



Principal : Mrs. Teresa Jones

Assistant Principal: Mr. Josh Agee

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(615) 597-7987

<https://www.dekalbmiddleschoolsaints.com/>

MISSION STATEMENT AND ACCREDITATION

DeKalb County Schools' District mission is wiring students to learn, achieve, and succeed. DeKalb Middle School is accredited as a middle school by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and by the Tennessee State Department of Education.

Dekalb Middle School mission is to build a community of learners that provides every student a positive, safe, and respectful environment .We will do this by meeting our students 'individual needs both academically and through social emotional learning.We will maintain a strong curriculum with high standards that support student success.Students will experience a rigorous and relevant curriculum that prepares them for success in high school and leaves them confident in their abilities.

The DeKalb Middle School statement of belief further states...The DeKalb Middle School exists to serve the unique academic, physical, social, and emotional needs of students who are in a special and critical period of their lives as they change from childhood to adolescence. The staff of DeKalb Middle School is committed to creating and maintaining an orderly, trusting, and caring environment where teaching and learning are exciting and students are assisted as they develop responsibility. All aspects of the school's organization, which include curricular and extracurricular activities, are child-centered and designed to accommodate individual learning styles so that all may experience success.

SCHOOL VISION AND PHILOSOPHY

DeKalb Middle School exists to serve the children of DeKalb County and to make society better for all. We believe that all children can learn. In response to its mission, DeKalb Middle School will maintain a strong curriculum and high standards of capabilities and talents. Every student will be recognized as a unique individual. Since learning is an individual matter, the individual student will be encouraged to assume responsibility for his or her learning. All students are capable of intellectual growth. Along with the teaching of basic skills, emphasis will be placed on helping students develop personal values, social attitudes, and group behaviors. By being a guiding influence, the teacher will try to help each child find his or her place in this changing society through exploration, discovery, creativity, and self-discipline. Fundamental to this philosophy is a rapport between students and their peers; students and staff; faculty and co-workers; and the school and community.

STATEMENT OF BELIEF

The faculty and staff of DeKalb Middle School believe that:

1. A child's education is the shared responsibility of parents, teachers, community, and students.
2. We believe that all students should have the right to a safe and secure learning environment.
3. Each student is a valued individual with unique physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs.
4. All children have the right to learn, to succeed, and to become productive citizens based on their abilities.
5. Positive attitude and self-respect are the foundation of a well-balanced education.
6. Students learn best when given appropriate opportunities for success.

INTRODUCTION

The policies and procedures contained in the handbook are the results of a concerted effort on the part of the faculty and the administration. This information has been carefully prepared and presented so that it will be of great value in helping you to adjust to our school and to become an integral part of it. The ultimate purpose of education is to help each student become an effective and happy citizen. Developing and accepting the responsibilities and obligations of good citizenship will help us to participate successfully in the world tomorrow. We hope that you will participate in our varied activities and thus find those things within our school, which will prepare you to live a better life. Remember that your success in this school will depend largely upon your efforts. The policies set forth in this student handbook apply during regular school hours, sports events, field trips, and other school sponsored activities.

SCHOOL-HOME COMMUNICATION

Communication between the school and home is vital to the success of our students. Some avenues of communication include:

- Google Classroom
- ParentSquare App
- Phone Calls
- Skyward Email

The Mission Statement and Statements of Belief of DeKalb Middle School are closely aligned with the mission and goals of the DeKalb County School System. Parents, students, and guardians may stay informed by visiting our school website at www.dekalbmiddleschoolsaints.com for school events .

EXPECTED BEHAVIORS

1. All students are expected to conduct themselves in such a way as to cast a good reflection on their parents, their home, and school. Additionally, their behavior should reflect self-respect and consideration for the rights and property of others.
2. All DeKalb Middle School staff members have not only the right but also the responsibility and duty to reprimand or correct a student who is misbehaving. Respect throughout the building should be given to administration, faculty, staff, and students.
3. Students should be prepared, present, and ready to learn daily. Attendance and punctuality are essential for a successful future. You will receive a telephone call if your student is tardy or absent each day.
4. Students are encouraged to have friendships among their peers. However, in respect to all students, activities such as holding hands, arms around each other, and hugging or kissing are prohibited. Students should keep their hands to themselves at all times.
5. Students should walk in an orderly manner inside the building. Running, walking fast, and disruptive noises are not permitted.
6. Students should not trade, swap, steal, sell, or take orders for any items while on school property.
7. Obscene or vulgar language will not be tolerated.
8. **Water only is permitted inside the classroom.** Water bottles must be plastic and must be able to fit into the side pocket of a backpack.
9. The office telephone is for school business and may be used by students in cases of emergencies. Permission and a pass must be obtained from a teacher prior to using the telephone.

GRADING POLICY AND CONDUCT GRADES

90 – 100	A	E - Excellent
80 – 89	B	S - Satisfactory
70 – 79	C	U - Unsatisfactory
60 – 69	D	
Below-60	F	
Incomplete	I	

STUDENT RE-TAKE & MAKE-UP WORK POLICY

Students have the opportunity to retake assessments (tests) below 60% upon the student's request. This request must be made within 5 days of the student receiving their grade on that particular assignment. It is the student's responsibility to get with their teacher to schedule a time to re-take that particular assignment. All retake/make-up work that has been assigned must be made up within 5 days. If make-up is not turned in within the 5 day window, a grade of zero (0) will be recorded for that assignment. The two assignment grades will be averaged to give the student their final grade on that assignment. Students with an IEP may redo assignments, tests, and quizzes and will receive the higher of the 2 grades. In addition, students who have been absent are responsible for all assignments during their absence. It is the responsibility of the **student** to consult their teacher concerning the missing work.

Late-work

We understand that unforeseen circumstances can sometimes prevent students from submitting assignments on time. To ensure fairness and provide opportunities for students to complete their work, our institution has implemented a late work policy. All students will be allowed to submit late assignments. Students who have excused absences will be permitted to turn in the assignment(s) within 5 days from the due date without penalty. If the late assignment is submitted within the first 5 days after the original due date, the maximum attainable grade will be as follows.

- Day 1-90%
- Day 2-80%
- Day 3-70%
- Day 4- 60%
- Day 5- 50%

To encourage timely submission, the maximum grade a student can earn for a late assignment is 50% after 5 days. This ensures that students still have the opportunity to earn a passing grade for their efforts. It is extremely important that students complete all assignments to the best of their ability. It is the **student's** responsibility to communicate with their teacher(s) to make arrangements for making up late work. (Excessive missing work will result in administrator involvement.)

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential for success in school as well as any vocation chosen in life. Parents are encouraged to schedule doctor and dentist appointments after school hours. When a student has **five unexcused absences**, they will be referred to the Attendance Supervisor. An excessive number of unexcused absences will be grounds for further action according to the attendance policies of the district. An excessive number of absences may result in the school requiring a doctor's excuse for every absence.. The four (4) conditions under which a child's absence from school shall be excused are:

1. Student's personal illness (a physician's statement will be required after 5 parent notes to excuse absence).
2. Death in the family.
3. Special, recognized religious holidays regularly observed by persons of the child's faith.
4. Extenuating circumstances, when upon the written request of the parent or guardian, at the discretion of the principal and/or, when necessary, the Attendance Review Board, composed by the Director of Schools, Supervisor of Special Education, and the Attendance Supervisor.

Upon returning to school after an absence, the student shall bring a doctor or dentist statement or a note from home signed by the parent or guardian, explaining the reason for the absence. The statement or parent note will need to be turned in to the office. The student is expected to make up all missed work. If a student is out for an extended period of time, the parent may call the office to request that the student's missed work be picked up. The work can be picked up after 2:00 PM. Also, time absent from school because of tardies and leaving school early will accumulate on the student's attendance record, even though the absence or tardy may be excused. However, if a student is tardy or leaves school early very often, this can add up to a whole day's absence after a period of time. A student can only qualify for perfect attendance if he/she is present at school from 7:45 AM till 2:45 PM every day.

TRUANCY BOARD NOTICE

A Truancy Board has been established to control excessive unexcused absences in the DeKalb County Schools. Students will be referred to the Attendance Supervisor after obtaining five (5) unexcused absences and a meeting will be scheduled. Upon seven (7) unexcused absences, the student will be considered TIER I and a school employee will complete an individualized assessment detailing the reasons a student has been absent from school. A student will be moved to TIER III if interventions in TIER II are unsuccessful. These interventions shall be determined by a team formed at each school. The intervention shall address student needs and shall be approved by the Director of School/designee. **T.C.A. 49-6-3009©**

We recommend that all students and parents visit www.dekalbschools.net and review DeKalb County Board of Education policy 6.200. If you have any questions, please contact your child's school of the DeKalb Co. Schools Attendance Department.

TARDINESS

Students should report to school on time and be on time for each class throughout the day. **School begins at 7:45 AM.** All students tardy to school after the 7:45 AM bell, which marks the beginning of first period, must report to the office to sign in and receive a tardy slip to be given to the appropriate teacher. The **consequences for tardiness** in a given 9-weeks are as follows:

1. 1st & 2nd = Warning
2. 3rd = Parent Contact by Teacher
3. 4th = Parent Contact by Teacher **and** Lunch Detention
4. 5 & beyond tardies = Parent Contact, In-School Suspension

Any student tardy beyond five (5) times in a 9-week period will be considered a chronic tardy student and more drastic disciplinary action will be considered. This will be re-evaluated every 9-weeks.

If a student needs to be signed out early, the student must be signed out by 2:30 per the director of schools.

LEAVING SCHOOL

If a student needs to leave school during the day, the parent or guardian must come into the office and sign them out.. Students may **NOT** be picked up by anyone other than parents or guardians unless they are listed on the students pick-up list. Proper identification will be required. ***Any students that leaves school without permission will be subject to strict disciplinary actions which may or may not lead to being remanded to the ALC or being suspended from school.***

DRESS AND APPEARANCE

Students shall dress and groom in a clean, neat, and modest manner that will not distract or interfere with the operation of the school. When a student is attired in a manner, which is likely to cause a disruption or interference with the operation of the school, the principal shall administer appropriate punishment, which may include suspension. **The school administration will be the final judge on issues of dress, based on school board policies.** The following guidelines should be followed:

1. Body cleanliness is required at all times. Appropriate hygiene products should be utilized daily.
2. Bandanas, hats, and sunglasses are not to be worn inside the building.
3. Shoes (hard soles) are to be worn at all times.
4. The back, shoulders, and mid-section of the body are to be covered at all times. Strapless tops, spaghetti straps, or muscle shirts are not permitted. Clothes that are too tight are also not permitted.
5. Shorts, skirts, and dresses are to be no more than 5 inches above the knee. This includes jeans with holes or shreds. The holes/shreds must not be more than 5 inches above the knee.
6. See-through clothing is not to be worn at school without proper undergarments.
7. Clothing or jewelry with suggestive or offensive lettering, pictures, or symbols will not be permitted. Clothing with scenes of violence including vulgarity, sex, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, gang, or drug depictions will not be allowed.
8. Proper undergarments are to be worn at all times.
9. Excessive baggy pants are not to be worn to school. Pants, jeans, and shorts must be worn and secured at the waistline. Pants should not drag the floor.
10. Body piercings other than ears must be studs only. Tongue rings are not allowed.
11. Pajamas are not to be worn at school.
12. No excessive or unnatural makeup shall be worn at school.

Administrators and teachers will check students for dress code violations at the beginning of school during the first period and periodically throughout the day. When a violation is committed, the following procedures will be followed:

- 1st violation – The student will be given an item out of the clothing closet to replace the item in violation.
- 2nd violation – The student may call the parent to bring appropriate clothing and will be assigned lunch detention per administrators discretion.
- 3rd & 4th violation – In-School Suspension or After School Detention
- 5th violation – ALC/OSS

Please see the graphic on the next page for reference to the above.

DMS DRESS CODE

DRESS FOR SUCCESS. DRESS WITH RESPECT.

Our dress code helps us maintain a safe, respectful, and focused learning environment for everyone.

LEGGINGS If you wear leggings, the shirt must cover your bottom and front area. NO TUCKED SHIRTS. CORRECT Shirt covers bottom and front area. NOT ALLOWED Tucked shirts are not allowed.	NO HOLES IN PANTS No holes in pants 5 inches above the knee. CORRECT No holes within 5 inches above the knee. NOT ALLOWED Holes are within 5 inches above the knee.
SHORTS & SKIRTS Shorts and skirts must be no more than 5 inches above the knee. CORRECT At or below the 5-inch line. NOT ALLOWED More than 5 inches above the knee.	TANK TOP STRAPS Tank top straps must be 3" wide or wider. CORRECT 3 inches wide or wider. NOT ALLOWED Less than 3" wide.
NO OFF THE SHOULDER Shirts must stay on the shoulders. CORRECT Shoulders must be covered. NOT ALLOWED Off the shoulder is not allowed.	NO CLEAVAGE Tops must provide appropriate coverage. CORRECT Appropriate coverage. NOT ALLOWED Too much cleavage.
NO UNNATURAL MAKEUP Makeup should enhance your natural features. False lashes, heavy contouring, and bold colors are not allowed. APPROPRIATE Natural makeup appropriate for middle school. NOT ALLOWED Unnatural makeup (heavy goth) is not allowed. NOT ALLOWED Unnatural makeup (bright, theatrical) is not allowed.	WHEN IN DOUBT, DRESS IT OUT! KEEP IT SCHOOL APPROPRIATE. REMEMBER: - Be respectful. - Be responsible. - Follow the rules. - Be a Saint!

We are DMS. We are Saints. We are better together.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING KEEP DMS A SAFE AND RESPECTFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.

MEDICATIONS

At times it becomes necessary for a child to take prescription or non-prescription medication while at school. The medication, **in the original, labeled container**, along with the completed necessary form, must be delivered to the school in person by a parent or guardian of the student unless the medication must be retained by the student for immediate administration (i.e., student with asthma or risk of anaphylaxis). At the end of the school year, parents are responsible for picking up all medicine not taken by the student. If medication is not picked up it will be disposed of by the school nurse.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell phones are not to be **out** or **on** between 7:10 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. No phone calls, texts, social media posts, pictures, or videos should be shared or created during school hours. Cell phones **may not be used** to record, transmit, or post photographic images. or students may not make a video of a person, or persons on campus during school activities including district provided transportation (school buses) or during school sponsored activities (i.e. pep rally etc.) unless approved by the school principal. Cell phones are to be placed in pocket holders inside classrooms at the beginning of every class period. A student in violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary action. After School programs are an extension of the school day, so the school policy applies and will be enforced during these times. Please see DeKalb County Board of Education Policy 3.312. A student in violation of this policy is subject to the following disciplinary actions:

1st Offense: Device taken up by teacher/staff, issued warning and given back to the student at the end of the school day.

2nd Offense: Device turned into office. Parent/Guardian **MUST** come to school to pick up the phone. Student are not allowed to have phone at school for 5 days.

3rd Offense: Device turned into office, Parent/Guardian **MUST** come to school to pick up the phone. Student is not allowed to have a phone at school for 10 days and will serve 10 days of lunch detention.

4th Offense: Device turned into office, Parent/Guardian **MUST** come to school to pick up the phone. Student is not allowed to have phone at school for 20 days and will serve 2 days of ISS.

5th Offense: Device turned into office, Parent/Guardian **MUST** come to school to pick up phone. Student is not allowed to have phone at school for REMAINDER OF SCHOOL YEAR and will serve 1 day out of school suspension.

FIGHTING/BULLYING

DeKalb Middle School will be a safe place for all students. Fighting among students is a form of violence and will not be tolerated at school. Fighting will result in a minimum of an eight (8) day suspension.. Bullying is a violent behavior that will not be tolerated at DMS. Bullying makes for an unsafe learning environment and is not acceptable behavior at school or during any school sponsored event. Any student engaging in bullying behavior will receive disciplinary action ranging from verbal reprimand to expulsion.

****Bullying Definition: is an act that substantially interferes with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance. The act has the effect of: physically harming a student, damaging students' property, creating a hostile education environment, causing emotional distress to a student, knowingly placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm to student or damage to students' property. Can be based on race, nationality, origin, color, sex, age disability religion. School Board Policy: 6.304***

THREATENING, HARASSING,

INTIMIDATING

Every student has the right to feel safe at school. Threatening, harassing, or intimidating another student will not be tolerated. A student found guilty of threatening, harassing, or intimidating another student will result in disciplinary action ranging from verbal reprimand to suspension and/or expulsion depending on the severity of the offense and consideration of the offender's prior record.

TOBACCO POLICY/SMOKING PARAPHERNALIA

The Student Tobacco Bill requires the principal to issue a juvenile court citation for students who unlawfully possess tobacco products. NO STUDENT, REGARDLESS OF AGE, shall possess or use an electronic cigarette or tobacco in any form, on school premises or at any school-sponsored activities. No smoking paraphernalia will be allowed (matches, lighters, pipes, vapes, etc.). Penalty for violation: **Students in 6th - 12 Grade Tobacco offenses will build from year to year. Example- if a student received a tobacco violation in 7th grade (1st offense) and then receives another violation in 9th grade (2nd offense), and 11th grade (3rd offense).**

1. First Offense – Students must attend a Saturday 4 hr. Tobacco class taught by DeKalb Drug Prevention Coalition (Student will receive a Citation to appear before the Judge and court cost if class is not completed on the assigned date), parents will be contacted, and the student will be sent to ISS for 3 days.
2. Second Offense – Referral to SRO and receive Court Citation, parent contacted, and student will receive out of school suspension for 3 days.
3. Third Offense – Referral to SRO and receive Court Citation, parent contacted, and student remanded to ALC for 15 Days.
4. Fourth and subsequent offenses, will receive a Court citation - Referral to SRO, parent contacted, with further discipline at the discretion of the Principal.

SEXUAL, RACIAL ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT

Students shall be provided a learning environment free from sexual, racial, ethnic, and religious discrimination/harassment. It shall be a violation of this policy for any employee or any student to discriminate against or harass a student through disparaging conduct or communication that is sexual, racial, ethnic, or religious in nature. The following guidelines are set forth to protect students from discrimination/harassment. Student discrimination/harassment will not be tolerated. Discrimination/harassment is defined as conduct, advances, gestures, or words either written or spoken of a sexual, racial, ethnic, or religious nature which:

1. Unreasonably interfere with the student's work or educational opportunities.
2. Create an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning environment.
3. Imply that submission to such conduct is made an explicit or implicit term of receiving grades or credit.
4. Imply that submission to or rejection of such conduct will be used as a basis for determining the student's grades and/or participation in a student activity.

Alleged victims of sexual, racial, ethnic and religious discrimination/harassment shall report these incidents immediately to a teacher, counselor, or building administrator. Allegations of discrimination or harassment shall be fully investigated by a complaint manager. The privacy and anonymity of all parties and witnesses to complaints will be respected. However, because an individual's need for confidentiality must be balanced with obligations to cooperate with police investigation or legal proceedings, to provide due process to the accused, to conduct a thorough investigation or to take necessary action to resolve a complaint, the identity of parties and witnesses may be disclosed in appropriate circumstances to individuals with a need to know. A substantiated charge against an employee shall result in disciplinary action up to and including termination. A substantiated charge against a student may result in corrective or disciplinary action up to and including suspension. There will be no retaliation against any person who reports harassment or participates in an investigation. However, any employee who refuses to cooperate or gives false information during the course of any investigation may be subject to disciplinary action. The willful filing of a false report will itself be considered harassment and treated as such. Any student disciplined for violation of this policy may appeal in accordance with disciplinary policies and procedures. This policy shall be published in the parent/student handbook distributed annually to every student. Building administrators are responsible for educating and training their respective staff and students as to the definition and recognition of discrimination/harassment.

DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

1. Filing a complaint:

Any student of this school district who wishes to file a written or oral discrimination/harassment grievance against another student or an employee of the district may file a written or oral (recorded, if possible) complaint with the complaint manager. Students may also report an allegation of discrimination/harassment to any teacher or other adult employed in the school who shall inform a complaint manager of the allegation. The complaint should include the following information:

- a. Identity of the alleged victim and person accused.
- b. Location, date, time, and circumstances surrounding the alleged incident.
- c. Description of what happened.
- d. Identity of witnesses.
- e. Any other evidence available

2. Investigation:

Within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving the student's complaint, the complaint manager shall notify complainant student's parent/guardian and the principal who shall inform the Director of Schools. The parent/guardian shall be given the right to attend an interview of the student in a non-intimidating environment in order to elicit full disclosure of the student's allegations. This interview shall take place within five (5) school days from the time the complaint was first made. If no parent/guardian attends the interview, another adult, mutually agreed upon by the student and the complaint manager, shall attend and serve as the student's advocate. After a complete investigation, if the allegations are substantiated, immediate and appropriate corrective or disciplinary action shall be initiated. The complaint and identity of the complainant will not be disclosed except (1) as required by law or this policy, or (2) as necessary to fully investigate the complaint, or (3) as authorized by the complainant. A school representative will meet with and advise the complainant regarding the findings, and whether corrective measures and/or disciplinary action were taken. Copies of the report will be sent to the student, principal, Federal Rights Coordinator and Director of School. One copy shall be kept in the complaint manager's file for one (1) year beyond the student's eighteenth (18) birthday. The Director of Schools shall keep the Board informed of complaints.

3. Decision and Appeal:

If the complaint is not in agreement with the findings of fact as reported by the complaint manager, an appeal may be made within five (5) workdays to the Director of Schools. The Director of Schools will review the investigation, make any corrective action deemed necessary and provide a written response to the complainant. If the complainant is not in agreement with the Director of Schools finding of facts, appeal may be made to the Board of Education within (5)

working days. The board shall, within thirty (30) days from the date the appeal was received, review the investigation and the actions of the Director of Schools and may support, amend, or overturn the actions based upon review and report their decision in writing to the complainant.

The Director of Schools shall appoint at least two complaint managers, one of each gender. The Federal Rights Coordinator may serve as a complaint manager. The Director of Schools shall insert into this policy the names, address and telephone number of current complaint managers. This policy shall be published in the parent/student handbook distributed annually to every student. Building administrators are responsible for educating and training their respective staff and students as the definition and recognition of discrimination/harassment.

The current district complaint managers are:

Mr. Joey Reeder, Complaint Manager & Mrs. Natasha Vaughn, Complaint Manager
110 South Public Square Smithville, TN 37166
615-215-2102, 615-215-2106

The current school level complaint managers are:

Mr. Bryan Jones, Complaint Manager & Mrs. Kelly Birmingham, Complaint Manager
1132 West Broad Street, Smithville, TN 37166
615-597-7987

CARRYING WEAPONS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

State law prohibits any type of weapon on school grounds or property. The maximum penalty for violation of this law is up to five years imprisonment and a \$2,500.00 fine. Law enforcement officers will be notified when this law is violated. The penalty for the possession of a gun shall be a one-year suspension from school. Prior to the beginning of the succeeding school year in which the suspension began, the student shall be given a hearing to show cause why he should be readmitted at the beginning of the school year. Under Tennessee Code Annotated ([TCA § 39-11-106](#)), a "deadly weapon" means a firearm, anything designed or adapted to inflict death or serious bodily injury, or any item used in a way that is capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Students are responsible for the proper care of all books supplied by the school. T.C.A. 49-609 allows schools to withhold all grade cards, diplomas, certificates of progress, or transcripts until restitution is made for lost or damaged textbooks. Any student found guilty of marking, carving, defacing, or abusing the building and /or equipment will be subject to disciplinary action which will include restitution; in addition, a written assignment, suspension, or request for expulsion may be included.

LOCKERS

Students are assigned a locker at the beginning of each school year. Locks are **NOT** permitted. **Students may not move lockers without permission from administration.** Students are responsible for any contents present in their assigned locker. Students are responsible for proper care of their locker. No stickers, marking, etc are allowed on or inside the lockers. Any student found guilty of marking, carving, defacing, or abusing the lockers will be subject to disciplinary action which will include restitution; in addition, a written assignment, suspension, or request for expulsion may be included.

USE OF WATER BOTTLES

We encourage all students to make wise food and beverage choices in order to develop and maintain lifelong healthy eating habits. Students are allowed to bring a water bottle from home. To ensure a safe and distraction-free environment, DMS requires that these water bottles meet the following guidelines: must be able to fit in a lunch box or the side pocket of a backpack, does not have an open straw/top, and utilizes a screw-type lid that remains closed and will not spill when turned upside down. Metal water bottles are prohibited. Additionally, water bottles must remain in a student's backpack while traveling through the building and will only be allowed to be taken out in classrooms that allow water bottles or at lunch. This policy helps maintain classroom and cafeteria cleanliness, prevents spills, minimizes classroom disruptions, and facilitates a safe learning environment. No energy drinks, coffee, or caffeinated beverages etc. are permitted at DeKalb Middle School. Students who refuse to adhere to this policy will forfeit the privilege of bringing a water bottle and will use the water fountains available at the school.

SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

Riding the school bus is a privilege to students. However, the privilege may be removed for disruptive and unsatisfactory conduct. All students being transported are under the authority of the school bus driver and must obey reasonable orders from the driver, including sitting in seats assigned by the driver. The following rules and regulations ensure the safest, most enjoyable and efficient transportation for all students:

1. Students must be at the bus stop on time. Students should be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the bus arrives. The bus operates on a fixed schedule.
2. While waiting at the bus stop, students must wait on the sidewalk, driveway, or as far off traveled portion of the road as possible.
3. Students must wait in an orderly manner and wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before approaching the bus.
4. If it is necessary to cross a street or roadway, students must wait until the driver signals them to cross and cross 10 – 15 feet in front of the bus to ensure that the driver sees them.
5. Students must enter the bus single file and be seated as quickly as possible.
6. Upon leaving the bus, wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before standing to exit. Standing is not permitted on a moving bus.
7. Exit a single file in an orderly manner and walk away from the bus.
8. Upon leaving the bus, students will cross the road in front and never behind the bus. Make sure all traffic has stopped.
9. The bus driver shall be responsible for the order and conduct of the students transported.
10. The bus driver has the responsibility to assign seats and will be directed to do so as a matter of policy.
11. Students should obey promptly and willingly any reasonable directive of the driver.
12. Outside of ordinary conversation, classroom conduct is to be observed. Vulgar language or gestures are not permitted. The school bus is an extension to the classroom.
13. Students must remain seated with feet on the floor in front of them; not in the aisle or draped over the seat back. Students must sit facing forward while the bus is in motion as if they were wearing seatbelts.
14. Students may not board or depart from a bus at any other stop than that which has been properly authorized by parents or school authorities.
15. Students will not extend hands, arms, heads, or objects from the bus window at any time.
16. Students are not permitted to shout or gesture to passing vehicles or pedestrians from the bus.
17. Students may adjust windows only when permitted to do so by the driver.
18. Students may not throw any object including trash or paper from within or out of the bus while waiting for, riding, or after leaving the bus. A trashcan is usually provided.
19. Students must never sit in the driver's seat, doghouse, or step area and never tamper with any operating equipment.
20. Students may not exit from the emergency door unless directed to do so by the bus driver.
21. **EATING AND DRINKING FOOD AND BEVERAGES ON THE BUS IS PROHIBITED.** Neither Food nor liquids

- are permitted on the bus except those stored in school lunch bags or lunch pails.
22. The use of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol in any form shall not be permitted on the bus.
 23. Animals, knives, matches, lighters, flowers, balloons, hats and caps, radios, CD players, firearms including cap and water pistols, explosives, glass, and other similar items creating a safety hazard are not permitted on the bus. Necessary schoolbooks and backpacks are permitted. Other items can and will be taken away from pupils at driver's discretion.
 24. Students needing to ride any bus other than their regular assigned bus must give a note (**that includes the exact and correct address of drop off**) to their bus driver from their principal or parent
 25. Students desiring to take another student home with them, who does not normally ride a particular bus, must obtain prior permission from the bus driver or authorization from their principal to assure the bus is not overloaded. Each student must have a note giving permission and the note must include the exact and correct address of drop off.
 26. Teachers and coaches, especially sponsors of activity trips, need to be aware of bus regulations.
 27. Absolute quiet is required at railroad crossings. The driver will turn off all radios, fans, heaters, etc. and illuminate the dome light to alert students to be quiet. This is a requirement of the State of Tennessee, Pupil Transportation Division, and DeKalb County School Bus System.
 28. Any vandalism to the interior or exterior of the bus is prohibited and will require payments for the amount of damage along with bus suspension.
 29. Fighting, hitting, pinching, etc. is not permitted and will be dealt with accordingly.
 30. All Dekalb County School Buses are equipped with Silent Witness camera systems. These cameras record at all times and video will be used as needed to settle misbehavior problems on the bus.

PENALTY OF MISBEHAVIOR ON BUS WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE PRINCIPAL AS ESTABLISHED BY THE SCHOOL BUS ADMINISTRATOR AND DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS.

Minor violations such as getting out of seat, pushing/tripping/excessive mischief, etc will receive the following discipline:

- 1st Offense – 1 Day Suspension
- 2nd Offense – 3 Days Suspension
- 3rd Offense – 10 Days Suspension
- 4th Offense – Suspended for Balance of School Year

Major violations such as fighting/assault, smoking, and obscene language will receive the following discipline:

- 1st Offense – 5 Days Suspension
- 2nd Offense – 10 Days Suspension
- 3rd Offense – Suspended for Balance of School Year

BUS RIDING IS A PRIVILEGE WHICH MAY BE REVOKED. Parents/Guardians are urged to discuss these rules and discipline procedures with their children. By doing so, you will help provide the safest transportation possible for all students.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Teachers may be absent from time to time. However, DeKalb Middle School is fortunate to have capable substitutes to help us with our school program. A substitute teacher is an important person in our school, and as such is entitled to all the respect, courtesy, and cooperation as the regular classroom teacher. Students who are disrespectful or uncooperative with substitute teachers will be subject to strict disciplinary action.

CAFETERIA

BREAKFAST: Grab and go breakfast will be served daily beginning at 7:30. Students will eat breakfast during homeroom and be finished by 7:45

LUNCH: Students are expected to eat in the school cafeteria. If a student brings his/her lunch from home, he/she will eat in their assigned area in the cafeteria. If a student forgets their lunch box, they will eat the lunch provided by the school that particular day. Students will not be permitted to call/text to get lunch boxes delivered. **Delivering food or having food delivered to students during lunch time is prohibited.**

The cafeteria, besides being a lunchroom, is also a place where good human relations can be developed. Students should observe the following rules and pay close attention to the teacher's instructions in order to ensure a proper lunchtime.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH: The following will not be permitted:

1. Throwing food
2. Cutting line
3. Loud boisterous behavior (ex. – popping bags)
4. More than one person per chair
5. Moving chairs from another table
6. Taking food/drinks from cafeteria
7. Feet in chairs
8. Throwing away plates or silverware
9. Charging of extra food, snacks, and drinks
10. Disrespect towards cafeteria workers/monitors
11. No **energy drinks**, coffee, caffeinated drinks/sodas etc (Water, Sport Drinks, and Juices are permitted as long as they come in a student's lunch box)
12. Other inappropriate behavior
13. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided at no cost to any student.

FIELD TRIPS

We believe that field trips are an integral part of the school program. We encourage students to participate in field trips when they are offered. In order to participate in any field trip, students must follow the guidelines as established by the respective teachers. In addition, an activity release must be signed by the parent and returned to the school prior to any student participating in any field trip activity. Excessive discipline may result in forfeiture of field trip.

SEARCH AND SEIZURES

Search of lockers, persons, containers, and vehicles, T.C.A. 49-9-404, 405, 406, 407, When individual circumstances in a school dictate, a principal may order that the above be searched.

TRESPASSING

In order to ensure the safety of all concerned, all visitors must report directly to the office upon entering the building. All visitors are required to sign-in at the office. Any student who is suspended is not allowed on school property except to come directly to the office for business.

WITHDRAWALS

In order to withdraw from DeKalb Middle School in good standing, it will be necessary to complete the following:

1. Report to the office to pick up a withdrawal form.
2. Report to each class/teacher to turn in all applicable books or fees. As you go to your classes, return your textbooks to your teachers and have them initial your withdrawal form.
3. Chromebook and charger must be returned or paid for before withdrawing.
4. If your parents are not bringing you in to withdraw, you will have to take your withdrawal form home so your parents can sign it. We must have a parent's signature before we can officially withdraw a student. (You may come in and get the form and take it home first then do steps 1 to 3.)
5. Report to the principal for final clearance.

DISCIPLINE

One of the most important lessons education should teach is self-discipline. While it does not appear as a subject, it underlies the whole educational structure. It is the training that develops self-control, character, orderliness, and efficiency. It is the key to good conduct and proper consideration for other people.

With an understanding of the purpose in a school, you should use a correct attitude toward it, and not only do your part in making your school an effective place of learning, but develop the habit of self-restraint which will make you a better person.

Students who receive multiple disciplinary infractions may result in students being prohibited from attending school related activities, during and after school hours (example: football games, basketball games, dances, field trips etc.)

CODE OF BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOLS

The DeKalb County School System maintains high expectations that our students will conduct themselves appropriately at all times. At the heart of Code of Behavior and Discipline are the virtues found in our Character Educational Program. Students are expected to use the Character Education Virtues of the DeKalb County School System to model positive behavior. In order to assist students, parents, teachers, and administrators, one should understand what is expected by positive behavior. The Character Education Virtues are as follows:

1. Kindness – the desire to show genuine sympathy and interest in others' well being.
2. Courtesy – the ability to display positive behaviors that may be interpreted as being considerate, respectful, generous, polite, and mannerly in school, home, and community.
3. Fairness/Justice – the conviction to consider the individual work of each citizen as an important contribution to the common good of the school or the community.

4. Honesty – the conviction to say and/or do the morally right thing, regardless of public recognition.
5. Self-Discipline – the ability to control one's self for the sake of improvement.
6. Respect – the recognition of the basic worth and value of all human beings, which results in an individual relating to others in a manner which reflects dignity and honors humanity.
7. Responsibility – the ability of a person to think, respond, and be accountable for his/her actions and behaviors in any given situation.
8. Courage – the internal strength to actively support convictions and beliefs.
9. Perseverance – the ability to pursue worthwhile goals in spite of obstacles and distractions.
10. Self-respect – the ability to use a belief in self worth to recognize that choices exist in all situations and to resist negative peer pressure in making positive choices.

In order to ensure that students behave in an appropriate manner and to ensure that all students and teachers can learn and teach in a safe environment, the DeKalb County Board of Education has established a Code of Behavior and Discipline. Teachers, administrators, and any school employee are authorized to take just and reasonable measures to establish effective school discipline. The authority to control student behavior shall extend to the buses and all activities of the school. Each school principal shall be responsible for implementation and administration in his/her school. He/she shall apply the Code of Behavior and Discipline uniformly and fairly to each student at the school without partiality or discrimination. Students will receive punishment ranging from a verbal reprimand to the zero-tolerance policy being applied depending on the severity and nature of the misbehavior. Infractions are as follows:

1. Assaulting a principal, teacher, student, or any school employee with vulgar, obscene, or threatening language.
2. Immoral or disreputable conduct toward a principal, teacher, or any school employee.
3. Engaging in fighting.
4. Violence or threatened violence against a person or property of any personnel or any student attending or assigned to any school.
5. Possession of a pistol, gun, or firearm on school property.
6. Possession of a knife or other weapons, etc., as defined in TCA 39-6-1701, on school property.
7. Willful or malicious damage to or the theft of real or personal property of the school or the property of any person attending or assigned to the school.
8. Unlawful use or possession of barbitol or legal drugs as defined in TCA 53-10-101.
9. Unlawful use, possession, sale and/or distribution of drugs and alcohol.
10. Engaging in behavior, which disrupts a class or school sponsored activity.
11. Assault or battery on school employees.
12. Willful and persistent violation of the rules of the school or truancy.
13. Off-campus criminal behavior resulting in felony charges or when such behavior poses a danger to persons or property or disrupts the educational process.
14. Use of or the unlawful possession of tobacco.
15. Any other conduct prejudicial to good order or discipline in the school.



	First Referral	Second Referral	Third Referral	Fourth + Referral
Category 1-Minor • Unprepared with materials • -Dress code violation • -Gum • -Tardy(1st,2nd,3rd • -Other minor misconduct	Conference with teachers -Principal notification -Parent notification <i>5 total behavioral slip</i>	Office visit -Lunch detention -Parent notification <i>10 total behavioral s</i>	-Office visit -ASL-after school learning -Parent notification	-Office visit -Full day of ISS/ ASL/ Suspension at Office Discretion -Parent notification
Technology: -charging, misuse, unattended	Verbal warning for student -Parent notification	-10 day loss of chromebook -Parent notification	-Loss of chromebook for remaining of year -Parent notification	
Category 2-Major • Disruption of Educational Process • -Cheating/Forgery • -Insubordination/Defiance • -Disrespect to school personnel and/or students • -Inappropriate language • -Electronic device violation(major) • -Bullying	Lunch detention/ASL -Parent notification	ISS/ASL -Parent notification	Half or Full day of Suspension at Office Discretion -Parent notification	-Office discretion -Parent notification
<u>Vaping/Smoking/ Tobacco</u>	Referral to SRO/ 1 day of ISS/ASL - Tobacco class	Referral to SRO/ 3 day of ISS/ASL - Tobacco class	Referral to SRO/ 4 day of ISS/ASL - Tobacco class	Referral to SRO/ 5 day of ISS/ASL - Tobacco class
Category 3-Severe • Persistent bullying • -Physical fighting	Five Category 1 offenses will result in the first referral; ten			

• -Theft, Vandalism, Harassment • - Major Technology • -Extreme or Illegal Misconduct	would be the second referral and so forth. A major or severe Category 2 or 3 offence will result in an automatic referral
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Defined Behaviors

Inappropriate Language	Verbal or written messages that include name calling, use of words to humiliate, or inappropriate slang/swear words.
Lying/Cheating	Responses that is deliberately untrue or misleading. Taking credit for work that is not the student's own. (plagiarism)
Fighting	Actions involving serious physical contact where injury may occur (hitting, punching, kicking, hair pulling, scratching, etc.).
Homework/Class work	CHRONIC failure to complete homework/class work.
Theft	Student is in possession of, passed on, or is responsible for removing someone else's property.
Use/Possession of Tobacco	Cigarettes, Dip, Tobacco, Snuff, vape pens etc.
Use/Possession of Alcohol	Any alcoholic beverage.
Use/Possession of Weapons	Any items identified by school policy as a weapon.
Use/Possession of Drugs	Any controlled substance as identified by school policy.
Dress Code Violation	CHRONIC violation of dress code policy.
Technology Violation	Misuse of computer as defined in student handbook.
Inappropriate Display of Affection	Any public display of physical contact.
Out of location/Boundaries	Being in an unauthorized or unsupervised area of the building or grounds without permission.
Minor – Physical Contact/Aggression	Actions involving inappropriate horseplay and/or aggressive physical contact (pushing, shoving, leaning on)
Property Damage/Vandalism	Intentional destruction of property belonging to the school, a teacher, or another student through intentional misuse or as a result of aggressive and/or inappropriate behavior.

Harassment/Bullying	Disrespectful messages (verbal or gestures) to another person that includes threats, intimidations, obscene gestures, pictures, or text. Negative comments based on race, religion, gender, age and/or ethnicity, disabilities or other personal matters.
Defiance/Disrespect/Insubordination/ Non-Compliance	Yelling at the teacher, leaving class without permission, refusing boldly to obey, challenging or resisting authority.
Chronic Disruption	A behavior, action, or disturbance that interrupts the teaching or learning process. Occurs consistently over a period of time.

ONLINE EXPECTATIONS

Your Chromebook and school issued email address are to be used for SCHOOL purposes only. Chatting, video calling, etc. on any platform is prohibited. School electronics are for activities that are academically focused and teacher led. There will be consequences for inappropriate use of school devices.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

In order to ensure a safe and secure learning environment free of drugs, violence and dangerous weapons, any student who engages in the following behaviors will be subject to suspension for a period of not less than one (1) calendar year. Expelled means removed from the pupil's regular school or removed from school attendance altogether. Nothing in this code shall be construed to prohibit the assignment of expelled students to the alternative school.

Zero Tolerance acts:

1. Students who bring or unlawfully possess a narcotic, stimulant, prescription drug, or other controlled substance, dangerous weapon on the school bus, on school property or to any school event or activity.
2. Any student who, while on a school bus, on school property or while attending any school event or activity:
 - a. Unlawfully possesses a narcotic, stimulant, prescription drug, or any other controlled substance or dangerous weapon; or
 - b. Commits battery on a teacher or any other employee of the system.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE/ABUSE

Students will not possess, distribute or be under the influence of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages in school buildings or on school grounds, in school vehicles or buses, or at any school sponsored activity at any time, whether on or off school grounds. Students will not market or distribute any substance which is represented to be or is substantially similar in color, shape, size, or markings of a controlled substance in the school building or on school grounds, in school vehicles or buses, or at any school-sponsored activity at any time, whether on or off school grounds. Upon information that a student is suspected of violating this policy, the principal of the school shall be notified immediately. If it is determined that board policy had indeed been violated, the principal shall notify the student's parent or guardian and the appropriate law enforcement officials, and the student shall be subject to disciplinary actions.

UNSAFE SCHOOL CHOICE OPTION

The student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) are provided an opportunity to transfer to another school within the local agency that is safe for the student. To the extent possible, the LEA shall allow the transferring student to transfer to a school that is making adequate yearly progress. Again, we are pleased to announce that all the schools in DeKalb County meet all state requirements for a Safe School. If you would like to receive additional information or have any questions, please call Dr. Danielle Collins at (615) 215-2116.

TOYS AND PERSONAL ITEMS POLICY

To help maintain a safe, focused, and productive learning environment, students should **not bring toys or other non-instructional items to school**. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Fidget toys (unless specifically authorized through a documented accommodation or approved by school administration)
- Trading cards (Pokémon, sports cards, etc.)
- Stuffed animals, dolls, action figures, and figurines
- Toy vehicles or games
- Laser pointers
- Water bead toys, slime, putty, or similar novelty items
- Any other item that may distract from learning or disrupt the school environment

Students are expected to bring only materials necessary for learning and school-related activities.

If a student brings a prohibited item to school, school personnel may confiscate the item. Confiscated items may be returned to the student at the end of the school day, held until a parent or guardian retrieves them, or handled according to school administration's discretion if repeated violations occur.

The school is **not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal items** brought to school. Students who repeatedly bring prohibited items to school may be subject to additional disciplinary consequences in accordance with the DeKalb Middle School Code of Conduct.

Exception: Students with documented accommodations (such as those outlined in an IEP, Section 504 Plan, or other approved support plan) may use approved sensory or fidget tools as determined by the student's educational team.

NOTICE TO PARENTS

DeKalb Middle School may perform school-wide or grade level hearing screenings, eye screenings, blood pressure checks, scoliosis, and head checks for lice. This is provided as a service to you and your children. If you do not wish for this service to be performed on your child, please contact the school office.

As a parent of a student at DeKalb Middle School, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's teacher and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers: 1.) Whether the Tennessee Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches in.; 2.) Whether the Tennessee Department of Education has decided that teachers can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulation because of special circumstances; 3.) The teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees, and if so, the subject of the degrees; and 4.) whether any teacher's assistants or paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

We are pleased to announce that the teachers at DeKalb Middle School meet all state and local requirements. If you would like to receive any additional information, please call Danielle Collins at (615) 215-2116. DeKalb Middle School is pleased to be a school wide Title I school. The DeKalb County Board of Education encourages the involvement of parents, both as individuals and as groups, to act as advisors and resource people in the following ways:

1. With specific talents to complement and extend the instructional services of the classroom teacher.
2. To serve as advisors on curriculum development projects.
3. To express ideas and concerns by responding to surveys and other information gathering devices.
4. To be actively involved in parent-teacher groups.
5. To serve on citizen's advisory committees.

This policy has been developed through consultation with parents. Participation documentation will be maintained. This policy will be distributed to parents of each Title I School at a joint annual meeting. Under the Federal Projects Director the system shall have: 1.) Parent consultation and 2.) Committee Representation. Assist schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement and build the schools and parents' capacity for strong parent involvement as described in Section 1118(e) of Title I by providing:

1. Staff Development
2. Coordination
3. Technical Assistance
4. Funding
5. Training
6. Materials and Supplies

Coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Title I with strategies under other programs, such as Head Start and Adult Education by:

1. Consultation with program directors
2. Joint parent meetings
3. Shared training sessions when appropriate.

Conduct, through parent questionnaires and surveys, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy:

1. To determine the effectiveness of the policy in increasing the participation of parents.
2. To identify barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by Title I.
3. Use the findings of the annual evaluation in designing strategies for school improvement and revising, if necessary, LEA and school parent policies through committees.

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write to the school principal (or appropriate official), clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorized disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant; or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

(NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or eligible student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.)

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance
Office U.S. Department of
Education 400 Maryland
Avenue, SW Washington, DC
20202-460

Report cards on statewide academic assessment can be found at: www.dekalbschools.com. Once this page has been pulled up, click on Chamber of Commerce. After reaching the Chamber of Commerce's home page click on schools. The link can be found at the bottom of the page

PPRA NOTICE AND CONSENT/OPT-OUT FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. 1232h, requires the **DeKalb County School System** to notify you and obtain consent or allow you to opt your child out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis, evaluation or screenings that concerns one or more of the following nine areas ("protected information surveys"):

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self incriminating or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;

6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
9. Vision or health screenings.

This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes (“marketing surveys”), and certain physical exams and screenings. Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State Law; and
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
4. Inspect, upon request and before administration or use:
 1. Protected information surveys of students;
 2. Instruments used to collect personal information from student for any of the above marketing, sales or other distribution purposes; and
 3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law. DeKalb County schools perform school-wide or grade-level hearing screening, vision screening, and head checks for lice. This is provided as a service to you and your children. If you do not wish for this service to be performed on your child, please notify the school by August 31st.

NOTICE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal Law, requires that DeKalb County Schools, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child’s education records. However, DeKalb Schools may disclose appropriately designated “directory information” without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with local procedures. This would be in the form of a written letter telling us to allow the schools to include this type of information from your child’s education records in certain publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student’s role in a drama production;
- The annual year book;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent’s prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local education agencies receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories: names, addresses, and telephone listings; unless parents have advised the school that they do not want their student’s information disclosed without their prior written consent. If you do not want DeKalb County Schools to disclose directory information from your child’s education records, you must notify the school in writing by August 31st. Signing the cover letter will give your consent for directory information to be released.

Dekalb County School System Parent Information

Director of Schools 110 South Public Square Smithville, TN 37166 Phone: 615-597-4084

The DeKalb County School System is committed to providing the best education possible for each student. We realize that parents play a vital role in the accomplishment of this mission so we encourage their involvement and strive to keep them informed of their rights. • DeKalb County School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, age, or handicap in the provision of educational opportunities, activities, or other administered programs

- A parental involvement policy and parent-teacher-student compact will be distributed to parents by each Title I school. A copy of each document may also be obtained by contacting the school office. In schools eligible for Title I funds, a written parental involvement policy will be developed jointly with and distributed to parents of children participating in Title I programs. Each Title I school will also hold at least one annual meeting for parents to inform them of the school's participation in programs funded under the No Child Left Behind Act. All elementary/middle schools in Dekalb County are identified as school-wide Title I schools.
- Parents have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of classroom teachers who instruct their child. If students are provided services by paraprofessionals, parents may also request information regarding the qualifications of paraprofessionals. Teacher certifications can be found by accessing the Tennessee Department of Education Licensing Website (www.state.tn.us/education/lic.home.htm) or by contacting the school principal or the school system's Federal Programs Director.
- Parents must receive notification if their child has been assigned or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.
- Parents will have access to system and school report cards as developed by the State Department of Education (usually available in late fall of each year) through the web site (www.state.tn.us/education) or at the school and/or system office. Results will also be publicized through local media.
- Parents must receive information on the achievement level of their child on each of the state academic assessments as practicably possible after the test is taken. The child's school will distribute assessment results.
- Parents have access to district and school information and reports through the media (local newspaper and radio), the System/School Report Cards available on the State Department of Education website (www.state.tn.us), or at the school or system's administrative offices.
- Parents may visit the State Department of Education website (www.state.tn.us) or visit the school to access a description of the Tennessee Curriculum Standards, assessment information, and proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- Parents must be notified if their child is enrolled in a school identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. Currently no school in DeKalb County has been identified as in need of improvement.
- If a school fails to make adequate yearly progress, parents will be informed regarding the availability of school choice options and supplemental education services.
- Under the Tennessee State Board of Education's Unsafe School Choice Policy, any public school student who is the victim of a violent crime as defined under Tennessee Code Annotated 40-38-111(g), or the attempt to commit one of these offenses as defined under Tennessee Code Annotated 30-12-101, shall be provided an opportunity to transfer to another grade-level appropriate school within the district.
- Parents of a student identified as having limited English proficiency (ELL-English Language Learner) must be notified in a timely manner of the child's participation in the ELL program, details of the program, right to waive participation, and specific information on the child's level of English proficiency.
- Parents will be notified of their child's eligibility for service in migrant, homeless, or Limited English Proficiency programs.
- Parents must be informed of and involved in violence and drug prevention efforts including program content and

activities. Parents may request in writing their child's exemption from participation in such activities.

- Parents will be notified regarding their rights before any third-party surveys are distributed to students.
- Schools in which at least 40% of the children are from low-income families have school-wide program authority under which schools may consolidate funds from federal, state and local sources to upgrade the entire educational program of the school.
- Parents of secondary school students have a right to request that their child's name, address, and telephone number not be released to a military recruiter without their prior written consent. Request should be addressed to the Federal Programs Director at the address shown on brochure.
- Federal law affords parents and students over 18 years of age certain rights with respect to educational records.

School Board Policy relating to student privacy and parental access to information is available in the School Board Policy Manual located at each school and at the central office. Notification of Rights and Release of Directory Information under FERPA (Family Education Rights and Privacy Act) will also be conducted through local media announcements.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

The DeKalb County Schools District does not discriminate against students because of their homelessness.

1. Students who become homeless have a right to continue enrollment in their school while they are homeless. They may enroll in any public school that is eligible for attendance by other students who live in the attendance area in which the homeless student is currently living.
2. No homeless student is required to attend a separate school for homeless students.
3. Homeless students shall be provided services comparable to those provided for others, including transportation services, educational services, and meals served through school meal programs.
4. Homeless students may not be stigmatized by school personnel or within school programs.
5. The local school district must identify a staff person to be responsible for homeless students in the district. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Joey Reeder, Homeless Liaison for DeKalb County Schools, at 615-215-2102.

STUDENT EQUAL ACCESS

Student Meetings

Schools may allow students to form clubs or groups that meet before, during, and/or after the school day. Requests to form such clubs or groups shall not be denied based upon the religious nature or beliefs of the proposed club or group. If permitted, school administrators shall ensure that all clubs and groups have the same abilities to access facilities and advertise their meetings.

No funds shall be expended by the school for any such meeting beyond the incidental costs associated with providing meeting space. Groups meeting under this policy may be required to pay a reasonable fee for compensating school personnel in the supervision of the activity.

No student may be compelled to attend or participate in a meeting under this policy.

A student or a group of students who wish to conduct a meeting under this policy must file an application with the principal at least three days prior to the proposed date.

The principal shall approve the meeting if he/she determines that:

1. The meeting is voluntary and student-initiated;
2. There is no sponsorship of the meeting or its content by the school, the Board, or its employees;
3. The meeting will not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of the school's educational activities or conflict with other previously scheduled meetings;

4. Employees of the district are to be present in a non-participatory monitoring capacity; however, no employee shall be required to attend in this capacity if the content of the meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the employee; and
5. Non-school persons will not direct, control or regularly attend.

School Sponsored Events

If the Board or a school principal authorizes an event at which a student is to speak, a limited public forum shall be established for such student speakers. The appropriate administrators shall ensure that:

1. The forum is provided in a manner that does not discriminate against a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject;
2. There is an appropriate method of selecting student speakers which is based on neutral criteria;
3. Student speakers do not engage in speech that is obscene, vulgar, offensively lewd, indecent or promotes illegal drug use.

To the extent possible and practical, prior to events in which students will speak, notice shall be provided orally and/or in writing that the student's speech does not reflect the endorsement, sponsorship, position, or expression of the Board and its employees.

School Library Reconsideration Policy

The educational mission of the DeKalb County School System is to ensure students are given the skills necessary to become successful and productive citizens. As school librarians, we feel reading is the foundation of education. Each individual school librarian within the DeKalb County School System will use the recommendations from Follett, Renaissance (Accelerated Reader), and other reputable sources such as Good Reads, Barnes and Noble, etc. to determine if a book is age-appropriate based on the grade level maturity and reading level. When the appropriateness of a book is challenged, a detailed summary, interest level, and book level will be obtained from the above reputable sources. If a parent or guardian wishes to challenge a book, a Reconsideration of Materials Form may be requested from the school librarian. Each school has a materials review committee that has been appointed by the principal. The committee has 15 working days following the completion of the request of reconsideration form to determine if the book should be removed from the library. If the complainant desires further action after receiving the recommendation of the committee and the decision of the material review committee, an appeal may be made to the DeKalb County Board of Education.

Nondiscrimination Notice

DeKalb Middle School does not discriminate in employment, and student services on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap, or age. Grievances should be addressed to the Director of Schools, 110 South Public Square, Smithville, TN 37166.

NOTE: THIS HANDBOOK HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO HELP PARENTS AND STUDENTS UNDERSTAND SOME OF THE BASIC RULES AND POLICIES OF DEKALB MIDDLE SCHOOL. THE HANDBOOK IS NOT ALL INCLUSIVE OF EVERY SCHOOL POLICY. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR BEHAVIOR EVEN IF THE RULE OR POLICY IS NOT LISTED IN THIS HANDBOOK. THIS HANDBOOK IS AS COMPLETE AS POSSIBLE AT THE TIME OF PRINTING. CHANGES MADE AFTER PRINTING WILL BE ADDED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

WE COULD NOT POSSIBLY LIST ALL THE RULES AND CONSEQUENCES NEEDED TO PROVIDE AN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCTIVE TO GOOD LEARNING. THEREFORE, IT IS OUR HOPE THAT STUDENTS WILL ALSO USE "COMMON SENSE" AND SOUND JUDGMENT AS A RULE OF THEIR CONDUCT.