Kinston	B-G-V	Away	4:30
Dec. 16	Floral Classic	G-V	Away	4:30
Dec .19	Brantley	B-G-V	Away	4:30
Dec. 28-30	Elba Tourn.	VB	Away	TBA
Jan. 2	JF Shields	B-G-V	Home	4:30
Jan. 5	Red Level	B-G-V	Away	4:30
Jan. 9	Straughn	B-G-V	Away	4:30
Jan. 12	McKenzie	B-G-V	Away	4:30
Jan. 16	Red Level	B-G-V	Away	4:30
Jan. 18	JF Shields	B-G-V	Away	4:30
Jan. 19	Straughn	B-G-V	Home	4:30
Jan. 23	Georgiana	B-G-V	Home	4:30
Jan. 26	McKenzie	B-G-V	Home	4:30*Homecoming
Jan. 30	Red Level	B-G-V	Home	4:30
Feb. 1	New Brockton	B-G-V	Home	4:30

Parental Involvement

Parents are encouraged to become involved in the school and school activities. To promote parental involvement the following activities are planned:

September 29 , 2023
Grandparents Day
October 3, 2023
Open House/ Title 1 Annual Meeting
Nov. 10, 2023
Veterans Day Program
December 15, 2023
Christmas Program
January 26, 2024
Homecoming
May 14, 2024
High School Awards Day
May 15, 2024
Elementary Awards Day
May 17, 2024
Pre K and Kindergarten Programs

In addition to these scheduled events, the school provides each family with a magnetic calendar that indicates school holidays, report card days and other information. Information for parents is also printed on the back of report cards and progress reports. Elementary teachers send school work and information to parents on a weekly basis.

The school has a crisis communication telephone line to have emergency or urgent messages relayed to parents as needed.

Parents are welcome to visit the school at any time. Appointments should be made for conferences with teachers or other school personnel. Parents should report to the office upon arrival at the school to sign-in. If you plan to have lunch at school with your child, please check with the teacher or the office for the lunch schedule. Cost of meals in the cafeteria for visiting adults is \$3.75.

Welcome Letter from Principal

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to Pleasant Home!

I am excited to join the Pleasant Home family as your principal and I would like to extend a warm welcome to each of you as we begin a new academic year filled with promise, growth, and endless possibilities. Whether you are a returning student or joining our school for the first time, we are thrilled to have you as part of our wonderful school community.

At Pleasant Home School, we believe that education is a journey of exploration, discovery, and life-long learning. Our mission is to provide a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment where every student can thrive academically, athletically, socially, and emotionally. We are committed to fostering a love for learning, promoting critical thinking skills, and encouraging creativity in all our students. As parents, you play a crucial role in your child's education, and we value your involvement and support immensely. We encourage open communication between parents, teachers, and the school administration to ensure that we are all working together to create the best possible learning environment for your children.

Throughout the school year, we will provide a wide range of opportunities for students to explore their interests, develop their passions, and build friendships that will last a lifetime. Our extracurricular activities, clubs, and community events will offer students a chance to grow both academically and personally. At Pleasant Home School, we are not just a school; we are a family, grounded in character. We believe in building a strong sense of community and fostering values such as respect, kindness, and empathy. We are committed to instilling in our students a sense of responsibility towards themselves, others, and the world around them.

I am truly honored to be part of such a vibrant and caring school community. Together, we will make the 2023-2024 academic year a memorable and enriching experience for every student at Pleasant Home School. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to our school office.

Sincerely,

Barry Wood, Principal

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Injury Policy

In the event of injury or severe illness to any student in Covington County Schools, appropriate first aid will be rendered and the parent/guardian will be notified as soon as possible. Should school personnel be unable to locate the appropriate parent/guardian and the injury/illness requires medical attention, the student will be transported to the designated doctor on his/her information card or taken to the nearest emergency room of the local hospital.

Cheerleading Policy

In order for students to try out for cheerleading in the spring for the succeeding school year, they must currently meet the academic requirements of the Alabama High School Athletic Association. They are required to maintain their eligibility for the upcoming school year.

Alabama State Department of Education Policy Cell Phone/Digital Device in a Testing Setting

Cell Phone/Digital Device in a Testing Setting by Students

The possession of digital devices (including but not limited to cell phones, MP3 players, cameras, mobile entertainment, social connections, navigation devices, or other telecommunication devices) is **strictly prohibited** in the testing setting. Local Education Agency (LEA) school personnel will collect such devices before students can enter the testing room.

If a device is in the possession of a student in the testing setting, testing for the student will cease, the device will be confiscated, the student will be dismissed from testing, and the student's test will be invalidated.

Additional disciplinary action may be taken by the LEA.

Cell Phone/Digital Device in a Testing Setting By School Personnel

School personnel involved in administration of state testing may not use digital devices (including but not limited to telephones, cell phones, MP3 players, cameras, mobile entertainment, social connections, navigation devices, or other telecommunication devices) during test administration. Violations may result in disciplinary action/certification revocation.

Additional disciplinary action may be taken by the LEA.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2023-2024

Authorized law enforcement personnel are excluded from provisions of this policy.

Parents/guardians and other persons found in violation of this policy will be:

- 1. Placed on immediate suspension from employment pending an investigation, or from visitation or attendance at any school, or school system function or activity.
- 2. Referred to appropriate law enforcement or criminal justice authorities and/or in the case of an employee, brought before the Board of Education for disciplinary action.

Announcement of this policy shall be posted at every Board owned building and other property, as well as in the school handbook, and on the system web-site, so that school personnel, parents/guardians and the general public will be given adequate notice.

Gun-Free School Act of 1994

To comply with the Gun-Free School Act of 1994, it is the policy of Covington County Schools to prohibit all persons other than authorized law enforcement personnel, from bringing or possessing any deadly weapon or dangerous instrument on school property. Any student who brings a weapon as defined by the Act on school property will be automatically expelled from school for a minimum of one (1) year and will be prohibited from participating in any school system activity. Any school personnel who violates this policy will be suspended notwithstanding any criminal penalties which may also be imposed. Only the Superintendent of schools shall have the authority to modify such actions on a case by case basis.

Participation for Any School Activities

Students must meet the same academic and attendance requirements as required by the Alabama High School Athletic Association in order to participate in any school related activities. This includes but is not limited to beauty pageant, homecoming court, club meetings, class officers, and athletics. School organizations may enforce higher requirements as stated in their by-laws.

First Day of School (Students).....Monday, August 14, 2023

Last Day of School (Students)..... Thursday, May 23, 2024

- Holidays
- Labor Day.....September 4, 2023
 - Fall Break.....October 09, 2023
 - Veteran’s Day.....November 10, 2023
 - Thanksgiving.....November 20-24, 2023
 - Christmas & New Years.....December 18-December 30, 2023
(Dismiss Dec. 16-Teachers and Students return Jan. 2,2024)
 - King/Lee Birthday.....January 15, 2024
 - Break/Weather Day.....February 19, 2024
 - Spring Break.March 25-March 29, 2024
 - Break/Weather Day.....April 26, 2024

Reporting Dates (9 week reporting periods)

- First reporting period ends Oct. 12, 2023 (42 days)
- Second reporting period & end of 1st semester Dec. 15 (40 days)
First Semester = 82 days
- Third reporting period ends March 07, 2024 (46 days)
- Fourth reporting period & end of 2nd semester May 23 (49 days)
Second Semester = 95 days/177 year

Progress Reports: Sept. 14, Nov. 16, Feb. 15, Apr. 18

Report Cards: Oct. 19, Jan. 11, March 21, May 23

All Day In-Service Meetings (students do not attend)

May 24, 2023

PLEASANT HOME SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Barry Wood , Principal
Marc Tracy, Assistant Principal
Tony Wilson, Counselor

High School Teachers

Mrs. Shannon Aplin, Special Services, Head Softball Coach
Mr. Kenneth Bledsoe, Physical Education , Head Boys Basketball Coach
Mrs. Karen Castleberry, Vocational Agribusiness
Mrs. Denise Clark, High School Special Education
Mrs. Chelsea Farley, Math
Mrs. Lori Fuqua, Librarian
Mrs. Kelley Garner, Physical Education, Head Golf Coach
Mrs. Christin Harrington, Home Economics, Varsity and JV Cheerleading
Ms. Cindy Martin, English, Social Studies
Ms. Angie Owens, English
Mr. Todd Reynolds , Science, Asst. Football Coach
Mr. Cody Sellers, Social Studies, Head Football Coach, Head Baseball Coach
Mr. Jeremy Silcox, Social Studies
Mrs. Jessica Ward, Math
Mrs. Jennifer Withrow, English, Drama

Elementary School Teachers

Ms. Kaitlyn Beverly, Speech Pathology
Ms. Natalie Broussard, Second Grade
Mrs. Kriston Bush, Elementary Intervention Teacher, Yearbook
Mrs. Mendy Clark, Fourth Grade, Asst. Cross Country Coach
Ms. Ivy Davis, PreK
Mrs. DeAnne DuBose, Fifth Grade
Mrs. Lori Griffin, Fourth Grade
Mrs. Amanda Gunter, Third Grade
Mrs. Lucretica Hawkins, Second Grade
Mrs. Kristi Hildreth, Reading Coach
Mrs. Charlotte Holley, Third Grade
Mrs. Jessica Kelley, First Grade
Mrs. Amy Norris, Elementary Special Education, Jr. High Cheerleading
Mrs. Megan Pinckard, Elementary Special Education
Mrs. Kellie Powell, Fifth Grade
Mrs. Trinity Riley, Kindergarten
Mrs. Kathy Robbins, Kindergarten
Mrs. Sarah Sasser, Sixth Grade
Mrs. Casherria Sims, Sixth Grade
Mrs. Erin Watkins, First Grade
Mrs. Dana McMath, County wide Gifted

COVINGTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Possession of Weapons and Firearms By School Personnel, Parents/Guardians And Other Persons

School personnel, parents/guardians and other persons are prohibited from bringing firearms or other weapons on school system property at any time or to any school system function or activity. Items forbidden shall include, but not be limited to the following: any weapon which will or is designated to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of any explosive, the frame or receiver of any weapon described above, and firearm muffler or firearm silencer, any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas (bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charger of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, fireworks/pyrotechnics of any class, mine, or similar device), any weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of any explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter, any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described in the two immediately preceding examples, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled, knives, openers, metallic knuckles, tear gas gun, chemical weapon or device, double/triple/quadruple rings which are attached or connected in such fashion that they may be used as a weapon, explosive devices including fireworks of any description, any items which may be used as clubs, all sharp or pointed objects designed for use as weapons, or any other weapon, instrument or object.

Student Council

The student council was organized for Pleasant Home School during the 1996-97 school year. Two students from each grade 6-12 are elected as representatives on the council. A president and vice president are elected in a school wide election in the spring. Students must meet the Constitution by Laws of Student Council to qualify to serve as council members and to hold the office of President and Vice President. New members are elected each year. The election for President and Vice President are held in the spring of each year.

Referrals

Referrals for the different programs may be made as follows:

Special Services	Mr. Tony Wilson	PHS
	Mrs. Kelly McCollough	Central Office
504 (ADA)	Mr. Tony Wilson	PHS
	Mrs. Kelly McCollough.	Central Office
Title IX	Mr. Tony Wilson	PHS
	Mrs. Kelly McCollough	Central Office
Sexual Harassment	See Code of Conduct	

Athletic Eligibility

To meet the academic rule, a student must meet the requirements of the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

A student must supply the school with a certified birth certificate. Physical exams must be current and on file in the principal's office before practicing or participating in any interscholastic contest.

Every student must have completed the appropriate STAR Sportsmanship Program and filled out the Concussion Information form before participating in any interscholastic contest.

Any student athlete who is ejected from a contest is required to reimburse the school the amount of the fine before participating in any future games.

Any coach who is ejected has to abide by the same policy.

Support Personnel

Mrs. Rhonda Bass, Lunchroom Manager
 Ms. Martha Glisson, Paraprofessional
 Mrs. Debbie Godwin, Bookkeeper /Secretary
 Mrs. Evelyn Heichel, Secretary
 Mrs. Alwin Law, Lunchroom Worker
 Mrs. Leigh Lee, Pre K Auxiliary
 Mrs. Deborah McVay, Lunchroom Worker
 Mrs. Cassandra Pate, Nurse
 Mr. Joe Schneider, Resource Officer
 Mrs. Kimberly Sherman, Receptionist/Secretary
 Ms. Tammie Sims, Custodian
 Mr. Matt Smith, Custodian
 Mrs. Christy Weaver, Custodian

Bus Drivers

Mr. Tim Fore	22-30	Mrs. Bridget Migliaccio	18-84
Mrs. Vickie Grissett	19-03	Mr. Chris Morris	16-70
Mrs. Rhonda Hardy	20-07	Mrs. Angela Seymour	19-29
Mrs. Brenda Jackson	21-36	Mrs. Stephanie Smith	15-75
Mr. Sidney McKathan	23-41	Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor	17-17

Central Office Staff

Mr. Shannon Driver, Superintendent	Mrs. Samantha Carroll, Child Nutrition
Mr. Randy McGlaun, Trans/Maint. Sup.	Mr. Chris Thomasson, Fed. Programs Coordinator
Mrs. Nikki Guilford, Curriculum Coord.	
Mr. Mark Miller, Technology Coord.	Mrs. Tonya Adams, Psychometrist, Testing Coord.
Mrs. Kelly McCollough, Sp.Ed. Coord.	

Covington County Board of Education Members

Mr. James L. Rodgers	Mr. Jeff Bailey, President
Mr. John P. Thomasson	Dr. James Barton, Vice President
Mr. James T. Prestwood	

HIGH SCHOOL TIME SCHEDULE

7:45 First Bell
7:50 Tardy Bell

Senior High (9-12 Grades)		Junior High (7 th /8 th Grades)
7:50 - 8:50	First Period	7:50 - 8:50 First Period
8:54 - 9:48	Second Period	8:50 - 9:02 Recess
9:48 - 10:00	Recess	9:07 - 10:00 Second Period
10:05 -10:55	Third Period	10:05- 10:55 Third Period
10:59 -11:49	Fourth Period	10:59- 11:49 Fourth Period
11:53 -12:45	Fifth Period	11:49 -12:07 Lunch
12:45 - 1:05	Lunch	12:12 - 1:05 Fifth Period
1:10 - 2:03	Sixth Period	1:10 - 2:03 Sixth Period
2:08 - 3:00	Seventh Period	2:08 - 3:00 Seventh Period

3:08 Last Bell/Buses Leave

Parking

1. Assigned parking permits are required to be purchased from Deputy Schneider.
2. Parking permits will cost \$15.00 per year. Students will be able to move the permit from one vehicle to another, but must register each vehicle they plan to drive to school. All drivers must be fully licensed, (must be at least 9th grade, license in good standing, no permit...etc.) and proof of insurance to receive a parking permit. The cost of a lost parking permit is \$5.00.
3. The parking lot is off-limits to students during the school day. This includes the lunch period unless the student is leaving to go to work.
4. If a student must go to the car during the school day, he must receive clearance from the office or the duty teachers.
5. Parking rules apply to motorcycles in the same manner as autos.
6. Students are to park in the designated areas and never on the shoulder of the road.

Telephone

The telephone is for school use only. Students will be allowed to use the telephone in the **main office only** in case of emergencies. Phones in other locations of the school are not to be used by students to make calls to their homes or other places. The school secretary will make the necessary call. No student will receive an incoming message unless the office personnel determine that it is an emergency. Students should advise their friends of this policy.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices

It is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct to have cell phones or electronic devices at school. (See student Code of Conduct for further clarification.)

Class Size Reduction

Class Size Reduction (CSR) is a reform strategy that is used at the state and national levels. Federal funds available for CSR are based on research that shows positive outcomes for early grade levels. CSR increases the available instructional time between the teacher and student while reducing the student-to-student interaction. Teachers also spend less time on classroom management and more time on classroom instruction which should enhance student performance. Covington County Schools goal with CSR funds is to reduce the number of students in some classes to twenty or fewer students. For more information about CSR please contact Covington County Schools.

Child Find: Help Us Locate Children with Disabilities

In accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Covington County Schools announces ongoing Child Find activities to locate, identify, and evaluate children with disabilities from birth to 21 years of age. If you know of anyone from birth to 21 with a disability or suspected disability that is not presently enrolled in a public school program, please contact the office of Special Education. Covington County Schools, 807 C.C. Baker Avenue, Andalusia, AL 36421 or call this office at (334) 427-3819

Worthless Check Policy

Any individual submitting a worthless check shall be charged a non-sufficient funds check fee of \$30 for all returned checks whether collected or not. Should a school receive a second bad check from an individual, then no further checks are to be accepted from that individual. The local district attorney's office will be utilized in the collection of bad checks should this action become necessary. Non-public funds must be used to cover any insufficient checks in state, federal, or public fund accounts.

Debts

Students are responsible for debts that are incurred at school. All debts must be cleared in a prompt manner. Failure to pay debts owed to the school or school organization can result in disciplinary actions such as holding report cards, denial of participation in school activities, or in the case of seniors, the denial of participating in graduation exercises. Debts, include, but are not limited to lost or damaged school property or equipment, library fines, penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct in athletic contests, and shortages in fund-raising activities.

Exam Schedule

Tuesday

December 13, 2023 and May 21, 2024

(Students may check out at 12:00 with a note from a parent/guardian)

7:45-8:00	Homeroom
8:00-9:15	1st Period Exam
9:15-9:35	Break
9:40-10:50	2nd Period Exam
10:55-12:00	4th Period Exam
12:00-12:25	7-12 Lunch
12:30-1:20	3rd Period
1:25-2:15	5th Period
2:15-3:00	7th Period

Wednesday

December 14, 2023 and May 22, 2024

(Students may check out at 11:30 with a note from a parent/guardian)

7:45-8:30	Study in Homeroom for Exams
8:30-9:40	3rd Exam
9:40-10:00	Break
10:05-11:30	5th Exam
11:30-12:00	7-12 Lunch
12:00-1:30	6th Period
1:30-3:00	7th Period

Thursday

December 15, 2023 and May 23, 2024

7:45-8:30	Study in Homeroom for Exams
8:30-9:40	6th Exam
9:40-10:00	Break
10:05-11:30	7th Exam
11:30-12:00	7-12 Lunch

*School Dismisses at 12:00

Elementary Lunch Schedule For the First day of Exams

10:30 – 11:20	Kindergarten, 4 th , 6 th grades
11:20--11:50	Pre K, 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 5 th grades

Elementary Lunch Schedule for the Last Two Days of Exams

10:15-11:00	Pre K, Kindergarten, 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd grades
11:00-11:30	4 th , 5 th , 6 th grades

All students must stay in their assigned classes for the entire testing period. Students who have proper permission from home may check out of school early **only** when they have completed all exams and/or work scheduled for that day. This includes teacher aides.

Covington County Schools
Meal Prices
2023-2024

Student Paid Lunch	\$2.50
Student Reduced Lunch	.40
Student Paid Breakfast	1.25
Student Reduced Breakfast	.30
Adult Employee Lunch	3.50
Adult Employee Breakfast	2.50
Visitor lunch	3.75
Visitor Breakfast	2.50

Lunchroom Purchases May Not Be Charged

Covington County Schools is pleased to provide students a wholesome and nutritious breakfast and lunch meal every day. Meal prices have been established for student breakfast and lunch meals. Student meals must be paid at the time of purchase or pre-paid in advance. Cash or checks are accepted. We want to remind families that **Covington County Schools does not allow students to charge their breakfast, lunch, or a la carte purchases.** Each family is responsible to ensure their student arrives at school with money or pre-pay in advance. If a non-sufficient fund check is received twice from the household, only cash will be accepted for meal payments.

At the beginning of each school year, all students receive an application for Free and Reduced meals. We encourage families to complete this application and return it to your local school as soon as possible. Applications are approved and valid for only the current school year. A new application must be filled out each school year. If you did not receive an application contact your local school. Parents and students will be advised in writing upon approval or denial of eligibility for free and reduced price benefits.

Conduct at School

Buildings and Grounds

All students are urged to cooperate with the staff in keeping the buildings and grounds neat and attractive. Students are responsible for keeping their assigned lockers neat and clean. Trash cans are placed around the campus and should be used. Drinks and snacks should be consumed in the break area and kept out of the halls. Food and drinks in lockers must be in a lunch box or thermos.

Cafeteria

A student should carefully stack his tray in the window before leaving the room. Each student should help keep the cafeteria clean. To crowd or push ahead in the lunch line is not courteous. Students who do this will be sent to the end of the line.

Decorum

Decorum for school can be compared to that of any other place of business. Public display of affection should not be displayed in the hall, or in any other part of the campus. A display of public affection is not in keeping with the purpose for which students attend school.

Conduct at School Sponsored Activities

People attending ball games, beauty contests, and other school-sponsored activities should show courtesy to others. Polite applause only is appropriate at activities such as beauty pageants, graduation, and assemblies. Cheering at ball games should always be done in the true spirit of good sportsmanship. Booing or making insulting remarks toward the opposing team should not be done. Students may be suspended from school because of unacceptable behavior at school activities.

Valuables

Students should refrain from bringing unnecessary cash or expensive jewelry to school. Students are required to use a combination lock on their lockers.

Lockers

Students in grades 5-12 are assigned lockers. Students are to use only the locker assigned to them. Each student is responsible for keeping his/her locker neat and clean. Nothing is to be placed on top of lockers. Stickers, decals, and other items are not to be pasted, taped, or otherwise put on locker doors.

Locker Fee

Students in grades 5-12 will be charged a \$10.00 locker fee. This fee is charged at any time during the year when a student enrolls. There is no refund if a student leaves school during the year. (This is not a deposit it is a fee) At the end of the year lockers and locks will be inspected. If there is damage to a locker or if a lock is lost, the student will be required to pay for the lost lock or damage done to the locker. The cost for a lost lock is \$10.00.

Office

The office is a place of business. Everyone is asked to be considerate of those working there and reduce to a minimum the interruptions of the working staff. No one should be in the office unless school business requires it.

Disciplinary Action for Class I and Class II

Offenses are left to the discretion of the individual schools. Disciplinary action for Class I and Class II offenses at Pleasant Home School are handled by the individual teachers and/or referrals to the office. Disciplinary measure may include any of the following depending on the nature of the offense and the frequency of occurrences:

Recess Detention
Telephone Parents
Conference with Student and/or Parents
Written Assignment
Crisis Management
Corporal Punishment
In school suspension
Out of school suspension
Other punishment as deemed appropriate by teacher or school Administrator.

Enrollment Criteria and Documentation Required

Criteria:

1. Students must meet the criteria set forth by the Covington County Board of Education.

Documentation Required:

Transfer students should provide the following:

1. Completed enrollment form
2. Immunization Form
3. Certified birth certificate
4. Social security card
5. Withdrawal form from previous school
6. Name and address of previous school

Please contact Covington County Schools' Federal Programs Section at (334) 222-7571 to obtain parental notifications in a language other than English.

NOTE: Migrant, ESL/LEP, Homeless, and Immigrant students will be assisted in obtaining necessary documents.

High School Sponsors 2023-2024

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
7	C. Martin's Room	C. Martin
8	Harrington's Room	Harrington Castleberry
9	Ward's Room	Ward Withrow
10	T. Reynold's Room	Reynolds Sellers
11	Farley's Room	Farley Silcox Fuqua
12	Owens' Room	Wilson Owens

First period teachers will verify attendance for all students assigned to them first period regardless of their grade level. The first period teachers will also give out schedules the first day of school, collect enrollment forms, and hand out report cards on the day they are distributed.

Sponsors will meet with assigned class for class meeting and work with that grade level for extra curricular activities.

Club Sponsors

Elementary 4-H (grades 5/6)	DuBose
Junior 4-H	Martin
Junior Beta Club	Owens
Senior Beta Club	Owens
Student Council	Fuqua
FFA	Castleberry
FCCLA	Harrington
Senior 4-H	Castleberry
Yearbook	Bush
Peer Helpers	Garner
FCA	Garner
Drama	Withrow
Culture Club	Withrow

Code of Student Conduct

The Code of Student Conduct, adopted June 13, 1995, and amendments as approved by the Covington County Board of Education addresses the items listed below. Each student will be provided a copy of the code on the first day of school or when he/she enrolls during the year. Students should read and become familiar with the policies and procedures outlined in the Code of Student Conduct. (Adopted 6-13, 1995; Amended 6-10, 1996, 5-13, 1997, 8-4, 1998, 6-8, 1999, 7-11, 2000, 5-1, 2001, 4-1, 2002, 4-6, 2004, 5-3, 2005, 5-2, 2006, 5-22, 2007, 4-1, 2008).

Note: Grievance and Complaint Procedure for parents, students, and employees of the Covington County Board of Education is outlined elsewhere in this handbook.

Clarification and routine procedures specific for Pleasant Home students will be given to the students through daily announcements. Areas covered in the

Code of Student Conduct are:

Attendance	After-School Detention
Documentation of Absences	Truancy
Absences	Crisis Management Program
Tardiness	Alternative School
Disciplinary Action for Tardies	School Bus Suspension
Check-ins	Corporal Punishment
Check-outs	Suspension from School
Code of Student Conduct	Electronic Communication
Search of Property & Individual	Recording Devices
Dress and Appearance	Expulsion
Makeup Work	Possession of Weapons on campus
Disciplinary Procedures	
Anti Harassment/Bullying Policy	

Meningococcal vaccine:

Who should get the vaccine and when?

MCV4, or the meningococcal vaccine, is recommended for all children 11-12 years of age and for unvaccinated adolescents at high school entry (15 years of age). High school seniors should also consider obtaining the vaccine prior to entering college, especially if they are planning on living in a dormitory. Please consult your physician or local health department for more information. **For more information on this and other vaccine recommendations go to: www.adph.org/immunization**

Armed Forces Recruitment

The following provision of the No Child Left Behind Act relates to the ability of the United States military and institutions of higher education to request certain student information from Covington County School's high schools to be used for purposes of recruitment by these entities.

SEC. 9528. ARMED FORCES RECRUITER ACCESS TO STUDENTS AND RECRUITING INFORMATION.

- (a) POLICY – (1) ACCESS TO STUDENT RECRUITING INFORMATION – Notwithstanding section 444 (a)(5)(B) of the General Education Provisions Act and except as provided in paragraph (2), each local educational agency receiving assistance under this Act shall provide, on a request made by military recruiters or an institution of higher education, access to secondary school students names, addresses, and telephone listings.
- (2) CONSENT – A secondary school student or the parent of the student may request that the student's name, address, and telephone listing described in paragraph (1) not be released without prior written parental consent, and the local educational agency shall notify parents of the option to make a request and shall comply with any request.
- (3) SAME ACCESS TO STUDENTS – Each local educational agency receiving assistance under this Act shall provide military recruiters the same access to secondary school students as is provided generally to post secondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of those students.

Parents or guardians of high school students wishing to exercise their right to request that the name, address and telephone number of their child not be released for such recruitment purposes should send a letter to that effect to the school principal within two weeks of enrolling in the school.

Grade Calculation for Academic Honors (Weighting Grades)

Covington County School's will use a uniform method of weighting grades to determine class rank and the valedictorian/salutatorian selection. The following criteria will be used:

1. Points will be added to grades earned in any advanced classes or core college level courses. These classes include advanced/college level English, Mathematics, Histories, Sciences, foreign languages, and other courses deemed advanced by the school administration.
2. Grades from approved dual enrollment courses or grades transferred from other secondary schools as letter grades will be converted to numerical grades using the following scale:

A+ = 98	C+ = 78	4.0 = 95
A = 93	C = 73	3.0 = 85
A- = 90	C- = 70	2.0 = 75
B+ = 88	D+ = 68	1.0 = 65
B = 83	D = 63	
B- = 80	D- = 60	
	F = 59	
3. Graduating seniors must maintain an average of 90 or above in academic subjects for the seven semesters beginning with 1st semester of the 9th grade through 1st semester of their senior year to be considered as hon- graduates.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Beginning with the class entering the ninth grade in the fall of 2020, a student must complete the requirements for an advanced diploma to be considered for the Valedictorian or Salutatorian award. The four core subjects (English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science) and foreign language will be used in calculating the grade averages for these honors. College level courses used for dual enrollment purposes are considered advanced classes. Grades earned from the first semester of ninth grade through the first semester of senior year are used in the calculations. Students must have been enrolled at the school continuously from the beginning of the junior year to be considered for Valedictorian/Salutatorian. Grades from home schooling or non-accredited schools may be posted, but will not be used in calculation for Valedictorian/Salutatorian. Transfer letter grades will convert to numerical grades as specified in the new weighting system for calculating academic honors.

Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit

With policies adopted by the State Board of Education and the Covington County Board of Education, it is now possible for students to earn both high school and college credits for approved courses taken at post-secondary institutions. The principal must give permission before enrolling in such courses. Grades received on official transcripts from the post-secondary institutions will be posted on the high school transcript. Letter grades from colleges will be recorded on the high school transcript as determined by new weighting factors. Weighting factors for these courses will be applied following the same criteria as courses listed for the advanced diploma.

- A. Informing the Public Each LEA should provide the same level of notice to parents and students regarding information about the gifted program as it does with respect to other significant school activities, policies, or procedures. The notice should include information on the definition of gifted, how to refer a student, the basic eligibility criteria (excluding test scores), and whom to contact to make a referral.

The method by providing this notice must be one that reaches all parents and students and should therefore be in the Code of Conduct or Student Handbook.

The notice in the box below or one that is very similar and contains all of the required information as described above is or will be placed in the: (Check one)

Code of Conduct
Student Handbook.

Illness at School

If a student becomes ill during the day, he is to get a note from his teacher before going to the nurse. If the nurse sends the student home and the absence continues for additional days, on the day he returns to school, he must bring a note from his parents stating the reason for the absence.

Important Information on Meningococcal Disease and Vaccine

What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is a serious illness, caused by bacteria. It is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2-18 years old in the United States.

What is influenza?

Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by a virus. The virus infects the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, hospitalization, and even death.

What is a Tdap vaccine?

Tdap vaccine can protect adolescents and adults from tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. One dose of Tdap is routinely given at age 11 or 12.

Information in regards to Meningococcal Disease & Vaccine, Influenza (flu), and Tdap Vaccine can be located on the Covington County Schools website under Health Services. Please contact your school nurse if you have any questions.

Procedure for Head Lice

Covington County Schools are committed to utilizing best practice recommendations for lice management in our schools in a manner that respects the data privacy of students and families. Lice exclusions are viewed as necessary only when excessive infestations are present or there is a lack of follow up with treating lice. You may obtain a copy of the Covington County School System Lice Policy & Procedure from your school nurse or from the Covington County Schools website under Health Services.

Please contact your school nurse (Cass Pate) if you have any questions.

Perfect Attendance

Perfect attendance certificates are given to students who meet the requirements as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.

Grading

Homework Assignments

Homework that is deemed appropriate will be assigned to students. It will vary with the teacher and the needs of the students. Homework will be reviewed by the teacher and graded when appropriate. Homework assignments are considered as part of the curriculum, and completion of the homework assignment will be part of the criterion determining the child's grade. Continuous failure to do homework will be reported to the guidance counselor and to the parents. Success on tests correlates directly to completion of homework assignments.

Reporting to Parents

Report Cards will be sent to parents four times during the school year. In addition to report cards, parents or teachers may request conferences during the school year. The school may be contacted by telephone for an appointment. The appointment will insure the teachers have time to discuss fully the accomplishments of the child. The teacher can answer questions concerning grading for each child in detail at this time. (See page 5 for dates of grading periods. Report cards are normally given on Thursday following the end of the grading period).

For the child to gain the most from his education, it is necessary for the parents to stay closely acquainted with the schoolwork being done by their child. Parents need to cooperate and work with a child's teacher in order for the student to get the greatest benefit from his/her educational experiences.

Progress Reports

Progress reports are given to each student at the midpoint of each grading period. These reports will reflect how the student stands in each subject at that time. (See page 5 for dates progress reports are given out).

Exam Exemptions

Any high school student (grades 7-12) may exempt semester exams provided he/she meets one of the following conditions (A or B):

- A.
- a. Exemptions from one mid-term and one final exam will be granted in a subject in which a student has an average of 85 for the semester and perfect attendance in that class.
 - b. Students sent to Alternative School, In-School Suspension, loses perfect attendance exemption privileges.
 - c. The perfect attendance policy applies to a student transferring to Covington County Schools if there is proof that the record was maintained prior to transfer and that no time was lost between schools during transfer.

- B.
- Exemption from mid-term and final exams will be granted in a subject in which the student has a semester average of 93 and has been absent no more than three days for the semester.

Self administered medication: Students who are capable of carrying their inhalers or epi-pens must bring a medication authorization form signed by both their physician and the parent or legal guardian. **No student is allowed to carry any medication on them at school without this authorization form being on file in the nurse's office. Any student that has been given permission to carry medication will be responsible for keeping their medication on them at all times and not to share with any other student. Students will be reprimanded according to Covington County Schools Code of Student Conduct for failing to comply with this medication policy.**

Sunscreen Policy

Students within public schools are allowed the option to possess and use Federal Food and Drug Administration regulated over-the counter sunscreen at school and at school-based events. Any student, parent, or guardian requesting a school board employee to apply sunscreen to a student shall present to the nurse a Parent Prescriber Authorization Form (PPA) containing a parent or guardian signature. A physician signature or physician order shall not be required. You may obtain a PPA Form from your local school nurse or from the Covington County Schools website under Health Services.

Illness/Injury at School

In the event of injury or severe illness to any student in Covington County Schools, appropriate first aid will be rendered and the parent/guardian will be notified as soon as possible. Should school personnel be unable to locate the appropriate parent/guardian and the injury/illness requires medical attention, the student will be transported to the designated doctor/or taken to the nearest emergency room. It is very important that students are not sent to school with fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or a contagious medical condition. **Parents are advised that all students should be free of fever, vomiting, or diarrhea for a minimum of 24 hours without the use of any medications before returning to school.** Please notify the nurse if your child has been diagnosed with a contagious illness.

Medical Regulations and Medication Policy

In accordance with the state guidelines, a physician must prescribe all medications given in the Covington County School system. **A medication authorization form must be signed by the physician and a parent or legal guardian and returned to the school nurse before any prescribed medication can be administered at school.** You can obtain a form from your local school nurse, physician's office, or from the Covington County Schools website under Health Services.

Over-the-counter medications require a medication authorization form to be signed by the parent and returned to school before any medication can be given. (Medication needs to be brought in the original bottle/unopened/label with student's name).

No medication can be brought to school or sent home by a student. Medications should be brought and picked up by the parent or legal guardian and given to the school nurse or a school designee for storage and administering.

Prescription medication:

1. Original bottle/box
2. Student's Name
3. Directions for administering
4. Physician's name
5. Name of medication
6. Date of drug's discontinuation (when appropriate)

All students should be free of fever, vomiting, or diarrhea for a minimum of 24 hours without the use of any medications before returning to school. Please notify the nurse if your child has been diagnosed with a contagious illness.

Grades

Maximum grade reported for 9 weeks and/or semester is 100.

Grade Placement for 9-12

Grade Placement of high school students shall be based upon the following requirements:

1. Five (5) units are required for placement in the tenth grade homeroom.
2. Eleven (11) units are required for placement in the eleventh grade homeroom.
3. Seventeen (17) units, including all required subjects, are necessary for placement in the twelfth grade homeroom.

Academic Honors

At the end of each nine weeks an honor roll for grades 4-12 is released to the local newspapers for publication. The All-A Honor Roll lists those students who have a grade of 90 or above for each subject. The A&B Honor Roll lists the names of students who have a grade of A or B in each subject.

To recognize outstanding academic achievement, academic letters and certificates are awarded during awards day each spring. The following criteria are used in making these awards:

Academic Letters – An academic letter will be awarded to each student in grades 9-12 who has an over-all average of 90 or above for the first three nine weeks of the school year. Only academic subjects will be considered. Only grades earned at Pleasant Home School will be considered. If a student fails any core class during the first three nine weeks, they are not eligible for this award.

Academic Certificates – An academic certificate will be given to each student in grades 4-8 who has an over-all average of 90 or above for the first three nine weeks of the school year. Only academic subjects will be used in determining the average. Only grades earned at Pleasant Home School will be considered. If a student fails any core class during the first three nine weeks, they are not eligible for this award.

Elementary Promotions

School officials will determine promotions in the elementary school. Each student will be promoted or retained on the basis of what is best for the individual child.

Students in grades K-5 who fail to meet the minimum requirements of the Alabama Course of Study Grade Level Standards in the subject of reading or any two other subjects will be retained.

Grading Code

A+ = 98-100	C+ = 78-79
A = 93-97	C = 73-77
A- = 90-92	C- = 70-72
B+ = 88-89	D+ = 68-69

Removal of Incomplete Grades

At the end of each nine weeks and semester, two weeks will be given for students to make up any special project work such as home economics projects, etc. After the period of two weeks, all grades will be averaged. The student is responsible for meeting with the teacher to do the necessary work to complete the grade.

For retention in grades 1-8, students must fail two academic subjects. (RTI plans will be in place for students who are retained.)

Makeup Work

Students must makeup work if the **absence is excused**. Students must make arrangements for making up this work immediately upon returning to school. Makeup test should be completed within 5 days of returning to school unless the teacher and/or principal approve extenuating circumstances.

School Health Services/ Policy/Procedure/Programs

Screening Program:

Eliminating health problems helps students achieve their maximum potential. In an effort to assist in keeping abreast of the general health conditions of the students enrolled in Covington County Schools, various programs are conducted throughout the school year including vision/hearing, scoliosis, and other health assessment clinics as needed.

Procedure Following Screening Programs

Notification of a student's failure in any screening program will be sent immediately to the student's parent/guardian following any screening process. When a student has failed his/her vision screening, it is recommended by letter to the parent or legal guardian that he/she needs to see an optometrist for further evaluation. When hearing screening is failed, a referral is made to the Covington County Audiological Services Center where an audiologist will conduct an evaluation. When a student has failed the scoliosis screening, it is recommended by letter to the parent or legal guardian that he/she sees a physician for further evaluation.

Student with Medical Conditions

The State Department requires all students with a medical condition to have an emergency care plan for each student. If your child has a medical condition, please notify the **school nurse** so this emergency care plan can be signed and implemented as soon as possible.

Title I Schools in Covington County

All of the Covington County Schools are “Title I” schools. Mr. Chris Thomasson, Federal Programs Coordinator for Covington County Schools, would like to inform parents at these schools that they are encouraged to participate in the decision-making process in regard to their school’s academic programs. Parents are invited to read their school’s Title I Schoolwide Plan, on file in the school office, and get involved in the budgeting process as well as the development of future Title I Schoolwide Plans. If you would like more information on becoming involved in your school’s planning process, please contact your school principal, or you may contact Mr. Thomasson at chris.thomasson@cov.k12.al.us or 222-7571.

Annual student assessment results will be communicated to parents in the following ways: Alabama State Report Card, and the Individual Student Assessment Report. General information (*not specific student information*) regarding student assessment will be communicated to the community through a news release to the local newspaper.

Schools identified for school improvement will provide written notice to parents the status of the school’s improvement.

Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents and students who are 18 or emancipated minors (“eligible students”) certain rights regarding our 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----

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 or analogous relationships, such as with lawyers, physicians, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student’s parent; 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, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law.

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.

Covington County Schools will develop and adopt policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. Covington County Schools will also directly notify parents and eligible students at least annually at the start of each school year of the specific or approximate dates of the following activities and provide an opportunity to opt a student out of participating in:

1. Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening.
3. Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole
4. Or in part by the U.S. Department of Education.

Parents/eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

Gifted Program Policy

Gifted students are those who perform at or who demonstrated the potential at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment. These students require services not ordinarily provided by the regular school program. Students possessing these abilities can be found in all populations, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor.

Teachers, counselors, administrators, parents or guardians, peers, self, or any other individuals with knowledge of the student's abilities may refer a student. Additionally, all second grade students will be observed as potential gifted referrals using a gifted behavior checklist.

For each student referred, information is gathered in the areas of Aptitude, Characteristics, and Performance. The information is entered on a matrix where points are assigned according to established criteria. The total number of points earned determines if the student qualifies for gifted services.

To make a referral, contact Mr. Tony Wilson at your child's school.

Covington County Board of Education Grievance and Complaint Procedure For Parents, Students and Employees

The normal procedure to be followed regarding a personal grievance related to school is to discuss the matter with the immediate supervisor. If the problem is unresolved, the complainant may submit a written request to the Principal to arrange for a meeting with the Superintendent (within five (5) working days). If the problem remains unresolved, the complainant may submit a written request for a hearing before the Covington County Board of Education (within five (5) working days). The Board after receiving the written request, will notify all interested parties of the time and place of the hearing (not less than five (5) nor more than fifteen (15) working days). The hearing date may be reset by mutual agreement of both parties. All parties will be given opportunities to present (reasonable) oral and written material. The Covington County Board of Education will render a written decision (within a reasonable time).

Response to Intervention

Response to Intervention (RTI) is a problem-solving process that focuses on data-based response and evidence-based intervention. RTI targets improved academic and behavioral achievement for ALL students through research-based instruction/intervention. RTI is the practice of providing high-quality research-based instruction/intervention matched to student needs. A three-tiered model of support provides interventions to students with academic and behavioral needs through whole group, small group and individual instruction. Typically, the RTI system of support focuses on the general education population. However, a special education referral may be necessary if the interventions have not been proven successful.

Covington County Board of Education Internet Use Policy

The Internet Use Policy is designed to provide guidelines for using the Internet in the classroom, school media centers, and computer labs in Covington County Schools. The Internet will be used for research and educational purposes. Students are responsible for appropriate behavior while using the Internet. Privileges may be revoked if guidelines are not followed.

Internet Student Guidelines

1. Users will be held accountable for their actions.
2. **Do** notify an adult immediately if you encounter materials that violate the Student Code of Conduct.
3. **Do Not** use a computer to harass, attack or harm others.
4. **Do Not** damage the computer or network in any way.
5. **Do Not** degrade the performance of the network with useless information.
6. **Do Not** use the Internet for illegal activities.
7. **Do Not** install software or download unauthorized electronic media.
8. **Do Not** violate copyright laws.
9. **Do Not** view, send, or display obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, disrespectful, threatening, or inflammatory language, messages or pictures.
10. **Do Not** share your password.
11. **Do Not** reveal personal addresses or telephone numbers.
12. **Do Not** access other students' work, folders, or files.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 123g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or enters a postsecondary educational institution at any age. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.

Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school amend education records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):

- School officials with legitimate educational interest;
- Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order of lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, “directory” information such as a student’s name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. Schools will notify parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools will notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA which may be by special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article.

Parents have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education regarding the alleged violation of FERPA. The Family Policy Compliance Office may be contacted at the following address:

Family Policy Compliance Office
 U.S. Department of Education
 400 Maryland Avenue, SW
 Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

PPRA Notice and Consent/Opt-Out for Specific Activities

The protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, requires **Covington County Schools** to notify you and obtain consent or allow you to opt your child out of participating in certain school activities.

These activities include a student survey, **Covington County Schools Parent Right to Know and analysis or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas (“protected information surveys”)**:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parents
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family
3. Sex behavior or attitude
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 lawyers, doctors or ministers
7. Religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or parents
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility

If you wish to review any survey instrument or instructional material used in connection with any protected information or marketing survey, please submit a request to **the school principal**. **The school principal** will notify you of the time and place where you may review these materials. You have the right to review surveys and/or instructional materials before the survey is administered to a student.

Amendments (PPRA) guidelines, please contact your local school.

If you wish to receive the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or Protection of Pupil Rights The federal education law put in place by the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires that all parents in a Title I school be notified and given the opportunity to request information about the professional qualifications of classroom teachers and paraprofessionals instructing their child. You may also request information on the level of achievement and academic growth of the student, if applicable and available, on each of the State academic assessments. If you are interested in this information, you may send your request to the building principal who will provide a timely response.

It is the official policy of the Covington County School System that no person shall, on the ground of race, sex, religion, color, creed, national origin, handicap, or age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any program, activity or employment. Inquiries of complaints regarding compliance with federal regulation on Title I, Title II and Title IX may be directed to Chris Thomasson and inquiries of complaints regarding compliance with federal regulation on 504 may be directed to Kelly McCollough, Covington County Board of Education, 807 C. C. Baker Ave., Andalusia, AL 36421, (334) 222-7571.

Handbook Committee

Mrs. Debbie Godwin, Ms. Angie Owens, Mrs. Charlotte Holley,
 Mr. Barry Wood, and Mrs. Kimberly Sherman

Graduation Participation

Seniors must be in good standing with the Covington County School system to participate in graduation.

Seniors (non-handicapped) will be denied the opportunity of participating in graduation exercises if they have not met the required courses making up the 24 Carnegie unit requirements for graduation. Senior handicapped students will not be affected by this policy. They will be allowed to participate in graduation exercises when necessary, IEP requirements are met.