



“The mission of Ariton School is to empower individuals to become independent, productive members of our ever-changing society.”

264 Creel Richardson Drive
Post Office Box 750
Ariton, Alabama 36311

Please visit the school website: www.ahsdaledalecounty.schoolinsites.com

High School

Phone number – (334) 445-5561 or (334) 762-3152

Fax number – (334) 762-2080

Elementary School

Phone number – (334) 445-5560 or (334) 762-2371

Fax number – (334) 762-3130

Mr. Josh Herring – Principal

Email- jherring@dalecountyboe.org

Mrs. Mindy Blankenship – Vice Principal

Email- mblankenship@dalecountyboe.org

Dr. Danielle Cruik – Vice Principal

Email- dcruik@dalecountyboe.org

Dale County Board of Education

Mr. Ben Baker – Superintendent

Mr. Chuck Walker- Associate Superintendent

Mr. Dale Sutton- Board Member

Mrs. Priscilla McKnight – Board Member

Mr. Jerald Cook- Board Member

Mrs. Shannon Deloney- Board Member

Mr. Phillip Parker - Board Member

DESTINATION – EXCELLENCE!!

This handbook belongs to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

All students of Ariton School are expected to conduct themselves in a way that will bring honor to their family, school, and community. Since only a small minority of our students have difficulty abiding by this simple rule, this Student Handbook is not to be considered a rulebook for disciplinary problems. However, any institution as large as ours needs some regulations to guide the people involved. This handbook is a compilation from the Dale County Board of Education Policy, from faculty and student suggestions, and from observances made of other schools of similar size. Read it carefully, as each student and parent will be held responsible for its content.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back to school! The faculty and staff of Ariton School are excited about the upcoming school year. The Ariton School Family is determined to strive for excellence in all areas of the educational process. I would like to challenge our students to become involved in the many different opportunities that Ariton School provides. With saying this, it is very important for each student to read this handbook very carefully and contact us with any questions or concerns you may have. The faculty and staff of Ariton School are dedicated to making our students successful members of society.

Communication is very vital in your child's education, so please help us with the following important guidelines. Please make sure your child is present and on time for school each day. Please remember in the case of an absence to send the proper excuse when he/she returns to school. Please remember to keep check-ins and check-outs to a minimum so we can protect important instructional time. Remind your students that they are expected to conduct themselves in a way that will bring honor to our school, their family, and our community.

In closing, I would like to take this time to say I am very humbled and honored to be your principal. This responsibility will not be taken lightly and I will do everything in my power to continue the success of this great school. I encourage you to support Ariton School and please do not hesitate to call me with any concerns.

Go Purple Cats!

Respectfully yours,
Josh Herring

ARITON SCHOOL BELIEFS

- Students learn best when they express themselves in an appropriate and well-disciplined manner.
- Students learn best when they are actively engaged in the learning process.
- Each student has unique physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs.
- Schools need to function as a learning organization in which teachers, administrators, students, parents, and the community shares the responsibility for advancing the school's mission.
- Students need to not only demonstrate their understanding of essential knowledge and skills but also need to be actively involved in higher order thinking, problem solving, and producing quality work.
- Students need to apply their learning both academically and socially.
- A safe and physically comfortable environment promotes student learning.
- Students learn in different ways and should be provided with a variety of instructional approaches to support their learning.

ARITON SCHOOL CODE

We, the students of Ariton School, pledge to:

1. Conduct ourselves in a way to uphold the honor of the school.
2. Support and promote school activities.
3. Learn all we can from the opportunity to attend school.
4. Obey all rules of the school.
5. Respect other students from both our school and other schools.
6. Respect school property and facilities.
7. To be courteous and respectful to all visitors at Ariton School.

The school and community have a mutual understanding of the use of the combined resources of each. If we at Ariton School can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to call on us. Our facilities are your facilities, and with advance planning, may be used, if not in disagreement with Board Policy. We at Ariton School make all attempts to include parents and community in all activities.

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 – bbaker@dalecountyboe.org

DALE COUNTY SCHOOLS VISION:

Destination: Excellence

DALE COUNTY SCHOOLS MISSION:

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

DALE COUNTY SCHOOLS 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.

ARITON SCHOOL FACULTY AND STAFF

Principal	Josh Herring	Vice-Principals	Mindy Blankenship	
			Danielle Cruitt	
Sec/Attendance	Billie Jean Webb	Sec/Attendance	Alecia Williams	
Bookkeeper	Chasity Smith	Athletic Director	Phillip Quincey	
Guidance (PreK-6)	Sara Sanders	Guidance (7-12)	Ashley Chappell	
Media Specialist	Laura Hutto	EL Teacher	Kimberly Garrett	
Reading Coach	Taylor Simmons	Math Coach	Emily Vaughan	
ISS	Teresa Leggett	Health/Driver's Ed	Starla Cherry	
Pre-K	Kaydra Walker	Pre-K Aide	Tiffany Davis	
Kindergarten	Katie Baker	Mallory Danner	Marsha Haddan	Sanet Tyler
First Grade	Claire Burnham	April Fleming	Lacey Granger	Wyvonne Helms
Second Grade	Krysten Andrews	Hayley Baker	Beth Collier	
Third Grade	Carlee Aldridge	Laken Davis	McKenzie Strickland	
Fourth Grade	Haley Barefoot	Bethany Phillips	Lakin Turner	
Fifth Grade	Lisa Cross	Victoria Dees	Peyton Short	
Sixth Grade	Kristie Deloney	Jordan Payne	Victoria Snellgrove	
7th Grade Advisors	Heather Smith- Science	Hayden Wilson- Language Arts		
	Jackson Baker - Math			
8th Grade Advisors	Eric Swain- History	Morgan Dubose – Language Arts		
	Lori Burg - Math			
Freshman Advisors	Alison Birkmeyer – Science	Sandy Sessoms – ACCESS		
	Amy Swain- Language Arts			
Soph. Advisors	Leigh Outlaw – Agriscience	Sherri Evans – Business Tech		
	Phillip Quincey – History			
Junior Advisors	Chelsey McCollough-History	Allie Singleton – Language Arts		
	Amy Smith – Math			
Senior Advisors	Stella Jones – Health Science	Hannah King – Science	Brittany Peters – Math	
Physical Education	Wes Alums	Brett Goodson	Easton Lumpkin	
	Bob Pickett	Bridget Whitehurst		
Resource/Int.	Ciara Andrews	Karmen Howard		
	Claire Lambert	Heath Hughes		
Para-professionals	Whitney Brown	Kristi Bell	Jason Howell	Kasen Whitehurst
Gifted	Shawna Steadham	Music	Kerri Taylor	
Speech	Jana Robinette			
Nurse	Kim Ingram			
Custodians	Diane Grice	Steve Laney	Wendy Silavent	
	April Thomas	Christine Till		
Lunchroom	Josh Evans– Mgr.	Kelly Langford	Teresa Robbins	
	Tammy Prestwood	Janice Baxter	Kandis Carr	
Bus Drivers	Marion Blankenship	Vic Coker	Larry Key	Angela Downing
	Rick Cordle	Amanda Redding	Jennifer Snellgrove	Valerie St. Cin

Faculty members may be reached via e-mail by using the school website or by using the first letter of the first name, the complete last name, with @dalecountyboe.org attached. Example: you can reach Josh Herring at jherring@dalecountyboe.org.

2026-2027 HOLIDAYS

September 7, 2026	Labor Day
October 12-14, 2026	Columbus Day/Fall Break
November 11, 2026	Veteran's Day
November 23-27, 2026	Thanksgiving
Dec. 21, 2026 – January 5, 2027	Christmas Holidays
January 18, 2027	King/Lee Holiday
February 15, 2027	President's Day
March 22-26, 2027	Spring Break
March 26, 2027	Good Friday
April 23, 2027	Student/ Teacher Holiday
May 31, 2027	Memorial Day

GRADE REPORT DATES

Progress Report Dates

September 11, 2026
November 13, 2026
February 5, 2027
April 22, 2027

Report Card Dates

October 16, 2026
January 8, 2027
March 17, 2027
May 27, 2027

End of 9 Weeks Dates

October 9, 2026
December 18, 2026
March 12, 2027
May 27, 2027

TESTING DATES

Final Exam Dates (Grades 7-12)

December 17-18, 2026 & May 26-27, 2027

STATE ASSESSMENTS:

ACAP (Grades 2-8)
PreACT Secure (Grade 10)
ACT with Writing (Grade 11)
ACT WorkKeys (Grade 12)
ACCESS for ELLS (Grades K-12)

March 15-April 23, 2027
September 28-October 23, 2026
March 9, 2027
October 14, 2026
January 19- March 12, 2027

PARENTS AND VISITORS

We want you to feel welcome at Ariton School; 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 an official visitor's sticker from the office. Students are not to bring relatives, friends, etc. to school.

CONFERENCES

Teachers will have certain days and certain times they can schedule conferences. If you would like to schedule a conference, please call the school office, send the teacher a note, or e-mail the teacher. When you arrive for a conference, please go to the office to check in and get a pass to be on campus. Conferences may also be requested by teachers to discuss a student's progress. Parents are urged to attend conferences when scheduled by the teacher.

EPA ASBESTOS NOTICE

All Dale County Board of Education buildings are in 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.

TOBACCO POLICY

All Dale County School campuses and all Dale County School sponsored events are tobacco free. This includes electronic cigarettes, vape pens, hookah pens, e-hookahs, vape pipes, nicotine pouches, and any similar type of device designed to deliver nicotine, flavor, and other chemicals via inhalation or simulation smoking.

WEAPON POLICY

No guns or weapons are allowed on Dale County School and/or Arton School properties or at any Dale County School and/or Arton School sponsored event.

INVITATION POLICY

It is the policy of Arton School to not distribute invitations at any time for any reasons. This also includes bringing in food for student birthdays. It is the policy of Arton School to only allow food items to be sent in for homecoming festivities, Christmas parties, and Valentine's parties. Any other special occasion would require prior approval from the Principal.

STUDENT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Students should not be on campus before 7:25, due to the lack of supervision the doors will not be unlocked until this time. Students arriving before 7:25 could face disciplinary action. Arrival to school after 7:57 is considered tardy. Parents/guardians, please do not park in areas where buses load or unload before school and immediately after school. Arton School students should unload from the vehicle under the awning in the morning. Parents please do not put your child out on the street for them to have to cross the car lane. The safety of your child is of our utmost concern.

PICK UP PROCEDURES

When the dismissal bell rings, the students will be sent to the buses. Parents are to use the car line for the safety of their children. Parents are not to come in the building unless they need to meet with a teacher or administrator. Car riders will wait with assigned teachers in the lunchroom. Please have a clearly visible sign on the dash or front side window of your vehicle stating the name of the student(s) that you are transporting. If an elementary child is riding with a high school student that is parked on campus, the high school student must enter the building and escort the elementary student to the car. Children and/or parents should not walk in front or between buses. No student will be allowed to ride in the back of a pickup truck on campus. Students may not be picked up by parents from the back campus. This road is closed due to student traffic and safety concerns. Also, students must leave campus when school is dismissed unless an approved function requires them to be at a designated site.

In order to avoid confusion and prevent possible safety problems, we ask parents NOT to check children out of school after 2:30 p.m. All students should be picked up by 3:15 each afternoon. If for some reason a student misses his/her bus or is not picked up, he/she should notify school personnel on duty. Students, who leave their classroom to get on a bus and realize someone is there to pick them up, must return immediately and inform the school personnel on duty. If you are making a transportation change, the change should be requested in writing and given to the school secretary. All changes should be requested by 2:30 p.m.

SCHOOL BUS PROCEDURES

- Students load or unload from the bus at their assigned neighborhood bus stop and their assigned school.
- Bus drivers will not stop for students to load/unload at any other locations.
- Any changes to an established/approved bus stop will require a written parental request and pre-approval by school administration.
- 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 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 and safely as possible to the assigned stop as the bus arrives.

DALE COUNTY SCHOOLS STUDENT TRANSPORTATION DISCIPLINARY PLAN

Dale County Schools Parent/Student Bus Transportation Information Guide:

Students who fail to abide by the rules and safety guidelines on the bus will be subject to the following preliminary actions to be taken by the bus driver:

- Driver will warn the student
- Driver will reseat the student
- Driver will contact parent

If the above preliminary actions by the driver does not resolve the student behavior or issue, then the driver will refer the student to the building level principal or his/her designee. The principal or his/her designee has the authority to deny a student the privilege of riding a school bus. This denial, based on the misconduct of the student for an offense committed on the school bus will be for a reasonable and specified period of time. The parent/guardian will be notified prior to the suspension.

All discipline referrals that result from incidents occurring on a school bus are submitted to the building level principal or his/her designee. The disciplinary actions taken by the school administration is as follows:

- **First Offense-** warning/administrative conference with the parent/guardian via phone or in person.
- **Second Offense-** three-day suspension off of the bus or corporal punishment; parent notified by phone or in person
- **Third Offense-** five-day suspension off of the bus; parent notified by phone or in person
- **Fourth Offense-** ten-day suspension off of the bus; parent notified by phone or in person
- **Fifth Offense-** twenty-day suspension off of the bus; parent notified by phone or in person
- **Subsequent Offenses-** suspension off of the bus for the remainder of the semester or the remainder of the school year; parent notified during a face to face conference with the principal or his/her designee; notification of a long-term suspension may be conducted via phone conference if necessary.

*Fighting and/or physical contact towards another student may result in further disciplinary action based on the guidelines outlined in the Student Code of Conduct in the school handbook. The Dale County Schools Code of Conduct applies to students in transport for any school related function.

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

GRADING 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 week's report card must be picked up or mailed (student must provide a stamped envelope). Students are charged with the responsibility of showing their progress reports and report cards to their parents. Kindergarten uses a separate report card and grading system: 4= Exceeds Expectation, 3= Meets Expectation, 2= Progressing Towards Expectation, 1= Not Meeting Expectation.

GRADE POLICY

"A" is defined as 90-100

"C" is defined as 70-79

"F" is defined as 0-59

"B" is defined as 80-89

"D" is defined as 60-69

"FA" failure due to absences

HONOR ROLL

The "A" Honor Roll is for those students making all "A's" on the report card for that grading period. The "A-B" Honor Roll is for those students with no grades lower than an A or B on the report card for a particular grading period. The Yearly "A" Honor Roll is for those students making all "A's" in each subject for each grading period.

The Yearly “A-B” Honor Roll is for those students with no grades lower than an A or B in each subject for each grading period.

DROP/ADD SCHEDULE CHANGE POLICY

At the beginning of each semester, high-school students may make schedule change requests. The drop/add period is 1 week only from the day students return until 1 week later.

POWERSCHOOL POLICY

Parents have access through PowerSchool to view grades, attendance records, and discipline records of students. Parents can receive login information from the Guidance office and are encouraged to use this progress monitoring method.

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 Dale County Board of Education Special Education Coordinator at 774-2355, Ext 23229.

FINAL EXAM POLICY

1. All students in grades 9-12 are required to take a final exam at the end of each semester for all courses. The final exam will be comprehensive and will be 15% of a student’s final semester grade.
2. Students in half credit courses and Work Base Learning (WBL) courses will not be required to take a final exam.
3. Students enrolled in dual enrollment, ACCESS, Dale County Schools Alternative Learning Center, and Bridge Academy must follow the policies of the host instructor/educational institution for final exams.
4. Students may exempt a final exam if they meet one of the following criteria:
 - Have an “A” average in the course with no more than 4 attendance events **and/or 6 demerits**; or
 - Have a “B” average in the course with no more than 2 attendance events **and/or 3 demerits**; or
 - Have a “C” average in the course with no attendance events **and no demerits**
5. Students that receive out of school suspension during a semester for a discipline infraction will not be allowed to exempt final exams of that semester regardless of the average.
6. An attendance event is any absence, any tardy, or any checkout. All absences count except for school related events/field trips as designated by the principal. The principal has the final say on attendance events.
7. Students exempt from a test will not be required to attend school during the test session time. Students that are exempt and attend during the test session will be required to be in the test setting.

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.

FUNDRAISING

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

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:

1. Pick up a MEDICATION AUTHORIZATION FORM at the school office to be completed by BOTH the child's physician and parent.
2. Prescribed medicines must be in a pharmacy labeled prescription container.
3. Parents must transport all medication to the office. Do not send medications with your child.
4. Medicine prescribed 2 or 3 times during the day should be given at home and not during school hours.
5. Pick up all medication at the end of the school year. Any medications left at school will be disposed of.

MEDICAL SCREENINGS

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

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 $\frac{1}{4}$ away from scalp. Fellow classmates and any siblings in school may 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 24 hours**.
- **VOMITING/DIARRHEA:** A child should not attend school if he/she has had excessive vomiting and/or diarrhea in the last 24 hours.
- **PINK EYE:** A child should not return to school until he/she has been treated for this inflammation
- **STREP THROAT:** A child should not return to school until he/she is fever free and on antibiotics for 24 hours. If he/she is fever free and still does not feel well, keep him/her at home.
- **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 24 hours and the pox must be dried up. Children who have chickenpox should stay home for seven days after the first lesion has appeared.

PREGNANT STUDENTS

In order to protect pregnant students from injury, pregnant students should notify school officials of their pregnancy. A written statement from a physician denoting the physical activities in which the student may or may not engage in is required. In addition, a similar statement giving the permission of the physician for the student to return to school is required after the birth of the child.

CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION

All students must have in their school records a certificate showing that all required inoculations have been received to enter school.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Any child with a communicable or contagious disease or infestation may be suspended from school for as long as the disease/infestation exists. The principal will not allow any student diagnosed as having or suspected of having a communicable disease (other than 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.

SUN SAFETY POLICY

All students are encouraged and allowed to wear sunscreen. All students are encouraged to wear sun safety clothing and sun protection accessories during the school day. Students do not participate in PE or recess activities outdoors if the temperature is above 95 degrees and the heat index is above 100 degrees. Sun safety lessons are taught to students during physical education classes throughout the school year.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

State regulations require that the school have on file a copy of a social security cards for all students.

STUDENT INSURANCE

An accident insurance policy may be purchased during a specified period of time from the child's teacher.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES - FIRE, WEATHER, LOCKDOWN

The fire alarm system is the signal for a fire drill or actual fire. An intercom or bullhorn warning is the signal for a severe weather drill or severe weather. An intercom or bullhorn warning is the signal for a lockdown drill or actual lockdown. Visitors and parents will be required to participate in emergency procedures if on campus at the time of a drill or actual emergency. Arizon School conducts safety drills on a monthly basis to train staff and students of emergency procedures. Upon hearing an emergency signal, students should follow these directions:

1. Remain quiet for instructions from the classroom teacher/supervisor/adult.
2. Follow the directions given by the teacher/supervisor/adult.
3. Move quietly and promptly to the designated safe area.

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. Do NOT leave money or valuables in unattended purses or book bags.

FOOD/ DRINKS

Students are NOT to have opened food and/or drinks in the classroom or hallways. Students must keep food and drinks in their bookbags when inside the building. This includes insulated cups such as Stanley cups, thermoses, or other drink containers with lids and straws. There should be NO food brought into the building from break or lunch. Teachers may allow clear water bottles only.

SENDING MONEY TO SCHOOL/ CHECKS

Checks are made payable to the school and **your phone number** must be on the check. Dale County Schools uses Envision to collect returned checks and a charge is added. Future checks will not be accepted. Do NOT leave money or checks in unattended purses or book bags. School personnel are not responsible for lost or stolen money or valuables.

GRIEVANCE POLICY

Whenever a Dale County School System student believes 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 5.33.2. A copy of the Board Policy Manual and complaint form can be obtained through the school office or the Dale County Board of Education.

USE OF STUDENT PICTURES/INFORMATION

Student pictures and likenesses 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 to have your child's picture, likeness, or information published or released please contact the school principal in writing.

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic Absenteeism is defined by a student missing 18 or more days of school during the school year. This includes all types of absences. Dale County Schools are graded on student attendance on the State and Federal Report Cards. We strongly encourage families to make all appointments (doctor, dentist, etc.) during times that do not conflict with the school day. Student achievement is directly related to attendance.

DALE COUNTY SCHOOLS ATTENDANCE POLICY by SCHOOL YEAR (Truancy)

- After 5 unexcused absences students will be assigned to Dale County Early Warning Court
- After 7 unexcused absences truancy charges will be filed with the Dale County Juvenile Court; if the student is in Elementary School a petition will be filed against the parents with the Dale County District Attorney's Office

DALE COUNTY SCHOOLS ATTENDANCE Policy by SEMESTER (Class Credit)

- 3 unexcused absences and/or parent notes – warning notification
- 5 unexcused absences and/or parent notes – final warning notification
- 6 unexcused absences and/or parent notes – loss of credit and/or retention

**students are allowed 5 parent notes per semester; after the 5 parent notes have been exhausted all further absences will be coded unexcused, unless the absence is a documented healthcare provider visit, court/legal related absence, or preapproved by the principal.

ABSENCES (K-6 POLICY)

Students are not permitted to be absent from school without a valid excuse. A student's absence from school may be excused only for the following reasons:

(1) personal illness, (2) hospitalization, (3) court subpoena, (4) a death in the immediate family, (5) an emergency condition as determined by superintendent or principal, (6) absence with prior permission of the principal and with the consent of the parent or guardian, and (7) religious holidays.

After five (5) absences (not including healthcare provider excuses) 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 reserves the right to determine the validity of the excuse.

Students are given 3 days after returning to school to submit excuses to the proper school authority. After three days have exhausted the school may code the absence as unexcused.

The Alabama Compulsory Attendance Laws require children between the ages of 6-17 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.

ABSENCE, TARDY, CHECK OUT CONSEQUENCES (K-6)

K-6 Tardy Policy (Office Referral)

- 4 U tardy - Warning notification
- 5 U tardy - 1-day detention
- 6 U tardy - 2 days' detention
- 7 U tardy - Parent Conference & Possible Referral to Superintendent

***The tardy policy starts over at the beginning of each semester.**

K-6 Unexcused Absence Policy (Office Referral)

- 3 U absences - Warning notification
- 5 U absences - Early-Warning Court Referral
- 6 U absences - Parent Conference
- 7 U absences - Referral to Truancy Court/ Possible Retention

K-6 Unexcused Check Out Policy (Office Referral)

- 4 U checkouts - Warning notification

- 5 U checkouts - 1-day detention
- 6 U checkouts - 2 days' detention
- 7 U checkouts - Parent Conference/Possible Retention

ABSENCES (7-12 POLICY)

Students are not permitted to be absent from school without a valid excuse. A student's absence from school may be excused only for the following reasons: (1) personal illness, (2) hospitalization, (3) court subpoena, (4) a death in the immediate family, (5) an emergency condition as determined by the superintendent or principal, (6) absence with prior permission of the principal and with the consent of the parent or guardian, and (7) religious holidays.

After five (5) days or five (5) class periods of 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.

Therefore, students in grades 7-12 who accumulate more than five absences (except an AA or DE) per semester from school or from any given class may NOT receive credit for the course or courses in which they are enrolled.

Students are given 3 days after returning to school to submit excuses to the proper school authority. After three days have exhausted the school may code the absence as unexcused.

The Alabama Compulsory Attendance Laws require children between the ages of 6-17 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 may count as an absence for that class. Checking in or out during lunch may count as an absence for 3rd block 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, may NOT receive credit for that class.**

TARDY CONSEQUENCES (7-12)

- 3 U tardy - student signs acknowledgement form; student refusal to sign will result in an office referral for defiance
- 4 U tardy - ASD (After School Detention) assignment made by the teacher
- 5 U tardy - office referral (ISS)
- 6 U tardy - office referral (OSS)
- 7 U tardy - Parent Conference & Possible Referral to Superintendent

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE POLICY (7-12)

- 3 U absences - warning notification
- 5 U absences - Early Warning Court
- 6 U absences - Loss of Credit
- 7 U absences - Truancy Petition filed in Dale County Juvenile Court

*Final decisions on check-ins and check-outs lie with administration. The normal rule of thumb is that a student is considered absent if he or she checks in after 10 minutes of class beginning.

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.

MAKE-UP WORK (K-12 POLICY)

Completing make-up work is the student's responsibility. Students may make up work missed due to excused absences within three days from the excused absence. Students who miss class due to school-related activities must make arrangements with their teacher PRIOR to the absence. Student's make up work will not be accepted for grades when the absence is unexcused. Teachers will develop plans for makeup work for students who miss several school days; if the absences are excused.

CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES (K-12)

Students are to be checked out through the office. The person checking out the student should report to the office. The student will then be called to the office to check out. Please avoid checking students out after 2:30. Messages/notes concerning changes for bus/car riders should be sent with your child to school and turned in to the teacher or attendance officer. **If telephone messages concerning bus/car riders are necessary, please call the office before 2:30 since it is difficult to make changes at the end of the school day.** If any student in grades 7-12 check-out or in during a block they will be counted absent for that block. Lunch check-outs or ins will apply to third block.

PROCEDURE FOR STUDENT WITHDRAWAL

In order for records to be forwarded, a student must withdraw in good standing. All fees, books, fines, etc. must be paid. The following procedure applies to students who leave school for any reason:

1. Prior to the date of withdrawal (two days), notify the school counselor, administrator, and attendance office (secretary) of the intent to withdraw.
2. Notify all teachers of the intended withdrawal date.
3. Secure proper withdrawal forms from the school counselor upon arrival at school on the day of withdrawal. Take the forms to the school library, lunchroom manager, and all teachers to get grades, turn in books, and to verify any amounts of uncollected debt.
4. Take the forms to the school office for final clearance.
5. Return the completed forms to the school counselor.

Students who withdraw must have their grades averaged through the last day of attendance. This must be the policy no matter how many days remain in the term. Early tests cannot be given unless very unusual circumstances exist.

****Students enrolled by a Non-Residency Enrollment Application Form (Waiver) can be withdrawn at any time by the Superintendent or his/her designee.**

FIELD TRIPS PROCEDURES

Field trips must be for educational purposes only and have the advanced approval of the principal and superintendent. Field trip forms must be completed and turned in to the teacher by the specified deadline. No spaces are to be left blank. All students must ride the bus to and from each field trip. Parents are not allowed to ride school buses to or from field trips. The Ariton School Code of Conduct applies while a student is attending a school-related or school-sponsored activity on or off campus.

STUDENT RETENTION

Elementary

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. Students with excessive absences may be retained.

Grade 3 Students- Students may also be retained based on the conditions of the Alabama Literacy Act. According to the *Alabama Literacy Act*, "Commencing with the 2023-24 school year, third grade students shall demonstrate sufficient reading skills for promotion to fourth grade. A student scoring at the lowest achievement level in reading on the established state assessment for third grade will not be promoted to fourth grade unless the student meets a good cause exemption for promotion."

7th & 8th Grades

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.

High School (9-12)

In high schools, students will be classified according to the following:

- 10th Grader – having passing grades for six (6) Carnegie units
- 11th Grader – having passing grades for thirteen (13) Carnegie units
- 12th Grader – having passing grades for twenty-one (21) Carnegie units

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.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

1. Students who are absent from school due to an unexcused absence or out-of-school suspension (OSS) will not be allowed to participate or attend extra-curricular activities (athletics, cheerleading, school trips, banquets, dances, etc.) on the day of the absence.
2. If a student has an excused absence, he/she must have prior approval of the administration to be absent and participate.
3. The activity fee for athletics will be \$20.00 per sport per year.

ASSEMBLIES/PEP RALLIES

There will be teacher supervision at all assemblies/pep rallies. Students are to observe the following guidelines when attending assemblies.

1. Enter, leave and move in and out of seating arrangements in an orderly, courteous manner.
2. Once seated, do not change seats unless directed to do so.
3. Give appropriate attention at all times.
4. Ariton School Code of Conduct applies at all assemblies and pep rallies.

SCHOOL CAFETERIA

We have a Self-Service/Offer vs. Serve Lunch Program. Students serve themselves. Students are offered selections from the following five categories: milk, bread, meats, vegetables, and fruits. Students are issued a 4-digit PIN number that will go with them through all school years at Dale County Schools. 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.

MEAL PRICES

Ariton School Cafeteria Prices

	Breakfast	Lunch
Students	FREE	FREE
Staff	3.50	5.50
Visitor	3.50	5.50

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

Cafeteria Rules:

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

ACTIVITY COSTS

All club, extra-curricular, and/or class money shall be administered through the principal's office and will be subject to annual audit.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIAL EVENTS

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 with 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.

HOMECOMING ACTIVITIES

If you are selected as part of the homecoming court, there is a dress code to follow. Failure to comply with the rules may result in removal from the court.

STUDENT RECORDS

Educational records as defined by law or Board policy will be available for examination and review by authorized persons in the manner prescribed and to the extent required by law. Except where the context requires otherwise, the term “educational records” has the meaning given in 20 U.S.C. §1232g(a)(4). Copies of such records may likewise be provided to the extent required and under circumstances specified by applicable law or regulation. The Superintendent is authorized to establish administrative standards and for the reproduction thereof. Parents will be provided required annual notification regarding educational records through the student handbook or by other appropriate means. [Reference: 20 U.S.C. §1232g(a)(4); 34 CFR 99.3] 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.

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 uses surveillance equipment on properties owned and/or maintained by the school system. Properties included 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 matters, law enforcement, or other lawful purposes.

CHECKS

There will be a \$30.00 fee for uncollected returned checks, and future checks will not be accepted. Ariton School will not cash checks. All checks written to Ariton School must include a current and valid phone number. The Dale County Board of Education uses Envision to collect returned checks.

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 of backs, inside of backs, on ends, or any of the pages
- Defaced or marred, such as broken, cut, or smeared backs or pages

Penalty for the lost or damaged textbooks:

- Full price, if new when issued.
- Seventy-five percent if one-year-old when issued.
- Fifty percent if book is two years old or older when issued.
- No textbooks will be issued to any students while the payment for lost or damaged textbooks is outstanding.

The student when withdrawn, promoted, or transferred must return all textbooks to the teacher.

STUDENT VEHICLES ON CAMPUS

1. Being permitted to bring a vehicle to school is a privilege. Any student who brings a vehicle must abide by established school rules and traffic laws.
2. Student vehicles are subject to random searches by administration and/or law enforcement. Drug sniffing dogs can be used occasionally on school campuses and at school events to identify possible illegal contents in vehicles.
3. Students must be licensed and have proof of liability insurance.
4. Students must NOT return to vehicles during the school day without being accompanied by an administrator.
5. Student will leave the vehicle immediately upon arrival at school.
6. Students will not leave campus in their vehicles without completing appropriate checkout procedures & forms.
7. An action by a student driver which is determined by school authorities to be reckless, dangerous, or unlawful, is forbidden and will result in loss of driving privilege and/or other disciplinary action.
8. Vehicles must have keys removed and doors locked.
9. The speed limit is 5 MPH on campus and 15 MPH in the remainder of the school zone.
10. Parking permits are required for students to park on campus. Permits may be purchased from the administration for a fee of \$10.00. This permit is good until the student that purchased the permit graduates.

11. THE SCHOOL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGED VEHICLES ON CAMPUS. Parking spaces will be assigned by an administrator.
12. Flags and banners cannot be flown from vehicles because the items create distractions and line of sight safety issues.

PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW

Parents and/or guardians 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 "Right to Know" form, provided by the main office of the school. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Mr. Chuck Walker at (334-774-2355).

DALE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD DISCIPLINE POLICY

It is fundamental that orderly schools have clearly defined behaviors to which students must conform. Non-conformity to these behaviors results in violations of the Code of Students Conduct. Violations are grouped into three classes that range from least to most serious. Appropriate school personnel shall investigate, verify, and take necessary action to resolve student misconduct. After determining a violation and the classification of violation, the teacher, principal or designee shall implement the appropriate sanction. Violations apply to student conduct on a school campus, at school related events, and while being transported to or from school or school related events. The principals, in accordance with the classifications in the Code of Conduct, will handle bus referrals. **The Ariton School Code of Conduct applies while a student is attending a school related or school-sponsored activity on or off campus.**

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 16-28-12, Code of Alabama, which is known as the Parental Responsibility Act provides that parents and/or guardians have a legal duty to compel their child to properly conduct him or herself in school in accordance with the school's written Code of Conduct. That statutory provision authorizes the District Attorney to file an action against the parent or guardian of a disobedient student for failing to require his or her child to properly conduct themselves. If found guilty, the parent or guardian may be fined up to \$100 and sentenced up to 90 days in the Dale County Jail. It is also important to remind all parents and/or guardians about the truancy laws of this state. Section 16-28-3, Code of Alabama requires that all children enrolled in school must attend on a regular and consistent basis. If the student fails to regularly attend school, the child may be adjudicated a "Child in Need of Supervision" and appropriate sanctions can be imposed on the child. The law of this state further allows the parent or guardian to be fined and/or sentenced to a period of incarceration for failing to require their child to attend school.

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.

SUSPENSION/EXPULSION

Suspension is the temporary removal of a student from school due to a violation of school rules or regulations. All suspensions shall be for a specified period of time. Expulsion is the removal of a student from school for violation of school rules or regulations. When in the judgment of the principal, the expulsion of a student from school is warranted, the principal shall make a written recommendation to the superintendent stating in detail the reasons for the recommendation upon approval of the superintendent. The Board of Education shall be informed and appropriate steps taken and set a hearing for the student with the board. The authority to permanently expel a student is retained by the Dale County Board of Education.

FELONY CHARGES OR CHARGES INVOLVING A FIREARM

If a student is charged with a felony, has been convicted of a felony, has committed a delinquent act based upon an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult, or is charged with an offense involving a firearm, the student's parent/custodian should contact the Principal of Guidance Counselor to determine appropriate school placement while the charge is pending or court-ordered placement is served. If a student is placed on court-ordered probation with terms that prevent in-person attendance at the student's school, the Superintendent or his/her designee will determine the student's placement during the probationary period.

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

Dale County Schools allows the use of physical restraint in situations in which the student is an imminent danger to himself/herself or others and when the student is not responsive to less intensive de-escalation techniques. At no time is physical restraint used as a form of discipline or punishment. Law enforcement may assist in this action.

DISTRIBUTION OF EXPLICIT IMAGES

No student shall distribute, display, solicit, possess, or produce a sexually or pornographic explicit image of any individual, including sexually explicit images of a child. This prohibition applies whether or not the image is of an identifiable person nor whether the age of the individual can be determined. This prohibition includes images of known and unknown individuals and those generated by artificial intelligence.

This policy shall be incorporated into the Code of Student Conduct and treated as a Class IV violation.

Adopted: Ref: Act. No. 2024-98

POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS AND ASSERTIVE DISCIPLINE

All areas of the campus will have Positive Behavioral Support rules and reminders posted for students and visitors. Positive Behavioral Supports is based on the 3Rs (Respect, Responsible, and Resourceful). Parents will be given rules and consequences of the assertive discipline plan that their child's teacher will use. Parents in K-6 must sign an agreement before the child is allowed to stay at school. Every teacher must post the PBS rules in the classroom. Consequences of breaking the rules must be posted and enforced. These should include parental contact. The last step should be a discipline referral to the principal. The principal must approve rules and consequences.

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), in school suspension (ISS), 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.

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); except when a student commits more than one Class IV violation as stated in #6.
5. Only those demerits accumulated during the current eighteen-week term are considered in assigning disciplinary action, except when a student commits more than one Class IV violation as stated in #6.
6. Any student who commits two Class IV violations in the same academic year may be subject to an administrative hearing for placement in an alternative setting or a recommendation of expulsion to the Dale County Board of Education.
7. Any student that commits a Class III or Class IV violation after a completed placement in the Alternative Learning Center during the same academic year will be subject to an administrative hearing for placement in the Alternative Learning Center, Expulsion, or other disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the principal or his/her designee.

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 a 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 up to five days, corporal punishment, complaint filed with the Department of Youth Services, referral to the school counselor, Saturday school, Alternative School, and/or 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, and/or other disciplinary action(s) as deemed appropriate by the principal or designee.

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, placement in an Alternate Learning Environment, 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, placement in an Alternate Learning Environment, and/or other disciplinary action(s) deemed appropriate by the principal or designee.

Due Process: A student has a right to an administrative hearing if the discipline assigned is more than 15 consecutive days in Alternative School or 10 consecutive days of out of school suspension. The parent/guardian of the student has the right to waive the hearing and accept the discipline assigned.

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. Dress Code Violation
11. Disruptive conduct – pushing, horse playing, and/or unsafe physical behaviors deemed disruptive to the educational environment.
12. 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 violation 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. Defiance - any verbal or nonverbal refusal to comply in a timely manner with legal directions or instructions from school personnel.
4. Vandalism - Deliberate action resulting in damages of less than \$50 to public or private property.
5. Petty theft - The deliberate taking of property valued at less than \$25 belonging to or in the lawful possession or custody of another.
6. Possession of stolen property.
7. Profane or obscene language (Not including profanity directed to or about school personnel).
8. Possession of electronic devices – gaming devices, radios, laser pointers, etc.
9. Possession of objects or substances capable of causing bodily harm or injury (matches, lighters, etc.)
10. Obscene gestures or illustrations toward another person.
11. Truancy - Unauthorized absence from school or class.
12. Intimidation.
13. Disrespectful/rude language addressed to or about school personnel (not to include profanity directed to or about school personnel).
14. Providing false information to school personnel - including, but not limited to, forging a parent's signature, giving false accounts of incidences, intentionally failing to give truthful information when requested by school personnel.
15. Leaving school grounds without permission from school officials.
16. Parking lot violations that create an unsafe parking environment - including displaying flags from vehicles which creates distractions and line of sight issues.
17. Cheating on tests, projects, classroom assignments, homework, or any other assigned work. This includes, but not limited to, the use of Artificial Intelligence or other electronic source of information.
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. Student disorders - Inciting, participating, encouraging, or otherwise promoting unauthorized student activities, disruption to an orderly environment or impeding the educational process.
10. Possession, viewing, or distribution of pornographic material; including any obscene or profane materials.
11. Computer misuse - Assessing, changing, receiving, or transmitting information in school computers or technology systems. Including inappropriate use of social media platforms
12. Possession, sale, use, distribution of vaping/electronic cigarette products. (Students will be required to successfully complete an online course on the dangers of Vaping in *In School Suspension* at a minimum)
13. Possession, sale, use, or distribution of tobacco or nicotine products.
14. Possession, transfer, use, or sale of non-prescribed "over the counter" medications. This includes oral stimulant delivery pouches (caffeine Pouches).
15. 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. Profanity or obscene language to or about school personnel.
3. Drug violation - Possession, transfer, use, or sale of illegal or unauthorized drugs (illegal and/or prescription medications).
4. Alcohol violation - Possession, transfer, use, or sale of alcoholic beverages.
5. Grand theft - The taking of property valued at \$25 or more belonging to or in the lawful possession or custody of another.
6. Assault upon school personnel- Hitting, pushing, kicking, grabbing, or any other hostile or aggressive contact or action toward school personnel.
7. Firearms violation - Any firearm (including, but not limited to, starter gun, BB gun, pellet gun, stun gun, hand gun, rifle, shotgun, etc.).
8. 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.
9. Explosives Violation - Possession, igniting, preparing to ignite any explosive substance on school property or at a school related event.
10. Bomb Threat - Any such communication intended to imply the presence of explosives.
11. Arson - The skillful and malicious burning or attempting to burn public or private property.
12. Sexual Offense - Acts and/or contact of a sexual nature including, but not limited to, sexual battery, attempted intercourse, intercourse, rape, and attempted rape.
13. Aggravated battery - Intentionally causing great bodily harm, disability, or disfigurement, by the use of a weapon.
14. Sexual Harassment - Sexual comments, propositions, insinuations, or suggestions.
15. Robbery - Taking of money or property from another by force, violence, threat, or intimidation.
16. Burglary - Entering or remaining in a structure or conveyance with the intent to commit an offense when premises are closed to the public.
17. Criminal mischief - Willful and malicious injury or damages of \$50 or more to public or private property.
18. Indecent Exposure - The inappropriate display or showing of the body. The principal or designee is the

- final authority as per what constitutes indecent exposure.
19. Possession, sale, use, or distribution of any form of synthetic marijuana, CBD, or THC products (including those found in vape devices). If a vape product - students will be required to successfully complete an online course on the dangers of Vaping in *In School Suspension* at a minimum.
 20. Any distribution, viewing, or sharing of inappropriate pictures (nudity, weapons, drugs, sexual in nature, etc.), including digitally or on social media, that affects the school day.
 21. Terrorist threats - Any verbal, written, or electronic threat to school safety, school personnel, or students. Including social media post, text, or emails.
 22. 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 student is subject to expulsion from the Dale County Schools for a period of one year.

*Any student who commits two Class IV violations in the same academic year may be subject to an administrative hearing for placement in an alternative setting or a recommendation of expulsion to the Dale County Board of Education.

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. Belts should be worn when appropriate. There will be NO sagging.
3. Pajama style pants are not allowed.
4. Pants with tears or holes above the knee that show skin are not allowed.
5. Pants with writing on the seat are not permissible.
6. Leggings/Yoga Pants can be worn if the skirt/dress hem or long top reaches mid-thigh.

Shorts/Skirts/Skorts:

1. Shorts, dresses, skorts, skirts worn at mid-thigh are permissible in **grades PK-12**, but there is to be no writing on the seat.

Shirts/Tops/Sweaters:

For safety reasons, pants, shorts, and skirt pockets must be visible. Shirts should be tucked in when appropriate. 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.
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.
10. Swim suits are not allowed to be worn by males or females.

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	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

STUDENT POSSESSION AND USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

In compliance with Alabama Law (FOCUS ACT), Dale County Schools is committed to creating a focused learning environment that minimizes distractions caused by personal electronic devices during the school day. This policy outlines the guidelines regarding students' use of cell phones and wireless communication devices.

Wireless communication devices include, but are not limited to, a cellular telephone, tablet computer, laptop computer, pager, gaming device, smart watches, AirPods, or any other portable electronic device that has the capability of exchanging voice, messaging, or other data communication with another electronic device.

Purpose: This policy intends to foster an educational atmosphere free from distractions and promote the responsible use of technology within the school environment.

Alabama Law (FOCUS ACT) bans cell phones, personal lap tops, smart watches, and other electronic communication devices in public schools. It is the intent of the Dale County Board of Education (DCBOE) to be in compliance with Alabama Law. 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. Dale County Schools has a 1 to 1 Chromebook Laptop ratio; therefore, phones and personal devices will not be allowed for instruction.

- **Grades K-4:** Students in grades K-4 are not allowed to bring cell phones/wireless communication devices as defined in this policy.
- **Grades 5-12:** Bell-to-bell ban; students will not be allowed to use personal cell phones/wireless communication devices during the instructional day (from the first bell of the day to the last bell of the day). Cell phones are to be unheard and unseen during the school day.
- **Storage:** Grade 5-12 students are encouraged to leave cell phones/wireless communication devices at home. Cell Phones/wireless communication devices brought to school must remain concealed. The cell phone/wireless communication device must be turned off and unseen/unheard. Devices must be stored off their person, such as in a locker, car, or similar storage location (e.g., backpack, purse, gym bag, pouch, or other designated area). Again, the DCBOE accepts no responsibility if a device is lost, stolen, misplaced, damaged or confiscated.
- **Searches:** School officials may read, examine, or inspect the contents of any wireless communication device upon reasonable suspicion that the device contains evidence of a violation of Board policy, the Code of Conduct, or other school rules, provided that the nature and extent of such examination shall be reasonably related and limited to the suspected violation.
- **Exceptions to the ban:**
 - ✓ Students with individualized education plans (IEPs) that require cell phones for educational purposes.
 - ✓ Students with medical needs, such as managing chronic conditions like diabetes through mobile apps.
 - ✓ Students who need to use cell phones during an emergency threatening the life or safety of another person.
 - ✓ Students who are prompted to use a device to authenticate login credentials for school-related courses/assignments. This will be done under the supervision of a board-approved employee.
 - ✓ Students who are prompted by a school employee to use a mobile electronic device for activities off campus or field trips. Examples - college tours, workforce development trips, or other school related field trips.

The Dale County Board of Education has adopted a policy that aligns with Alabama Law (FOCUS ACT). Violations of the established law and policy are as follows with additional penalties to be imposed based on the severity of the violations.

Violation of Cell Phone/Electronic Device Policy	Penalties
1st offense	Device confiscated with office referral; Conference with student; Parental contact; Phone returned to student at end of school day. (1 demerit)
2nd offense	Device confiscated with office referral; Conference with student and parent; Phone returned only to the parent. (2 demerits)
3rd offense	Device confiscated with office referral; Student placed in ISS (2 days); Phone returned only to the parent (3 demerits)
4th offense	Device confiscated with office referral; 2 days of OSS; Phone returned at Parent Conference (4 demerits)
5th offense/subsequent offenses	Device confiscated with office referral and turned over to Superintendent; 10-day placement in Alternative School (5 demerits)

*** Refusal to turn over a device to school personnel may result in automatic OSS and the number of days will be at administrator's discretion. Severity of refusal to cooperate with the established policy will be at the sole discretion of the school principal or his/her designee.**

6.20.1 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, smart watches, social connections, navigation devices, or other telecommunication devices) is strictly prohibited in the testing setting. 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. In addition to the cell phone/electronic device policy, the student in violation of having an electronic device in a secure testing area will receive, at a minimum, 2-days OSS.

AFTER-SCHOOL DETENTION: Electronic devices are not allowed in after-school detention. The above policy applies for any student assigned after-school detention.

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, procedural 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:

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

When a student discipline infraction results in a possible alternative school placement for more than 15 consecutive days, suspension from the regular school environment for more than 10 consecutive days or expulsion from school, the Board shall afford the student:

1. Written notice of a hearing delivered personally or by mail that includes:
 - the date, time, place, and nature of the hearing;
 - a short and plain statement detailing the alleged conduct the student is accused of;
 - the provision of the Code of Student Conduct or state law violated;
 - the proposed discipline;
 - the students right at the hearing (e.g., to testify, present evidence, have counsel, etc.);

- the right to review any evidence that may be used against them in the hearing;
 - the student's right to waive the hearing and accept the discipline; and
 - upon request a written or electronic record of the hearing
2. If the student requests a hearing, it should be held within 10 school days.
 3. A written decision should be issued within five school days of the hearing.
 4. The student can appeal the decision pursuant to the Code of Student Conduct to the local juvenile court.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Acceptable social conduct demands that certain expressions of affection be reserved for places other than school. Therefore, the following is unacceptable student conduct on campus or at any school sponsored or school-related activity: hugging, kissing, or unnecessary contact.
2. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on school premises or at any school-related function. Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action. Proper authorities will be notified.
3. No drug is permitted on school premises or at any school-related function. A drug is defined as any barbiturate, central nervous system stimulants, hallucinogenic, and any other drug to which the narcotic and drug abuse laws of the federal and state government apply. Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action. Proper authorities will be notified.
4. All firearms are strictly forbidden on school grounds.
5. Pocket knives, razors, or other such cutting instruments, or any object which can reasonably be considered a weapon shall not be permitted on school premises, in buildings, or otherwise about the school, whether during school hours or at any other school functions. Students who violate this policy are subject to suspension and the contraband will be confiscated.
6. The Dale County Board of Education does not approve of or permit the use or possession of tobacco in any form by students, faculty, or support personnel on school property during school hours or at school functions. Those students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.
7. School property, including lockers and desks, are subject to search by school officials if there is reason to believe that materials or objects which are illegal, dangerous to others and are in the possession of a student. The school principal or his authorized representative should conduct searches. Whenever a student's locker or desk is searched the student should if possible, be present to serve witness to the search. Proper authorities will be notified if a search uncovers any materials or objects which a student may not legally possess.
8. Please make sure your child has the supplies required for his/her classes. The school cannot supply every child with paper, pencils, pens, crayons, glue, rulers, etc.
9. Please do not let your child bring toys to school. If there is a special activity planned by your child's teachers where he/she can bring toys, the teacher will send you a note about the activity.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to obtain an Alabama High School Diploma, a student must earn the credits mandated by the applicable Alabama Administrative Code requirements and any additional credits required by the Dale County Board of Education and meet any other requirements mandated by state law or the Alabama State Department of Education. A student with a disability (as defined by the IDEA) who has met the applicable Alabama Administrative Code requirements and/or any other requirements provided by state or federal law will receive either a diploma or a graduation certificate as appropriate. A student who has satisfactorily completed one of the above requirements is eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies as a member of the graduating class. Student participation in graduation-related ceremonies will be subject to the principal's approval and may be prohibited by the principal if the student violates disciplinary standards, or if, in the judgment of the principal, the student's participation could lead or contribute to disorder or disruption of the ceremony or activity. [Reference: Ala. Admin. Code R. §§290-3-1-.02(8); 290-8-9-.10(9)]

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA- TRADITIONAL PATHWAY – Option A

Areas of Study	Requirements	Credits
English	English 9, 10, 11, 12 or any AP/IB/postsecondary equivalent	4
Mathematics	Geometry w/ Data Analysis, Algebra 1 with Probability, Algebra 2 w/ Statistics, or their equivalent.	4
Science	Biology and a physical science and 2 other science courses chosen from the Alabama Course of Study	4
Social Studies	World History II, U.S. History I and II, and Government/Economics	4
Physical Education	Beginning Kinesiology	1
Health Education	Health	½
Career Tech Education	Career Preparedness Course Career and Academic Planning, Computer Applications, Financial Literacy	1
CTE and/or Foreign Language and/or Arts Education	Students are encouraged to complete two courses in sequence.	3
Electives	Only 7.5 required	10.5
Total Credits Required for Graduation		29

Note: Students can earn up to 32 units during their high school career.

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY – Option B

Areas of Study	Requirements	Credits
English	English 9, 10, 11, 12 or their equivalent	4
Mathematics	Geometry, Algebra I or its equivalent/substitute	2
Science	Biology, A physical science (Chemistry, Physics, Physical Science)	2
Social Studies	World History, U.S. History I, U.S. History II, and United States Government (.5)/Economics (.5) Social Studies-credit eligible options may include Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses.	4
Civics Exam Requirement	Students are required to earn a passing score on the <i>Civics Test</i> .	
Physical Education	Beginning Kinesiology	1
Career Preparedness	Graduating class of 2028 and beyond are required to complete an accompanying financial literacy examination as part of this course.	1
Health Education		0.5
Career and Technical Education	Credits must be earned from an approved CTE Program of Study, resulting in CTE Completer status.	3
Electives		11.5
Total Credits Required for Graduation		29

Note: Students can earn up to 32 units during their high school career.

Dale County Procedural Information

Eligibility

- Students may be eligible in their junior or senior year beginning in Fall 2025.
Seniors must be on track to graduate.
- The student must have successfully passed or be enrolled in the following math and science courses:
 - Geometry or its equivalent/substitute
 - Algebra I or its equivalent/substitute
 - Biology
 - A Physical Science (Chemistry, Physics, Physical Science)
- The student must have completed, been enrolled in, or have a clear plan to enroll in at least three CTE courses within an approved program of study and earn a C or better in each course.
- Additionally, the student must have a clear path to obtaining an ALSDE-approved industry credential.

The student must also meet all other graduation requirements the Alabama State Department of Education and Dale County Schools set, as outlined in the chart.

CCR INDICATOR REQUIREMENT

A CCR indicator is required to receive a high school diploma. CCR indicators include, but are not limited to:

- Earning a benchmark score in any subject area on the ACT college entrance exam
- Earning college credit while in high school
- Earning a silver or gold level on the ACT WorkKeys Exam
- Earning a Career Technical Industry Credential
- Attaining Career and Technical Education (CTE) completer status
- Being accepted into the military before graduation

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Dual Enrollment for Dual Credit is an enrichment opportunity allowing eligible high school students to earn high school and college credits for courses taken through an Alabama Community College System (ACCS) or Alabama Public University while still enrolled in high school. Students will be required to have Dual Enrollment courses approved by the administration at the High School and follow all procedures for placement tests, applications, fees, tuition, and enrollments. The following policy applies to students taking Academic, Career Tech, and Elective Dual Enrollment courses:

Academic Dual Enrollment classes will be limited to the following in Dale County Schools:

- **Credit Advancement** – a student will not be allowed to take a course before entering the course appropriate year in school. For example, United States Government and Economics cannot be taken early; it is a senior level course
- **Sophomores and Juniors** – will be allowed to take academic Dual Enrollment as long as it is in a face-to-face setting – no online or virtual courses allowed.
- **Seniors** – will be allowed to take academic Dual Enrollment in a face-to-face or online/virtual platform.

Career and Technical/Elective Dual Enrollment courses may be taken in any format and/or grade approved by the High School principal and college.

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT/DUAL CREDIT

Students must meet the following criteria:

- Students must be rising 10th, 11th, or 12th graders as defined by each secondary education entity's promotion/retention policy.
- Students seeking enrollment in Dual Enrollment for Dual Credit coursework must have a minimum cumulative (unweighted) high school grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- Students must have the written approval of a secondary school official. Approval from secondary school officials indicates that the student has demonstrated both academic readiness and social maturity.

CONTINUOUS ELIGIBILITY FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT FOR DUAL CREDIT

Students who meet the criteria for initial admission to a Dual Enrollment for Dual Credit Program will maintain continuous eligibility so long as they earn a grade of C or better in all attempted college courses.

Students who fail to meet this minimum grade requirement or who withdraw from a course will be suspended from the program for a minimum of one term. The one-term suspension may not be served during the summer. The student may not re-enroll until the suspension has been served. For re-entry, the student must reapply to the program and must meet the minimum grade point average requirements.

DALE COUNTY SCHOOLS DUAL ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES

Please read carefully to understand the Dual Enrollment Guidelines.

- Dual Enrollment coursework must be on the approved ALSDE course listing.
- Enrolling in Dual Enrollment courses begins the student's college transcript, which is permanent.
- If a student withdraws from a Dual Enrollment course, the course will be reflected on the high school transcript as reflected on the college transcript. The student must follow the college policy to withdraw from a course and notify the high school of the withdrawal.
- It is the student's responsibility to submit all Dual Enrollment paperwork at the time of registration to the counselor or designee by the deadline.
- The student will have to provide transportation to and from the college campus if required.
- Students are required to take an Academic Dual Enrollment course on the high school campus or Bridge Academy campus if offered.
- Scheduling conflicts between the high school and the college may prevent participation in Dual Enrollment.
- College students operate independently of their parents. Therefore, parents do NOT have access to grades, progress, or the instructor at the college level, as they would at the local high school. Dale County Schools cannot access the student's grade(s) in a Dual Enrollment course(s) until final grades are issued.
- Tuition for most Dual Enrollment courses is due to the college at the current college tuition rate and is due by the college's deadline unless the course is covered by the Workforce Grant. Furthermore, if textbooks are not covered by the Workforce Grant, the cost must be paid by the student. Specific courses may incur additional fees. Please refer to the college for additional information. Dale County Schools is not responsible for any tuition, fees, or cost associated with Dual Enrollment.
- It is the student's responsibility to register on the date required by the college for the approved registered classes. After registering, the student must sign in to the college platform, print their schedule, and provide a copy to the high school counselor.

WEIGHTED CREDIT COURSES

Weighted points for class rank purposes will be awarded for the completion of the following core honors courses and/or the ALSDE dual enrollment equivalencies. If a student fails a core honors academic course and then retakes the same honors course and passes, both grades will be used to determine the end-of-year honors.

These courses will be the only courses given weighted credit when calculating GPA for end-of-year honors and/or class rank. Access Honors courses may be taken, but will not receive weighted credit when calculating GPA for end-of-year honors or class rank.

AREAS OF STUDY	REQUIREMENTS	CREDITS
English	English 9, 10, 11, 12 Honors. Must be the highest level English course offered at the grade level or ALSDE Dual Enrollment Equivalent.	4
Mathematics	Geometry, Algebra I, Algebra II w/Statistics, and Pre-Calculus, Honors. Must be the highest level Mathematics course offered at the grade level or ALSDE Dual Enrollment Equivalent.	4
Science	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Anatomy and Physiology or equivalent Honors Science course chosen from the Alabama Course of Study. Must be the highest-level Science course offered at the grade level or ALSDE Dual Enrollment Equivalent.	4
Social Studies	World History II, U. S. History I and II, and Government/Economics Honors. Must be the highest-level History/Social Science course offered at the grade level or ALSDE Dual Enrollment Equivalency.	4

CAREER TECH COURSES

Career and Technical Dual Enrollment courses **will not be weighted**, and may be taken in any format and/or any grade as approved by the High School principal and college.

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Starting with the **Freshman Class of 2022-2023** (graduating Class of 2026) only **one diploma** will be offered – the Alabama High School Diploma. Beginning with the **Freshman Class of 2022-2023** (graduating Class of 2026) students will be allowed to take courses **across pathways**. Honors, Traditional, and Career Tech courses will be offered to all students. Students successfully completing Honors Courses or the matching Dual Enrollment course will be given a weighted point for purposes of class rank and final weighted GPA.

RECOGNITION OF HONORS

Each local high school may recognize students as an “**Academic Honors Graduate**” and may recognize students as a “**Career Tech Honors Graduate**”. This will be at the discretion of the local school.

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA WITH ALTERNATE ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS PATHWAY (GRADUATION CERTIFICATE)

A graduation certificate may be awarded to special education students, with the exception of the gifted and the speech-impaired, who have pursued the objectives established for them by the IEP committee. The decision for a student to pursue this pathway should be made only after examining all other options. Students on this pathway will have the same opportunities to participate in all activities associated with graduation from high school.

VALEDICTORIAN, SALUTATORIAN AND OTHER END OF YEAR HONORS

The grades earned in the core academic courses from the ninth grade through the first semester of the twelfth grade are used for determining valedictorian, salutatorian, and class rank in the Dale County School System. *Grades posted for these courses on the high school transcript through first semester of the twelfth grade shall be used to determine class ranking.* (A numerical average will be determined by adding all of the grades for the core academic courses through the 1st semester of the senior year and dividing by the number of core academic courses taken.) For each honors core course passed, one point will be added to the numerical average. (This is referred to as a weighted numerical average.) The weighted numerical average will be used to determine the valedictorian, salutatorian, and Class Rank. **Example:** If a student’s weighted overall numerical average is 98, the student had taken 18 courses

defined as honors, the students weighted overall numerical average would be 116. The student with the highest overall numerical average shall be valedictorian and the student with the second highest overall numerical average shall be salutatorian. In the case of a tie, there will be co-valedictorians, or co-salutatorians. In the case of co-valedictorians, a salutatorian will be named. The transcripts of transfer-in students will be evaluated on the same criteria as Dale County School System students.

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

The valedictorian will be the student who has the highest weighted numerical grade average, and has attended his or her entire senior year at the school from which he or she is to be graduated. The salutatorian will be the student who has the second highest weighted numerical grade average, and has attended the entire senior year at the school from which he or she is to be graduated. The candidates for the other end-of-year honors must have been enrolled prior to the beginning of the second term of their senior year.

CORE ACADEMIC CLASSES

The core academic courses are English, Math, Science, History, and Foreign Language.

If a student fails a core honors academic class and then retakes the same honors class and passes, both grades will be used to determine the end of year honors.

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING RANK IN CLASS

Grades used to determine class rank shall be computed at face value to the third (3rd) decimal.

$$98+97+90+96+95+97 = 573.000 / 6 = 95.500$$

We will not round off. This is only an example.

HONOR STUDENTS

Schools will recognize a top 10 from the graduating class. Schools may elect to recognize other groups.

HOME SCHOOLING

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

TRANSFER STUDENTS

If letter grades are presented, the student must have the respective school(s) attended submit the grade 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.

EARLY GRADUATION

Students who are interested in early graduation should contact their principal before the end of their sixth semester (end of junior year).

GRADE SCALE

Letter Grade	Grade Scale	Regular/Advanced
A	90-100	4.0
B	80-89	3.0
C	70-79	2.0
D	60-69	1.0
F	0-59	0.0

CAREER TECHNICAL CLASS OFFERINGS

The Dale County School system offers career and technical education programs at Ariton School. These programs are designed to prepare youth for a broad range of employment and further education and are offered under the guidance of certified teachers. The Dale County School system offers these career and technical education programs for all students regardless of race, color, national origin, including those with limited English proficiency, sex or disability in grades 9 – 12. Please contact the guidance counselor for criteria for admission and course offerings.

Work-Based Learning Experience – A work-based learning experience provides students with educational opportunities in a work setting that typically cannot be obtained in a classroom and may include, but is not limited to, cooperative education, internships, clinical experiences, and other related opportunities. The Superintendent is authorized to develop guidelines and procedures in accordance with the regulations of the Alabama State Department of Education for workbased learning experiences to be conducted in the school system, including, but not limited to, guidelines for decision making and protocol for solving problems at the workplace and school. [Reference: Ala. Admin. Code 290-6-1-.04]

Live Work – Live work consists of work conducted by students that relates to the knowledge and skills taught as part of a CTE program of study but is presented from outside the classroom. The Superintendent is authorized to develop for Board approval guidelines and procedures in accordance with the regulations of the Alabama State Department of Education and any applicable state and/or federal requirements for live work to be conducted in the school system, including, but not limited to, a systematic method for managing live work, work requests and orders, and procedures for approval of where and for whom work may be conducted, school liability, and restrictions on live work.

Persons seeking further information concerning the career and technical education offerings and specific pre-requisite criteria should contact:

Dale County Board of Education Career Technical Director
202 S Hwy 123, Suite E
Ozark, AL 36360
334-774-2355

Inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies should be directed to:
Dale County Board of Education Special Education Director
202 S Hwy 123, Suite E
Ozark, AL 36360
334-774-2355

VIRTUAL SCHOOL POLICY

The Dale County School District provides a virtual option for 9 - 12 grade students with course opportunities consistent with District instructional goals and aligned with Alabama's academic standards, curriculum frameworks, and assessments. Students enrolled will complete coursework virtually from their computers. The coursework allows student scheduling flexibility to complete the course requirements.

Students must meet the following eligibility criteria to participate in the virtual pathway:

- Have access to the internet and to a computer outside of school
- Must meet all enrollment guidelines for attending the Dale County School District
- Maintain minimum overall GPA of 2.0 in core courses taken during the academic year prior to making application to attend the Virtual School. (English, Math, Science, Social Studies)
- Maintain appropriate course progression as measured by the completion of weekly assignments, quizzes, and/or tests
- Daily access of virtual course content
- Be on track for graduation having earned necessary credit in each core area of study – English, Math Science, and Social Science – and other requisite courses needed for a particular diploma type
- Remain a student in good standing of the Dale County School District
- Have an adult (legal parent or guardian) willing to serve as the learning coach

Students must meet the established attendance and academic progress criteria which will be monitored by Dale County School District staff. All full-time virtual students will be enrolled as a student in the high school zone in which they reside. These students will be counted in the average daily membership. All full-time virtual students

will participate in all state testing and accountability requirements, which may require reporting to the school campus. Upon satisfying all graduation requirements, students enrolled in the virtual pathway will receive an Alabama High School Diploma.

Students enrolled in a virtual pathway are eligible to participate in extracurricular activities in the school in which they are enrolled, according to attendance zone. They are subject to the same requirements as listed above, also including Alabama High School Athletic Association rules.

Students enrolled in a virtual pathway shall be exempt from any provision of general law, local law, or administrative rules that apply to the traditional delivery of instruction, including but not limited to, requirements to the physical presence of a student, student monitoring and security, staffing requirements, transportation obligations, facility requirements, space and location requirements, physical education requirements and time requirements, to the extent any of the forgoing conflict with the delivery of the virtual program.

Any online course delivery that is not provided by the Alabama State Department of Education shall be accredited by an institution recognized pursuant to administrative rule adopted by the ALSDE. Course work offered through the virtual program shall contain the required content as identified in the applicable Alabama Course of Study.

ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATING IN GRADUATION CEREMONY EXERCISES

The Board authorizes local high School principals and appropriate staff members to conduct graduation ceremony exercises for their respective schools. In all cases, eligibility criteria for participation in graduation exercise shall include the following provisions:

- Students who have passed all required Carnegie Unit requirements established by the Board will be awarded a diploma and are eligible to participate (march/walk) in the graduation ceremony/exercise.
- Students who have not met the Carnegie Unit requirements established by the Board will not be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony(march/walk). Credits and/or units needed to fulfill graduation requirements must be earned in grades 9-12.
- Special Education students who have not met the minimum requirements for a diploma, but have met all requirements set out for them in their individual education program (IEP) and established pathway shall participate in the graduation ceremony.
- Foreign exchange students classified as seniors (classification can be based only on official transcripts in the English language) who have met the Carnegie Unit requirement establish by the Board for senior students will be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony (march/walk).
- Foreign exchange student classified as seniors who have not met the Carnegie Unit requirement established by the Board will not be allowed to participate in graduation ceremony (march/walk).

DRIVER'S LICENSE

Unless exempted from the requirement by Board policy, a person under the age of 19 years may not under state law obtain a driver's license or a learner's permit without being enrolled in school or meeting alternative criteria established by law. Additionally, a driver's license may be suspended or revoked if a student withdraws or fails to attend school. Students may be exempted or excused from otherwise applicable statutory requirements if their withdrawal or nonattendance is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the student. A student's discipline record will affect his or her eligibility to obtain and/or maintain a driver's license as established by the Alabama Department of Public Safety.

WEAPONS IN SCHOOL (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 the Federal Gun Free Schools 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 as herein defined, to school shall be expelled from the regular school program. Expulsion is defined at a minimum as knowledge of a student possessing a weapon or firearm must follow disciplinary actions outlined. However, the expulsion requirement may be modified for a student on a case-by-case basis by the Board. Also, discipline of students 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.

SEARCHES

- 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 Dale County Board of Education Students Policy Manual MARCH 2022 DRAFT 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.

NON-DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF HANDICAP SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Referrals for 504 Eligibility must be submitted to the school 504 Coordinator at your child's school. 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 the 504 Coordinator at Dale County Board of Education at 774-2355, ext. 23229.

SEARCH FOR ESL/504/IDEA CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN DALE COUNTY

The Special Education Coordinator of Dale County Schools is in the process of identifying all children with disabilities from birth to 21 years of age that are not presently receiving special education services. Gifted students are those who perform at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared to others of their age, experience or environment. These students may be referred by teachers, counselors, administrators, parents or guardians, peers, self, or any other individual with knowledge of the student's abilities. 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, and 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/504/IDEA school program, please contact the Special Education Coordinator at Dale County Board of Education at 334-774-2355, Ext 23229. To make a referral, contact your child's school.

HOMELESS, MIGRANT, AND ENGLISH LEARNERS

All homeless, migrant, immigrant, and English Learner students and children in foster care will have equal access to the same free appropriate public education, including public preschool education, provided to other children and youth and 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 English Learner children and youth shall not be denied or delayed due to any barriers that are specifically prohibited by applicable law, which may include the following:

1. Lack of birth certificate
2. Lack of school records or transcripts
3. Lack of immunization or health records
4. Lack of Social Security Card
5. Lack of proof of residency
6. Lack of transportation

7. Guardianship or custody requirements

School administrators, with the assistance of local government agencies, shall take necessary steps to assist families obtain documentation necessary for school admission. No student will be excluded from, any federally assisted education program on the basis of a surname or language-minority status. Direct any questions to the Homeless School Liaison at Dale County Board of Education.

ALABAMA SAFE SCHOOL AND DRUG FREE POLICY

The principal shall notify appropriate law enforcement officials when any person violates state or federal policies concerning drugs or other criminal acts. 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,
2. The student has satisfied all other requirements imposed by the local board of education for readmission.

CODE of ALABAMA 16-1-24.1 (1994)

NON-DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF HANDICAP

No otherwise qualified handicapped person shall, solely by reason of handicap, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under 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. The Dale County Board of Education will identify, evaluate and provide a free and appropriate public education to qualified handicapped students within its district boundaries. Questions concerning 504 Eligibility or services should be directed to Special Education Coordinator of Dale County Schools at 334-774-2355, ext. 23229.

INTERNET SAFETY AND USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Access to Technology Resources – The Board permits restricted and conditional access to and use of its technology resources, including but not limited to computers, the “Internet,” network storage areas, and electronic mail. Such access and use is restricted to employees, students, and other persons who are engaged in *bona fide* educational and administrative activities that serve and are consistent with identified educational objectives or authorized support functions, and who, by signing an “Acceptable Use Agreement,” agree to abide by all Board policies, rules, and regulations regarding technology use. The Acceptable Use Agreement will be developed by the Superintendent for approval by the Board.

Restriction or Loss of Technology Privileges – Persons who violate any Board policy, rule, or regulation regarding technology use may be denied use of the Board’s technology resources and may be subject to additional disciplinary action.

Ownership of Technology Resources and Data – All technology resources, including network and Internet resources, e-mail systems, and computers or other access devices owned, leased, or maintained by the Board are the sole property of the Board. Board personnel may, at any time and without prior notice, access, search, examine, inspect, collect, or retrieve information of any kind from the Board’s technology resources, including computer or related equipment, files, and data, to determine if a user is in violation of any of the Board’s policies, rules, and regulations regarding access to and use of technology resources, for or in connection with any other matter or reason related to the safe and efficient operation or administration of the school system, or for any other reason not prohibited by law. Users of school system technology resources have no personal right of privacy or confidentiality with respect to the use or content of such resources.

Adoption of Rules and Regulations – The Superintendent is authorized to develop for Board approval additional or more specific rules and regulations regarding access to and use of its technology resources and to require adherence to such rules and regulations through such means as the “Acceptable Use Agreement” and application of appropriate disciplinary policies and procedures. Such rules and regulations will address or provide:

- a. Measures to block or filter Internet access to pictures that are obscene, that constitute child pornography, or that are harmful to minors;
- b. Restriction of access by minors to inappropriate material on the Internet;
- c. The safety and security of minors when they are using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- d. Prevention of “hacking” and other forms of unauthorized use of or access to computer or Internet files, sites, databases or equipment; and
- e. Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors;
- f. Restriction of minors’ access to harmful material; and
- g. Educating minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

Limitation on Liability – The Board makes no warranties of any kind, either express or implied, that the functions or the services provided by or through the Board’s technology resources will be error-free or without defect. The Board will not be responsible for any damage users may suffer, including but not limited to loss of data or interruption of service. [Reference: 47 U.S.C. §254(h) and (l)]

TITLE IX/ SEXUAL HARRASSMENT

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

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.

Definitions: 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.

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.

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.

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.

The term “student” as used in this policy means a student who is enrolled in the Dale County School System.

Description of Behavior Expected of Students: 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.

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.

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.

Reporting, Investigation, and Complaint Resolution Procedures: 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.

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. A reasonably prompt time period, taking into account the circumstances of the complaint, will be allowed. 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. 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.

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. 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.

The Student Harassment Complaint Form can be found in the Elementary and High School Counselors offices, the Administrator's office, or on the school website.

Bullying, Intimidation, Violence, and Threats of Violence Prohibited

No student shall engage in nor should any be subjected to bullying, violence, threats of violence or intimidation by any other student that is based on any of the specific characteristics set forth in this policy. Students who violate this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary sanctions as specified in the Student Code of Conduct and applicable law, subject to the investigating school administrator's authority and decision.

Reporting, Investigation, and Complaint Resolution Procedures -

- a) Complaints alleging violations of this policy may be made on a Board-approved complaint form available in the handbook, on the website, or at the school's office. The complaint must be delivered to the principal or the principal's designee either by mail or personal delivery. Incidental or minor violations of the policy may be presented and resolved informally. 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 is authorized to inform the student's parent or guardian of the report unless at the discretion of the school principal or the principal's designee the apparent cause of the threat of suicide is child abuse or other significant harm from a parent or guardian.
- b) Upon receipt of the complaint, the principal or the principal's designee will 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 principal's designee will undertake a reasonably prompt investigation of the complaint. an investigation will entail the gathering of relevant facts and evidence taking into account the circumstances of the complaint. If the investigation establishes a violation, appropriate disciplinary sanctions may be imposed on the offending student(s). Other measures that are reasonably calculated to prevent a recurrence of the violations(s) may also be imposed by the principal or the school system.
- c) A person reporting a violation who is not satisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal the decision in writing to the Superintendent or designee.
- d) 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 may 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 may be subject to disciplinary sanctions as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.

DALE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENT BULLYING/HARASSMENT COMPLAINT FORM

****NOTE: IF YOU ARE REPORTING A SUICIDE THREAT, PLEASE FILL OUT THE INFORMATION REQUESTED ON THE SECOND PAGE OF THIS FORM.**

Name of Student Registering Complaint _____
Last First MI

Student ID# _____

School: _____

Infraction Reported By: _____ Student _____ Parent/Guardian

Date of Incident _____ Time: _____

Description/Other Information/Please use attachments if necessary:

The Jamari Terrell Williams Student Bullying Prevention Act, No. 2018-472, defines bullying as 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, cyberbullying or 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 categories of personal characteristics contained in the policy adopted by the Dale County Board of Education.

To constitute bullying, a pattern of behavior may do any of the following:

- a. Place a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property.
- b. Have the effect of substantially interfering with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of a student.
- c. Have the effect of substantially disrupting or interfering with the orderly operation of the school.
- d. Have the effect of creating a hostile environment in the school, on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function.
- e. Have the effect of being sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.

Student _____ Date: _____
Or Parent/Guardian _____ Date: _____

****Please note that the submission of a complaint does not automatically substantiate that misconduct has occurred. The school administration has the prerogative to investigate any allegations of wrongdoing.**

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION REGARDING SCHOOL PROVIDED OR SPONSORED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mental Health Services

The school system may provide or sponsor the following mental health services:

1. **Large group guidance** - includes school counselor or professional visiting the classroom to discuss topics such as bullying, class scheduling, stress management, test anxiety or guest speakers to discuss good choices, substance abuse prevention, etc.
2. **Small group guidance** - includes small group of students with school counselor or professional to discuss topics such as test anxiety, grief, healthy coping skills, etc.
3. **Mentoring** - Peer Helpers, Community Helpers, and/or Professional Interns work with students in school on topics such as friendships, healthy relationships, anger management, anxiety, etc.
4. **Assessments or Surveys** - includes questionnaires provided to students related to social behaviors, feelings, etc.
5. **Crisis intervention** - short-term, immediate assistance by school counselor or professional for a specific situation.
6. **School-Based Mental Health** - On-going counseling services by school professionals or private practitioners in the school setting. Parent or legal guardian's permission may be obtained during an intake meeting before services are provided.

Review of Materials

You may request to review any materials used in the guidance and counseling programs available to students by contacting the student's local school guidance counselor or the district Mental Health Coordinator

Information Regarding How to Allow, Limit, or Prevent Your Child's Participation in Mental Health Services

Under Alabama law, no student under the age of sixteen may participate in ongoing school counseling services including, but not limited to, mental health services, unless (1) the student's parent or legal guardian has submitted a written opt-in granting permission for the student to participate or (2) there is an imminent threat to the health of the student or others.

Therefore, if your child is under sixteen, they will only be allowed to participate in mental health services if you opt-in. **If you would like the school system to be able to offer and/or provide mental health services to your child, you must opt-in for services listed for them to participate in that service.**

Even if you do not opt-in to mental health services, your child may be provided mental health services if there is an imminent threat to their health or others. School employees may determine in their discretion whether such an imminent threat exists and provide any mental health services they deem necessary under the circumstances.

Parent of students with disabilities: Please note that the opt-in process is not applicable to any school counseling services or "mental health services" contained in a student's IEP or 504 plan. Consent for those services will be obtained and information regarding your child's mental health services will be provided through the usual special education process.

Written record maintenance: Written records maintained by the school system and directly related to a student's mental health services will be treated in the same manner as health care records and are subject to the confidentiality protections applicable to education record generally. Such records will be available for examination and review by authorized persons in the manner prescribed and to the extent required by federal and/or state law. Records pertaining to a student's mental health services will be kept separately from academic records unless including such record(s) in the student's academic record is necessary to implement a state and/or federal law (e.g., special education referral process).

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

OPT-IN FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (6.25.1)

As of the date of my signature below, my child, _____, is under the age of 16 years old:

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If No, stop here.

If Yes, continue below.

I hereby give my permission for my child to participate in the following mental health services:

- ✓ **Large group guidance** - includes school counselor or professional visiting the classroom to discuss topics such as bullying, class scheduling, stress management, test anxiety or guest speakers to discuss good choices, substance abuse prevention, etc.
- ✓ **Small group guidance** - includes small group of students with school counselor or professional to discuss topics such as test anxiety, grief, healthy coping skills, etc.
- ✓ **Mentoring** - Peer Helpers, Community Helpers, and/or Professional Interns work with students in school on topics such as friendships, healthy relationships, anger management, anxiety, etc.
- ✓ **Assessments/Surveys** – includes questionnaires provided to students related to social behaviors, feelings, etc.
- ✓ **Crisis intervention** - short-term, immediate assistance by school counselor or professional for a specific situation.
- ✓ **School-Based Mental Health** - On-going counseling services by school professionals or private practitioners in the school setting. Parent or legal guardian's permission may be obtained during an intake meeting before services are provided.

You may rescind permission for a student to participate in mental health services at any time by providing written notice to school administration.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Name (Signature)

Date: _____

DALE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUICIDE THREAT REPORT FORM

SUICIDE THREAT: IF YOU OR SOMEONE ELSE HAVE THREATENED SUICIDE, PLEASE PROVIDE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE AND IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY YOUR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AND/OR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Who Threatened Suicide? _____

When was the threat made? _____

Where was threat made? _____

Where is this person now? _____

Does this person have a weapon on campus? _____

Name of witnesses/students aware of this situation. _____

Other details of threat? _____

(Signature of Student or Legal Guardian)

Received by _____ on this _____ day of _____, 2____.
(Administrator or Counselor)

ARITON SCHOOL HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SHEET

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE TEACHER

Please read the following, complete the form, and return this sheet by your child to their homeroom teacher. It is very important for us to know that you have received a copy of this school document. This signed sheet should be returned after you, the parent or guardian, have read the following statements:

***Alabama State Law requires parents to be liable for their children's behavior and attendance at school. The attendance laws apply to all students, regardless of age enrolled in school.**

***I understand the attendance and tardy policy as outlined in the student handbook. A student who is absent from any class more than five times per semester, except for absences documented by a health care provider or PRIOR permission of the principal, will not receive credit for that class.**

***I am aware that Ariton School does use corporal punishment (spanking/paddling) whenever it is deemed necessary and appropriate.**

***I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to all terms as it pertains to the Dale County Schools Code of Conduct, district-owned textbooks, and the Acceptable Use of Technology/Electronic Services and Use. I further understand that this agreement will be kept of file at the school for the academic year in which it was signed.**

I further understand that signing this form does not indicate agreement with the rules, regulations, or procedures set forth in the Student Handbook. Signing this form simply confirms that I have read and understand the above statements and the contents of the Student Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Teacher: _____ Grade: _____ Date Signed: _____

It is the policy of Ariton School, along with the Dale County School System, not to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, creed, national origin, handicap, age, veteran status, or any other prescribed category, in its Educational Programs, or activities, or employment policies as required by local, state, and federal policies and laws. The school system also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries or complaints regarding compliance with applicable laws of this policy may be directed to the Special Education Coordinator at The Dale County Board of Education 334-774-2355 ext. 23229.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE TEACHER

2026-27 ARITON SCHOOL

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Ariton School, and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A (participating children), agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the state's high standards.

REQUIRED SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT PROVISIONS

School Responsibilities

Ariton 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.
 - Provide Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III 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 PST for students needing core support.
 - Provide in-school or after school or summer tutoring as funds are available.
2. **Hold parent-teacher meetings (at least annually) during which this compact can be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement. Specifically stated:**

"A meeting will be held annually for the purpose of informing parents of their school's participation in Title I, the requirements of the law and Title I parents' rights to be involved."
3. **Provide parents with frequent reports on their children's progress.**
 - Teachers send home graded papers weekly or biweekly to parents for review.
 - Progress reports are sent out at the middle of each 9 weeks.
 - Report cards are sent at the end of each 9 weeks grading period.
 - I-READY, ACAP, ACT, and other assessment reports are sent home for parent review.
 - 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 teachers' planning time. School functions throughout the year provide access to teachers.
5. **Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's school and to observe school activities, as follows:**
 - Volunteer forms will be sent home to give parents the opportunity to help in school activities and functions during the school year.
 - Parents may visit school during school functions throughout the year.
 - Parents are invited to visit and eat lunch with their child on Grandparent's Day, or other special occasions with prior notice to the CNP staff.

- Participate in our Parental Involvement Events, Homecoming, and PTO activities.
- 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.**
- District and school websites can be converted to other languages to ensure clear communication.
 - Teachers have access to our EL committee to translate parent conferences.
 - Teachers and parents have two-way communication through Parent Square
 - Staff emails are posted on school website allowing parents to freely communicate with parents.

Parent Responsibilities

We, as parents, will support our children's learning in the following ways:

- Monitoring attendance.
- Making sure that homework is completed.
- Monitoring amount of screen time.
- Volunteering at my child's school activities.
- Participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to my children'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 the Title I advisory committees and parental involvement committees.

Student Responsibilities

We, as students, will share the responsibility to improve our academic achievement and achieve the state's high standards. Specifically, we will:

- Do 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 notice and information received by me from my school every day.
- Read, understand, and follow 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 for self, others students, school personnel, and school property.

_____ School Representative	_____ Parent Signature	_____ Student Signature
_____ Date	_____ Date	_____ Date