

# Washington Middle School



One Body—One Mission  
Expressing Ourselves  
Exploring Our World  
Seeking Answers  
Serving Others



**TIGER PRIDE!**

**SCHOOL MOTTO** - "Our Best Today, For A Better Tomorrow"

**SCHOOL COLORS** - Green and Gold

**SCHOOL MASCOT** – Tiger

## SCHOOL SONG

Hail to thee our Alma Mater  
Always brave and bold.  
Hail to thee our Alma Mater  
Stands the Green and Gold  
Forward ever be our goal we'll  
Conquer and prevail  
Hail to thee our Alma Mater  
Wash-ing-ton all Hail!!!

**Mr. Michael Best—Principal**  
**Mr. Justin Amaro—Associate Principal**  
**Mr. Chad Parkerson—Assistant Principal**  
**Dr. Ansu Mason—Assistant Principal**  
**Mrs. Lynn Arline—Instructional Coordinator**

1277 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., S.W.  
Cairo, Georgia 39828  
Phone: (229) 377-2106  
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Please call Washington Middle School.

Este documento puede ser traducido para usted. Favor de llamar a 229 – 377- 2106.

# Washington Middle School

## 2019-2020 Faculty & Staff

**Principal** – Mr. Michael Best

### **Associate Principal**

Mr. Justin Amaro

### **School Counselor**

Mrs. Kimber Sellers

Dr. Yvonne Stewart

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy Green Hall**

#### ***English/Language Arts Department***

Ms. Kimsey Hodge - Honors

Ms. Brenda Harrison - DH

Ms. Hope Jones

#### ***Math- Department***

Ms. Lanesha Tyler- Honors

Ms. Tammy Powell

Mrs. Mandy Reynolds

#### ***Science Department***

Mrs. Angela Ponder- Honors

Mrs. Heidi Graziano

Mrs. Shirley Felder-HL

#### ***Social Studies Department***

Ms. Sandra Vernon- Honors/DH

Ms. Kimsey Hodge

Mrs. Angela Ponder

Ms. Lanesha Tyler

Mrs. Shirley Felder

### **ESOL** – Mrs. Lynn Branch

### **Paraprofessionals**

Ms. Vann Allen

Mr. Donta Stephens

Ms. Deloris Williams

Mr. Vershawn Mannings

Ms. Kiyaua Masten

Ms. Kimberly Spence

New Para

### **Front Office Staff**

Bookkeeper – Mrs. Sheila Cape

Receptionist – Ms. Cindy Brock

Registrar – Mrs. Novella Tise

School Nurse – Mrs. Linda Johnson

### **Assistant Principals**

Dr. Ansu Mason

Mr. Chad Parkerson

### **Media Specialist**

Mrs. Beth Womble

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy Gold Hall**

#### ***English/Language Arts Department***

Dr. Veronika Hardman- Honors

Ms. Melissa Cox

Ms. Debra Rocuant

#### ***Math- Department***

Mr. Brad Cowart- Honors

Dr. Angela Copeland-HL

Mr. Sentaura Jones

#### ***Science Department***

Ms. Lori O'Brien-Honors/DH

Mrs. Amanda Russo

Mr. Brian Boyette

#### ***Social Studies Department***

Mr. Jon Mizell – Honors

Mr. Brady Moore

Mr. Joseph Fowler

### **ISS-** Mr. Lucas Turner

### **Special Education**

6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> – Mrs. Cheryl Mills

6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> – New Teacher

6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> – Mr. Michael Press

6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Ms. Krishna Presha

6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Ms. Theresa Jones

New Teacher

7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Mrs. Brandi Jackson

8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Mrs. Beverly Corley-DH

8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Mr. Jonathon Ross

### **Custodial Staff**

Mr. Clifford Jackson – Supervisor

Mrs. Darlenza Bell

Mr. Tim Metcalf

### **Instructional Coordinator**

Mrs. Lynn Arline

### **Career Counselor**

Mrs. Angelita Perry

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy Tiger Hall**

#### ***English/Language Arts Department***

Dr. Veronika Hardman-Honors

Ms. Tamara Johnson-HL

Mr. Seth Kinneer

#### ***Math- Department***

Mr. Brad Cowart- Honors

Mrs. Rose Coleman-DH

Mr. Booker Gainor

#### ***Science Department***

Ms. Lori O'Brien-Honors

Mrs. Nikki Johnson

Mr. Mark Bagley

#### ***Social Studies Department***

Mr. Jon Mizell –Honors

Mr. Eric Elkins

Mr. Mark Bagley

Mrs. Rose Coleman

Ms. Tamara Johnson

### **Title 1 Director** – Mrs. Jackie McCurry

### **Connections**

Band – Mr. Patrick Ballew

BCS – Mrs. Kim Harrell-DH

FCS – Mrs. Pat Thrash

General Music – Mr. Joshua Moore

Spanish – Mrs. Monica Velasquez

STEM – Mr. Layton Stephenson

Health – Ms. Cindy Thornton

P.E. – Mr. Jason Whitaker

P.E. – Mr. Kevin Elliott

Art - Maya Siler

### **Cafeteria Staff**

Ms. Donna Carver – Manager

Mrs. Dinah Collins

Mrs. Delores Brown

Mrs. Michelle Lawhorn

Ms. Yolanda Cornell

Mrs. Quincey Bennet

## GRADY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Derrick Majors  
Mrs. Laura Register  
Mr. Jeff Worsham  
Mrs. Teresa Gee Harris  
Mr. John White – Vice Chair  
Dr. Kermit Gilliard- Superintendent

The Grady County School System does not discriminate in education programs and activities or in employment on the basis of sex, age, race, color, creed, national origin, native language, religion, disability or political affiliation.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Parents	Mrs. Julie Barrineau, Ms. Angela Arbear, Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Wilcox, Dr. Alex Greenberg
Businesses	Mr. and Mrs. Tyler Lee
Teachers	Mrs. Heidi Graziano, Mr. Joseph Fowler
Administrators	Mr. Michael Best, Mr. Justin Amaro

The school council meets the 2nd Tuesday of the following months: June, September, January, and April. Meetings are held at 5:00 p.m. in the main WMS conference room.

## Parent/Teacher Organization - Executive Board

President – Mrs. Jennifer Majors  
Vice President – Mrs. Trista Prater  
Secretary – Mrs. Mandy Russo  
Treasurer – Mrs. Leslie Upton  
Fundraiser – Mrs. Leitha Francis and Mrs. Paige Moore  
Executive Members – Mrs. Trista Prater, Ms. Sherika Hubbard, Mr. & Mrs. Greenberg

The Parent Teacher Organization at Washington Middle School is a very active organization that provides support to the students and teachers. The PTO assists the school in a variety of ways. For example, the PTO sponsors the "Tiger Rewards" - these rewards may be given to students who demonstrate exemplary behavior or given to students for earning a good grade in their class. The PTO provides financial prizes to the winners of the Spelling Bee. It supports the end of the year rewards for students who have had good attendance for the entire year and provides rewards each nine weeks for students making the A and A/B Honor Roll. In addition the PTO sponsors a variety of teacher incentives. All parents, teachers, and friends of WMS are encouraged to join the PTO.

## **2019-2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

First Day Students	Friday, August 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Labor Day Holiday	Monday, September 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Midterm	Wednesday, September 4 <sup>th</sup>
End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Nine Weeks	Friday, October 4 <sup>th</sup> (45 days)
Fall Break	Monday, October 7 <sup>th</sup> - Friday, October 11 <sup>th</sup>
Report Cards Go Home	Wednesday, October 16 <sup>th</sup>
Midterm	Wednesday, November 13 <sup>th</sup>
Thanksgiving Holidays	Monday, November 25 <sup>th</sup> - Friday, November 29 <sup>th</sup>
End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nine Weeks / Early Release	Friday, December 20 <sup>st</sup> (45 days)
Winter Break	Monday, December 23 <sup>th</sup> - Tuesday, January 7 <sup>th</sup>
Teacher Workday	Monday, January 6 <sup>th</sup>
Professional Development Day	Tuesday, January 7 <sup>th</sup>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester / Students Return	Wednesday, January 8 <sup>th</sup>
Report Cards Go Home	Friday, January 10 <sup>th</sup>
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	Monday, January 20 <sup>th</sup>
County Spelling Bee	Friday, February 7 <sup>th</sup> – Van. Center @ 9:00 a.m.
Midterm	Friday, February 7 <sup>th</sup>
Young Georgia Authors Reception	Friday, March 6 <sup>th</sup> – Van. Center @ 9:00 a.m.
End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nine Weeks	Wednesday, March 11 <sup>th</sup> (45 days)
Teacher Workday	Thursday, March 12 <sup>th</sup>
Professional Development Day	Friday, March 13 <sup>th</sup>
Report Cards Go Home	Tuesday, March 17 <sup>th</sup>
Kiwanis Art Show	Friday, March 20 <sup>th</sup> – Van. Center @ 9:00 a.m.
Voices Program	Thursday, March 26 <sup>th</sup> – CHS Aud. @ 7:00 p.m.
Spring Break	Monday, April 6 <sup>th</sup> – Friday, April 10 <sup>th</sup>
Midterm	Wednesday, April 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Report Cards Go Home	Friday, May 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Last Day of School / Early Release	Friday, May 22 <sup>nd</sup> (45 days)

# The School Day

## Bell Schedule

<b>Starting Time:</b>	<b>7:40 a.m.</b>	<b>Tardy Bell 7:50 a.m.</b>
<b>Dismissal Time:</b>	<b>3:10 p.m.</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Group of Buses &amp; Walking Students</b>
	<b>3:15 p.m.</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Group of Buses/ Parent Pick-up</b>
	<b>3:20 p.m.</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Group of Buses</b>

## School Procedures

**Upon arrival, all sixth graders go to the supervised cafeteria.** Seventh and eighth graders may go to their supervised recess area (bus ramp) or the cafeteria for breakfast. At 7:40 a.m. students are released to go to their homeroom. Announcements begin at 7:50. The instructional block begins at 8.00 a.m. At the end of the day, students who are picked up by their parent are dismissed from class at 3:15 p.m.

### **National Anthem - Pledge - Moment of Quiet Reflection**

Each morning at Washington Middle School the day begins with a “moment of quiet reflection” (State Bill 396), the National Anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States, and the announcements. The moment of quiet reflection is not intended to be and shall not be conducted as a religious service or exercise but shall be considered as an opportunity for a moment of silent reflection on the anticipated activities of the day.

**Breakfast** – All students are offered free breakfast. All 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders should report to the cafeteria when reporting to school. When students enter the cafeteria they begin a study hall until breakfast is served. The cafeteria remains quiet through the study hall period. If a student is eating, he or she must sit in green chairs. If a student is not eating, he or she must sit in the gold chairs. Students are dismissed from the cafeteria at 7:40 a.m. to report to their homerooms.

**Lunch and Recess** – Students must walk quietly and orderly to the cafeteria and must demonstrate appropriate behavior in the halls and the cafeteria. Students must maintain an acceptable noise level throughout lunch. Failure to follow the established rules will result in loss of recess. Any misbehavior may result in after school detention, ISS, or possible OSS.

**Class Changing** – Students are expected to walk quietly, orderly, and quickly to class. Any disruptive behavior may result in an office referral. All students must enter class at the appropriate time.

**Dismissal** – Students must stay in the classroom until his or her appropriate dismissal time. If students leave the classroom before dismissal, the action will be reported as skipping and an office referral will be given.

**If a student leaves campus, he or she will not be allowed to re-enter the campus or ride a bus home.**

## Washington Middle School: Student Discipline Code

**NOTICE:** All persons and personal belongings on school property are subject to search by school administrators and/or school resource officers. All disciplinary decisions are at the discretion of school administrators.

**A. AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR:** Verbal assault of other student(s); threatening or intimidating another student.

1. Without physical contact:

**DISPOSITION: 1st Offense: Minimum Administrative Detention**

**2nd Offense: 1 day ISS**

**3rd Offense: 3 days ISS and possible Behavior Intervention Plan**

2. With physical contact:

**DISPOSITION: 1st Offense: Minimum 1 day ISS**

**2nd Offense: 2 days ISS (minimum)**

**3rd Offense: 3 days ISS and possible Behavior Intervention Plan**

**B. ALCOHOL/ILLEGAL DRUGS/INHALANTS:** *Drug paraphernalia will be confiscated and delivered to SRO/law enforcement for testing. If drug residue is found, student(s) will be considered in violation of rules B-1, 2, and 3.*

1. **DRUGS:** No student shall possess, consume, transmit, store, be under any degree of influence of, buy, sell or otherwise distribute or possess with intent or attempt to buy, sell or otherwise distribute, or possess with intent to distribute drugs, narcotics, hallucinogens, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, or any other substances under the Georgia Controlled Substances Act or any substance believed by the student to be an illegal drug.

2. **PARAPHENALIA:** No student shall possess, transmit, store, buy, sell, or otherwise distribute or possess with intent to sell any drug-related paraphernalia.

3. **ALCOHOL:** No student shall possess, consume, transmit, store, **be under any degree of influence of**, buy, sell or otherwise distribute or possess with intent or attempt to buy, sell or otherwise distribute, or possess with intent to distribute alcoholic beverages (including related products such as "near" beer, non-alcoholic beer and non-alcoholic wine coolers) or any other substances under the Georgia Controlled Substances Act or any substance believed by the student to be an alcoholic product. Legal intoxication is not required of this Code of Conduct.

4. **INHALANTS:** No student shall sniff or be under the influence of inhalants and/or other substances.

**DISPOSITION: 10 days OSS**

**Recommendation for Tribunal**

**Referral to School Resource Officer**

**C. ATTENDANCE VIOLATIONS:**

1. **TRUANCY:** A student shall be truant by failing to attend school in compliance with the Georgia Compulsory Attendance Laws.

2. **SKIPPING:** No student shall miss or be tardy to any class/activity for which he/she is enrolled without a valid excuse from a teacher or administrator.

3. **UNAUTHORIZED AREA:** An unauthorized area is any location a student is not given specific permission to go (gym, restroom, lockers, hallways, Media Center, offices, etc.).

**DISPOSITION: 1st Offense: Minimum 1 day ISS**

**2nd Offense: 2 days ISS**

**3rd Offense: 3 days ISS and Parent Contact**

**Any student leaving campus without following school procedures for student checkout is subject to punishment at the administrator's discretion.**

## **WMS ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES**

The following guidelines shall apply to all students in grades K-12. The principal of each school may determine when extenuating circumstances exist such that a student may be exempt from these guidelines. The principal will also determine excessive tardies on an individual basis. In these guidelines, the term "parent" means the person who has legal responsibility for the student.

- **2-4 Unexcused Absences—School Contact.** School will make at minimum **three** reasonable attempts to talk with parents and document for the portal. If difficulties to reach parent by phone, the school will mail a School Attendance Letter to parents/ guardians.
- **5 Unexcused Absences—School Social Worker Referral**  
The school will send Attendance Referral Form and supporting documentation to the system social work portal. The school social worker will mail an attendance letter to the parent to offer assistance in preventing further absences.
- **7 Unexcused Absences—Mandated Attendance Task Force Hearing**  
A mandated attendance task force hearing will be held to discuss preventative action to deter further absences. The school social worker will mail a certified letter along with signed documents from the attendance hearing.
- **10 Unexcused Absences—Referral to Criminal / Juvenile Court**  
A warrant and/or juvenile complaint will be issued for violation of the Georgia Compulsory Attendance Law.
- **Parent Excuses**—Each school will only accept **7** parent/guardian handwritten excuses.
- **Excuses**—Excuses are to be submitted within **5** days of student returning to school.
- **Previous school year: 10 UNA or more—Mandated Attendance Task Force Hearing**  
A mandated attendance task force hearing will be held when your child reaches 5 UNA if he or she had 10 UNA or more from the previous school year.

## **ABSENCES AND EXCUSES**

A student shall not be absent from school or from any class or other required school function during required school hours except for illness or other providential cause, except with written permission of the teacher, principal, or other duly authorized school official; nor shall any student encourage, urge, or counsel other students to violate this rule.

1. Personal illness, creating a situation when attendance would endanger the student's health or the health of others.
2. Conditions which render attendance impossible or hazardous to the student's health or safety.
3. A death in the immediate family (mother, father, brother, sister, or grandparents) which necessitates absence from school (up to 3 days will be excused).
4. An absence mandated by order of governmental agencies or by court order.
5. Religious holidays.
6. Service as a Page in the General Assembly.
7. H.B 984 grants 5 excused absences to students who have a parent being sent overseas for active duty or returning from active duty.
8. Students in foster care shall be counted present when they attend court proceedings related to their foster care.
9. **Make-up work:** Students who are absent will be allowed no more than 3 days from the day they return to make up all missed work, unless there are extenuating circumstances. **It is the responsibility of the student to check with teachers about make-up work.**
10. Students shall be counted present when they are in attendance at least one half of the instructional day (3 ½ hours).

4. **LEAVING CAMPUS:** Students shall not leave school grounds once they come onto campus without the permission of a parent and the school principal or designee. Students must follow the established procedures for checking in or out of school before leaving campus. The school must be notified before the student leaves campus.

### **DISPOSITION: Administrative Discretion and Parent Contact**

#### **5. TARDIES to School and Class:**

**DISPOSITION: 1<sup>ST</sup> Offense: Teacher Warning**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Parent Contact by Teacher**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: 1 Day After School Detention**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Offense: 1 Day ISS**  
**5<sup>th</sup> or More: Administrative Action**

**D. BOMB THREATS:** Bomb threat is defined as transmitting in any manner a false alarm to the effect that a bomb or other explosive of any nature is concealed on school property creating a potentially dangerous situation.

**DISPOSTION: 10 Days OSS**  
**Recommendation for Tribunal**  
**Referral to School Resource Officer/Law Enforcement**

**E. BULLYING:** Bullying behavior is defined as willful attempts or threats to inflict injury, physical and/or mental stress on another person, when accompanied by apparent present ability to do so; or intentional displays of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm. No student shall engage in verbal or written harassment, threat or abuse of, or towards, another student or students. (O.C.G.A. 20-2-751.4)

**DISPOSITION: 1st Offense: Up to 5 days OSS- administrative discretion**  
**2nd Offense: 10 days OSS – Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)**  
**3rd Offense: Acts of bullying shall be punished by a range of consequences through the progressive discipline process, as stated in the Code of Conduct. Such consequences shall include, at a minimum and without limitation, disciplinary action or counseling, as appropriate under the circumstances. However, upon finding by the disciplinary hearing officer, panel or tribunal that a student in grades 6-12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, the student shall be assigned to the alternative school.**

**F. CHEATING:** When it has been determined that a student has been involved in cheating, the student will receive a zero on the assignment and will not be allowed to retake that assignment and/or makeup that grade. The following are scholastic dishonesties:

1. Taking unauthorized information of any form into a test situation.
2. Plagiarism (any person who uses a writer's ideas without giving due credit through documentation).
3. Taking test questions to provide assistance in later situations or the theft of a test, or any other instructional material.
4. Copying the work of others including, but not limited to, homework.
5. Giving or taking information concerning a test after one individual has taken a test and the same form of the test is to be given later.
6. Taking of unauthorized information from a computer.

**DISPOSITION: Zero on assignment, no retake privilege and parent notification (F.1-6)**

**G. CHRONIC MISBEHAVIOR:** Students who willfully and persistently violate the student discipline code for the same or a variety of offenses will be placed on BIP or may be recommended for Tribunal.

**H. COMMUNICATION/ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** The use of personal cell phones or electronic devices is prohibited during the school day and will be confiscated and turned into the office.

**Disposition: 1st Offense: Parent Pickup**  
**2nd Offense: Parent Pickup and \$10 Fine**  
**3rd Offense: Parent Pickup and \$20 Fine**

**STOLEN ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF WMS ADMINISTRATION.**  
Administrators/Law Enforcement will not conduct classroom/area searches for missing items.

## **I. CONDUCT**

1. **RUDE/DISRESPECTFUL-1 (Adults: Teachers, faculty/staff)** No student shall at any time be disrespectful towards any adult. This includes, but is not limited to, arguing with, walking away from, raising their voice, interrupting, being offensive in manner, intimidating, threatening, and/or any other action that is deemed to not be polite.

**DISPOSITION: 1st Offense: 1 to 3 days ISS**

**2nd Offense: Minimum 3 days ISS with a possible Behavior Intervention Plan**

**3rd Offense: 1 to 5 days OSS Administrative Discretion/Possible Tribunal Recommendation**

**Note: Disposition may vary based on severity and could immediately include OSS for any offense.**

2. **RUDE/DISRESPECTFUL-2 (Other students)** Disrespectful conduct towards other students.

**DISPOSITION: Minimum 1 day ISS - administrative discretion**

3. **PROFANITY-1 (Adults: Administrators, Teachers, faculty/staff)** No student shall verbally assault, use any type of profane, vulgar, obscene, abusive or offensive language (written or oral) and/or gestures toward any administrator, teacher, adult, faculty/staff, guest, on school property or at a school sponsored event. This includes hand signs, ethnically offensive language, suggestive initials or jargon commonly known to mean something disrespectful. This includes profanity not directly aimed at, but in the presence of an adult and any threatened violence.

**DISPOSITION: 1st Offense: 3 to 5 days ISS**

**2nd Offense: 5 days OSS – possible Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)**

**Additional Offenses: Administrative Discretion and possible recommendation for tribunal**

4. **PROFANITY-2 (Other students)** No student shall use any type of profane, ethnically offensive language, vulgar, obscene, abusive or offensive language (written or oral) or gestures in reference to another student and/or that maybe overheard by an administrator, teacher, adult, faculty/staff, guest on school property or at a school sponsored event.

**DISPOSITION: 1st Offense: up to 3 days ISS**

**2nd Offense: up to 5 days ISS**

**3rd Offense: 5 days ISS up to 10 days OSS at Administrative Discretion**

5. **OBSCENE MATERIALS:** No student shall possess or distribute profane, vulgar, pornographic, obscene, or ethnically offensive materials.

**DISPOSITION: 3 days ISS up to 10 days OSS at Administrative Discretion**

6. **FALSE REPORTS:** No student shall knowingly and willfully make false reports or statements whether orally or in writing; falsely accuse other students or school staff of wrong actions; falsify school records; or forge signatures.

**DISPOSITION: 3 days ISS up to 10 days OSS at Administrative Discretion**



7. **DRESS CODE:** No student shall repeatedly violate the school dress code. **Students must follow the school's excepted Dress Code policy.**

**Disposition: Student Must Change Inappropriate Clothing or be placed in ISS for the day.**

**Principal's discretion applies to all of the following.** (A WMS administrator will make the final decision as to what type of clothing is appropriate.) **In case of violations not covered by prescribed disposition in this agenda book, the principal may enact corrective measures that he or she feels are in the best interest of the school and student involved.**

### **WMS DRESS CODE**

Research has indicated that there is a correlation between student attire and classroom behavior, attitude, and achievement. Washington Middle School enforces a dress code that prevents distractions from learning. Jeans and T-shirts are encouraged. Staff will make a personal appearance check of students each day. Any attire deemed inappropriate will be called to the attention of an administrator. Appropriate clothing will be loaned to the student if possible.

### **The following dress code will be followed at Washington Middle School:**

1. Students are not allowed to wear hats, caps, sunglasses, hair coverings, combs, picks, etc., inside the building.
2. Any clothing or hair that is viewed as distracting because of **extremes** in style, color, pattern, length, fabric, etc. is not permitted.
3. Hair must be well groomed and non-distracting. Well-groomed mustaches are permitted; goatees and beards are prohibited.
4. Neither male nor female students may wear ornaments (jewelry) that pierce the skin such as the nose, lips, or eyelid.
5. See-through clothing is prohibited. All clothing must be worn with appropriate undergarments, which should not be visible. T-shirts must be worn under mesh shirts. Outer clothing, which resembles loungewear, pajamas, or underwear, is prohibited. Clothing that is too tight or too loose so as to be immodest is prohibited; leggings are prohibited. Clothing which has holes above the knee is prohibited. Shirts that expose the midriff or the lower back areas are prohibited (no belly shirts).
6. Tank tops, halter-tops, and sleeveless T-shirts are prohibited. Blouses, dresses, and sweaters, which are backless, low-cut, or strapless, are not appropriate. They should be modest and not revealing. Dresses must be knee length.
7. Girls may wear shorts that fall below the knee (exception - gym shorts in P.E.) Skirts and dresses should be knee length.
8. Boys may wear shorts that fall below the knee. All pants must be at the natural waist line. Sagging pants (worn below the waistline) are not permitted. If a belt is worn, it must be properly fastened. Oversized shirts and pants are not permitted.
9. Gym shorts outside of PE are prohibited.
10. Clothing shall not be worn which advertises alcohol, drugs, tobacco or tobacco products, sex, or which contains inflammatory, vulgar, or suggestive writing (slogans). Writing on the seat of pants is prohibited. Pictures, language or emblems which are found to be offensive, cause a disturbance, or have a history of a disturbance at school will not be permitted.
11. No clothing or other article such as bandanas may be worn or displayed which may indicate membership in a gang.
12. Shoes/sandals must be worn at all times with straps across the back. Shoes with cleats or rollers are prohibited inside the building. Slippers, bedroom shoes, and flip flops are not acceptable. Shoes must be hard-soled, except sneakers, for the protection of the foot.

8. **FAILURE TO ATTEND:** No student shall fail to attend teacher detention, administrative detention or behave appropriately in In-School-Suspension (ISS).

**DISPOSITION: For Administrative Detention: Days served in ISS**  
**For ISS: OSS and remaining ISS must be completed upon return to school.**

9. **INSUBORDINATION:** A student is "Insubordinate" when they fail to comply or follow instructions/directions given by an administrator, teacher, faculty or staff. This includes, but is not limited to, turning over to authority cell phones/electronic equipment, going where they were instructed to go, disregarding directives. Insubordination also includes failure to identify oneself when asked.

**DISPOSITION: 1st Offense: Up to 3 days ISS -Student may be suspended for up to 5 days OSS for refusing to comply with an Administrator's directive.**  
**2nd Offense: 3-5 days ISS -Student may be suspended for up to 5 days OSS for refusing to comply with an Administrator's directive.**  
**3rd Offense: Administrator discretion**

**J. DISRUPTION OF CLASS/SCHOOL:**

1. **CLASS DISRUPTION:** No student shall intentionally make noise or act in any manner so as to interfere with a teacher's ability to conduct class or another student's ability to learn.

**DISPOSITION: 1st Offense: Administrative Discretion**  
**2nd Offense: 2 days ISS minimum**  
**3rd Offense: Administrative Discretion**

2. **SCHOOL DISRUPTION:** No student shall, in any manner, by use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or any other conduct, intentionally cause the disruption or obstruction of any such lawful mission, process, or function.

**DISPOSITION: 1st Offense: Administrative Discretion**

**K. FALSE SAFETY REPORTS:** No student shall make false calls to emergency services or report false fire alarms which create a potentially dangerous interruption to the normal school operation and to both the physical and emotional well-being of students and staff.

1. **FALSE CALL TO EMERGENCY SERVICES:** No student shall knowingly make or cause a false call to emergency services to be made.

2. **FALSE FIRE ALARM:** No student shall knowingly give or cause a false fire alarm to be given.

**DISPOSITION: Administrative Discretion- up to 10 days OSS**  
**Referral to School Resource Officer**  
**Recommendation for Tribunal**

**L. GAMBLING:** No student shall participate in any type of gambling activity as defined by state law or that involves the wagering or betting of services, money or other items.

**DISPOSITION: 1st Offense: 3 days ISS**  
**2nd Offense: 5 days ISS**  
**3rd Offense: 3 days OSS**

**M. GANG RELATED ACTIVITY:** The Grady County Board of Education establishes this policy to eliminate or prevent the influence and activities of gangs in schools. For the purposes of this policy a “gang” is defined as any group or association, whether formal or informal, which encourages, solicits, promotes, urges, counsels, furthers, advocates, condones, assists, causes, advises, procures, or abets any illegal or disruptive activity or behavior of any kind, whether on school campuses, during school-related events, or in the community. A gang member is defined as an individual who, as a representative of on behalf of, participates in any of the activities associated with gangs. Gangs which initiate, advocate, or promote activities which threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property is harmful to the education process. The use of hand signals, graffiti, or the presence of any apparel, tattoos, jewelry, accessory, or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol, or any other attribute indicates or implies membership or affiliation with such a group, disrupts the school environment. Such behaviors are contrary to educational objectives and promote an atmosphere where unlawful acts or violations of school regulation may occur.

1. No student shall recruit or solicit membership in any gang or gang-related organization or activity.
2. No student will be allowed to wear, display, or carry any type of clothing, apparel, tattoos, article, gesture or manner of grooming which indicates or implies membership/affiliation with a gang or gang activities. The principal or designee will have the final say in determining the presence of a gang relationship.
3. No student will be allowed to exhibit behavior or gestures which symbolize gang membership, or cause and/or participate in activities which intimidate or seek to cause bodily harm or affect the attendance of another student.

School officials reserve the right to punish any other gang-related behavior that is subversive to the good order and discipline in the schools, even though such behavior is not specifically identified in the preceding rules.

**DISPOSITION: Administrative Discretion; up to 10 days OSS**  
**Students who violate this policy may be subject to arrest and/or a disciplinary hearing referral which could result in expulsion.**

**N. INCENDIARY DEVICES:** No student shall possess, light, and/or discharge smoke bombs, stink bombs, fireworks, cigarette lighters, matches, or similar devices.

**DISPOSITION: 1st Offense: Administrative Discretion**

Any activity deemed arson will result in **10 days OSS, possible recommendation for tribunal and referral to the School Resource Officer.**

**O. OFF CAMPUS OFFENSES:** Students shall be disciplined for engaging in off-campus conduct that affects the safety and welfare of the school, staff, students, and/or property at the school, property of others, or that disrupts the discipline or educational environment of the school. Off-Campus misconduct for which a student shall be disciplined includes, but is not limited to, any off-campus conduct that is:

1. Prohibited by the Georgia or United States criminal codes;
2. Punishable as a misdemeanor or felony if committed by an adult
3. Conduct for which a student has been arrested, indicted, adjudicated to have committed or convicted.
4. Conduct that is outlined in the work leave, and/or Youth Apprenticeship Program (YAP) student agreement form.

**DISPOSITION: Administrative Discretion**

**P. OTHER BEHAVIORS:** No student shall participate in any activity that is subversive to the good order and discipline of the school not specifically addressed in any other sections of this handbook.

**DISPOSITION: Administrative Discretion**

**Q. PRESCRIPTION / NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

**1. OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS:** Possession of all over-the-counter medication on school property must be in compliance with Grady County School Board policies. A student is prohibited from selling, distributing, or possessing with intent to distribute any over-the-counter medication

**DISPOSITION: Administrative Discretion  
Recommendation for Tribunal  
Referral to School Resource Officer**

**2. PRESCRIPTION DRUGS:** No student shall be in possession of prescription medication not prescribed for that student. All prescription medication prescribed for a student must be in compliance with Grady County School Board policies. In addition, a student shall not sell, distribute, or possess with intent to sell or distribute any prescribed medication on school property.

**DISPOSITION: Administrative Discretion; up to 10 days OSS  
Recommendation for Tribunal  
Referral to School Resource Officer**

**R. PHYSICAL OFFENSES:** Principals or designees will continue to exercise professional discretion in determining incidents of horseplay, physical altercation, fighting or physical bullying. Principals or designees will have the authority to assign consequences based on behavior related to specific incidents. This may include differentiated discipline assigned on a case by case basis.

**1. HORSEPLAY**

**DISPOSITION: Administrative Discretion**

**2. BATTERY:** No student shall physically attack another student, teacher, staff member or administrator.

**3. FIGHTING:** No students shall participate in any type of fighting, physical altercation, or physical harassment.

**4. GANGING UP:** No student shall gang up with any other student or students and physically attack another student or other persons.

**DISPOSITION: 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Administrative Discretion; Up to 5 days OSS, 5 days ISS  
2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Up to 10 days OSS and a possible Tribunal  
3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: 10 days OSS with Tribunal Recommendation and Referral to the  
Resource officer**

**NOTE:** Any student who places hands on, pushes or obstructs a teacher, faculty member, or Administrator may be charged at a minimum with simple battery. Student will be referred to the School Resource Officer and recommended for a tribunal.

**S. PROPERTY RELATED OFFENSES:** *NOTE: Parents and/or students will be held responsible for restitution of the full value of any damaged or stolen property. There is the possibility of notification of law officials where student appears to be in violation of the law.*

1. **VANDALISM:** No student shall intentionally cause damage to the personal property belonging to a school employee or another student. No student shall damage, destroy, or vandalize private property or school property on school grounds or during a school activity, function, or event off school grounds.

**DISPOSITION: Administrative Discretion  
Referral to School Resource Officer (All Offenses)**

2. **PROPERTY DAMAGE:** Willful and malicious destruction, defacement, and/or vandalism of, and/or threat to destroy school or private property of school system employees or to the personal property of any person legitimately at the school. Private property will include, but not be limited to, vehicles, building structures, and grounds. Defacement of or damage to property of other schools will be treated in the same manner as if the damage were done to Grady County School's property.

**DISPOSITION: 1st Offense: Administrative Discretion: up to 5 days ISS and BIP  
2nd Offense: Placement at Cross Roads**

T. **SEXUAL OFFENSES:** Sexual offenses are prohibited against members of the same sex as well as members of the opposite sex. The following are prohibited on school property, school buses, at school-sponsored events, activities or functions, or while using school technology resources.

1. **PDA:** No student shall engage in Public Displays of Affection while on school property or while attending school events.

**DISPOSITION: 1st Offense: Warning and Parent Notification  
2nd Offense: 1 day ISS  
3rd Offense: 3 days ISS and BIP**

**2. SEXUAL MISCONDUCT:**

- No student shall consent to and participate in any form of sexual activity.
- No student shall expose one's intimate body parts or "moon" in public.
- No student shall commit any act of verbal, written, gesture-oriented, or physical sexual misconduct.
- No student shall purposefully touch another student on either their skin, hair, outside clothing, and/or body parts.

A. **SEXUAL HARASSMENT:** No student shall participate in physical, verbal or visual conduct of a sexual nature (including, but not limited to, unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually offensive drawings or posters directed towards another person) where there is a pattern of harassing behavior or a single significant incident.

B. **SEXUAL BATTERY:** Sexual battery is defined as a student intentionally making physical contact with the intimate parts of the body of another student without the consent of that person.

C. **SEXUAL MOLESTATION:** Sexual molestation is defined as a student doing any immoral or indecent act to or in the presence of another person, without that person's consent, with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of either the student or the other person. This includes a student forcing another student to make physical contact with the student's intimate body parts.

**DISPOSITION: Administrative Discretion; Up to 10 days OSS  
Referral to School Resource Officer  
Possible Recommendation for Tribunal**

**U. TECHNOLOGY OFFENSES:** School technology cannot be used for purposes that are not school related. Misuse of school technology may result in computer privileges being revoked.

1. Students will not purposely look for security problems because such action may be considered an unauthorized attempt to gain access to school technology resources.
2. Students will not attempt to or disrupt the school technology resources by destroying, altering or otherwise modifying technology. Hacking is strictly prohibited.
3. No student shall attempt to, threaten to, or actually damage, destroy, vandalize, or steal property or school property while using school technology resources on or off school grounds. Students will not use school technology resources to distribute nor display inappropriate material.
4. Students shall not attempt to search, visit, and/or view internet web sites that have not been approved.

**DISPOSITION: Administrative Discretion**

**V. THEFT:** No student shall steal private property or school property.

**DISPOSITION: 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Up to 5 days OSS with Administrative discretion /Restitution  
2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Up to 10 days OSS with Administrative discretion /Restitution  
3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Up to 10 days OSS Administrative discretion possible  
recommendation for Tribunal**

**W. THREATS:** No student shall issue a verbal, written, or electronic threat directed toward another student, a staff member, or Grady County School facility.

**DISPOSITION: Up to 10 day OSS, possible recommendation for tribunal, referral to school resource officer.**

**X. TOBACCO:** Possession and/or the use of tobacco in any form are prohibited on campus, on school buses, and at school activities or functions. Cigarettes, lighters, matches, vaping devices, dips and tobacco alternative products, including dipping, chewing and smokeless non-tobacco products, will be confiscated. "Spit cups" are evidence of tobacco and carry the same disposition.

**DISPOSITION: 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: 3 days ISS  
2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: 3-5 days ISS  
3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: 3 OSS possible Recommendation for Tribunal**

**Y. WEAPONS:** A student shall not possess, handle, transmit, or cause to be transmitted; use or threaten to use; sell, attempt to sell, or conspire to sell a weapon, either concealed or open to view, on school property or at a school-sponsored function, event or activity. Administrative discretion will be used in determining the legitimate threat level of any weapon. (O.C.G.A. 16-11-127.1)

**DISPOSITION: 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: 10 days OSS  
Referral to School Resource Officer  
Possible Recommendation for Tribunal**

***NOTE: Any misconduct that threatens the health, safety or well-being of others may result in the immediate removal of the student from the school and/or school function and suspension for up to ten (10) days pending disciplinary investigation of the allegations. The school may choose to involve the Grady County School Board, the School Resource Officer, and/or other law enforcement agencies as deemed appropriate.***

**INTERROGATIONS:** You are duly informed that the principal of each school in the Grady County School System, or his/her authorized representative, possesses the authority to conduct reasonable interrogations of students in order to properly investigate and punish student misconduct. This includes the authority to conduct a search of students and their property, including personal vehicles parked on campus, when there is reason to believe that the search could prevent danger or disruption to the school or the continued violation of established laws.

**CORPORAL PUNISHMENT:** Corporal punishment will be used when deemed appropriate. It must be administered in good faith and must not be excessive or unduly severe. It must be administered with regulations set forth by the Board of Education. Children in foster care will not be paddled. Parents requesting their child not be paddled must complete a No Paddling Form. In the event that a parent signs the form, the parent must pick the child up from school when the student is disruptive.

**IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS):** In-School Suspension is assigned for behavioral infractions. Refusal to attend ISS will result in out-of-school suspension in addition to the assigned ISS. Removal from ISS for disciplinary reasons will result in out-of-school suspension. Students suspended for any part/fraction of a day will not receive credit for attending ISS that day and will be required to make that day up. Students will be required to complete all remaining ISS days and assignments once they have returned to school.

***In-School Suspension Rules:***

1. In addition to all regular school rules students serving ISS will also adhere to posted ISS rules.
2. Students assigned to/serving ISS will not be allowed to leave ISS early for any reason.
3. The ISS teacher may suspend any student assigned to ISS for insubordination for the remainder of the day. The student will then be assigned an additional day of ISS. Parents will be notified by the ISS teacher to pick-up their child from the ISS office.

**OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS):** Students may not attend any school related activities while suspended. Students under out-of-school suspension may not participate in conditioning, tryouts, practice, or games until they return to class (GHSA rule). Example: If suspension is through Friday, student cannot play on Saturday. Suspension is considered ended when student is readmitted to the classroom.

**SURVEILLANCE CAMERA POLICY:** Washington Middle School recognizes a need to strike a balance between the individual's right to be free from invasion of privacy and the school's duty to promote a safe environment for all students and faculty.

The purpose of video surveillance at WMS is to:

1. Promote a safe environment by deterring acts of harassment or assault.
2. Deter theft and vandalism and assist in the identification of individuals.
3. Assist law enforcement agencies with regard to the investigation of any crime that may be depicted.
4. Assist in the daily monitoring of student conduct and behavior.

▣ While surveillance cameras are posted in hallways, the school store, gymnasium, lunchroom, outdoor walkways and some classrooms/labs, they are not mounted inside any restrooms. Surveillance cameras are, however, mounted outside restroom doors so that if an incident does occur the person leaving the restroom will be easily identified.

▣ Any person purposely touching, blocking, damaging, and/or causing a surveillance camera to malfunction will be charged with vandalism of school property.

▣ Surveillance cameras operate 24 hours per day, seven days a week and record continually for several months. Cameras are monitored by designated school officials who may include, but are not limited to, administrators, teachers, and School Resource Officers (SRO).

▣ Surveillance DVDs will not be viewed by or provided to students or parents. However, this does not preclude an administrator or deputy sheriff (SRO) from obtaining the aid of students, faculty and staff in identifying persons of interest who may be implicated in a surveillance recording. Request to view surveillance evidence will require Grady County School Board approval.

▣ Surveillance evidence may be used to corroborate or verify an act has taken place, identify a specific person(s) involved in an act/incident, and/or to witness the extent of which an act has been committed.

## Washington Middle School: Academic Information

Students at Washington Middle School are taught using **Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE)** for all academic subjects. Standards for all academic areas can be accessed at [www.georgiastandards.org](http://www.georgiastandards.org).

**REPORT CARDS** Report Cards will be issued at the end of each nine-week grading period. All grades except conduct grades will be numerical. Midterm reports will be issued at the end of a 4½ week grading period.

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Numerical Equivalent</u>
A	Superior	90-100
B	Above Average	80-89
C	Average	70-79
F	Failure	Below 70

### **Recorded Student Grades**

All students receive numerical report card grades to indicate their current status in each of their classes. Numerical grades are based on a 100 scale. For the first and second 9 weeks report card grade, students earning an averaged failing numerical grade from 0-59 will be given a 60. Third and fourth 9 weeks grades will be recorded exactly as earned. Students who fail the first semester will have the two 60's averaged with their two second semester 9 weeks grades for a yearly average.

### **PROMOTION/RETENTION POLICY**

To be promoted to the next grade, students must

- pass a minimum three out of four courses, and must pass at least one half of *Connections* classes
- meet County and State promotion requirements

Students who do not meet these criteria may be placed, promoted, or retained by the consensus of the promotion committee.

### **HONOR ROLL**

An honor roll will be published at the end of each nine-week grading period. An academic award program is held in the spring.

### **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE GRADUATION**

8<sup>th</sup> grade students will have the opportunity to participate in a graduation ceremony. Students must meet the following requirements to participate:

- Student must be passing at least 3 of 4 academic subjects.
- Student must have a passing grade on half of his or her connections classes.
- Student may not have more than 15 unexcused absences.
- Student cannot be assigned ISS the week of the ceremony.
- Students may not be assigned OSS during the last month of school.
- Student must comply with the Graduation Ceremony Dress Code.
- All eligibility requirements are subject to the principal's discretion.
- Dress code for the ceremony must follow regular school dress code and the following requirements:
  - Boys: Dress pants (no jeans); button up shirt with tie; dress shoes
  - Girls: Dress cannot have thin straps, halter, or be strapless and must be knee length or longer, but not to the floor; high heels are highly discouraged; no beach flip flops

**Honor Graduate** status will be awarded to students earning a GPA of 3.5 or higher or GPA of 3.2 or higher for students taking Honor's classes. A cumulative GPA will be determined by averaging all year-end academic averages from 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade up to the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks grading period.

The **Valedictorian** and **Salutatorian** will be determined by the two highest cumulative, weighted GPAs respectively. The Valedictorian and Salutatorian must be enrolled in WMS for at least four consecutive semesters.



## **HOSPITAL HOMEBOUND (HHB)**

The county utilizes Hospital Homebound services by providing a teacher for students with 10 or more consecutive absences due to health or medical reasons. Parent should notify the Guidance Office of extended absences as soon as possible, and schedule a meeting to determine eligibility for HHB services.

## **GUIDANCE**

The purpose of the Guidance Program is to help each individual student achieve his/her highest growth academically, emotionally and socially. We support this by:

1. Helping students adjust to a new setting.
2. Conferencing individually whenever a student, teacher or the counselor deems it necessary.
3. Providing an opportunity to talk things over with any student, parent or teacher.
4. Counseling regarding grades, schedules or personal concerns.

If a student wishes to see the counselor, a Request for Counseling form should be completed and submitted to the teacher. The student will be called during connections as soon as possible. A hall pass will be given to the student by the classroom teacher. Students may not leave class without a pass.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

A full continuum of special education services are provided at WMS. If you have questions, please contact a school administrator or the Special Education office (229-378-1158).

## **SECTION 504**

Contact the guidance office with questions concerning Section 504. Any student or parent (“grievant”) may request an impartial hearing due to the school system’s actions or inactions regarding your child’s identification, evaluation, or educational placement under Section 504. Requests for an impartial hearing must be in writing to the school system’s Section 504 Coordinator; however, a grievant’s failure to request a hearing in writing does not alleviate the school system’s obligation to provide an impartial hearing if the grievant orally requests an impartial hearing through the school system’s Section 504 Coordinator. The school system’s Section 504 Coordinator will assist the grievant in completing the written Request for Hearing. The Section 504 Coordinator may be contacted through the school system’s central office. Copies of the 504 Procedural Safeguards and Notice of Rights of Students and Parents under Section 504 may be found at the system website or may be picked up at the central office or at any school.

## **FAMILY LIFE/SEX EDUCATION**

The Board of Education believes that the purpose of family life and sex education is to help students acquire factual knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values, which will result in behavior that contributes to the well-being of the individual, the family, and society. Helping students attain a mature and responsible attitude toward human sexuality is the continuous task of every generation. Parents have the prime responsibility to assist their children in developing moral values. The schools should support and supplement parents’ efforts in these areas by offering students factual information and opportunities to discuss concerns, issues, and attitudes inherent in family life and sexual behavior, including traditional moral values. In addition to the requirements listed below, the customary policies and regulations concerning the approval of new curriculum content, units, and materials shall apply to any course(s) dealing with family life and sex education offered by the school system:

1. Instructional materials to be used in family life/sex education will be available for inspection by the parent or guardian during school hours.
2. If, after review of materials and conference with the instructor and principal the parent requests that the student not participate in a given aspect of the course, an alternate educational assignment shall be arranged for the student with the approval of the principal.
3. Teachers who provide instruction in family life/sex education will have professional preparation in the subject area, either at the pre-service or in-service level.

## **GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM ALPHA/Gifted Academy (K-12)**

The ALPHA/Gifted Academy (Advancement in Learning & Performance for Higher Achievement) is a county-wide (K-12) program that offers our gifted and talented students a deeper level of learning and adds the breadth and acceleration needed in the classroom. Our school system currently has over 50 teachers who are gifted-endorsed and/or holds College-Board™ AP certification. Our ALPHA/Gifted students are surrounded in their classrooms with like-minded students who are on similar journeys that are challenged by their teachers and administrators not just academically but also challenged to get involved and grow personally. Our students exhibit high achievement in academics, partake in scholarly competitions, and participate in many extracurricular activities. We want our ALPHA/Gifted students to gain confidence in order to find their voice and take courses that demonstrate rigor. By providing extended-learning opportunities that offer critical thinking or problem-solving skills, we want to develop intellectual curiosity in order to advance their scholarship and realize their greatest potential. For more information, please contact Mrs. Danielle Jones, ALPHA/Gifted Academy Director, at the Grady County Board of Education (229) 307-1710.

## **BAND**

Students will be required to rent/own their instrument to participate in the band program. If a student decides that they no longer wish to participate, they will remain in the scheduled program until the next grading period. Failure to participate will result in an “F” for the grading period.

## **CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS**

The teachers and administrators of Washington Middle School encourage students to participate in the extra-curricular activities provided at WMS. The clubs and organizations are listed below:

4-H	CLOE	Drama	FCCLA	Student Council
Helping Hands	Builders	FBLA	Talent Search	Paw Print Press
Art Club	Chorus	FCA	National Junior Honor Society	Tiger Talk

## **Washington Middle School: Additional Procedures and Regulations**

### **FOOD AND DRINKS**

Consumption of candy, beverages, and other food items is not allowed in the classrooms or hallways, or on the sidewalks. Fast food cannot be brought to students during the day for lunch. Students who choose not to purchase lunch in the cafeteria should bring their lunch with them to school. Unopened sodas and other drinks are not allowed unless the student brings lunch. Opened containers are not allowed outside of the cafeteria.

### **CAFETERIA BEHAVIOR AND POLICIES**

Students' behavior in the cafeteria should revolve around courtesy, good manners, and cleanliness. Students are to remain in the cafeteria until dismissed. At no time are pupils allowed to take food outside the cafeteria. Students are not to go into areas where classes are being held during their lunch period. A nutritious breakfast and lunch are available at no cost to any WMS student, and participation is encouraged. Students may also choose to bring lunches from home but may not have “take out” food delivered. **If students are loud and unruly while in the cafeteria, disciplinary actions will be taken.**

### **HALLS**

Students should be in the halls only at the beginning and close of school and while moving from one class to another unless special permission or special duties are given by a teacher/administrator. **Signed agenda books will serve as hall passes.** Teachers provide restroom passes. Students are asked to be courteous at all times and to keep to the right when moving in the halls. Running and shouting in the halls is never permitted.

### **ACTIVITIES AND FIELD TRIP POLICY**

Any student who has excessive disruptive behavior will not be allowed to participate in any off campus activity or field trip. School administrators' discretion applies to this policy.

## **SCHOOL INSURANCE**

School insurance is available to all students. A packet will be available for each student on the first day of classes. Purchase of this program is optional. Only students participating in sports must provide evidence that they are covered by adequate insurance.

## **TRANSPORTATION—BUS STUDENTS**

**Riding the school bus is a privilege.** Only regularly scheduled bus students are to ride the buses. The bus driver is considered the authority on the bus. Students must observe all rules while riding to and from school or while on a school-sponsored activity. Improper conduct on the buses will result in transportation privileges being denied. Discipline problems will be referred to a school administrator. Penalty for misbehavior is at the discretion of principal or assistant principal. Parents will be notified. The penalty may include removal from bus for 1-10 days or, if the behavior problems continue, for the remainder of the semester or school year. Serious misbehavior on the bus may also be cause for punishment up to and including suspension or expulsion from school.

### **Bus Rules**

1. Students must be on time at designated bus stops and wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before boarding.
2. Bus students are to go immediately to the buses as soon as being dismissed from school in the afternoon.
3. No standing or playing while bus is in motion.
4. Parents will be responsible for restitution for any damages.
5. Students who come to school on the bus should return home on the bus unless they have a note from the parents signed by the principal.

## **BOOK BAGS/BACKPACKS**

Prior to homeroom, students will place all book bags/backpacks (this includes backpacks and purses) in student lockers until the end of the academic day. Locker times will be scheduled during the school day to get materials needed for classes. Students will be required to have a locker in order to bring a book bag to school. **Clothes for physical education are to be carried in a transparent plastic, mesh bag, or athletic string bag.**

## **LOCKERS**

Students are required to have a locker. Lockers will be assigned and a lock provided when the required \$5.00 rental fee is paid. Books and other items should be kept in the locker. Only 1 person is assigned to each locker. Only the student and homeroom teacher have the lock combination. Lockers should be neat, clean, and locked at all times. Valuables and large amounts of money should be left at home. Lockers are the property of Washington Middle School and may be searched at any time by school administrators.

## **VALUABLES**

There will be no soliciting or selling unauthorized items of any kind at school. Students are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or valuables to school - expensive jewelry, cell phones and other electronic devices, etc. **Students, not the school, are responsible for their personal property.**

## **TEXTBOOKS**

It is the student's responsibility to take care of any textbook furnished by the Board of Education. Reimbursement for any damage will be the responsibility of the student/parent. State textbook list prices will be used to determine replacement costs

## **MEDICATION/HEALTH PROBLEMS**

No type of medicine will be dispensed from the office without parental consent. **ANY student health problems such as allergies, seizures, asthma, diabetes, heart problems, etc. must be indicated on the Grady County School Health Record upon enrolling. This will become a part of the student's record. It is the parent's responsibility to make the school and teachers aware of any physical problem of their child.**

## **OUT OF DISTRICT ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES**

· Parent/Guardian of out-of-district students must request enrollment with the principal of the out-of-district school. The contract must be signed by the principal of the requesting school prior to enrollment.

· Parent/Guardian must complete an Out-of-District Contract for each year of out-of-district enrollment. Contract completion does not guarantee enrollment in the requested school.

Once accepted for out-of-district enrollment, the parent and student must agree to abide by the following guidelines:

**1. TRANSPORTATION:** Parent will be responsible for providing transportation to and from school within the set school hours. Excessive tardies, early pick-ups, and pick-ups past the dismissal time may determine continued eligibility for enrollment in the out-of-district school.

**2. ATTENDANCE:** No more than five (5) unexcused absences and/or fifteen (15) tardies will be accepted. As noted above, early pick-ups causing the student to miss instruction and any pick-ups past the dismissal time will also be considered in continued eligibility for out-of-district enrollment. \*\*Enrollment is subject to availability based on in-district student enrollment. \*\*

**3. BEHAVIOR:** Student and parent will agree to abide by the Student Code of Conduct outlined in the accepting school's Student Handbook. Excessive disciplinary referrals will be considered when determining acceptance and continued enrollment.

**All Grady County Schools are governed by the above Out-of-District guidelines.**

## **VISITORS and STUDENT PICK-UP/EARLY PICK-UP**

All visitors are required to register at the office. Visitors will be given a pass to wear while on campus. Parent must sign their student out at the office before the student will be called from his/her class. Early sign out after 2:30 is not allowed. This is for the safety of our students and staff and allows students to maximize instructional time. Parents are cordially invited to visit school. Students are not permitted to bring visitors to school.

Georgia law allows only the **parent, guardian or designee on file** to take a student under age 16 from school early. If an "early dismissal" is needed, please call the school by 8:30 a.m. so the information can be included on the daily absentee report.

**School personnel recognizes the person that enrolled the child and is currently listed in PowerSchool as the custodial parent/guardian.**

## **INTERNET ACCESS AND USE**

The purpose of Internet use in the Grady county School System is to support and enhance education by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. Use of the Grady County Schools' connection to the Internet must be the support of education and academic research consistent with the educational objectives of the Grady County Schools. Grady County Schools support the guidelines of the Department of Education's Office of Instructional Technology and the Board of Regent's Policy for Acceptance Use. Use of another organization's networks or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of material in violation of any U.S. or State regulation is prohibited. Illegal activities are strictly prohibited. The use of Grade County Schools' Internet access is not a right; it is a privilege. Inappropriate use will result in the cancellation of access privileges and possible disciplinary action. The system Media Committee will give guidance and direction to the system's Internet use and access. Technology Review Committees established at each school will monitor Internet access at each school and advise school staff of appropriate practices and procedures.

All students have access to the internet through normal daily activity. **If you do not want your child to have this access, please contact your school.** The Grady County Technology and Internet Acceptable Use Policy can be obtained by requesting a copy from the school or by accessing it over the internet at <http://goo.gl/Sn1cT>.

Student photographs and videos may appear on the Grady County Schools Website. These photographs and videos may also appear on the World Wide Web. Students' names and addresses will not be published on the website for their privacy and safety. **Parents may contact the school if opposed to the use of a student's photograph and videos.**

## **EMERGENCY PLANS**

### **1. FIRE DRILLS**

In case of a fire or other emergency, the signal to evacuate the building will be a continuous sounding of the fire alarm bell. There is an evacuation plan posted in each room that shows the route of evacuation for that particular room. In case of an alarm, walk quietly and quickly to the fire exit area designated for your room with your teacher. Practice fire drills will be held during the year. Students are expected to follow fire drill procedures.

### **2. TORNADO DRILLS**

In case of a tornado or severe weather, a warning will be given over the intercom by school officials. When announced, students are to follow the evacuation plan posted in their room showing the safest area during severe weather. Students will sit with face to wall and head covered if possible. Remain in these areas until the all clear signal is given. All students should remain as quiet and calm as possible and follow the instructions of their teachers.

### **3. INCLEMENT WEATHER**

When weather conditions exist that would make it hazardous for students to get to school safely, students and parents should listen to the area radio and TV stations for school closings. The Alert Now phone system will be used if possible to notify parents by phone.

# Title 1

## TEACHER/PARAPROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

In compliance with the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act, you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s) and/or paraprofessional(s). The following information may be requested:

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

If you wish to request information concerning your child's teacher's and/or paraprofessional's qualifications, please contact Mr. Michael Best at Washington Middle School at 229-377-2106, m.best@grady.k12.ga.us. (August 2, 2019)

## WHAT IS TITLE I?

Title I, Part A is a part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This Act provides federal funds through the Georgia Department of Education to local educational agencies (LEAs) and public schools with high numbers or percentages of poor children to help ensure that all children meet challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards. LEAs target the Title I, Part A funds they receive to public schools with the highest percentages of children from low-income families. These funds may be used for children from preschool aged to high school. Title I, Part A is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to challenging State academic standards in order to reinforce and enhance efforts to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I, Part A programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support parental involvement. Washington Middle School is a Schoolwide Title I school and the Schoolwide Improvement Plan is available for review in the main office of the school and on the school's website at <http://Washington.gce.schoolinsites.com>. Parents are invited to participate in the annual revision of the Schoolwide Improvement Plan.

## PARENT and FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Title I, Part A, Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that each school served under Title I, Part A, develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement plan. Copies of the Grady County Parent and Family Engagement Plan and the Washington Middle School Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan are available for review by parents in the main office of the school or on the school website <http://Washington.gce.schoolinsites.com>. The Grady County Title I program provides resource materials to parents who visit the Parent Smart Resource Center located at Washington Middle School in the front office. The Parent Resource Center is open during the school day from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. For additional information please contact the school at 229-377-2106. Parents are invited to participate in workshops and special events sponsored by Title I and the annual revision of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan.

## SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

The School-Parent Compact is a written agreement between parents, teachers and students. The compact is developed by all stakeholders and outlines how parents, the entire school staff and students will share the responsibility for improving student achievement. The compact is signed by parents, teachers and students at the beginning of the year and serves as a clear reminder of the agreement for all to share in the responsibility for student learning. A copy of the school-parent compact is available in the school office and on the school website at <http://Washington.gce.schoolinsites.com/>. Parents are invited to participate in the annual revision of the school-parent compact.

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Students at Washington Middle School are taught using State required academic standards. Standards for all academic areas can be accessed at [www.georgiastandards.org](http://www.georgiastandards.org).

## Dress Code Violations

Violation	Date	Administrator Signature

## Clubs

**(Club Sponsors should place stamps below)**


### WMS Library Pass

Date	Teacher Signature	Purpose	Date	Teacher Signature	Purpose	Date	Teacher Signature	Purpose