

SOUTH DALE MIDDLE SCHOOL



STUDENT HANDBOOK

2022-2023

Dale County Schools
2022-2023
School Calendar

Approved March 8, 2022

X - Work Days/Professional Development Days H - Holidays

Blue Shaded - end of the 9 weeks

June	M	T	W	T	F
			1	2	3
	6	7	8	9	10
	13	14	15	16	17
	20	21	22	23	24
	27	28	29	30	

July	M	T	W	T	F
					1
	H	5	6	7	8
	11	12	13	14	15
	18	19	20	21	22
	25	26	27	28	29

Aug	M	T	W	T	F
	X 1	X 2	X 3	X 4	5
	8	9	10	11	12
	15	16	17	18	19
	22	23	24	25	26
	29	30	31		

Sept	M	T	W	T	F
				1	2
	H	6	7	8	9
	12	13	14	15	16
	19	20	21	22	23
	26	27	28	29	30

Oct	M	T	W	T	F
	3	4	5	6	H
	H	H	12	13	14
	17	18	19	20	21
	24	25	26	27	28
	31				

Nov	M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3	4
	7	8	9	10	H
	14	15	16	17	18
	H	H	H	H	H
	28	29	30		

Dec	M	T	W	T	F
				1	2
	5	6	7	8	9
	12	13	14	15	16
	H	H	H	H	H
	H	H	H	H	H

Jan	M	T	W	T	F
	H	X 3	X 4	5	6
	9	10	11	12	13
	H	17	18	19	20
	23	24	25	26	27
	30	31			

Feb	M	T	W	T	F
			1	2	3
	6	7	8	9	10
	13	14	15	16	17
	H	21	22	23	24
	27	28			

March	M	T	W	T	F
			1	2	3
	6	7	8	9	10
	13	14	15	16	17
	20	21	22	23	24
	H	H	H	H	H

April	M	T	W	T	F
	3	4	5	6	7
	10	11	12	13	14
	17	18	19	20	21
	24	25	26	27	28

May	M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4	5
	8	9	10	11	12
	15	16	17	18	19
	22	23	24	25	X 26
	H	30	31		

Teachers Begin - August 1, 2022

Students Begin - August 5, 2022

180 Student days

187 Teacher days

Oct 6, Dec 16, March 10, & May 25 - 1/2 day for students

Full day for Employees

Last day of school Students - May 25, 2023

Last day of school Teachers - May 26, 2023

HOLIDAYS

Independence Day----- July 4, 2022

Labor Day----- Sept 5, 2022

Fall Break/Columbus Day----- Oct 7-11, 2022

Veterans' Day----- Nov 11, 2022

Thanksgiving Break----- Nov 21-25, 2022

Christmas/New Year Break----- Dec 19, 2022-

Jan 3, 2023

MLK Day----- Jan 16, 2023

President's Day----- Feb 20, 2023

Spring Break----- Mar 27-31, 2023

Memorial Day----- May 29, 2023

Progress Report Dates

Sept 2, 2022 Nov 10, 2022

Feb 3, 2023 April 21, 2023

Report Card Dates

Oct 14, 2022 Jan 6, 2023

Mar 15, 2023 May 26, 2023

1st Semester 86 days
1st 9 weeks 44 days
ending October 6, 2022

2nd 9 weeks 42 days
ending December 16, 2022

2nd Semester 94 days
3rd 9 weeks 45 days
ending March 10, 2023

4th 9 weeks 49 days
ending May 25, 2023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 1, 2022 First day for Faculty and Staff

August 2, 2022 Parent Orientation in cafeteria –

5th & 7th Grade - 5:30 - 6:30

6th & 8th Grade - 6:30 - 7:30

August 5, 2022 First Day of School (Full Day)

August 7, 2022 Prayer walk @ 4:00 pm

September 5, 2022 Labor Day

October 7-11, 2022 Fall Break /Columbus Day/ Holiday

November 10, 2021 Veteran’s Day Program

November 11, 2022 Veteran’s Day Holiday

November 16, 2022 Thanksgiving Luncheon

November 21 – 25, 2022 Thanksgiving Holidays

December 14, 2022 Christmas Luncheon

December 19, 2023 – Jan. 3, 2022 Christmas Holidays

January 3-4, 2023 Teacher Workday – No Students

January 5, 2023 Students Return From Christmas Holiday

January 16, 2023 King Holiday

February 20, 2023 Presidents’ Day

March 27 – March 31, 2023 Spring Break

May 12, 2023 Field Day

May 23, 2023 Honors Day: Grade 6 Honors 8:30 , Grade 5 Honors 9:30

Grade 7 Honors 10:30, Grade 8 Honors 1:00 pm

Students last day May 25, 2023

Teachers last day May 26, 2023

Memorial Day Holiday May 29,2023

Progress Reports and End of Nine Weeks Report Cards

September 2 2022 Progress reports

1st - October 14, 2022 Reports Cards

November 10, 2022 Progress reports

2nd – January 7, 2023 Report Cards

February 3, 2023 Progress reports

3rd - March 15, 2023 Report Cards

April 21, 2023 Progress reports

4th - May 26, 2023 Report Cards

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DALE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
 202 South Highway 123, Suite E Ozark, Alabama 36360
 Main Office: 334-774-2355

Board President, District 3	Mr. Dale Sutton
Board Vice-President, District 4	Mr. Philip Parker
Board Member, District 1	Mr. Jerald Cook
Board Member, District 2	Mrs. Shannon Deloney
Board Member, District 5	Mrs. Priscilla McKnight

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent	Mr. Ben Baker
Associate Superintendent.....	Mr. Chuck Walker
Director of Curriculum and Instruction	Mr. Chris Mitten
Director of Career Tech.....	Mrs. Lisa Welch
Special Education Coordinator.....	Mr. Patrick Reed

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome to the Dale County Schools family! The seven schools that make up the Dale County School system have a rich history of academic, athletic, and extra-curricular excellence. I encourage you to support your child’s school and communicate with your school on a regular basis. I encourage parents to be actively involved in the education process. Together, as partners, our students will flourish under the direction of the dedicated employees of Dale County Schools. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns you may have about your child’s education.

Ben Baker, Superintendent – bbaker@dalecountyboe.org

DALE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM VISION

Destination: Excellence

DALE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Dale County Schools is to develop life-long learners who have personal, economic, technological and social skills needed to be members of a global society.

DALE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM GOALS

1. We will provide a safe and supportive environment for learning opportunities.
2. We will develop college and career ready students through multiple approaches.
3. We will demonstrate and promote being responsible, respectful and resourceful citizens.
4. We will provide opportunities to build relationships with parents, students, teachers, and community stakeholders.
5. We will utilize a rigorous and relevant curriculum to meet the needs of all students.

DALE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM BELIEFS

1. Every person on each campus is a valued individual with unique physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs worthy of respect.
2. Every teacher and student has the right to a safe and enjoyable learning environment that promotes student learning, fosters self-worth, and enhances his or her potential.
3. All students have the ability to learn; therefore, they should be provided with a variety of instructional approaches to support different learning styles.
4. Students have a greater opportunity for success when they are actively engaged in the learning process in a well-disciplined environment.
5. Students develop to their full potential when there is a harmonious relationship among the school, the home, and the community.
6. Students need to demonstrate their understanding of essential knowledge and skills and need to be actively involved in higher order thinking, problem solving, and quality work production in order for them to become life-long learners.
7. Students are provided opportunities for students to practice principles and qualities of self-discipline needed for democratic citizenship and responsible participation in a multicultural, multi-ethnic society.
8. Schools need to function as a learning organization in which teachers, administrators, students, parents, and the communities share the responsibility for advancing the system’s mission while demonstrating dedication, a positive attitude, and a willingness to change.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to South Dale Middle School! Our faculty and staff are looking forward to an exciting and productive school year. We are committed to the success of every student. It is our duty and privilege to foster the skills that will enable every student to learn, serve, and lead on their road to becoming lifelong learners.

This handbook is published so that all students, parents, teachers, and community stakeholders may have a ready reference to information that is necessary for an understanding of the daily operation of our school. Please read and review the handbook with your child and sign all documents on page 39. South Dale has a rich heritage and we wish to continue that tradition by serving the academic and social needs of your child while providing a safe and invigorating learning environment. We promote this through a diverse curriculum, a dedicated and knowledgeable staff that establish high expectations and a school/community partnership. Collaboration, cooperation, and open communication between home and school are keys to building a strong foundation for a successful school year.

We encourage and invite parents to get involved at South Dale. We offer many opportunities for you to be involved throughout the academic year. It is important that we all share in the responsibility of shaping our young people to be productive citizens. I hope you will join me as we work together to make this a fantastic year at SDMS!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Perry Dillard".

Perry Dillard, Principal

SOUTH DALE MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of South Dale Middle School is to provide a supportive learning environment that inspires our students to become exceptional, productive citizens within a global society.

SOUTH DALE MIDDLE SCHOOL

309 Randolph St.
Pinckard, AL 36371

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

7:30 AM to 3:30 PM

SDMS Main Office:Phone: 334-983-3077.....Fax: 334-983-5882
SDMS Guidance:Phone: 334-983-3077.....Fax: 334-983-5882
SDMS Website:.....sdms.dalecountyboe.org

ADMINISTRATION

Dillard, Perry.....pdillard@dalecountyboe.org.....Principal
Head, Kenna.....khead@dalecountyboe.org.....Assistant Principal

FACULTY

Ballard, Hannah.....hballard@dalecountyboe.org.....5th Grade/ELA
Blackstock, Amy.....ablackstock@dalecountyboe.org.....Media Specialist
Burgess, Tabithatburgess@dalecountyboe.orgGuidance Counselor
Cooper, Keithkcooper@dalecountyboe.org.....8th Grade/Social Studies
Davis, Matt.....davis@dalecountyboe.org.....6th Grade/Math
Dippold, Holly.....hdippold@dalecountyboe.org.....5th Grade/ELA
Grantham, Mckenzi.....mgrantham@dalecountyboe.org.....7th Grade/ Math
Hatcher, Chelsea.....chatcher@dalecountyboe.org8th Grade /Science
Everett, Mirandamheath@dalecountyboe.org.....Special Education
Heer, Michael.....mheer@dalecountyboe.org7th Grade/Social Studies
Hutto, Williamwhutto@dalecountyboe.org.....7th Grade/ELA
King, Sarah.....sking@dalecountyboe.org.....Interventionist
McVey, Lauren.....lmcvey@dalecountyboe.org.....7th Grade/Science
Melanson, Tiffany.....tmelanson@dalecountyboe.orgPhysical Education
Morgan, Jason.....jmorgan@dalecountyboe.org.....6th Grade/ELA
Smith, Jaime.....jsmith@dalecountyboe.org.....8th Grade/ELA
Teal, Julianna.....jteal@dalecountyboe.org.....Band
Thayer, Todd.....tthayer@dalecountyboe.orgPhysical Education
Thayer, Vaughnlthayer@dalecountyboe.org.....5th Grade/Science/SS
Tice, Jason.....jtice@dalecountyboe.org.....6th Grade/Science/SS
Tucker, Samatha.....kmclean@dalecountyboe.org.....8th Grade/Math
Ward, Felicia.....fward@dalecountyboe.org6th Grade/ELA
Warrick, Trent.....twarrick@dalecountyboe.orgAgriculture
Williams, Keith.....kwilliams@dalecountyboe.org.....PLTW
Woods, Kathrenkwoods@dalecountyboe.org.....Special Education

STAFF

German, Delores.....dgerman@dalecountyboe.org.....Nurse Assistant
Gilbert, Sarah.....sgilbert@dalecountyboe.org.....Cafeteria
Griggs, Jennifer.....jgriggs@dalecountyboe.org.....Custodian
Gulledge, Amy.....agulledge@dalecountyboe.org.....Nurse
Lynn, Amanda.....alynn@dalecountyboe.org.....Cafeteria
Register, Alex.....aregister@dalecountyboe.orgCafeteria
Reeves, Audra.....areeves@dalecountyboe.org.....Secretary/ Bookkeeper
Rogers, Elaine.....erogers@dalecountyboe.orgCafeteria Manager
Trawick, Debbie.....dtrawick@dalecountyboe.orgCafeteria
Williams, Wade.....wwilliams@dalecountyboe.org.....ISS Aide
Wyatt, Christie.....cwyatt@dalecountyboe.org.....Special Education Aide
Griggs, Henrietta.....hgriggs@dalecountyboe.org.....Custodian

FOREWORD

The South Dale Middle School Student/Parent Guide should not be considered solely as a rulebook, but rather as an information booklet to help you in all aspects of student life at school. Anytime that a large group of people have come together to live and work, it has been necessary that some rules of conduct be formulated to protect the best interests of all concerned. It is in this spirit that this booklet has been formulated. No handbook can be all-inclusive. There may be situations that arise which are not covered in this handbook. These situations will be addressed on an individual basis.

JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Students enrolled in the Dale County School System are subject to the policies of the Dale County Board of Education and to the rules and regulations of the schools. This authority applies to all school sponsored activities including, but not necessarily limited to, the following:

- *Transportation on School Buses,
- *Field Trips,
- *Club and/or Organization Meetings,
- *Occupants in an automobile driven or parked on school property,
- *School groups, representing the school system in educational events,
- *Other school-sponsored events including, but not limited to, athletic events on or off campus, dances, plays, proms etc., and usual and customary parking area of facilities used for school sponsored activities.

The *Code of Conduct* is in effect during the time a student is transported under the sponsorship of the school system and during the time he/she is attending school. The pupil shall be under control and supervision of school administration, or school personnel, or the bus driver as assigned.

PARENT – STUDENT – TEACHER COMPACT

We at South Dale Middle School believe that children are our most valuable resource. It is our goal to provide the best education possible in a risk free environment promoting academic success through quality instruction. We know that learning can take place if there is a combination of effort, interest, and motivation on the part of the student, school, home and community. This compact is an agreement and a commitment to help the student be successful in middle school. We believe that this agreement can be fulfilled through our team effort. This student-parent-teacher compact is in effect during school year 2022-2023.

School Responsibilities

The South Dale Middle School will:

- 1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State’s student academic achievement standards as follows:**

Highly qualified teachers will use explicit teaching strategies aligned with the Alabama State Course of Study and College and Career Readiness Standards

Provide Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 instruction to enable students to meet state academic standards.

Students will receive whole and small group instruction.

Faculty and staff will work as a team to provide a supportive and effective learning environment.

Use RTI for students needing core support.

Provide in-school and after school tutoring as well as summer remediation as funds are available.

- 2. Hold parent-teacher conferences (at least annually in middle schools) during which this compact can be discussed as it relates to the individual child’s achievement. Specifically, these conferences will be held:**

A meeting will be held annually for the purpose of informing parents of their school’s participation in Title 1, the requirements of the law and Title 1 parents’ right to be involved.

3. Provide parents with frequent reports on their children’s progress.

Progress reports are sent out at the middle of each 9 weeks.
Report cards are sent at the end of each 9-week grading period.
Parents may access grades by going on the PowerSchool website.
Parent conferences are scheduled as needed.
If parents can’t come to school, a telephone conference is held.

4. Provide parents with reasonable access to staff.

Parents have access to staff in person, by phone, or e-mail before and after school, or at the teacher’s planning time. PTO meetings also provide access to teachers.

5. Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child’s class and to observe classroom activities, as follows:

Responding to the Volunteers form sent at the beginning of the school year.
Parents are invited to visit and eat lunch with their child on Grandparents day, Thanksgiving dinner or Christmas dinner.
Participate in our “Coffee Break to Communicate” assembly.

6. Ensure regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in language that family members can understand.

Parents and staff members utilize ICU Database, Remind 101, and School Cast to communicate with each other
Coffee Break to Communicate, Title I information assemblies, PTO events, and state assessment workshops are planned throughout the year to interact with and inform parents
Teacher emails are posted publicly to the South Dale Middle School website allowing parents to freely communicate with parents
District and school websites can be converted to other languages to ensure clear communication

Parent Responsibilities

We, as parents, will support our child’s learning in the following ways:

- Monitoring attendance.
- Making sure that homework is completed.
- Monitoring amount of television my child watches.
- Volunteering in my child’s classroom.
- Participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to my child’s education.
- Promoting positive use of my child’s extracurricular time.
- Staying informed about my child’s education and communication with the school by promptly reading all notices from the school or the school district either received by my child or by mail and responding, as appropriate.
- Serving, to the extent possible, on advisory groups, such as Title 1 advisory committees and parental involvement committees.

Students Responsibilities

As a student, I will share the responsibility to improve my academic achievement and achieve the State’s high standards. Specifically, I will:

- Do my homework every day and ask for help when I need to.
- Read every day outside of school time.
- Give to my parents or the adult who is responsible for my welfare all notices and information received by me

from my school every day.

Read and understand the school rules.

Come to school regularly and on time.

Demonstrate a positive attitude toward learning and school.

Return completed homework that reflects accuracy.

Demonstrate respect of self, other students, school personnel, and school property.

FLAG DISPLAY AND PLEDGE

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag shall be recited at the beginning of each school day in elementary, middle, & high schools.
- II. Students shall have the opportunity to voluntarily recite the Pledge of Allegiance each day.
- III. The United States flag and the Alabama state flag shall be displayed appropriately during the school year.

A PERIOD OF QUIET REFLECTION

At the opening of every school day, teachers shall provide students a moment of quiet reflection for one (1) minute.

PARENTS AND VISITORS

We want you to feel welcome on at South Dale; however, for the safety and security of our students and staff, all visitors must report to the office before visiting students, teachers, or other staff members. Approved visitors will be given a pass from the office. Parents are not allowed to sit in classrooms during instruction, but are welcome to come have lunch with his/her child if prior arrangements are made with the principal. Students are not to bring relatives, friends, etc. to school.

PARENT/STUDENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parents are asked to review their child's progress on work they carry home, their progress reports, and their report cards. If you would like to schedule a conference with a teacher, please call the school office, send the teacher a note, or email the teacher. Please do not ask a teacher to schedule a conference during class time or during faculty meeting days. They have certain days and certain times they can schedule conferences. When you arrive for a conference, please go to the school office to check in and get a pass to go to the meeting area. Conferences may also be requested by teachers to discuss a student's progress. Parents are urged to attend all conferences when scheduled by a teacher.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Dale County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person(s) has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Patrick Reed, 504 Coordinator, 202 S. Hwy 123, Suite E, Ozark, AL 36360, 334-774-2355, preed@dalecountyboe.org; Chuck Walker, Title IX Coordinator, 202 S. Hwy 123, Suite E, Ozark, AL 36360, 334-774-2355, cwalker@dalecountyboe.org.

NON-DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF HANDICAP

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

No otherwise qualified person shall, solely by reason of handicap, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity. For purpose of this policy, a qualified handicapped person shall be one who satisfied the definition set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act of 1973 and its implementation regulations. A student must be determined to: (1) have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; or (2) have a record of such impairment; or (3) be regarded as having such and impairment. The Dale County School Board of Education will identify, evaluate and provide a free and appropriate public education to qualified handicapped students within its district boundaries. A referral meeting will be scheduled to review your child's eligibility for 504 services. To determine eligibility, your child must be evaluated by a team of individuals who are familiar with your child. The results will then be shared at a team meeting, in which you are involved. Questions concerning 504 eligibility or services should be directed to Patrick Reed, 504 Coordinator, Dale County School System, 202 S Hwy 123, Suite E, Ozark, Alabama 36360. The coordinator may be reached by telephone, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at (334)774-2355, Ext 23229.

CAREER TECH DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Dale County School system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person(s) has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Patrick Reed, Special Education Coordinator, 202 S Hwy 123, Suite E, Ozark, AL 36360, telephone 334 – 774 – 2355, Email Address: preed@dalecountyboe.org

IDEA CHILD FIND INFORMATION

The Special Education Coordinator of the Dale County Board of Education is in the process of identifying all children with disabilities from birth to 21 years of age, who are not presently receiving special education services.

If you know of any disabled child or youth that is not being served in a school program, please contact Patrick Reed, Special Education Coordinator, 202 S Hwy 123, Suite E, Ozark, AL 36360, telephone 334 – 774 – 2355, Email Address: preed@dalecountyboe.org

IDENTIFICATION OF ENGLISH LEARNERS (EL) IN DALE COUNTY

Dale County Schools are committed to the identification and proper servicing of all students with English language challenges. Upon determination of enrollment in the EL Program, an EL Committee will convene to facilitate placement, services and assessment of the English Learner student. Upon scoring 4.8 (composite score) on ACCESS, English Learners will be exited from EL services and placed on monitoring status for two (2) academic years. If you know of any disabled child or youth that is not being served in an EL school program, please contact Patrick Reed, Special Education Coordinator, 202 S Hwy 123, Suite E, Ozark, AL 36360, telephone 334 – 774 – 2355, Email Address: preed@dalecountyboe.org

GIFTED EDUCATION

Gifted students are those who perform at or who have demonstrated the potential to perform 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 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 Patrick Reed at 774-2355, Ext 23229.

HOMELESS, MIGRANT, AND ENGLISH LEARNERS (EL)

Any student deemed to be homeless will be afforded a free and appropriate public education. There are no policies, practices, or regulations that act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children.

Pursuant to the requirement of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistant Act, all homeless, migrant and EL children must have equal access to the same free appropriate public education, including public preschool education, provided to other children and youth. Such children will be provided the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content and state student performance standards to which all students are held without being stigmatized or isolated.

The enrollment of homeless, migrant, and EL children and youth shall not be denied, prohibited, or delayed from school attendance due to any of the following barriers:

- Lack of birth certificate
- Lack of school records or transcripts
- Lack of immunization or health records
- Lack of Social Security card
- Lack of proof of residency
- Lack of transportation
- Guardianship or custody verification

School administrator(s), with the assistance of local government agencies, shall take necessary steps to assist families obtain documentation necessary for school admission. No students will be excluded from any federal assisted education program on the basis of a surname or language-minority status [No Child Left Behind Act of 2011, Title III-Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students, Part C, Section 3302(f)].

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHT AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

All policies and practices governing the collection, maintenance, review and release of student education records are based on the principles of confidentiality and the student's right to privacy, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. FERPA is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of education records and to establish the right of students to inspect, review, amend and restrict access to their education records. Schools may disclose, without consent, directory information, such as students name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, parents and eligible students may request the school not disclose this information about them.

PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW

We are pleased to notify you that in accordance with Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's teacher. Specifically, you may request the following:

- Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria has been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive this information, please complete the top portion of the "Right to Know" form, and return the form to your child's school. These forms can be provided by the front office of the school. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Mr. Chuck Walker at (334-774-2355).

TITLE IX POLICY

It is the policy of the Dale County Board of Education not to discriminate on the basis of gender in its educational programs, activities or employment practices. Inquiries or complaints regarding compliances with applicable law or this policy may be directed to the Title IX Coordinator, Dale County Schools, 202 S Hwy 123, Suite E, Ozark, Alabama 36360. The coordinator may be reached by phone Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm at 334-774-2355, Ext 23229.

EPA ASBESTOS NOTICE

All Dale County Board of Education buildings are in Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) compliance regarding asbestos codes. All Dale County Schools have been inspected by an EPA approved asbestos inspector and maintain a management file in the school office as required under the AHERA regulations. The file is available to any parent to view. The majority of our asbestos materials is non-friable and is in the form of floor tiles. Although we do have some friable (able to crumble with hand pressure) asbestos in our facilities, these materials are well maintained and are not accessible to the students. The law requires that we make this notice to all employees, students, and staff annually. We are glad to provide a healthy atmosphere for students and staff.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment in any form that is directed toward students is prohibited. Persons who violate the policy will be subject to the full range of disciplinary consequences up to and including termination (for employees) and expulsion (for students) as dictated by the nature and severity of the violation and other relevant considerations. If appropriate, the circumstances constituting the violation may be reported to law enforcement agencies or child welfare agencies for further investigation and action. The Dale County Board of Education strictly prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex or gender in its programs or activities, including sexual harassment, as defined by law and Board policy. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX regulations may be referred to the Board's Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department of Education, or both.

STUDENT HARASSMENT

- I. No student shall engage in or be subjected to harassment, violence, threats of violence, or intimidation by any other student that is based on any of the specific characteristics that have been identified by the Dale County Board of Education in this policy. Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary sanctions.
- II. Definitions
 - A. The term "harassment" as used in this policy means a continuous pattern of intentional behavior that takes place on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function including, but not limited to, written, electronic, verbal, or physical acts that are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any characteristic of a student, or by the association of a student with an individual who has a particular characteristic, if the

characteristic falls into one of the characteristics set forth in Section III B below. To constitute harassment, a pattern of behavior may do any of the following:

- Place a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property.
 - Have the effect of substantially interfering with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of a student.
 - Have the effect of substantially disrupting or interfering with the orderly operation of the school.
 - Have the effect of creating a hostile environment in the school, on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function.
 - Have the effect of being sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.
- B. The term “violence” as used in this policy means the infliction of physical force by a student with the intent to cause injury to another student or damage to the property of another student.
- C. The term “threat of violence” as used in this policy means an expression of intention to inflict injury or damage that is made by a student and directed to another student.
- D. The term “intimidation” as used in this policy means a threat or other action that is intended to cause fear or apprehension in a student, especially for the purpose of coercing or deterring the student from participating in or taking advantage of any school program, benefit, activity or opportunity for which the student is or would be eligible.
- E. The term “student” as used in this policy means a student who is enrolled in the Dale County School System.

III. Description of Behavior Expected of Students

- A. Students are expected to treat other students with courtesy, respect, and dignity and comply with the Code of Student Conduct. Students are expected and required (1) to comply with the requirements of law, policy, regulation, and rules prohibiting harassment, violence, or intimidation; (2) to refrain from inflicting or threatening to inflict violence, injury, or damage to the person or property of another student; and (3) to refrain from placing another student in fear of being subjected to violence, injury, or damage when such actions or threats are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any personal characteristic of the student that is identified in this policy.
- B. Violence, threats of violence, harassment, and intimidation are prohibited and will be subject to disciplinary consequences and sanctions if the perpetrator of such action is found to have based the prohibited action on one or more of the following personal characteristics of the victim of such conduct:
- *The student’s race; *The student’s sex; *The student’s religion;
 - *The student’s national origin; or *The student’s disability.

IV. A series of graduated consequences for any violation of this policy will be those outlined in the Code of Student Conduct or any rule or standard adopted under authority of this policy.

V. Reporting, Investigation, and Complaint Resolution Procedures

- A. Complaints alleging violations of this policy must be made on Board-approved complaint forms available at the principal’s and or counselor’s office. The complaint must be signed by the student alleging the violation or by the student’s parent or legal guardian and delivered to the principal or the principal’s designee either by mail or personal delivery. At the request of the complaining student or the student’s parent or legal guardian, incidental or minor violations of the policy may be presented and resolved informally.
- B. Upon receipt of the complaint, the principal or the principal’s designee will, in his/her sole discretion, determine if the complaint alleges a serious violation of this policy. If the principal or the principal’s designee determines that the complaint alleges a serious violation, the principal or the designee will undertake an investigation of the complaint. The reasonably prompt time period taking into account the circumstances of the complaint. If the investigation establishes a violation, appropriate disciplinary sanctions will be imposed on the offending student(s). Other measures that are reasonably calculated to prevent a recurrence of the violation(s) may also be imposed by the principal or the school system.
- C. Acts of reprisal or retaliation against any student who has reported a violation of this policy or sought relief provided by this policy are prohibited, and are themselves a violation of this policy. Any confirmed acts of reprisal or retaliation will be subject to disciplinary sanctions that may include any sanction, penalty, or consequence that is available to school officials under the Code of Student Conduct. A student who deliberately, recklessly, and falsely accuses another student of a violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary sanctions as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.
- D. The complaint form developed to report violations of this policy will include a provision for reporting a threat of suicide by a student. If a threat of suicide is reported, the principal or the principal’s designee will inform the student’s parent or guardian of the report.

- VI. This policy and any procedures, rules, and forms developed and approved to implement the policy will be published, disseminated, and made available to students, parents and legal guardians, and employees by such means and methods as are customarily used for such purposes, including publication on the Dale County School System web site.
- VII. The Student Harassment Complaint Form can be obtained from the school office.

GRIEVANCE POLICY

Whenever a Dale County School System student believe that he/she has a complaint, every effort will be made to arrive at a satisfactory resolution of the problem on an informal basis. When this cannot be done, students can resort to the more formal procedures as provided as per Dale County Board of Education Policy. A copy of the Board Policy Manual and complaint form can be obtained through the school library, website or the Dale County Board of Education.

STUDENT INSURANCE

An accident insurance policy may be purchased during a specified period of time through the school.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

The school maintains a copy of social security cards for all students on file.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION

All students attending Dale County Schools must have the inoculations required by the State Health Officer or be exempt in accordance with the law. A blue immunization slip must be on file in the counseling office.

MEDICATION POLICY

Many children with chronic disabilities or illnesses are able to attend school because of the effectiveness of their prescribed medication. Any student who is required to take prescribed or over the counter medication should do so in compliance with school regulations. These regulations include the following:

- Pick up a *Medication Authorization Form* at the school office to be completed by BOTH the child's physician and parent,
- Prescribed medicines must be in a pharmacy labeled prescription container,
- Parents must transport all medication to the school office. Do not send medication with your child,
- Medicine prescribed two (2) or three (3) times during the day should be given at home and not during school hours,
- Pick up all medication at the end of the school year. Any medication left at the school will be disposed of by school authorities.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Any child with a communicable disease or contagious disease or infestations may be suspended from school for as long as the disease /infestation exist. The principal will not allow any student diagnosed as having or suspected of having a communicable disease (other than a mild respiratory disease) to attend school except as provided herein. The principal will report all cases of confirmed or suspected communicable diseases to the school nurse. A student diagnosed with a communicable disease must be cleared by a physician or the school nurse with a written statement of clearance presented to the school.

HEAD LICE POLICY

Children found to have head lice will be sent home with instructions for treatment. Once the child is treated, he/she may return to school. It is not necessary to remove all nits. If a few live lice are still found after investigation of the hair, the following process will occur:

- The child will be asked if he/she has been treated.
- If treated, they will be asked to comb dead and remaining sluggish lice from the hair.
- If treated and no dead lice are found and lice seem as active as before, the child will be sent home and the parent will be asked to see their health care provider for a different medication. The parent will be encouraged to follow the treatment directions.

After the child is treated and has returned to school, he/she will be re-checked in 7-10 days for live lice and nits ¼" away from the scalp. Classroom students and any siblings in school will be checked for evidence of head lice. Excessive absences due to head lice will be unexcused.

OTHER MEDICAL ISSUES

FEVER: Children should remain at home until he/she has been **fever free for twenty-four (24) hours.**

VOMITING: A child should not attend school if he/she has had excessive vomiting in the last twelve (12) hours.

PINK EYE: A child should not return to school until he/she has have treated for this inflammation

STREP THROAT: A child should not return to school until he/she is fever free and on antibiotics for twenty-four (24) hours.

UNDIAGNOSED RASH: Children should not return to school until the rash has been diagnosed and treated. It could be measles, chicken pox, scabies, or some other contagious disease.

CHICKEN POX: A child should be fever free for twenty-four (24) hours and the pox must be dried up. Children who have chicken pox should stay home for sever (7) days after the first lesion has appeared.

MEDICAL SCREENINGS

The Dale County Board of Education may periodically and sometimes randomly administer vision and hearing screenings for students attending Dale County Schools. If you are opposed to these screenings and would like to exercise your option to deny this service, please do so in writing addressed to the Principal. The Dale County Board of Education school nurse may perform scoliosis screenings for students in grades 5-9 that attend Dale County Schools. This procedure is a State Department of Education requirement.

NUTRITION AND WELLNESS PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS

A Nutrition and Wellness program for the students in the Dale County School System has been developed under the regulations set forth by the passing of Public Law 108-265 on June 30, 2004. It is the ultimate goal of Dale County Schools to help educate our students on the importance of their nutrition choices and physical activity. There are six areas that will be addressed according to Public Law 108-265:

- * Setting Nutrition Education Goals
- * Ensuring Healthy School Parties
- * Ensuring Healthy Food Choices & Environment in the cafeteria
- * Ensuring Healthy School Stores/Vending Machines
- * Ensuring Quality and Quantity of Physical Activities
- * Ensuring Healthy School Fundraising.

SCHOOL CAFETERIA

We have Self-Service Offer vs. Serve Lunch Program. Students serve themselves. Students are offered a selection from the following five categories: milk, bread, meats, vegetables, and fruits. Every child participating in the program must select from at least three categories. A variety of selections are available each day.

We encourage prepayments for meals by the week, month, or even year. Students are issued a 4-digit Personal identification Number (PIN) that will go with them though all school years at Dale County Schools. When students enter the PIN, their account is reduced by meals purchased and any *ala carte* purchased. Account information is available to parents at any time. Contact the lunchroom manager for balance information. Any balance remaining at the end of the year will transfer with the students to the next grade level or school within Dale County School System.

It is the intent of Dale County Schools to provide an opportunity for each student to eat a nutritious breakfast and lunch during the school day. It is necessary for all meals to be paid for before or at the time of service. Students are encouraged to make regular deposits into their school menu account. We encourage all parents to prepay for student meals.

Online Payment System: An option of online lunchroom payment through My School Bucks System is available. Parents can set up an account at www.MySchoolBucks.com , or access this website through a link on our district website, www.dalecountyboe.org

Free/Reduced Meal Application Online: Parents can complete and submit a free and reduced meal application online through a link on our district website, www.dalecountyboe.org .

MEAL PRICES

	Daily		Weekly	
Universal FREE Breakfast	Full Price	FREE	Full Price	FREE
	Reduced	FREE	Reduced	FREE
	Staff	\$2.50	Staff	12.50
	Visitor	\$2.50		
Lunch	Full Price	2.50	Full Price	12.50
	Reduced	.40	Reduced	2.00
	Staff	\$3.50	Staff	\$17.50
	Visitor	\$4.00		
Breakfast & Lunch	Full Price	FREE	Full Price	FREE
	Reduced	FREE	Reduced	FREE

The price of *ala carte* is determined by the amount and type of food selected.

Cafeteria Rules:

1. Sit at your assigned table/seat.
2. Place all trash in the proper containers.
3. Leave your table/seat area clean.
4. Line breaking or saving of places in line or at the table is not permitted.
5. Students are not to leave the cafeteria for any reason without permission from your teacher.
6. Keep noise at an appropriate level.
7. Absolutely no charging of items from the lunchroom will be allowed.

STUDENT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Students should not be on campus before 7:25 A.M. Due to the lack of supervision, the doors will not be unlocked until this time. Students arriving before 7:25 A.M. could face disciplinary actions. Arrival to school after 7:45 A.M. is considered tardy.

Students should not remain on campus after 3:30 P.M. unless participating in a school-sponsored event/activity. Due to the lack of supervision, students remaining on campus after 3:30 P.M. could face disciplinary actions if not involved in a school-sponsored event/activity.

Please do not pick your child up early unless it is an emergency. We are now an Alabama Math and Science Technology Initiative School and there are a lot of hands-on math and science that your child will be involved in. Students are unable to make up a great deal of this work or instruction if he/she misses the class. Therefore, they will not be able to take work home that they miss in class.

CAR RIDERS

Car riders will exit the front of the building and follow the outside sidewalk to a designated pick-up area.

1. Parents are to remain in their vehicle at all times.
2. During the afternoon loading time, parents should not park their vehicle and come to the building to pick up their child.

SCHOOL BUS PROCEDURES

Students will be permitted to load or unload from the bus at their assigned bus stop and their assigned school.

Bus drivers will not stop for students to load/unload at any other locations.

Any changes to this procedure will require a written parental request and approved by school administration, **before** the student will be allowed to ride an unassigned bus.

The bus schedule will be as consistent as possible. All students should be waiting at the assigned stop **prior** to the bus arrival. The bus cannot and will not wait for students that are not at the assigned stop due to the time and safety factors involved. Students should stand a **minimum of 10 feet** away from the road in an orderly fashion. During rainy days the students should be watching for the arrival of the bus and move as quickly as is safely possible to the assigned stop as the bus arrives.

A parent/guardian must be present at the bus stop each morning and afternoon.

SCHOOL BUS POLICIES

Objective: To maintain a uniform set of rules to ensure a safe environment for the daily transportation of all Dale County Schools bus passengers.

Students will be permitted to load or unload from the bus at only two locations:

1. **Their assigned neighborhood bus stop.**
2. **Their assigned school.**

Bus drivers will not stop for students to load/unload at any other locations.

Any changes to this procedure will require a written parental request, approved by school administration, **before** the student will be allowed to ride an unassigned bus.

The bus schedule will be as consistent as possible. There should be very few times when the bus is not on time to pick up or drop off students. All students should be waiting at the assigned stop **prior** to the bus's arrival. The bus cannot and will not wait for students that are not **at** the assigned stop due to the time and safety factors involved. Students should stand a **minimum of 10 feet** away from the road in an orderly fashion. During rainy days the students should be watching for the arrival of the bus and move as quickly as is safely possible to the assigned stop as the bus arrives.

Rules of Conduct:

1. Always follow driver instructions.
2. Remain seated in assigned seat, face the front of the bus, and keep the aisle clear.
3. No objects thrown out of the windows and no objects thrown inside of the bus.
4. Vandalism of the bus is prohibited.
5. Maintain a low noise level, so as not to distract driver; absolute silence at all railroad crossings.
6. No food, drink, gum, profanity, or tobacco.
7. Students will maintain the school dress code.
8. All school rules apply while on school bus.

Your child's bus driver has the responsibility of maintaining bus discipline in order to provide the safest possible means of transportation.

Actions for Violation of Rules:

Level 1 – Minor rule violations.

Verbal reminders of expected conduct, driver may reassign seat, and parent notes/calls.

Level 2 – Referred by driver as not responsive to Level 1 discipline and/or Serious Safety Violations.

When normal efforts of maintaining appropriate behavior are not effective your child's principal will be involved for assistance to correct behavior (short term bus suspension, corporal punishment).

Level 3 – Student not responsive to Level 2 discipline and/or Major Offenses.

At the recommendation of the principal the student will have bus privileges suspended for the remainder of the school year. The principal may refer the student to the Superintendent for administrative action. The Superintendent will then decide if the matter will go before The Dale County Board of Education for possible disciplinary action.

*****Please remember: It is a privilege to ride a bus, not a right.*****

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips must be for educational purposes only and have the advanced approval of the principal and superintendent. Field trip forms must be fully completed and turned in to the teacher by the specified deadline. (All spaces on the field trip form must include required information or be labeled N/A). No spaces are to be left blank. All students must ride the bus to and from each field trip. Any commitment to an extended field trip will be met and all balances will be paid in full. All school policies and rules apply while attending a school related or school sponsored activity on or off campus. Students may become ineligible due to disciplinary infractions. Parents are not allowed to ride school buses to or from field trips. Students must be in "Good Standing" in all academic areas and no excessive absences.

ALABAMA COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAWS

The Alabama Compulsory Attendance Laws require children between the ages of 6 - 17 to attend school. The law also states that parents/guardians having control over school-age children are responsible for the children's regular attendance and proper conduct (Alabama Act 93-972).

All students enrolled in the Dale County School System are required to be in continuous attendance. Each student must attend school in the zone where the student maintains a bon-a-fide residence with the custodial parent/guardian. Be advised that the Early Warning Truancy Prevention Program is in place in the Dale County School System for this school year. The program was requested by the State Department of Education and the Administrative Office of Courts and has been approved by the Dale County Board of Education.

ATTENDANCE CODES

The following list explains the attendance codes documented in Chalkable home portal:

- 6X is an unexcused absence.
- XP is a parent excuse to justify absence (limit 5 per semester).
- 7X is an absence from school due to death/legal authority.
- 8X is an absence from school with prior permission from principal.
- XD is a documented health care provider's excuse.

ADMITTANCE AFTER ABSENCE

A note from the student's parent/guardian explaining a valid, verifiable reason of each absence (to include check in/out) is required for each absence by the morning of the **third day** after the student returns to school. Failure to furnish such explanation shall result in an unexcused absence. It is the responsibility of the student to present the note to the admittance clerk located in the front office prior to the first bell.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

An absence from school may be excused only for the following reasons: (1) personal illness, (2) hospitalization (3) a legal quarantine, (4) a death in the immediate family, (5) an emergency condition as determined by the superintendent or the principal and (6) absence with prior permission of the principal and with consent of the parent or guardian. After five (5) absences (not including health care provider excuses), school administrative officials shall require that all further absences be verified by a health care provider (physician, dentist, counselor, etc.) or legal authority (court, law enforcement, etc.). The principal and/or his/her designee reserve the right to determine the validity of the excuse. Students with excessive absences in grades 5-6 may be retained. Students in grades 7-12 who accumulate more than five absences (except an 8X or XD) per semester from school or from any given class will NOT receive credit for the course or courses in which they are enrolled. The Alabama Compulsory Attendance Laws require children between the ages of 7-17 to attend school. The law also states that parents or guardians having control over school-age children are responsible for the children's regular attendance and proper conduct.

**Checking out or in during any point in time of a class will count as an absence for that class.

**A student (7-12) who is absent from any class more than five times per semester, except for absences documented by a healthcare provider or PRIOR permission of the principal, will not receive credit for that class.

Be advised that the Early Warning Truancy Prevention Program is in place in the Dale County School System for this school year. The program was requested by the State Department of Education and the Administrative Office of Courts and has been approved by the Dale County Board of Education. The following procedures for handling truanancies shall be uniformly administered throughout Dale County Schools

1. **First through Fourth Unexcused Absence:** Teacher shall caution the student about truancy.

2. **Fifth Unexcused Absence:**

The parent/guardian or person having control of said child shall participate in the Early Warning Truancy Prevention Program provided by the Juvenile Court held every third Tuesday at 4 p.m. at the Dale County Courthouse. Attendance at this conference shall be mandatory except where prior arrangements have been made or an emergency exists. Failure to appear at the meeting shall result in the filing of a complaint/petition for truancy against the child and/or parent/guardian if appropriate.

3. **Sixth Absence (daily):**potential loss of credit

4. **Seventh Unexcused Absence:**

A complaint/petition for truancy will be filed against the child or parent/guardian if appropriate.

In keeping with section one, paragraph B of Senate Bill 94, the superintendent shall report such suspected violations to the District Attorney. Paragraph B reads as follows: “(b) Any parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of any child enrolled in public school who fails to require the child to regularly attend the school or tutor, or fails to compel the child to properly conduct himself or herself as a pupil, shall be reported by the principal or the superintendent of education of the school system in which the suspected violation occurred. The superintendent shall report such suspected violation to the district attorney. Any principal or superintendent of education intentionally failing to report such a suspected violation shall be guilty of a Class C Misdemeanor. The district attorney shall vigorously enforce this section to ensure proper conduct and required attendance by any child enrolled in public school.”

After five (5) days of absences, school administrative officials shall require that all further excused absences be verified by a health care provider (physician, dentist, counselor, school nurse, etc.) or legal authority (court, sheriff, police, lawyer, etc.). The principal and/or his/her designee reserve the right to determine the validity of the excuse. Regular attendance ensures that a child has the opportunity to receive the full benefits of the education provided by the school. Students, who for any reason are irregular in attendance, may not be able to make satisfactory progress in school.

ATTENDANCE EVENT NOTIFICATION

In the event the student is absent from school, the parent/guardian is notified via school cast as well as through Powerschool home portal from the Dale County Board of Education.

EARLY CHECK-OUTS

If a student needs to be checked-out for any amount of time, he/she must follow the procedures listed below:

- (1) The parent must visit the school in order for the student to be checked out.
- (2) The parent must sign out the in the front office. Written documentation from a parent/physician is still required after student is signed out.

Before a student can leave campus, the above procedures must be satisfied. Failure to comply with checkout procedures will be considered leaving school without permission and disciplinary action will be taken. Students leaving school early must be picked up by their parents or someone designated by their parents. The person picking up the student will need written permission to pick up the student, or his/her name must be on the student emergency card. **A picture ID is required.** We take these precautions because of our concern for your child’s safety. If a student leaves school early, the parent must send a note to the teacher stating the reason for the check out and the approximate time of the check out. **Students will not be called to the office until the person checking them out comes in and signs the student out. That person must wait in the office until the student arrives. No student will be sent to a car outside unless the person checking them out escorts them to the car. Do not call the school and ask for your child to be waiting in the office.**

LATE CHECK-INS

Students who check-in to school must adhere to the following procedures:

- (1) Report to the front office immediately upon arrival to school.
- (2) Submit the REQUIRED parent/doctor documentation to secretary.
- (3) Obtain class “Pass to Class” from the front office.
- (4) Report to regular scheduled class.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Absence from school may be excused only for the following reasons:

- (1) Parental note - after five (5) parental notes per semester to justify an absence, a student must bring written verification from a health care provider in order to have the absence excused. (XP)
- (2) Doctor's visit, accompanied by a note. (XD)
- (3) Legal authority. (7X)
- (4) Death in the immediate family. (7X)
- (5) Absence with **prior** permission of the principal or designee and with the consent of the parent/guardian. (8X)
- (6) Emergency condition as determined by the principal, superintendent or designee.
- (7) Inclement weather - which would be dangerous to life or health of the child if he/she attended school.

If a student has a chronic medical problem necessitating frequent school absences, **annual** medical updates must be written by a health care provider and placed in the principal's keeping.

TARDY TO SCHOOL

Students are to be in their class and seated in their desks or assigned seats before the tardy bell rings. Failure to meet these requirements will result in the student being marked tardy to school. Students who arrive on campus after the tardy bell are required to report to the office. Consequences for accumulated tardies to school will be as follows:

1. **First Tardy:** Office warning. Document tardy on Tardy Referral Form.
2. **Second Tardy:** Office warning. Document tardy on Tardy Referral Form.
3. **Third Tardy:** Student signs acknowledgment form.
4. **Fourth Tardy:** Assistant Principal assigns student to afterschool detention.
5. **Fifth Tardy and Subsequent Tardies:** Office referral

TARDY TO CLASS

Students are to be in their classrooms and seated in their desks or assigned seats before the tardy bell rings. Failure to meet these requirements will result in the student being marked tardy to class. Consequences for accumulated tardies to class will be as follows:

1. **First Tardy:** Teacher warning. Document tardy on Tardy Referral Form.
2. **Second Tardy:** Teacher warning. Document tardy on Tardy Referral Form.
3. **Third Tardy:** Student signs tardy acknowledgment line on Tardy Referral Form.
4. **Fourth Tardy:** Teacher assigns student to afterschool detention.
5. **Fifth Tardy and Subsequent Tardies:** Office referral

Tardies to class start over at the beginning of each Semester.

GRADE SYSTEM

Kindergarten through twelfth grade students will receive a report card at the end of each nine weeks grading period. This report card should be signed by a parent or guardian for students in K-6 and returned to the teacher except for the last reporting period. During the middle of each nine weeks a progress report will be sent home to all students and should also be signed and returned by students in K-6. The fourth nine weeks' report card must be picked up or mailed. Students are charged with the responsibility of showing their progress reports and report cards to their parents.

GRADE POLICY AND GRADE SCALE

Letter Grade	Grade Scale
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

RETENTION POLICY

Retention of a student is considered to be a serious step to be undertaken only when it clearly is in the best interest of the student's future progress in school. Retention should not be considered unless parents have been informed throughout the school year of their student's failure to achieve satisfactory progress.

Elementary (5th-6th)

The decision to retain an elementary student (K-6) shall be the decision of the principal and teacher(s) and shall not be made without a request for a conference with the student's parents.

Secondary (7th-8th)

A seventh or eighth grade student must pass a minimum of four (4) academic units of which three (3) must be math, science, social studies and language in order to be promoted to the next grade. Principals may consider special circumstances when final promotion decisions are made.

For a student to be promoted from any grade level to the next grade level, the student must satisfy attendance requirements, as established by the Dale County Board of Education

FINAL EXAM POLICY

All students in grades 7-12 will take a comprehensive final exam. The final exam will count for 15% of their semester average. All classes/subjects will administer final exams to all students. Students must stay for the entire testing block/period and are not allowed to check out during the test session. Final exams are not administered in advance and must be made up at a time designated by the principal

HONOR ROLL/ HONORS DAY

Students will receive the following honors at awards day. These attainments are directly related to our school accountability score.

- "A" Honor Roll - Awarded to students who obtain all A's for the entire school year.
- "A/B" Honor Roll - Awarded to students who obtain all A's and B's for the entire school year
- Perfect Attendance - Students achieve perfect attendance if their records indicate NO attendance events in any and all of their classes except for those absences designated as school events. Attendance events include any absences, tardiness, check-ins, and/or check-outs.
- Student of the Month- Awarded to students who display outstanding behavior, positive attitude, and good citizenship.
- Presidential Award for Academic Excellence- This is awarded to eighth grade students who have achieved an "A's" during 5th-8th grade.
- Highest Average Honor - Awarded to students who obtain the highest average in each subject.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

If letter grades are presented, the student must have the respective school(s) attended submit the grades in numerical form. If numerical grades are not available, said student's letter grades will be converted to numerical grades at the mid-point of the grading scale.

HOME SCHOOLING

Courses taken through home schooling cannot be designated as honors courses.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

Students who are absent from school due to an unexcused absence or out-of-school suspension (OSS) will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities (athletics, cheerleading, school trips, banquets, dances, etc.) on the day of the absence. If a student has an excused absence, he/she must have prior approval of the administration to be absent and participate.

HOMEWORK

Each student is expected to complete all homework assignments during the year. These assignments will vary throughout the year and from teacher to teacher. Parents are asked to encourage pride in having completed well-done assignments. If at any time a question arises concerning homework, parents are encouraged to contact the teacher for a conference. Homework is never used as a form of student punishment.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students may make up work missed due to excused absences. Arrangement for make-up work should be initiated by the student with the approval of the teacher. Work should be completed within a definite time limit set by the teacher. Students who miss class due to school-related activities must make arrangements with their teacher. Saturday school will be assigned to students who receive out of school suspension to make-up any missed assignments.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Students achieve perfect attendance if their records indicate NO attendance events in any and all of their classes except for those absences designated as school events. Attendance events include any absences, tardiness, check-ins, and/or check-outs.

WITHDRAWALS AND TRANSFERS

The procedures for withdrawal or transferring to another school are:

1. Custodial parent or legal guardian must come to the school to sign the withdrawal form.
2. Signed withdrawal form is completed.
3. Withdrawal form will be filled out by teachers when textbooks are returned. All school property and fees must be paid.
4. Completed form will be turned into the Guidance Office where the necessary transfer papers will be given.
5. Official transcript request must be received from the school the student is transferring to for the withdrawal process to be complete.

Failure to comply with this process could result in a complaint/petition for truancy filed with the Dale County Juvenile Court.

HALL PASSES

Hall passes are to be given only in cases of emergencies within the required student planner. Students who have a medical condition that requires time away from the classroom must have verification of the condition from a health care provider on file in the front office. This verification must be updated at the beginning of each school year.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Students are not to bring valuables to school. To avoid theft, it is the responsibility of each student not to leave money or valuables unattended. DO NOT leave money or valuables in locker rooms or school lockers.

POWER SCHOOL HOME PORTAL

Dale County School System has implemented the Power School Home Portal. Each student has a user name and password that allows them to log into the portal and retrieve attendance, grades, unofficial transcripts, and other information. This allows the student, as well as, the parents/guardians to have daily/weekly monitoring. Should you have questions regarding this program, please contact the guidance department at the school.

FUND RAISING

Fund raising activities are confined to organizations at the school. Fund raising activities must have approval of the principal in advance. Activities must not interfere with instructional time.

SCHOOL TELEPHONE

The school telephone is for school business and emergency calls. The secretary in the school office will make the call for the student

FIRE/SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURES

The fire alarm system is the signal for a fire drill or actual fire. An intercom warning is the signal for a severe weather drill or severe weather. Upon hearing such a signal, the following directions apply:

1. Stop all work immediately.
2. Remain quiet for instructions from the classroom teacher.
3. Follow the directions given by the teacher.
4. Move quietly and promptly to the designated area.

LOCK DOWN PROCEDURES

An intercom announcement will be the signal for lock down procedures. Upon hearing the announcement, the following directions apply:

1. Stop all work immediately.
2. Remain quiet for instructions from administration or his/her designee.
3. Follow directions given by administration or his/her designee.

USE OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT

To provide and maintain a safe and secure environment for students, staff, and authorized visitors, the Dale County Board of Education may use surveillance equipment on properties owned and/or maintained by the school system. Properties include building and grounds, as well as, vehicles owned and/or operated by the Dale County School System.

Any information obtained through the use of surveillance equipment shall be used only for school safety, disciplinary matter, law enforcement, or other lawful purposes.

SECURE TESTING

The possession of digital devices (including, but not limited to cell phones, smart watches, 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 device 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.

PHOTO CONSENT

Pictures of students will be used by student organizations, the school, and the school system on paper and electronic publications. The name, address, transcript, and phone number of students can/will be released to colleges, technical schools, and the armed services when requested. If you do not want your child's picture, likeness, or information published, please contact the school principal in writing.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF INTERNET POLICY

Dale County School system recognizes the need to protect its student's privacy and internet safety. The federal government also has acts in place for this purpose. As such, the district forces all internet traffic to pass through filters. Dale County Schools meet the requirement of the Children's Internet Protection Act by filtering all internet access the Alabama Super Computer Authority. Content filter is designed to restrict minors' access to materials "harmful to minors," as that term is defined in Section 1, 721(c), of the Children's Protections Act of 2000.

Dale County School's technology is intended for use by staff and students. Dale County Schools encourage and promote the education use of technology in our schools. To ensure students and staff take full advantage of the technologies available; all uses of technology in the school district must have proper authorization and adhere to district policies. All use of technology is a privilege, not a right, and must be in support of and consistent with the purposes and state goals of the school district. There are no inherent warranties for technological resources that Dale County Schools are providing. Dale County Schools reserve the right to monitor network activity.

Guidelines:

- Students will use technology as authorized by appropriate school personnel.
- Only software legally owned and/or authorized by the district may be put on district computers.
- All network activities will be legal and appropriate use will be enforced.

Technology users will:

- Comply with district policies, rules and regulations.
- Use networks and technology in support of Dale County Schools' educational goals.
- Obey all district, state and national copyright laws.
- Use district equipment responsibly; respect individual work, files, programs and security.
- Sign the handbook acknowledgement form that confirms the parent and student understand the "Acceptable Use of Internet Policy."

Technology users will not:

- Access inappropriate matter on the internet or communicate with individuals for non-instructional purposes. This includes e-mail, chat, messenger services, or similar resources.
- Access, vandalize, or modify data or computer set-up.
- Use the network or internet for personal or commercial purposes.
- Disclose or post personal or confidential information of self or others over the internet.

VIOLATION OF ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Failure to abide by Board policy and administrative regulation governing use of the district's resources may result in the suspension and/or revocation of system access. Additionally, student violations may result in discipline or legal actions as stated in the Dale County Schools Code of Conduct. Fees or other charges may be imposed. Parents that choose for their student to abstain from computers, internet use, and other technology must notify the school in writing.

CELL PHONE/DIGITAL DEVICE IN A SECURE 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.

STUDENT POSSESSION AND USE OF CELLULAR PHONES, PERSONAL LAP TOPS, AND OTHER ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

It is the intent of the Dale County Board of Education (DCBOE) to permit the use of personal electronic devices during specified times. Students will be allowed to bring their own device to school, at their own risk, for educational purposes. It is voluntary for students to bring their own personal electronic mobile devices to school. Students may utilize personal electronic mobile devices in designated areas for educational purposes when authorized by appropriate school personnel.

- (1) For the purposes of this policy a personal electronic mobile device shall include, but not be limited to the following: A privately owned laptop, tablet computer device, netbook, notebook, e-Reader, iPod touch (or similar), and/or cell/smart phone.
- (2) Use of an electronic mobile device during the school day is a privilege. Therefore, all students must:
 - (a) Use only the DCBOE specified Wi-Fi network for all network and internet access and refrain from destroying or damaging District data, networks or other resources.
 - (b) Use all DCBOE internet filters and posted network security practices.
 - (c) Report network security risks or violations of network security to a school administrator.
 - (d) Refrain from creating ad hoc, peer-to-peer, or other wireless networks with DCBOE or student owned devices including the use of wireless hotspots or other similar devices.
 - (e) Use the DCBOE network for instructional and school related purposes only.
 - (f) Follow copyright laws which prohibit the reproduction of content, e-Books, music, games or movies.
 - (g) Refrain from accessing, transmitting, copying or creating mobile apps, websites or other materials that contain inappropriate information, content, advertisements or any material that is illegal, not age appropriate or inappropriate for a school environment.
 - (h) Comply with School Board Policy, Acceptable Use Policy Governing Internet and Technology Access.
- (3) Failure to follow the directives outlined in # 2 above will result in appropriate disciplinary consequences as outlined in the Code of Conduct for Students.
- (4) Students that bring personal mobile electronic devices to school do so at their own risk. The DCBOE accepts no responsibility if a device is lost, stolen, misplaced, damaged or confiscated. The DCBOE accepts no responsibility for viruses, malware or other computer related issues associated with connecting to the DCBOE network. The DCBOE accepts no responsibility for the costs associated with or that may result from the use of data or texting services by a student when using a personal mobile electronic device.
- (5) Students are responsible for charging and maintaining their personal mobile electronic device(s) and the DCBOE assumes no responsibility for same. This includes the use of anti-malware software, if applicable, on the personal mobile electronic device.
- (6) The superintendent shall be authorized to make temporary changes to this policy should he/she deem any such change necessary to advance the health, welfare, and/or education of the students of DCBOE.
- (7) Interpretation of this policy and disciplinary action taken in accordance with this policy shall be in the sole discretion of the school principal or his/her designee. Any disagreement by a parent or student with the implementation of this policy shall be addressed through the DCBOE grievance process.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE USAGE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

The Dale County Board of Education has adopted a policy that allows the use of personal electronic devices for Educational Purposes only. Unauthorized use of cellular phones and all other electronic devices is not allowed. Violations are as follows with additional penalties to be imposed based on the severity** of the violations.

Violations	Penalties
1st offense	Device confiscated with office referral; Conference with student; Parental contact; Phone returned to student at end of school day.
2nd offense	Device confiscated with office referral; Conference with student and parent; Phone returned only to the parent
3rd offense	Device confiscated with office referral; Student placed in ISS (1 Full Day); Phone returned only to the parent
4th offense	Device confiscated with office referral; Mandated 1 Day of OSS; Loss of electronic privileges for remainder of semester; Phone returned at Parent Conference
5th offense	Device confiscated with office referral and turned over to Superintendent; Loss of privileges for the remainder of school year; Administrative hearing with Superintendent

*** Refusal to turn over a device to school personnel will result in automatic OSS and the number of days will be at administrator's discretion.**

**** Severity of violations will be at the sole discretion of the school principal or his/her designee.**

DALE COUNTY SCHOOLS DRESS CODE POLICY

Students shall dress in a manner that is appropriate for a learning environment and a school setting. Health, safety, decency, and the prevention of distractions are the primary reasons for the development of the dress code for the Dale County Schools.

Failure to comply with the guidelines will result in penalties ranging from warning to suspension. In addition, the student will be required to come into compliance before allowed to attend class or classes. No code or policy can be all-inclusive. There may be a situation that arises, not covered in this code; in these situations, the principal or his/her designee will deal with these on an individual basis. School personnel on a case-by-case basis will address any hairstyle, hair color, article of clothing, or other student item that is a distraction to the educational process. The Student Dress Code include the following restrictions and/or requirements:

Pants: (Boys and Girls)

1. All pants (including shorts and skirts) will be worn appropriately.
2. If pants have belt loops, belts will be worn. There will be NO sagging.
3. No sweat pants or PE shorts are allowed unless participating in Physical Education or athletics; wind suits are permissible.
4. Pajama style pants are not allowed.
5. Pants with tears or holes above the knee that show skin are not allowed.
6. Pants with writing on the seat are not permissible.
7. Leggings/Yoga Pants can be worn if the skirt/dress hem or long top touches the top of the knee

Shorts/Skirts/Skort:

1. Shorts worn at mid-thigh (fingertip rule) are permissible in **grades K-6**, but there is to be no writing on the seat.
2. Knee length skirts, dresses, skorts, and shorts that the bottom hem touch the knee will be allowed in **grades 7-12**.

Shirts/Tops/Sweaters:

For safety reasons, pants, shorts, and skirt pockets must be visible. Shirrtails must be tucked into pants, shorts, or skirts. The following types of shirts or tops are **not** allowed:

1. Shirts or tops that expose the midriff when arms are fully extended above the student's head.
2. Sleeveless shirts or tops for male students.

3. Shirts, tops, or sweaters worn by female students that expose undergarment or are immodest.
4. Strapless tops, mesh tops, spaghetti strap tops, tank tops, immodestly tight or revealing tops. The top should cover the width of the shoulder

Symbols/Pictures/Wording/Tattoos:

Clothing, tattoos, jewelry, hats, medical facial coverings which contains profane, immoral, or distracting words or drawings, references to drugs, alcohol, gangs, tobacco products, or any type of distracting or disruptive comments or symbols, are not allowed. Flags worn as capes or drapes are not allowed.

Jewelry/Accessories:

1. Facial or tongue jewelry is not allowed.
2. Excessive/distracting/dangling ear jewelry is not to be worn by males or females.
3. Dog collars, chains, bracelets with studs or spikes, long and /or heavy necklaces are not allowed.
4. Jewelry in the mouth or on the teeth, unless prescribed by a physician or dentist, is not allowed.

Other clothing related guidelines:

1. Bandanas or other gang related clothing, etc. are not allowed.
2. No article of clothing may be worn in a gang related manner (i.e. cocked caps, towels, rags, strings, etc.)
3. Caps, hats, sweatbands, scarves, or other similar headwear are not allowed to be worn inside the building unless prescribed by a physician. (Caps may be worn outside with bill forward.)
4. Sunglasses are not allowed to be worn inside the building unless prescribed by a physician.
5. Combs, hair picks, hair socks, or curlers are not allowed to be worn.
6. Hairstyles or hair color that cause distractions to the learning environment are not allowed. Principal (or his/her designee) discretion.
7. Suspender straps must be worn on the shoulder as designed.
8. Belts must be fastened and positioned completely within the belt loops with no belt excess hanging down.
9. Trench coats/Long coats are not allowed.

Footwear:

1. Shoes must be worn at all times.
2. Bedroom shoes/house slippers or shower shoes are not allowed.
3. Shoes must be Velcroed or tied at all times.

DISCIPLINE FOR DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS

1 st Offense	Warning
2 nd Offense	Corporal Punishment or detention (before, during, or after school) and parental contact
3 rd Offense	ISS
4 th Offense	OSS – 1 day

Additional Offenses: OSS – up to 3 days

*Students will be sent home when corrections cannot be made at school

*Students may be placed in ISS during the day until corrections can be made

**DALE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SCHOOLS**

SYSTEM-WIDE DISCIPLINARY POLICY

The Dale County Board of Education Student Code of Conduct represents a system-wide disciplinary policy. The maintenance of order in the school is a necessity. Therefore, it is the responsibility of all school employees to assist in the maintaining of discipline, so students may be educated in an orderly manner. Students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. The school has the prerogative to determine if conduct interferes with the educational process and the means by which the conduct may be corrected. Student discipline is the responsibility of the principal (or his/her designee). Disciplinary interventions may include, but are not limited to, conference with school authorities, referral to the Department of Youth Services, parental conferences, break detention, after school detention, before school detention, corporal punishment (paddling), out of school suspension, alternative school and/or expulsion. All Dale County Schools system students and parents/guardians are responsible for being thoroughly familiar with all aspects of the Student Code of Conduct included in this handbook. **The Dale County School Code of Conduct applies while student is attending a school related or school-sponsored activity on or off campus.**

DEMERIT SYSTEM

Disciplinary violations are grouped into four categories. Demerits are assigned to each category as shown below:

- Class I: 1 demerit per referral**
- Class II: 3 demerits per referral**
- Class III: 6 demerits per referral**
- Class IV: 12 demerits per referral**

Accumulation of Demerits: when a student receives a disciplinary referral, the school administrator or designee reviews the student's disciplinary record. The school official then calculates the total demerits accumulated by the student during the current eighteen-week term. Disciplinary action is then determined by the total demerits received by the student during the current eighteen-week term. There are several concepts to keep in mind concerning the demerit system and disciplinary action assigned.

1. Demerits are cumulative throughout each eighteen-week term.
2. Disciplinary actions are assigned based on the total demerits accumulated during each eighteen-week term (not on the individual violation).
3. The severity of disciplinary actions increases as the student accumulates demerits.
4. Demerits are removed from consideration at the beginning of each eighteen-week term (generally in August and January).
5. Only those demerits accumulated during the current eighteen-week term are considered in assigning disciplinary action.

Disciplinary Actions Based on Accumulated Demerits: when a student is determined by a school official to be guilty of a disciplinary violation, a school official assigns disciplinary action(s) based on the total demerits accumulated by the student during the school term in which the violation occurred.

The table below shows possible disciplinary action that school official may assign as a result of accumulated demerits.

1-4 demerits: Conference with the student, parental contact, parental conference, before school detention, break detention, after school detention, apology to appropriate persons, corporal punishment, in-school-suspension, and/or other disciplinary action(s) as deemed appropriate by the principal or designee

5-8 demerits: Parental contact, parental conference, in-school suspension for up to three days, out-of-school-suspension of up to five days, corporal punishment, complaint filed with the Department of Youth Services, referral to the school counselor, Saturday school, Alternative School, other disciplinary action(s) as deemed appropriate by the principal or designee

9-11 demerits: Parental conference (requested), in-school suspension for up to five school days, out-of-school-suspension for up to five school days, corporal punishment, Saturday school for up to three days, Alternative School, complaint filed with the Department of Youth Services, other disciplinary action(s) deemed appropriate by the principal or designee, other legal action as deemed appropriate by the principal with possible consultation with legal and/or court officials.

12 or more: Parental conference (required), removal from campus by legal authorities, out-of-school-suspension for up to ten school days, Alternative School, referral to appropriate court system, and/or referral to the Dale County Board of Education for possible expulsion, and/or other disciplinary action(s) deemed appropriate by the principal or designee.

15 or more: Administrative hearing with the Superintendent of Education (or his/her designee) to determine referral to the Dale County Board of Education for expulsion, placement with Juvenile Court Authorities, Withdrawal, or placement in an Alternate Learning Environment.

CLASS I VIOLATIONS

1 demerit per violation

The following are Class I violations. Each Class I violation results in **one** demerit. Disciplinary action assigned based on the student's total demerits, not solely on the individual violation.

1. Classroom disruption - any behavior that is disruptive to the orderly educational process.
2. Refusal to complete class assignments and/or not having assigned materials/books.
3. Quarreling - Verbal conflicts such as name-calling, inflammatory language, etc.
4. Hallway misconduct - running, yelling, tripping others, etc.
5. Inappropriate public display of affection.
6. Eating, drinking, or gum chewing in unauthorized area.

7. Misuse, abuse, or littering of school property.
8. Possession of inappropriate or disruptive items - Cards, dice, inappropriate magazines, toys, etc.
9. Presence in unauthorized area - includes, but not limited to sitting in vehicles after arriving on campus.
10. Minor bus misconduct.
11. Any other violation deemed as a Class I violation by the principal or designee.

CLASS II VIOLATIONS

3 demerits per violation

The following are Class II violations. Each Class II violations results in **three** demerits. Disciplinary action assigned based on the student's total demerits, not solely on the individual violation.

1. Unauthorized meetings, gatherings, or organizations - Use of any part of the school day or facilities for activities that are not school sponsored or approved by the principal.
2. Gambling - Any participation in games of chance for money or things of value.
3. Possession, sale, use, or distribution of tobacco products.
4. Defiance - any verbal or nonverbal refusal to comply in a timely manner with legal directions or instructions from school personnel.
5. Vandalism - Deliberate action resulting in damages of less than \$50 to public or private property.
6. Petty theft - The deliberate taking of property valued at less than \$25 belonging to or in the lawful possession or custody of another.
7. Possession of stolen property.
8. Profane or obscene language (Not including profanity directed to or about school personnel).
9. Possession of electronic devices - Gameboys, CD players, radios, laser pointers, etc.
10. Possession of objects or substances capable of causing bodily harm or injury (matches, lighters, etc.)
11. Obscene gestures or illustrations toward another person.
12. Truancy - Unauthorized absence from school or class.
13. Intimidation.
14. Disrespectful/rude language addressed to or about school personnel (not to include profanity directed to or about school personnel).
15. Providing false information to school personnel - including, by not limited to, forging a parent's signature, giving false accounts of incidences, intentionally failing to give truthful information when requested by school personnel.
16. Leaving school grounds without permission from school officials.
17. Parking lot violations that create an unsafe parking environment. Including displaying flags from vehicles which creates distractions and line of sight issues.
18. Any other violation deemed as a Class II violation by the principal or designee.

CLASS III VIOLATIONS

6 demerits per violation

The following are Class III violations. Each violation results in **six** demerits. Disciplinary action assigned based on the student's total demerits, not solely on the individual violation.

1. Motor vehicle violation - Unsafe or unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
2. Extortion - Any communication threatening injury to the person, property or reputation of another with the intention of extorting money or any other item.
3. Fighting - Physical altercation involving hostile or aggressive contact or attempted contact.
4. Threats - Intentional demonstration of the intent or ability to carry out a malicious act creating a well-founded fear in the person threatened.
5. Possession and/or igniting fireworks.
6. Harassment
7. Inappropriate touching in a sexual or suggestive way.
8. Vandalism - Deliberate actions resulting in more than \$50 to public or personal property.
9. Profanity or obscene language to or about school board personnel.

10. Student disorders - Inciting, participating, encouraging, or otherwise promoting unauthorized student activities, disruption to an orderly environment or impeding the educational process.
11. Possession, viewing, or distribution of pornographic material; including any obscene or profane materials.
12. Computer misuse - Assessing, changing, receiving, or transmitting information in school computers or technology systems. Including inappropriate use of social media platforms
13. Possession, sale, use, distribution of vaping/electronic cigarette products
14. Any other violation deemed as a Class III violation by the principal or designee.

CLASS IV VIOLATIONS

12 demerits per violation

The following are Class IV violations. Each Class IV violation results in **twelve** demerits. Disciplinary action assigned based on the student's total demerits, not solely on the individual violation.

1. Threatening school board personnel. (Any verbal or nonverbal Communication)
2. Drug violation - Possession, transfer, use, or sale of illegal or unauthorized drugs (including "over the counter" and prescription medications).
3. Alcohol violation - Possession, transfer, use, or sale of alcoholic beverages.
4. Grand theft - The taking of property valued at \$25 or more belonging to or in the lawful possession or custody of another.
5. Assault upon school personnel- Hitting, pushing, kicking, grabbing, or any other hostile or aggressive contact or action toward school personnel.
6. Firearms violation - Any firearm (including, but not limited to, starter gun, BB gun, pellet gun, stun gun, hand gun, rifle, shotgun, etc.).
7. Weapons Violation - Including, but not limited to, metallic knuckles, tear gas, knives, of any kind or size, box cutters, chemical weapons of any kind, or any device or substance converted or intended for use as a weapon.
8. Explosives Violation - Possession, igniting, preparing to ignite any explosive substance on school property or at a school related event.
9. Bomb Threat - Any such communication intended to imply the presence of explosives.
10. Arson - The skillful and malicious burning or attempting to burn public or private property.
11. Sexual Offense - Acts and/or contact of a sexual nature including, but not limited to, sexual battery, attempted intercourse, intercourse, rape, and attempted rape.
12. Aggravated battery - Intentionally causing great bodily harm, disability, or disfigurement, by the use of a weapon.
13. Sexual Harassment - Sexual comments, propositions, insinuations, or suggestions
14. Robbery - Taking of money or property from another by force, violence, threat, or intimidation.
15. Burglary - Entering or remaining in a structure or conveyance with the intent to commit an offense when premises are closed to the public.
16. Criminal mischief - Willful and malicious injury or damages of \$50 or more to public or private property.
17. Indecent Exposure - The inappropriate display or showing of the body. The principal or designee is the final authority as per what constitutes indecent exposure.
18. Possession, sale, use, or distribution of synthetic marijuana, CBD for vaping, and/or any form of THC.
19. Any other violation deemed as a Class IV violation by the principal or designee.

Class IV violations represent severe violations of the student's legal obligation to conduct himself/herself properly as a student. As a result of a student being found to have committed or participated in a Class IV violation, the school principal or the designee shall contact the appropriate legal authorities. The principals shall sign appropriate complaints, petitions or warrants in the appropriate legal and/or judicial systems. The student shall be immediately suspended from regular classes and a hearing conducted at the earliest possible date. The student may be referred to the Board of Education for expulsion from the Dale County Schools.

* Any student determined to have brought to school or have in their possession, a firearm in a school building, on school grounds, on a school bus, or at a school function, shall be expelled from the Dale County Schools for a period of no less than one year.

* Any student found to have violated school or state policy concerning drugs and/or alcohol shall be immediately suspended from attending regular classes, legal authorities will be contacted, the appropriate warrant or petition will be signed, and the students is subject to expulsion from the Dale County Schools for a period of one year.

DISCIPLINE REFERRALS RESULT IN LOSS OF PRIVILEGES

Students are not eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities such as: dances, field trips, festivals, etc. if:

- Student has been in ISS (3) or more days per semester
- Student has been to alternative school once or more per semester
- Student has received out of school suspension once or more per semester
- Student obtained (5) or more demerits per semester
- Student is not in "Good Standing" in all academic areas and has excessive absences

Money paid to attend these events will not be refunded.

WEAPONS/FIREARMS IN SCHOOLS (ACT 94-817)

No persons shall knowingly with intent to do bodily harm carry or possess a deadly weapon on the premises of a public school. Possession of a deadly weapon with intent to do bodily harm on the premises of a public school or school bus is a Class C felony.

In compliance with Federal Gun Free School Act of 1994 and with Alabama law, it is the policy of the Dale County Board of Education that any student determined to have brought a weapon/firearm to school be expelled from the regular school setting.

Expulsion is defined, at a minimum as the removal from the student's regular program. However, the expulsion requirement may be modified for a student on a case-by-case basis by the Board. Also, discipline or student with disabilities who violate this policy shall be determined by the Board on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the requirements of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

SUSPENSION/EXPULSION/ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT

Students found to have committed the following offenses on school property, school-sponsored transportation or during a school-sponsored activity shall be brought before the Board for expulsion or alternative placement:

- homicide (murder, manslaughter);
- sexual battery;
- armed robbery;
- aggravated battery;
- battery, aggravated battery or threats to teacher or other school personnel;
- kidnapping or abduction;
- arson;
- possession, use or sale of any firearm or weapon;
- possession, use or sale of any explosive device;
- possession, use or sale of controlled substances;
- threat or false report to do harm related to bombs or explosive devices.

The expulsion limit is a minimum mandatory one (1) full year. (See subsection IV in reference to procedures for Students with Disabilities.)

Prior to taking such action against any student, the School Board shall ensure that appropriate due process procedures are followed. If a student committing one of the offenses outlined in subsection (1) of this rule is identified as disabled and participating in a program for exceptional students, then the system shall follow procedures as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct pursuant to applicable law and Board policy. This provision shall not be construed to remove a School Board's discretion in cases where mitigating circumstances may affect decisions on disciplinary action.

Local law enforcement authorities shall be notified immediately when one of the offenses listed above is committed on school property, on school-sponsored transportation, or during a school-sponsored activity. Additionally, if the offense involves a victim, school officials shall notify the victim and the victim's parents/legal guardian if the victim is a minor, of the offense and of the victim's rights to press charges against the offender. School personnel shall cooperate in any investigation or other proceedings leading to the victim's exercise of rights as provided by law.

Upon notification by juvenile authorities that a *no contact order* has been issued by the court for the purpose of a juvenile offender not attending the same school or riding the same bus as the victim of a crime committed or as the siblings of the victim, the Superintendent or his/her designee will determine the appropriate setting for delivery of educational services to the offender. If the delivery of educational services requires transportation which is beyond the existing transportation and which would incur additional costs to the school system, then the offender or the parents/legal guardians of the juvenile offender shall be responsible for arranging and paying for transportation.

If it is determined that it is not possible to deliver educational services to the offender at a different school site from the victim or the siblings of the victim, then the school system and the principal will take steps such as the use of in-school suspension of the offender and the scheduling of classes, lunch, or other school activities of the victim and the offender to keep the offender separated from the victim.

The school principal shall monitor the administration of discipline of students to ensure that discipline is administered equitably without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, linguistic preference, marital status, disability, political or religious beliefs, national or ethnic origin, or social and family background. Annually, the principal shall review school discipline data with the school advisory council in developing school improvement plans to maintain a safe and healthy school environment that protects the civil rights of all students.

PENDING CRIMINAL CHARGES

Any student charged with violating a local, state, and/or federal law which constitutes a felony offense, or which involves any violent crime, uses of any type of weapon or illegal drug shall not be allowed to return to a regular classroom setting until all legal proceedings are completely resolved and no such charges are pending. In the event that such criminal charges are dismissed, *nol prossed*, or the student is found “not guilty” by a court of law, the charged student will be allowed to re-enter a regular classroom setting and allowed to make up work missed according to school policy. Any other disposition of such criminal charges will be considered on a case by case basis to determine whether and on what conditions the student will be allowed to return to the regular class setting. In all cases, the student or parent shall present the Superintendent with all court orders and other documentation showing that the criminal charges have been completely resolved before being allowed to return to the regular classroom.

IDEA students who violate this policy shall be dealt with in accordance to the discipline methods outlined in the IDEA and Alabama Administrative Code.

DUE PROCESS

A student must know what conduct is appropriate and what is forbidden. Therefore, the rules and regulations of the Board of Education governing student conduct shall be distributed to the students and parents. Essentially, due process of law means fairness. Therefore, all students are entitled to be treated fairly under every circumstance.

Before being punished for violation of Board policies or school regulations, a student shall have the right of the following minimum due process procedures:

- The student shall be given oral or written notice of the charges against him/her.
- The evidence against the student shall be explained to him/her.
- The student shall be given the opportunity to present his/her own version of the facts concerning the charges.

When a student is facing possible expulsion, the Board shall afford the student the following:

- The right to counsel,
- The opportunity for cross examination of witnesses,
- A written record of the hearing,
- A written record of the decision.

Procedural Due Process

Procedural due process as mandated by the 14th Amendment, federal law, and state law includes the following:

- Notice of charges
- Prompt, fair hearing
- Impartial tribunal,
- Right to present defense, evidence, and rebuttal
- Right to counsel
- Right to records of the proceeding
- Right to appeal

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

a. Board Property – All school system property, facilities, and grounds may be entered, inspected, and searched for any lawful purpose by Board officials or their designees at any time, without prior notice and to the fullest extent permitted by law. The right to enter, inspect, and search includes and extends to (but is not limited to) Board owned or controlled offices, desks, file cabinets, lockers, computers, files, documents, data, and devices however and wherever kept, stored, or maintained.

b. Personal Property – Personal property, including but not limited to vehicles, purses, wallets, gym bags, book bags, cell phones, computers, and personal electronic devices may be searched by authorized school officials, including school principals or their designees, when reasonable suspicion exists that the property contains evidence of a violation of board policy, prohibited materials, illegal substances, weapons, or other items that are reasonably deemed to present a risk or threat to the safety or welfare of the school community, provided that the nature and extent of the search shall be reasonably related and limited to the suspected violation.

c. Personal Searches – Students may be searched whenever reasonable suspicion exists that the student possesses evidence of a violation of board policy, including, prohibited materials, illegal substances, weapons, or other items that are reasonably deemed to present a risk or threat to the safety and welfare of the school community. Student searches must be conducted by a school administrator in the presence of another certified school employee and may include a pat down of the student, a search of personal items and clothing, or a more thorough search upon specific approval of the Superintendent. Personal searches will be conducted with due regard for the age and gender of the student. Searches that require physical contact between the school official and the student, removal of clothing, or examination of the student in a way that would implicate privacy concerns must be conducted and witnessed by officials of the same gender as the student and in a way that preserves the dignity of the student to the extent practicable under the circumstances. Refusal to submit to a search or to cooperate in a search as provided in this policy may be grounds for disciplinary action.

d. Use of Recovered items- Property, material, substances, information, or records that are obtained, discovered, or recovered as a result of a search may be retained and used for any lawful purpose.

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

The principal or designee has the authority to use reasonable physical force to restrain a student from abusing or attempting to abuse himself or herself, other students, teachers, administrators, parents, guardians, or other staff members. This action may be necessary to stop the behavior and to ensure to the extent possible the care, welfare, safety, and security of students and staff members. This must be done in a reasonable manner to protect all parties involved. Law enforcement may assist in this action.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement officers have the right to come on campus to interview students as suspects or witnesses. The Board of Education authorizes building administrators to release minor students into the custody of a law enforcement officer upon presentation of a court order or warrant for the student's arrest. The student may be removed from school premises if the officer or school administrator has reason to believe that the student has violated the law. The police department, juvenile services, or other law enforcement agencies may be informed regarding the misconduct of a student. Such notification may result in an arrest, a petition, a complaint, a warrant, a conference with law enforcement officials and/or other actions deemed appropriate by the agencies involved.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

The Board allows reasonable corporal punishment of students under the following terms and conditions. Corporal punishment will be administered only as a disciplinary measure, with due regard for the age and physical condition of the student, and without excessive force. Corporal punishment will be administered by the school principal or his or her designee in the presence of another adult professional school system employee. Corporal punishment should not be administered in the presence of another student. [Reference: ALA. CODE §16-28A-2 (1975)].

TOBACCO POLICY

The use of tobacco products and the illegal possession, distribution, and sale of tobacco products in a school building, on school grounds, on Board property, on school buses, in Board-owned vehicles, or at school-sponsored functions is prohibited. These prohibitions also apply to electronic cigarettes, vape pens, hookah pens, e-hookahs, vape pipes and any similar type of device designed to deliver nicotine, flavor, and other chemicals via inhalation or simulated smoking.

Students violating this policy shall be disciplined in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct. Employees violating this policy shall be subject to adverse employment action as defined in the employee handbook. Other persons violating this policy, including visitors and guests, may be denied re-entry to school property or Board property.

ALABAMA SAFE AND DRUG-FREE POLICY

The principal shall notify appropriate law enforcement officials when any person violates state policies concerning drugs and alcohol. If a student violates the drug-free policies, that student shall be immediately suspended from attending regular classes. The student may not be readmitted to the public schools of this state until 1) Criminal charges or offenses arising from the conduct have been disposed of by appropriate authorities, and 2) the student has satisfied all other requirements imposed by the local board of education.

Any student found to have violated school system and/or state policy concerning drugs may be referred to the Dale County Board of Education for appropriate disciplinary action to include expulsion.

If any criminal charge is warranted arising from the conduct, the principal is authorized to sign the appropriate warrant. Any decision to suspend or initiate criminal charges against a student shall include a review and consideration of the student's exceptional status, if any, or appropriate federal statutory or case law.

REQUIRED FEES and DUES

COURSE FEES

Several courses require fees to purchase equipment and materials, as well as supplement maintenance cost not furnished by state or local funds. Below is a listing of courses that require fees:

Band – 7th grade Beginning Band	\$25.00 per course
Band – 8 th grade Marching. Band	\$100.00 per course

MISCELLANEOUS FEES

ALL students are required to have their student planner in their possession at all times. One student planner will be provided to each student at no charge.

Student Planner (replacement)	\$10.00 each
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School t-shirts will be pre-sold at the beginning of each school year. School T-shirt \$15.00 each

STATE TEXTBOOK POLICY

Textbooks must not be damaged. Some of the damages are as follows:

- One or more pages of content missing.
- Water-soaked, causing backs and pages to be swollen or molded.
- Physically marked with any kind of pencil, pen, crayon, etc., on outside/inside of backs, on ends, or any of the pages.
- Defaced or marred, such as broken, cut, or smeared backs of pages.

Penalty for lost or damaged textbooks:

- Full price, if new when issued
- Seventy-five percent (75%) if one year old when issued
- Fifty percent (50%) if book is two years old or older when issued

No textbook will be issued to any student while the payment for lost or damaged textbooks is outstanding.

ACTIVITY COST/DUES

All club, extra-curricular, and/or class money shall be administered through the principal's office and will be subject to annual audit. Dues are collected by clubs/organizations to assist in covering operational cost for various activities.

SENDING MONEY TO SCHOOL/RETURNED CHECKS

Checks are made payable to the school and your phone number must be on the check. Dale County Schools will seek legal measures to collect on returned checks.

LOST/STOLEN ITEMS

DO NOT leave money or valuables in unattended purses or book bags. School personnel are not responsible for lost or stolen valuables.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The principal shall assign faculty advisors for student organizations. No club or organization function may be conducted without the presence of a faculty member. No new club or organization may be formed without the knowledge and permission of the principal. All revenues and expenditures associated the club activities will be administered through the principal's office. No separate accounts or holding of funds is permitted. Any activity or social event in which the name of the school is used must have the approval of the principal and be properly chaperoned by school personnel. The school name, school time, on duty personnel, or school material may not be used for non-school functions.

SCHOOL CLUBS

B.A.S.I.C. (Brothers And Sisters In Christ)	Davis
Choir	Hatcher
FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)	Thayer
FFA (Future Farmers of America)	Warrick
Spelling Bee	Blackstock
Beta Club	Hatcher
South Dale News Network	Davis
Student Government Association	Smith
Yearbook	Hutto

SCHOOL SPORTS

Athletic Director	Melanson
Band	Teal
Cheerleaders.....	Grantham/Everett
Baseball	Street
Basketball.....	(Boys)Thayer , (Girls) Tice
Football	Thayer
Golf	Luke Tucker
Softball.....	Dutton
Track and Field	Holland
Volleyball.....	Melanson

**SOUTH DALE MIDDLE SCHOOL
2022-2023
BELL SCHEDULE**

<u>Begin</u>	<u>Description</u>
7:25	Bus Release/ Car riders release
7:25	Teachers on Duty
7:45	Tardy Bell
2:45	Bus Riders Load Buses
2:55	Car riders dismissed
3:00	Walkers dismissed

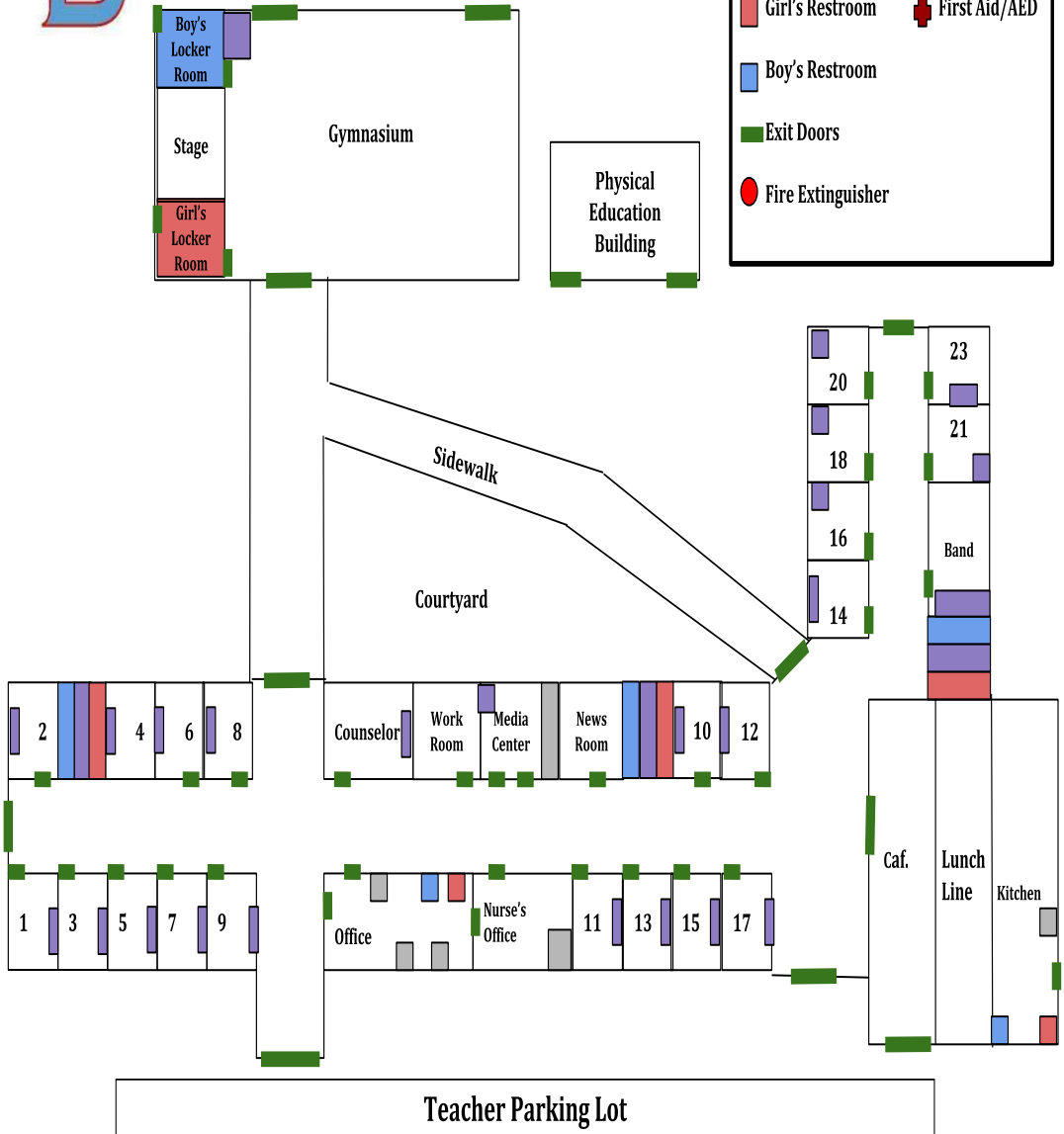
Students arriving to school after 7:45 must report to the office with parent/guardian to sign them in before going to class. Students must be in their classroom before the tardy bell rings.



South Dale Middle School Floor Plan

Legend

- Office
- Storage
- Girl's Restroom
- Boy's Restroom
- Exit Doors
- Fire Extinguisher
- Exit Route
- Fire Alarm
- First Aid/AED



**SOUTH DALE MIDDLE SCHOOL
ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM
2022-2023**

Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____ **1st Block Teacher:** _____

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK AND CODE OF CONDUCT

I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to all terms as outlined in the Dale County Public School Code of Conduct and the SDMS Parent/Student Handbook.

The following are several concepts to keep in mind in reference to the Code of Conduct:

- Infractions are cumulative throughout each semester.
- Disciplinary actions are assigned based on the total number of infractions accumulated during each semester (not on the individual infraction).
- The severity of disciplinary action increases as the student accumulates more disciplinary infractions.
- Only those infractions accumulated during the current semester are considered in assigning disciplinary action.

Also, please pay special attention to the following components within the Code of conduct:

- Any student determined to have brought to school or have in their possession, a firearm in a school building, on school grounds, on a school bus, or at a school function, shall be expelled from the Dale County Schools for a period of no less than one year.
- Any student found to have violated school or state policy concerning drugs and/or alcohol shall be immediately suspended from attending regular classes, legal authorities will be contacted, the appropriate warrant or petition will be signed, and the students is subject to expulsion from the Dale County Schools for a period of one year.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student's Signature

Date

PARENT-STUDENT-TEACHER COMPACT

I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to all terms as outlined in the South Dale Parent-Student-Teacher Compact.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student's Signature

Date

ACCEPTABLE USE OF INTERNET

I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to all terms as outlined in the Dale County Schools Acceptable Use of Internet Policy.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student's Signature

Date

PHOTO CONSENT POLICY

I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to all terms as outlined in the Dale County Schools Photo Consent Policy. Pictures of students will be used by student organizations, the school, and the school system on paper and electronic publications.

I choose to OPT OUT and wish for my student's photograph not to be used in any of these publications.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student's Signature

Date

STATE TEXTBOOK POLICY

I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to all terms as outlined in the Dale County Schools State Textbook Policy.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student's Signature

Date

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

I **DO** hereby authorize the school administration to administer corporal punishment as a consequence for school violations.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student's Signature

Date

Thank you for your support of the Dale County Schools. Please have your son/daughter return this form to the appropriate school personnel.



Sign up for important updates from Perry Dillard.

Get information for South Dale Middle School right on your phone—not on handouts.

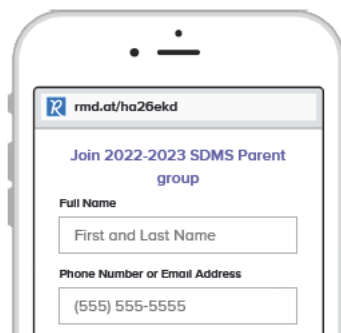
Pick a way to receive messages for 2022-2023 SDMS Parent group:

- A** If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/ha26ekd

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



- B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @ha26ekd to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @ha26ekd to (571) 364-6571.

** Standard text message rates apply.*



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/ha26ekd on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.