

DICKERSON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Parent/Student Handbook 2020-2021



“Where Little Indians Get Their Start”

J. D. DICKERSON PRIMARY SCHOOL

MOTTO

Where Little Indians Get Their Start

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to prepare all students to be college and career ready.

VISION STATEMENT

Our children will become productive leaders in a global society.

Strategic Initiative 1

Student Achievement

* I.A Graduate all students from high school

* I.B Provide diverse curriculum that
exceeds state and national standards

* I.C Equip Students to be successful after high school in academic
and career pursuits

Strategic Initiative 2

Quality Learning Environment

* II.A Provide a safe environment

* II.B Recruit and maintain a qualified, compassionate, and diverse staff

* II.C To effectively evaluate and train staff

Strategic Initiative 3

Engagement

* III.A Promote student and staff achievement

* III.B Promote engagement of parents and community

* III.C Promote positive public relations

Strategic Initiative 4

Operational Effectiveness

* IV.A Ensure effective & reliable technology

* IV.B Ensure effective resource stewardship

* IV.C Maintain clean, safe, & structurally sound facilities and grounds

* IV.D Ensure Student health, safety, & well-being

SCHOOL MASCOT

Little Indians

VIDALIA CITY SCHOOLS

Vision Statement: Building on “A” Tradition of Excellence

The Vidalia Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion or handicapping condition in educational programs, activities or employment.

"Message from the Principal"

J. D. Dickerson Primary School

Welcome to J.D. Dickerson Primary School:

It is with great excitement that the Faculty and Staff of J. D. Dickerson Primary welcome each and every student, parent, and community member to the **2020-2021** school year. We are honored and privileged to be a part of your child's educational journey. This is a big, but wonderful responsibility that we take seriously. It is our goal to engage, encourage and educate all of our students to the best of our steadfast ability to reach every milestone set before them this 2020-2021 school year. We believe the statement that says, "It takes a village to raise a child.", and so it does for educating a child. We all; the school, parents, and community must work together as an extended family in order to ensure success for all students. We look forward to having you as part of the Dickerson team to help your child have a wonderful experience learning all of the basic skills necessary to become a successful person.

With this goal in mind the Faculty and Staff of J.D. Dickerson Primary ask you to be an active part in your child's education. It is only through working together in cooperation with one another that we can meet the needs of all our children. We ask that all of our parents do what they can, through the PTO, volunteering, or helping on special occasions in order to enhance our educational environment. As a parent, your role in the overall success of our school and your student is very important. Recent research shows that high parent involvement results in high student success. We value our parents and their involvement both here and at home as an essential part of our continued growth. We believe that early childhood is the time to build a firm foundation of the basic skills while developing a love for learning. We enlist your help as parents to help foster this love of learning.

All children learn and develop at different rates. We want to provide each child with the best early education possible. We monitor student progress continuously to guide the instruction of each of our young learners. We strongly encourage parents to go over daily work with their students as well as help with homework.

J.D. Dickerson Primary includes Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and First Grade. We expect a student body of approximately 550 and have a staff of 80. We all look forward to working with you and your children.

Please read this handbook and keep it to refer to throughout the school year. This handbook is a guide and does not include all guidelines or procedures. During the school year some adjustments may occur as new situations arise. We will keep you informed of changes as necessary.

If we can ever be of assistance to you, please call us at (912) 537-3421

Sincerely,

Brenda McLain
PRINCIPAL

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**Vidalia City Schools
School Calendar
2020-2021**

Preplanning / Staff Professional Learning	July 27/ August 3-4, 2020
Preplanning/ Staff Professional Learning	August 19-20, 2020
First Student Day	August 21, 2020
Labor Day Holiday	September 7, 2020
Staff/Student Holiday	October 9, 2020
Staff Workday/Student Holiday	October 12, 2020
Mid-term	November 3, 2020
Thanksgiving Holidays	November 25-27, 2020
Last Day Before Christmas Holidays	December 18, 2020
Christmas Holidays	Dec. 21-January 1, 2021
Staff Professional Learning / Student Holidays	January 4-5, 2021
First Day Back for Students	January 6, 2021
First Semester Ends	January 15, 2021
MLK, Jr. Holiday	January 18, 2021
President's Day Holiday	February 15, 2021
Staff Professional Learning/Student Holiday	March 12, 2021
Mid-term (Second Semester)	March 24, 2021
Staff Professional Learning/ Student Holiday	April 2, 2021
Easter	April 4, 2021
Spring Holidays	April 5-9, 2021
2nd Semester Ends/ Last Day of School	May 28, 2021
VHS Graduation	May 28, 2021
Staff Holiday/Memorial Day	May 31, 2021
Report Card Pick-up	TBD
Post-Planning / Staff Professional Learning	June 1-2, 2021

VBOE Approved January 14, 2020
VBOE Approved July 13, 2020 (revision)
VBOE Approved August 4, 2020 (revision #2)

GENERAL INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES

START TIME

School begins **PROMPTLY** at **7:40 a.m.** The tardy bell rings at **7:50 a.m.** Students will be supervised beginning at 7:20 a.m. **Students should not be dropped off at school before 7:20 a.m.** There will be two lanes for drop-off and pickup with staff on duty to assist your child safely across traffic. Please drive slowly and carefully! Students are not to be dropped off or picked up at the Gym / Bus area. **FOR SAFETY PURPOSES PLEASE DROP YOUR CHILD OFF IN THE DESIGNATED AREAS ONLY!**

TARDIES

Students are expected to report to school on time by 7:40 a.m. A student is considered tardy if he/she is not in the classroom when the tardy bell rings at 7:50 a.m. Students who arrive tardy due to doctor/dentist appointments should furnish a doctor/dentist excuse.

AFTERNOON DISMISSAL

Dismissal for Pre-Kindergarten through First Grade students who walk or ride in vans is 2:30 p.m. Dismissal for car riders is 2:40 p.m... **Do not park your cars on the side of the school or in the Faculty/Staff parking lot during dismissal. Parents should remain in their cars and go through the traffic line.** The students will be brought to your car in the traffic line. Bus riders and After School Program students are dismissed beginning at 2:40. **STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN PICKED UP BY 3:00 WILL BE ESCORTED TO THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM. PARENTS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE \$8.00 PAYMENT TO THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM.** Parents will have to go to the Gym to sign out the student from the After School Program and pay the \$8.00 fee.

TRANSPORTATION HOME CHANGES

Parents must send a note to the teacher if a change in the way their student(s) normally go home has to occur. If the teacher does not receive a note, the student will be sent home the way he/she normally goes home. **ONLY EMERGENCY CHANGES IN THE WAY STUDENTS GET HOME SHOULD BE CALLED IN TO THE OFFICE BY 2:00 P.M.** No changes will be made after 2:00 P.M.

BUS REQUEST CHANGES

The school staff **cannot** approve any change in bus assignment. Mr. Robert Taylor, Transportation Director, must approve any change in the bus a student rides. He may be contacted at 537-0162. Parents need to call Mr. Taylor by **1:30 p.m. for bus change approval** and notify the school of the approved change by **2:00 p.m.**

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Fire and natural disaster drill instructions are provided for staff and students. Procedures for each drill are discussed with students. When an alarm is sounded, all students must proceed as directed in a quick, quiet and orderly manner, remaining quiet to hear any possible change of instructions. An all clear will be sounded when the drill is over.

SCHOOL STORE

School supplies may be purchased at our school store between 7:20 and 7:40 every morning.

LOST AND FOUND

Students should return found items to the office. Students who have lost items should check with the office. It is recommended that items of great value, either monetarily or sentimental, not be brought to school. **PLEASE PUT YOUR STUDENT'S NAME IN HIS/HER JACKET AND ON ALL OTHER ITEMS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL.** The school is not responsible for any lost items.

DRESS CODE

Administration has the final decision regarding clothing that may be deemed inappropriate or a safety concern. Students will follow the dress code as outlined below.

- Clothing may be solid-colored, all over prints, plaid, stripes or polka dots, including camouflage.
- Graphic t-shirts may be worn but must be free of inappropriate language, messages, or pictures. Printed t-shirts will be permitted if they represent the school or school system in some manner. Collegiate/Professional ball team t-shirts will be allowed.
- Clothing or accessories that depict inappropriate language or messages to include, but not limited to, violence, gambling, gangs, prejudice, racism, sexual innuendoes, alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco and is inappropriate or distracting to the school environment will not be allowed.
- No clothing may draw attention to anatomical (body) parts.
- Proper undergarments must be worn at all times and must not be visible.
- Clothing must be worn on the right side, be free of holes, tears, or decorative items including, but not limited to, inappropriate writing, safety pins, buttons, patches, large amounts of appliqué.
- All clothing should cover the body and must be appropriately sized. Clothing must not be too small or too large.
- All pants must be worn at waist level and must fit the waist. Pants must not drag the floor.
- No excessive cologne, perfume, or body mist should be used and none of these items can be brought to school.
- Students are not allowed to wear a combination of attire, jewelry, hairstyle or cosmetics that results in a distracting appearance.
- **No tank tops or spaghetti straps will be allowed.** Sleeveless shirts are permitted as long as they cover the shoulder.
- Solid colored or print jeans and pants are permitted. Athletic pants are allowed if the fit is appropriate. **Short pants are allowed but must be no shorter than fingertip length when arms are by your side.** Pajamas styled pants are not allowed. Pant legs may not be banded in any fashion. No writing on pants will be allowed. Tutus are not permitted.
- Logos and/or stitching on pants or jeans may not extend beyond the back pocket.
- **Skirts or dresses must be at the knee or longer.**
- All outer wear is allowed as long as they fit properly, do not contain vulgarity, or promote any other school system.
- No hats/caps are allowed except on special days.
- Shoes are required and must be worn as designed with laces, buckles, or Velcro fastened. No flip-flops, cleats, wheelie skate shoes, bedroom shoes, or shoes with heels are allowed. Sandals with a back are permitted. Athletic shoes must be worn on P.E. days.
- Any jewelry should be age appropriate. No hoop or dangling earrings are permitted. Only piercing of the ears is permitted.
- Hair should be a natural color, unless there is special school event.

School Improvement Plan

This document can be accessed through the school's website by logging in at:

<https://jddpvidaliaga.schoolinsites.com/>

ENROLLMENT

To enroll a child in school, the parent must supply:

1. Georgia Certificate of Immunization
2. Georgia Eye, Ear and Dental Certificate
3. Birth Certificate
4. Copy of Student's Social Security Card
5. *Proof of Residency (water bill, electric bill) * If you are residing with another family, the head of that household must provide a **notarized** letter stating that you do in fact reside there. A water or power bill must also be provided with the head of household's name on it.

A withdrawal form from the previous school may be required.

STUDENT LANGUAGE ARTS PLACEMENT

Students transferring to the Vidalia City Schools shall be assigned to the grade level/group indicated as appropriate according to placement test results. Such placement shall be tentative pending teacher observation of achievement level and analysis of standardized achievement test results and other data. Placement may be changed later by the school administration in accordance with what is educationally best for the pupil. (Bd. Policy JBCD)

WITHDRAWAL and TRANSFER

The procedure for withdrawal from school is:

1. The student's parents must notify school of withdrawal date.
2. The parent must obtain a withdrawal form from the school office.
3. The student must turn in all books that were issued to him/her.
4. The student must return all library books to the Media Center.
5. The student must clear obligations from lunchroom.
6. All financial obligations to the school must be paid before records are released.
7. The Principal must sign the completed withdrawal form. A copy of the withdrawal form will be given to the student to take to the new school.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS / PHONE NUMBER

Parents who move during the school year must notify the school secretary within 5 business days in order for school records to be kept current. The same applies for telephone numbers. **NOTIFYING THE SCHOOL OF THESE CHANGES IS ESSENTIAL, ESPECIALLY IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.**

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS FOR STUDENT ACCOUNTING

According to Georgia Law (SB507 as it amends, O.C.G.A. 20-2-150), **ALL** students enrolling in Georgia schools must present an official copy of the social security number or a signed waiver form. This means school official needs to see the social security card or an official document that satisfies the local school official in verifying the number. School officials may make a copy to place in the child's permanent record folder.

STUDENT RECORDS

Any parent or guardian who wishes to inspect their child's permanent record should make a request through the principal's office at least one day prior to the date of inspection. A school official will be present to review and interpret the record.

Pupil records may be released to a third party with the written permission of the parent or guardian.

When a student transfers to a new school, records will be sent upon receipt of a written request from the new school. Special Education records require a separate written request and are released through the Director of Special Education Services.

VISITORS

In the interest of security and safety for our students, all visitors must report to the main office. Any school visitor who needs to go into the school beyond the main office must sign in. Upon leaving the building, the visitor must sign out in the main office. **No school age children are allowed to visit at any time during school hours, unless the principal authorizes special permission.** In accordance with state law, it shall be unlawful for any person to disrupt or interfere in the operation of any school, school bus or stop within the district. Any person violating this provision shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

SCHOOL INSURANCE

Accident insurance at a minimal cost will be available. This insurance protects the students from the time he leaves home until he returns home providing he/she goes directly to and from school. Twenty-four hour coverage is also available.

ITEMS NOT ALLOWED AT SCHOOL

Toys, games and other items create a distraction for students and are not allowed at school. The following is a partial list of items that are included but not limited to:

1. Toys and games (including footballs, baseball and similar equipment)
2. Trading cards or playing cards of any type
3. Electronic equipment (games, beeping watches, pagers, cell phones, tape/CD/DVD players, and any other electronic items)
4. Party invitations (These are not to be handed out at school.)
5. Valentine deliveries of any type (This is a system policy.)
6. Any other item which causes a distraction to instruction
7. No rolling book bags

These will be taken up and kept in the office until a parent/guardian comes to get the item(s). The school reserves the right to seize any other item that may cause disruption to the school program.

ENROLLMENT / ADMISSION OF NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

CONTINUATION OF ADMISSION OF NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

Upon admission of a non-resident student to Vidalia City Schools, continued acceptance in successive years shall be contingent upon said student continuing to meet provisions set forth in Board Policy (Bd. Policy JBCD). The Vidalia City Board of Education reserves the right to review any student's eligibility at any time. The Board further reserves the right to dismiss any student at any time should said student fail to meet the provisions set forth in this policy.

DEFINITION OF RESIDENT STUDENT

A resident student is one whose parent's or legal guardian's major domicile is within the corporate limits of the City of Vidalia.

CHANGE OF RESIDENCY STATUS

Should a resident student move from the City of Vidalia, that student may be allowed to complete the current school year provided a prorated portion of the annual tuition is paid within 5 school days of the change of residence. Said student may apply for readmission as a non-resident for the following school term.

Should a non-resident student attending Vidalia City Schools move into the City of Vidalia, **no refund of tuition shall be made.**

PRIORITY FOR ADMISSION OF NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

Eligible non-resident students shall be selected for admission to Vidalia City Schools in the following priority order:

1. Children of system employees who work more than one-half time and are eligible for local and state benefits.
2. Currently enrolled non-resident students
3. Siblings of currently enrolled non-resident students

4. Non-resident students whose parents/guardians pay school tax to the City of Vidalia

Non-resident students not included in priorities 1, 2, 3, or 4 may be eligible applicants if space is available. A random drawing of students from the eligible pool shall fill the remaining vacancies at grades K and 1. All applicants should be notified of acceptance or denial within 24 hours of determination of eligibility.

SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

All non-resident applicants requiring special services shall be considered for admittance on an individual basis.

TUITION FOR NON-RESIDENT STUDENT

The Vidalia City Schools Board of Education shall set tuition for non-resident students annually. In accordance with the Quality Basic Education Act (20-20133), tuition “shall not exceed average locally financed per student cost for the preceding year, excluding the local fair share funds required by code section 20-2-164.” Tuition shall be payable annually and in advance to the school which the student will attend. All Non-Resident tuition is due, paid in full, upon enrollment. Tuition for the children of system employees who work more than one-half time and are eligible for local and state benefits shall be waived as long as such employment continues. The Board shall annually determine the tuition status of those applicants placed in non-profit, non-discriminatory youth institutions.

TAX CREDIT FOR NON-RESIDENT TUITION

Tuition may be paid partially or fully paid by presenting a city ad valorem tax receipt from the preceding year, stamped “PAID” by the City Clerk of Vidalia. Credit for tuition payment shall be granted only for SCHOOL TAX paid. No “PAID” city ad valorem tax receipt may be used for more than 9 consecutive school months. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to secure and present a “PAID” city ad valorem tax receipt at the time of tuition payment.

The Vidalia City Board of Education has set Non-Resident Tuition for the **2020/21 school year at \$200 per child**. This fee applies to students who reside outside the city limits of Vidalia, Georgiarefer to VBOE Policy JBCB.

Tax credits are allowed for non-resident students whose parents pay school taxes to the City of Vidalia, Georgia. Tuition may be partially or fully paid by presenting a City of Vidalia Ad Valorem Tax Receipt from the preceding year. (The school tax portion of the bill will be deducted from tuition.)

No prorated tuition refunds will be given for those students who move out of the city during the school term.

Tuition should be paid to the school where the child will attend. Each school will begin receiving tuition payments the **first day of pre-planning** during regular business hours and must be paid in full (or arrangements made with the building principal) on or before **the last day of pre-planning**. Tuition is non-refundable. No progress reports or report cards or other school documents will be issued to a non-resident student until tuition payments are current.

If you have questions regarding non-resident student tuition, please call your child's school.

Vidalia City Board of Education

Approved June 9, 2020

DENIAL FOR NON-RESIDENT TUITION

Non-resident students may be denied admission to Vidalia City Schools for any of the following reasons:

1. Overcrowding
2. Past discipline record
3. Past attendance record
4. Non-payment or late payment of tuition
5. Falsification or misrepresentation of pertinent information during the application process
6. Other good and sufficient cause

Applications to attend the Vidalia City Schools may be made to the building principal during the school year. The building principal will evaluate the applicant as outlined in the policy JBCB. Questionable cases will be referred to the superintendent along with the results of the principal's evaluation. Should an applicant be turned down, the superintendent will be notified immediately. (Bd. Policy JBCB)

TRANSPORTATION FOR NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

Transportation to and from school is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. Non-resident students are **NOT** eligible to ride school buses to or from school, unless prior arrangements have been made with the transportation department.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is critical to your child's success. Parents are responsible for getting their children to comply with attendance regulations. Parental cooperation with teachers and administrators will help to ensure the academic progress of the student.

ATTENDANCE LAW / ATTENDANCE OFFICER

Students who are ages six to sixteen are subject to the State of Georgia mandatory attendance law. Students who enroll prior to age six are subject to the same attendance law as if they had enrolled at age six. Parents of these students are subject to penalties if they violate the mandatory attendance law.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

School attendance on a daily basis is the best way to insure that a child receives instruction that will help him or her to be a successful, productive, independent citizen. When attendance problems begin to affect a child's school progress, actions will be taken by the staff of the J. D. Dickerson Primary School and the Vidalia City School System Pupil Services Coordinator. Possible actions include:

1. A contact from the child's teacher
2. A contact from the J. D. Dickerson School Secretary
3. A contact from the J. D. Dickerson administrative staff
4. A contact from the Pupil Services Coordinator
5. An Attendance Case Review Panel meeting which the parent(s)/guardian is required to attend
6. A hearing in Juvenile Court which the parent(s)/guardian is required to attend
7. A hearing in Toombs County Magistrate's Court which the parent(s)/guardian is required to attend
8. A hearing in State Superior Court which the parent(s)/guardian is required to attend
9. A referral to the Toombs County Department of Family and Children Services
10. A referral to the Department of Juvenile Justice
11. Other actions as needed to improve school attendance for any child

These actions are listed in no particular order. One or more actions may be taken in the course of trying to improve the school attendance of any child who is a student in the Vidalia City School System. Parents of students, and students who are not residents of the City of Vidalia, but who attend Vidalia City Schools are subject to the same actions as parents of students and students residing in the city limits of Vidalia. Attendance problems for students who reside outside of Vidalia City limits may result in the child being withdrawn from the Vidalia City School System at the discretion of the Principal of the J. D. Dickerson Primary School, or the principal's designee.

ABSENCES

Regular attendance at school is critical to student progress. A student who reaches (6) absences is considered at-risk in accordance with federal legislation (NCLB). A student will be considered for retention in the presently assigned grade level if an excessive number of absences impact student progress due to missing the instruction provided by the teacher.

The State Department of Education has set up the following reasons for lawful absences:

1. Personal illnesses (limit of five per semester without Dr.'s note)
2. Serious illness or death in the family
3. A court order or an order by a governmental agency
4. Recognized religious holidays of a pupil's particular faith
5. Conditions rendering school attendance impossible or hazardous to the safety of the pupil

When a student returns to school after being absent he/she **MUST** present a WRITTEN excuse or Doctor's excuse to his/her teacher. *The excuse must be turned in within three days of returning to school or the absence(s) will remain on record as unexcused.* The following items should be included in the excuse:

- Date of absence
- Reason for absence
- Phone number and signature of parent or guardian

The student should present this written excuse to the teacher who will sign or initial the note. Failure to bring a note within a three-day period will result in an unexcused absence. No more than five parental notes will be accepted per semester for excused absences. Beyond five parental notes, a doctor's note is required in order for the absence to be deemed as excused. Even if a parent has called into the school to say that the student was sick, a note must accompany the child upon returning to school.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

When a student has an unexcused absence, teachers are not required to provide make up work a student may have missed during his/her absence.

FIVE-DAY NOTE

A five-day note is one in which a parent informs the school in writing of an absence five days prior to the unexcused absence(s). When a parent submits a five-day note request, the current attendance record and/or records from previous years are used to determine approval. Based upon the current attendance record, if the requested absence(s) will result in

or near to an excess of seven (7) absences per semester or 14 absences for the entire school term, permission will be denied. If the administrator approves the absences, the parent/student may request make up work for the unexcused absences. **Five-day notes are unexcused.**

EARLY DISMISSAL / EARLY SIGN OUT

Parents are encouraged to schedule appointments other than during school hours. However, when emergency demands, the appointment should be made as early or as late in the school day as possible. Please be aware that three tardies and/or early sign outs are equal to **one absence**.

Steps for early dismissal are as follows:

1. Parent or guardian must come into the office to request early dismissal.
2. Student will be called to the office for dismissal.
3. Parent or guardian must sign the student sign-out sheet.
4. A doctor's note should be returned to the office upon the student's return.

MEDICAL

DISPENSING OF MEDICATION

At the written request of the parent or guardian, the school nurse or school staff may administer medication in accordance with the following procedures:

- The parent/legal guardian must complete the required "Medication Authorization Form" when medication must be administered during the school day. For prescription medication a physician must sign the form. The form can be obtained from your school nurse when the medication is delivered to the school. The completed form **MUST** accompany all medication. Any changes in medication or the dosage will require a new authorization form.
- All medication administered at school must be in the original container and given to the school nurse or office personnel **ONLY**. Students may not have medication in their possession, except with a physician's written request/order. Under no circumstances should medication be shown or shared with other students. Aspirin products must also have a physician signature prior to administration.
- Unused medication should be obtained from the school nurse within one week after medication is discontinued; otherwise the school nurse will dispose of the medication.
- A daily record will be kept on all prescribed and non-prescribed medication. This record will include student's name, date/time, medication administered, and signature of supervising personnel.

STUDENT ILLNESS

Sick students who are considered contagious must not be sent to school. If your child has a fever of **100.4** degrees or higher, please do not send the child to school. **After a child has no fever for 24 hours**, then they may return to school. When a student becomes ill at school, the nurse will contact the parent or guardian and the parent must make arrangements to pick up the student **IMMEDIATELY**. If a parent cannot be contacted, an emergency number provided by the parent will be called. If no contact can be made, the student will be kept in the office until contact can be made or until dismissal time.

STUDENT INJURIES

If your child sustains an injury at school and it is reported to the nurse, the following procedures will be followed:

- Minor injuries, scrapes, and cuts will be treated. Parents will be called as deemed necessary.
- In cases of more serious injury, parents will be notified. If unavailable, the emergency contact will be notified. If neither of these persons can be reached, the child will either be transported to the hospital emergency room or an ambulance will be called depending on the circumstance and the school's assessment of the situation.

The function of the school in relation to sudden illness and accident is one of emergency handling of these situations. School personnel shall act promptly and intelligently in emergencies for the saving of life, the prevention of further injury, and the alleviation of pain. As soon as possible, the parent or guardian shall be notified. The school is not responsible for subsequent treatment.

***PLEASE KEEP YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBERS UPDATED SO THAT YOU CAN ALWAYS BE CONTACTED!**

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES / HEALTH CONCERNS

Because schools bring large numbers of children into close daily contact they serve as a place where the transmissions of all kinds of communicable diseases occur. Some of the most common diseases/health concerns would include the common cold, influenza, chicken pox, head lice, MRSA, and measles.

Control of these illnesses depends to a great extent on observant caring parents and teachers. However, some communicable diseases require a trained eye and special treatment as well as monitoring by a physician in order for one to regain good health.

When a child has symptoms of a communicable disease, such as obvious rashes or sores, nausea, high fever or similar symptoms, the parent or guardian of the child will be contacted and required to take their child home. In cases concerning head lice, a child will not be readmitted to school until first bringing some form of proof of treatment, such as a shampoo box top as well as being checked by the school nurse for nits.

MEDIA CENTER

J. D. Dickerson Primary School has a Media Center that is well stocked with books for reading and learning. A qualified Media Specialist and Paraprofessional will be available to assist students and parents in the Media Center.

All books and material taken from the library must be checked out at the circulation desk. Library hours are from **7:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.** on school days.

Note: Parents are encouraged to use our media center during school hours. Parents are allowed to check-out **ONE** additional book. Let the reading begin!

CARE OF TEXTBOOKS and LIBRARY BOOKS

The care of textbooks and library books is the responsibility of each individual student. Students must pay for any lost or damaged books they have been assigned. Cost will be determined by the condition of the book when issued or checked out of the Media Center.

CAFETERIA PROGRAM 2020-2021

We welcome your child to the School Nutrition Program in the Vidalia City School System. Our food service program is self-supporting, meaning we operate from monies received through payments for meals by students and staff as well as reimbursements from federal/state programs. All schools offer at least two lunch choices daily. All meals are planned for children and selections are based on the foods children prefer. New foods are introduced occasionally in order to expose children to different tastes. Current monthly menus are sent home with students and posted on the system website. All menus must meet the U.S. Department of Agriculture requirements and guidelines. Our meals also meet the new meal guideline requirements set forth in USDA.

Students are encouraged to drink milk. If students have allergies, a doctor's note must be provided. Meal substitutions will only be made upon receipt of written instructions from a doctor. Parent notes will not be accepted. At no time should students bring drinks into the cafeteria in glass containers.

Please be aware of the following:

- Behavioral expectations will follow rules designated in the PBIS matrix at each school.
- All lunches, purchased in the cafeteria, will be eaten in the cafeteria or designated areas.
- Students cannot bring or have catered/fast food brought to them to be eaten in the cafeteria. Lunches should be brought from home if a student chooses not to participate in the School Nutrition Program. Per State & board policy, sack lunches can in no way promote restaurants or fast food establishments through the use of wrappers, cups, bags etc. All foods from restaurants must be rewrapped at home and placed in a lunch bag or sack.
- All students, who bring their lunch, will also be offered a grab-n-go supplement as well.
- Per USDA guidelines, students are encouraged to drink milk. If your child is allergic to milk, a doctor's note must be provided to the school nurse.
- System and state guidelines do not allow students to bring glass containers or cans into the cafeteria.

CEP (Community Eligibility Provision)

We are pleased to inform you that three of our four schools (JD Dickerson Primary, Sally D. Meadows Elementary and JR Trippe Middle School) will be participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) as part of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. If you have child (ren) who attend any of the three schools, they are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school at no charge to you. No further action or applications are required of you at these schools except encouragement to eat with us to sustain this program for everyone

We encourage you to allow your children to participate in the School Nutrition Program by eating with us every day for breakfast and lunch! High participation insures this program will continue and students will be afforded nutritional meals for breakfast and lunch at no cost to the parents at eligible CEP schools.

Meal Prices for J.D. Dickerson Primary School

Breakfast	Full-\$0.00	Reduced-\$0.00
Lunch	Full-\$0.00	Reduced-\$0.00

Vidalia City Schools Special Programs

CHILD FIND The purpose of Child Find is to identify, locate, and evaluate children and youth, birth to age 21, who are suspected of, or have a disability or developmental delay, in order to provide free and appropriate Special Education services. Vidalia City School offers comprehensive special education services to eligible students ages three through 21 years of age. Parents of students, who suspect their child may have a disability, should contact the teacher, principal or the SST/RTI Specialist. All referrals are considered confidential, and services are provided at no cost. The parent, legal guardian, or surrogate parent retains the right to refuse services and are provided other procedural safeguards under federal and state law. Public school services include screening in areas of suspected disabilities, such as vision, hearing, autism, motor skills, speech, language, and general development. Evaluations in the schools are provided for 26 several areas of suspected disabilities, including learning disabilities, speech and language development, orthopedic impairments, vision or hearing problems, intellectual disabilities, emotional behavior disorders, autism spectrum disorders, health impairments, traumatic brain injuries, and significant developmental delay. For more information concerning eligibility criteria and referral procedures, contact Katrina Blount-Woodard, Director of Student Services at (912) 537-3088, Ext. 2010 or kblack@vidalia-city.k12.ga.us

HOSPITAL HOMEBOUND Hospital Homebound (HHB) instruction is designed to provide continuity of educational services between the classroom and home or health care facility for students in Vidalia City Schools whose medical needs, either physical and psychiatric, do not allow school attendance for a limited period of time. HHB instruction may be used to supplement the classroom program for students with health impairments whose conditions may interfere with regular school attendance (e.g., students receiving dialysis or radiation/chemotherapy; or students with other serious health conditions). Students must be enrolled in a Vidalia City School in order to receive HHB instruction. For additional information, contact the School Counselor at the local school for forms and information.

SECTION 504 RIGHTS AND PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS Notice of Rights of Students and Parents Under Section 504 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly referred to as "Section 504," is a nondiscrimination statute enacted by the United States Congress. The purpose of Section 504 is to prohibit discrimination and to assure that disabled students have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to non-disabled students. For more information regarding Section 504, or if you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Katrina Blount-Woodard, Director of Student Services at (912) 537-3088, Ext. 211.

GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM According to definition, a gifted student is one "who demonstrates a high degree of intellectual and/or creative abilities, or excels in specific academic fields and who needs special instruction and/or special ancillary services to achieve at levels commensurate with his/her abilities." Therefore, competencies in the areas of cognitive skills, learning skills, research and reference skills, communication skills and meta-cognitive skills are extended through gifted education programs beyond what is experienced in the regular classroom. The Vidalia City Schools' Gifted Education Program was developed under the standards and guidelines provided by the state of Georgia. For more information contact Katrina Black, Director of Student Services at (912) 537-3088, Ext. 2010 or kblack@vidalia-city.k12.ga.us

STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM (SST) / PYRAMID OF INTERVENTION (POI)

Referrals to SST can be made only after a student has been placed by the teacher(s) on Tier Two of the Pyramid of Interventions. All students in the school begin on Tier One of the POI, which is the regular classroom instruction. At-risk students, those experiencing academic or behavioral difficulties, may be referred to Tier Two of the POI, which includes activities specifically designed for those having difficulty. While on Tier Two, the student's teachers meet regularly whereby the student's progress on intensive interventions is monitored and documented. If the student's progress is minimal, the student may then be considered for an SST referral (Tier Three of the POI). Parents are informed if their child is referred to Tier Two of the POI and to SST. If referred to SST, the SST Committee, which is chaired by the school counselor, views the documented progress while on Tier Two. The SST Committee, of which the parent is an invited member, may then make recommendations as to future educational planning, which may include further evaluation for educational planning. Parental permission is requested before any further testing is begun. Testing is conducted under the supervision of the Director of Special Education.

A brief overview of the four levels/tiers of the Pyramid of Intervention is noted below:

Tier 4: Referral to Special Education

Tier 3: Referral to SST (Student Support Team)

Tier 2: Referral for Tier 2 Classroom/School Interventions for at-risk students

Tier 1: All students making satisfactory progress and not on Tiers 2, 3, 4 are considered on Tier 1

Vidalia City Schools

Vision/Hearing Screening for Response to Intervention (RTI)

A plan of intervention, referred to as RTI (Response to Intervention), is in place for students who are struggling academically or behaviorally. An explanation of the four Tiers is explained in the above section of this handbook. Prior to referral to Tier two or beyond, a Vision/Hearing Screening is required and can be conducted at the school. **Please note that parents are informed if their child is referred at Tier Two and beyond.** Please indicate your agreement for this screening on the signature permission page in this handbook and return to your child's school.

Descriptor Code: IFBGA

STAFF / TEACHER INFORMATION

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

In an effort to become more familiar with your child's teacher/paraprofessional, parents may request teacher and/or paraprofessional qualifications to include level of education and/or degree, college major and years of service. Requests can be made relative to those staff that instructs your child.

PARENT – TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Parents may request a conference with their child's teacher by writing a note to the teacher or calling the school to make an appointment. Teachers will contact parents to schedule a minimum of two parent-teacher conferences each year. Weekly or daily folders and behavior reports are sent home. Please sign these communications and have your child return it to the school.

PARENT – TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

The J. D. Dickerson Primary School PTO is an important part of the total school program. The PTO is an organized body of parents, teachers, and staff working together to provide a common bond that strengthens home and school. Various activities occur throughout the year which allows interaction among parents, students, staff, and the community. PTO provides many forms of enrichment for our students, staff, and school. Please make plans to become a part of this organization.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The J. D. Dickerson Primary School Council is a seven-member group whose purpose is to develop and have active participation toward the goal of student-focused school improvement. Membership is comprised of two parent representatives, two business representatives, two teachers, and the principal. The Council members serve for a two-year term. The Council serves as an advisory body on school matters such as calendar, curriculum, handbook, facility use, and other school activities. Any individual may request to address the Council at a scheduled quarterly meeting by securing and submitting a Public Participation Request Form by the Friday prior to the scheduled meeting.

2020-2021

Kindergarten Promotion/Retention Policy

Any Kindergarten student who has not yet not demonstrated 35 of the 43 elements on the English Language Arts portion of the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills will be considered a retention candidate.

Any Kindergarten student who has not yet demonstrated 19 of the 24 elements on the Mathematics portion of the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills will be considered a retention candidate.

Any Kindergarten student who accumulates 15 or more absences for the school year will be considered a retention candidate.

First Grade Promotion/Retention Policy

Any first grade student will be considered a retention candidate if they do not pass 3 of the 4 major subjects. The four major subjects are Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Two of the three subjects passed must be Language Arts and Math.

Any first grade student who accumulates 15 or more absences for the school year will be considered a candidate for retention.

Procedures for Retention Candidates

A Retention Committee will be formed and include the principal, parents, and teachers. This committee will meet to discuss each student's progress individually before a decision is made to promote or retain.

Individual Education Programs (IEPs) for disabled first grade students shall establish standards for promotion/retention.

For First Grade, all appeals regarding promotion/retention must be directed to the principal. If the parent or guardian requests an appeal, the principal shall notify the parent or guardian by mail or phone call of the time and place for convening the Retention Appeals Committee. The Retention Appeals Committee shall be comprised of the principal or designee, parent, and teachers. The decision by the Retention Appeals Committee to promote must be unanimous.

A Kindergarten Promotion Committee, composed of the student's teacher(s), the principal or his/her designee, and any other educator knowledgeable about the student's performance, will meet to make placement decisions on each retention candidate. This committee shall develop a plan to provide alternative, developmentally appropriate instruction to students who spend a second year in kindergarten. Documentation that supports an individual shall be on file in the student's permanent record. The information obtained by the GKIDS assessment shall be used as part of the required documentation. The student's parent/guardian shall be notified of the final placement decision. (State Board Rule: 160-3-1-.07)

For each retained student a plan will be developed that will include accelerated, differentiated, or additional instruction.

DISCIPLINE PHILOSOPHY AND PROCEDURES

We believe that all students should be respectful as well as respected. J. D. Dickerson Primary School exists to educate our youngest students. Part of that education is to learn certain expectations for acceptable behavior to insure that learning happens for **all** students. We use the basic premises set forth in the Assertive Discipline Program integrated with the expectations generated by the system-wide initiative PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions Support). We strive to create an environment that encourages intellectual and social growth of students and is consistent in its expectations of appropriate behavior for early childhood students. Those expectations include but are not limited to the following:

1. Communicate clear expectations of school behavior to students
2. Provide consequences for inappropriate behavior
3. Recognize students that consistently demonstrate appropriate behavior.

CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE PLANS

We have a school wide plan based on the Positive Behavior Support Intervention Program. Positive behavior support is an application of a behaviorally-based systems approach to enhance the capacity of schools, families, and communities to design effective environments that improve the link between research-validated practices and the environments in which teaching and learning occurs. This program is reflected in each classroom plan. All classrooms have a discipline plan based on and directly tied to the Positive Behavior Support Intervention Program. This makes the rules and consequences consistent from classroom to classroom. Since our students change classes for instruction, consistent rules and consequences in each classroom help students learn the rules and expectations easily. Conduct grades are tied to following the classroom and school rules.

DISCIPLINE REFFERALS

When discipline cases are referred to the administration, the system discipline code will be applied. Repeat violators may require more severe disciplinary measures. **All discipline referrals are subject to the discretion of the administrator.** Incidents not covered by the system code will be handled as follows:

1st Referral:

- A. Talk with and question the student about the problem.
- B. Contact the parent or guardian.

2nd Referral:

- A. Talk with and question the student about the problem.

- B. Contact the parent or guardian
- C. Recess Detention (one or more days)

3rd Referral:

- A. Talk with and question the student about the problem.
- B. Contact the parent
- C. One-half day of ISS

4 or more Referrals may result in more ISS or possibly OSS; parents will be contacted and notified of the consequence administered.

INTERROGATIONS (GA CODE 32-912)

The principal or his/her authorized representative possesses the authority to conduct reasonable interrogations of students in order to properly investigate student misconduct.

SEARCHES (GA CODE 32-912)

The District School System endeavors to provide a safe and secure environment for all students. The Board (VBOE) authorizes reasonable searches of students directed to that end by authorized school officials. Searches based on reasonable suspicion may proceed without hindrance or delay, but they shall be conducted in a manner which insures that students are not arbitrarily stripped of personal privacy.

The principal of each school, or his/her authorized representative, possesses the authority to conduct inspection of students' articles carried upon their persons. Such search shall be based on reasonable suspicion of the presence of deleterious items. Examples of deleterious items shall include, but are not limited to, secreted noisemakers, water guns, contraband drugs, a handgun or other dangerous weapons.

In the event a student's person or his/her personal possessions reveal the student is concealing material which is prohibited by federal, state or local law, enforcement authorities shall be notified so that they may take appropriate action.

DISCIPLINE REFERRALS THAT FALL UNDER THE VIDALIA CITY SCHOOLS CODE OF CONDUCT

Discipline referrals that fall under the Vidalia City Schools Code of Conduct may result in one of the following.

- A. Recess Detention (RD)
- B. Loss of special event privileges
- C. In-School Suspension (ISS)
- D. Out of School Suspension (OSS)

All discipline referrals are subject to the discretion of the administrator. When a child is sent to the office, all classroom options have been exhausted.

RECESS DETENTION

Recess detention may be assigned by the classroom teacher and administrators. Recess detention may be assigned for one or more days. Recess detention may be served in the classroom, on the playground with the teacher, or in the In School Suspension classroom. Parent contact will depend on the severity of the rule infraction.

LOSS OF SPECIAL EVENT PRIVILEGES

Repeated discipline referrals may result in the loss of special privileges. Parents will be notified prior to the event scheduled to be lost for the student.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)

J. D. Dickerson Primary School has an in-school suspension program that operates in accordance with state and local policies. The ISS program is a classroom which is supervised by in-school suspension personnel. Students may be assigned ISS from 1 to 10 days. In-school suspension is an alternative to out of school suspension. Failure to follow rules in ISS could result in the assignment of additional ISS days or out of school suspension. Contact with parents will be made when ISS is assigned as a consequence of rule infractions. Students will be required to complete classroom

assignments in the ISS classroom. If a student is given OSS while serving in ISS, when the student returns to school the student will serve the remainder of the assigned ISS days.

OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS)

Students may be assigned out of school suspension. Students may be assigned from 1 to 10 days of out of school suspension. Out of school suspension is a serious consequence. Parents will be contacted when OSS is assigned as a consequence.

Bullying

Any personnel who suspects that bullying is occurring or is made aware of an incident of bullying will immediately report to the school administration.

Upon a finding by a school administrator that a student has committed an act of bullying or is a victim of bullying, the administrator or designee shall notify the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of the student by telephone call or through written notice, which may be done electronically.

In grades K-5, each bullying incident shall be investigated by the administration and appropriate punishment provided based on the severity of the incident. Options may include but are not limited to counseling, extended ISS, web-based learning, home schooling, or any other educational placement deemed appropriate by the administration.

The consequences for acts of bullying will follow the VBOE policy and are at the discretion of the administration.

The Vidalia Board of Education Bullying Policy (**Descriptor Code JCDAG**) may be read in its entirety on the District website.

“20-2-751.7.(a) The Professional Standards Commission shall establish a state mandated process for students to follow in reporting instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student which shall not prohibit the ability of a student to report the incident to law enforcement authorities. Each local school system shall be required to implement and follow such state mandated process and shall include the mandated process in student handbooks and in employee handbooks or policies.

Student Reporting of Acts of Sexual Abuse or Sexual Misconduct

- (a) Any student (or parent of friend of a student) who has been the victim of an act of sexual misconduct by a teacher, administrator or other school system employee is urged to make an oral report of the act to any teacher, counselor or administrator at his/her school.
- (b) Any teacher, counselor or administrator receiving a report of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct of a student by a teacher, administrator or other employee shall make an oral report of the incident immediately by telephone or other wise to the school principal or principal’s designee, and shall submit a written report of the incident to the school principal or principal’s designee within 24 hours. *If the principal is the person accused of the sexual abuse or sexual misconduct, the oral and written reports should be made to the superintendent or the superintendent’s designee.*
- (c) Any school principal or principal’s designee receiving a report of sexual abuse as defined in O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 shall make an oral report immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused. The report should be made by telephone and followed by a written report in writing, if requested, to a child welfare agency providing protective services, as designated by the Department of Human Resources, or, in the absence of such agency, to an appropriate police authority or district attorney.

Reports of acts of sexual misconduct against a student by a teacher, administrator or other employee not covered by O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 or 20-2-1184 shall be investigated immediately by school or system personnel. If the investigation of

the allegation of sexual misconduct indicates a reasonable cause to believe that the report of sexual misconduct is valid, the school principal or principal’s designee shall make an immediate written report to the superintendent and the Professional Standards Commission Ethics Division.

**Vidalia City Schools
Code of Discipline
2019/20**

Rules 1-40 are State Law

For Descriptive details Rules 1-40, contact your school administrator.

- Rule 01** Alcohol
- Rule 02** Arson
- Rule 03** Battery
- Rule 04** Breaking & Entering – Burglary
- Rule 05** Computer Trespass
- Rule 06** Disorderly Conduct
- Rule 07** Drugs, Except Alcohol or Tobacco
- Rule 08** Fighting
- Rule 09** Homicide
- Rule 10** Kidnapping
- Rule 11** Larceny/Theft
- Rule 12** Motor Vehicle Theft
- Rule 13** Robbery
- Rule 14** Sexual Battery
- Rule 15** Sexual Harassment
- Rule 16** Sex Offenses
- Rule 17** Threat/Intimidation
- Rule 18** Tobacco and Electronic Cigarettes
- Rule 19** Trespassing
- Rule 20** Vandalism
- Rule 22** Weapons Possessions-Knife
- Rule 23** Weapons Possessions-Other
- Rule 24** Other Discipline Incident/or a State-Reported Discipline Action
- Rule 25** Weapons Possession-Handgun
- Rule 26** Weapons Possession-Rifle/Shotgun
- Rule 27** Serious Bodily Injury
- Rule 28** Weapons/Other Firearms
- Rule 29** Bullying
- Rule 30** Other-Attendance Related
- Rule 31** Dress Code
- Rule 32** Academic Dishonest
- Rule 33** Student Incivility
- Rule 34** Other-Possession of Unapproved Items
- Rule 35** Gangs
- Rule 36** Repeated Offenses
- Rule 40** Other Non-disciplinary Incidents

Rules 41– 55 are Vidalia City Schools’ local discipline code.

Rule 41 *Physical contacts*- such as pushing, shoving, tripping or other behavior that does not result in threats, intimidation, or fight.

- Consequence:** Parent contact with each offense.
 - 1st Offense: Recess Detention
 - 2nd Offense: 1/2 day ISS
 - 3rd Offense: 1 day ISS

4th Offense: 2 days ISS
5th Offense: 1days OSS

Rule 42 *Extortion or Attempt to Extort* - Students shall not extort or attempt to extort property from other students or school employees. Extortion is defined as obtaining property from another student, teacher, or employee) by force or threat of force.

Consequence: Restitution where appropriate.
Parent contact with each offense.
1st Offense: Recess Detention
2nd Offense: 1/2 day ISS
3rd Offense: 1 day ISS
4th Offense: 2 days ISS
5th Offense: 1days OSS

Rule 43 *Gambling*- Students will not gamble on school property or while attending an activity under school supervision. **Gambling includes playing cards, betting, matching, etc., for money, property, or recreational purposes. No cards of any kind are permitted on school grounds.**

Consequence: DOES NOT APPLY TO JDDP STUDENTS

Rule 44 *Classroom Disturbances*- Students shall not engage in actions which disturb the flow of teaching activities in a classroom.

Consequence: Parent contact with each offense.
1st Offense: Recess Detention
2nd Offense: 1/2 day ISS
3rd Offense: 1 day ISS
4th Offense: 2 days ISS
5th Offense: 1days OSS

Rule 45 *Vulgar Language*- No student shall use profane, vulgar or obscene words, gestures or actions directed toward faculty or staff members, students, or used non-directly at school events or functions.

Consequence: Parent contact with each offense.
1st Offense: Recess Detention
2nd Offense: 1/2 day ISS
3rd Offense: 1 day ISS
4th Offense: 2 days ISS
5th Offense: 1days OSS

Rule 46 *Public Display of Affection or Inappropriate Touching*. Students shall not engage in inappropriate physical display of affection or touching on school property or at school activities. This includes, but is not limited to kissing.

Consequence: Parent contact with each offense.
1st Offense: Recess Detention
2nd Offense: 1/2 day ISS
3rd Offense: 1 day ISS
4th Offense: 2 days ISS
5th Offense: 1days OSS

Rule 47 *Hall Passes/Restricted Areas*. A student must have a hall pass whenever he leaves a class during the class period. There are no exceptions to this rule. Students are not allowed to visit other students during class hours. **Students are not allowed in restricted areas deemed by administration.**

Consequence: Parent contact with each offense.
1st Offense: Recess Detention
2nd Offense: 1/2 day ISS
3rd Offense: 1 day ISS
4th Offense: 2 days ISS
5th Offense: 1days OSS

Rule 48 *Foods & Drinks-* No student shall have food or drinks in the halls, classrooms or restrooms unless approved by a teacher. No food or drinks served by the cafeteria hall shall be taken from the lunchroom. **ACCEL will adhere to the same policies as full-time students (VHS ONLY).**

Consequence: Parent contact with each offense.
1st Offense: Recess Detention
2nd Offense: 1/2 day ISS
3rd Offense: 1 day ISS
4th Offense: 2 days ISS
5th Offense: 1days OSS

Rule 49 *Improper Use of Motor Vehicle-* Driving too fast for conditions, reckless driving, and improper parking will not be permitted. Georgia Rules of the Road will be adhered to while operating a vehicle on campus or at any school function. (

Consequence: DOES NOT APPLY TO JDDP STUDENTS

Rule 50 *Lunchroom Conduct-*

- A. Lunches purchased at school will be eaten in the school lunchroom or designated outdoor areas.
- B. Inappropriate behavior in the lunchroom will not be tolerated. (Loudness, breaking in line, horseplay, etc.)
- C. Loud talking and loud laughing in the lunchroom will not be tolerated.
- D. Food scattered on table and floor.

Consequence: Parent contact when ISS is assigned.
1st Offense: Silent Lunch
2nd Offense: Recess Detention
3rd Offense: ½ day ISS
4th Offense: 1 day ISS
5th Offense: 1-2 days ISS

Rule 51 *Refusal to Report-* No student shall fail to carry out assigned consequences for misconduct or fail to report to teachers or administrators for disciplinary actions. This includes failure to attend after-school detention.

Consequence: DOES NOT APPLY TO JDDP STUDENTS

Rule 52 *Violations of Terms of Probation-* If a student breaks the terms of probation upon returning to school after required punishment had been met, he/she will be returned to the original punishment given for the remainder of the school year.

Consequence: Return to the original punishment given for the remainder of the school year. **DOES NOT APPLY TO JDDP STUDENTS**

Rule 53 *Bus Conduct Referral-* Code of conduct outlined in School Bus Conduct section must be followed and is based on the severity of the offense.

Consequence: 1st Offense: Warning (given to student)
2nd Offense: Warning(given to student/parents talk with transportation manager)
3rd Offense: Bus Suspension for 3school days
4th Offense: Bus Suspension for 5 school days
5th Offense: Bus Suspension 10 school days
6th Offense: Bus Suspension 20 school days
7th Offense: Bus Suspension for remainder of the school year.

Rule 54 *Fire Alarm-Activating a Fire Alarm Under False Pretense-* No student shall activate a fire alarm under false pretense.

Consequence: 1st Offense: ½ day ISS and Parent contact
2nd Offense: 1 day ISS and Parent contact
3rd Offense: 1 day OSS

Rule 55 *Verbally abusing students-* without intent to do bodily harm.

- Consequence:** Parent contact with each offense.
 1st Offense: Recess Detention
 2nd Offense: 1hr. Time-out
 3rd Offense: 1/2 day ISS
 4th Offense: 1 day ISS
 5th Offense: 1day ISS
 6th Offense: may result in a day of OSS

VIDALIA CITY SCHOOLS BUS EXPECTATIONS

	BE RESPONSIBLE	BE RESPECTFUL	BE SAFE
At the Bus Stop/Bus Loading Area	*Arrive 5 minutes before designated pick-up time. *Bring your belongings with you.	*Respect others' feelings, space and belongings.	*Stay a safe distance from the street. *Wait until the bus stops before approaching bus.
Boarding the Bus	*Board in a single file line. *Go to your assigned seat...boys on the right, girls on the left; driver may assign seats.	*Line up calmly and quietly. *Respect others' feelings, space and belongings.	*Wait for driver's signal before boarding the bus.
On the Bus	*Stay in your assigned seat. *Keep the bus clean...eating and/or drinking is not allowed on bus. *Leave the bus in the same or better condition than you found it.	*Follow the bus driver's directions. *Use an indoor voice when talking is permitted. Use respectful language. *Respect others' feelings, space and belongings.	*Stay seated and face forward at all times. *Keep hands, feet and head inside the bus at all times. *Keep aisle and emergency exits clear of obstructions. *Keep all items inside your book bag. *Stay seated until bus stops
Leaving the Bus	*Take all belongings. *Exit in a single file line. *Go directly to assigned location.	*Exit the bus calmly and quietly. *Respect others when leaving the bus.	*Cross the street 12 feet in FRONT of the bus. *Exit the bus at your assigned stop, then go directly home..

VIDALIA CITY SCHOOLS BUS CONDUCT CONSEQUENCES

- 1st Referral- **Warning** given to student by bus driver to take home to parent.
 2nd Referral- **Warning/Meeting** with Transportation Director
 3rd Referral- Bus Suspension for **3 Days**
 4th Referral- Bus Suspension for **5 Days**
 5th Referral- Bus Suspension for **10 Days**
 6th Referral- Bus Suspension for **20 Days**
 7th Referral- Bus Suspension for **40 Days**
 8th Referral-Bus Suspension for the **Remainder of the school Year.**

The following actions at the bus loading/unloading areas and on the bus will result in suspension based on where they are in the referral process.

- Students who refuse to provide their correct name and address.
- Students caught throwing objects off/on the bus.
- Fighting on the bus or at the bus loading areas.

Student abusing (verbally/physically) the driver will result in immediate bus suspension for the remainder of year and based on the severity of the actions, may lose all future riding privileges.

Bus Referrals will be suspended during standardized testing. Consequences for those referrals will be assigned following testing.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS & FY18 PRELIMINARY ALLOCATIONS

<http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/default.aspx>

Title I, Part A: Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged

Title I is a part of the new ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) that came into effect July 1, 2017. It provides federal funds through the Georgia Department of Education to local educational agencies (LEAs) and public schools with a certain percentage of children of poverty to ensure all children have the means to meet rigor in State academic content and student academic achievement standards.

Title I, Part A: Family & Community Engagement Program

This program ensures the six structures of Family & Community engagement (Welcoming All, Communicating Effectively, Supporting Student Success, Empowering Families, Sharing Leadership and Collaborating with the Community) are in place to develop quality links between school professionals and the parents and community we serve.

Title I, Part A: Foster Care Program

The Foster Care Program focuses on school access, improved educational outcomes, and enhanced academic stability for children and youth in foster care. The provisions derived from the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) establish guidelines for recognizing and addressing the unique needs of foster care children and youth. The Foster Care Program has the responsibility of working closely with local child welfare agencies and local educational agencies to identify children and youth in foster care and to ensure the successful implementation of ESSA provisions.

Title I, Part C: Education of Migratory Children

The Migrant Education Program (MEP) is a federally funded program designed to support comprehensive educational programs for migrant children to help reduce the educational disruption and other problems that result from repeated moves. Vidalia City Schools is part of a consortium.

Title I, Part D: Program for Neglected or Delinquent Children

The purpose of Title I, Part D is to improve educational services for children and youth in local and State institutions for neglected or delinquent children and youth to insure these children have the same opportunities to be successful in meeting the state academic achievement as all other students.

Title II, Part A: Supporting Effective Instruction

The purpose of this program is to provide technical assistance, resources, and program monitoring to local education agencies in support of the United States Department of Education's Title II, Part A Supporting Effective Instruction Grant's purpose of increasing academic achievement by improving the effectiveness of teachers, principals and other school leaders.

Title III, Part A : Elementary and Secondary Education Act

Title III is part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. It awards eligible Local Education Agencies with funding to provide language instruction educational programs to English Learners (ELs). School districts with large English Learner populations receive direct Title III allocations, while school districts with lower incidence populations are grouped into the "Georgia Title III Consortium". The Title III Consortium allows these "low-incidence" districts to participate in Title III activities similar to districts with large numbers of ELs. Upon attainment of English language proficiency, as measured by the "ACCESS for ELLs 2.0" assessment, EL students exit from language support services.

Title IV, Part A: Student Support & Academic Achievement

Authorized in December 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) introduced a new block formula grant under Title IV, Part A with a wide range of allowable uses. Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grants are intended to improve students' academic achievement by increasing the capacity of States, LEAs, schools, and local communities to provide all students with access to a well-rounded education, improve school conditions for student learning, and improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students.

Title IV, Part B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers)

The purpose of this after school program is to establish or expand community learning centers that operate during out-of-school hours and meet three goals: Provide academic enrichment, offer other services to enrich the regular academic program; and provide parents of the 21st CCLC students' opportunities for literacy and related educational development.

Title V, Part B: Rural Education Initiative

The Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) is designed to assist rural school districts in using federal resources effectively to improve the quality of instruction and student academic achievement.

Title IX, Part A: McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children/Youth

The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth program is designed to address the problems that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. Under this program, State educational agencies must

ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youth.

Wellness Policy

The wellness policy requirement was established by the Child Nutrition and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program act and has been strengthened by the Healthy, Hungry-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA). It requires each LEA participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program to develop a wellness policy for students and staff within its district.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

PARENTS TO LUNCH

Once a year parents will be invited to join their child for school lunch. You will be notified by your child’s teacher of the date. The students enjoy having their parents visit with them during lunch on this day. The cost of the meal is **\$3.50** and should be paid in advance.

FIELD DAY

Field Day is scheduled during the spring of each year. It is a day set aside for fun and outside games. Parents and community members are invited to come view the games. Everyone is a winner! Field Day is a privilege and students who repeatedly display inappropriate conduct at school may be eliminated from participating **at any point** during the year.

FIELD TRIPS / SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Occasionally instructional field trips are planned. Also special programs are brought to our school, usually provided by the PTO. These occasions are also special privileges and may be denied for students who repeatedly display inappropriate conduct at school.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION SUPPORT (PBIS) CELEBRATIONS

Each nine weeks students are eligible to receive some form of reward for their continued efforts with good behavior, by earning a set number of points per semester. The points may vary from year to year in accordance with the number of days in the grading period. Students will be informed of the point amount at the beginning of each semester grading period. These occasions are also special privileges and may be denied for students who repeatedly display inappropriate conduct at school. Also, a student must be present in class at school in order to receive his/her point for any given day.

PLANNED SCHOOL EVENTS POLICY

Planned events for J. D. Dickerson Primary School are for Dickerson’s students only. Students from other schools within this system are not permitted to attend. It is school policy that when school is in session for the system, all Vidalia City School System students are to be in attendance at their schools. A student may not be eligible to attend any planned school event if he/she has repeatedly displayed inappropriate behavior in class or has earned three or more office referrals per semester. For each referral earned after three, it could result in the loss of another planned event.

Vidalia City Schools
State of Georgia
County of Toombs

FIELD TRIP AGREEMENT

As the parent or legal guardian, I give my permission for the school system to transport my child on any approved field during this school term. I understand that I will be informed of dates and locations as field trips are scheduled.

The undersigned agrees on behalf of said minor and individually to release, indemnify and hold the Vidalia School Board harmless from any and all claims for damages or injury to said minor child and to said minor child's property occurring during said trip other than injuries caused by gross negligence on the part of the School Board or its agents.

Further, the undersigned hereby authorizes the school officials in charge of said trip to procure any medical treatment reasonably necessary for the welfare of said child during said trip. Said medical treatment shall include, but not be limited to emergency care, hospitalization and doctor's care.

If you agree with the above statement please sign and return the signature permission page in your registration packet.

Vidalia City Schools

Photo/Project Permission Release

J.D. Dickerson Primary School is including projects, photos of students, teachers, and school activities on its website. Occasionally, it might be necessary to use first and last names of students, but no addresses, and/or telephone numbers will ever be used.

We/I hereby give permission for **J.D. Dickerson Primary School** to use projects/photos along with first and last names on the School website and other electronic forms of communication. This will also give Vidalia City Schools' Staff permission to use my child's projects/photos at conferences, workshops and other educational functions.

If you agree with the above statement please sign and return the signature permission page in your registration packet.

Request for Additional Copies by Parents

Copy Fees: Any request for copies of documents that government entities can provide (ex. Birth certificate, social security card, immunization records, etc.) will incur a fee of \$2.00 per document, or notarizing of document. (BOE approved 4/2014)

Responsible Use of Electronic Media for Students

Vidalia City Schools (VCS) recognizes that the use of technology is prevalent in society. Students and staff have access to the Internet, cell phones, games, and a variety of personal technology devices. Students and staff utilize social media websites and applications as well as a variety of other digital resources that allow them to interact, share, create and innovate. Staff members utilize these same resources as a means to effectively engage students, motivate student learning, and collaborate with colleagues. When using VCS technology or network access, students are expected to follow the Student Conduct Behavior Code, including respecting others' privacy. Online student accounts to be used for legitimate educational purposes will be subject to monitoring and review, including review of text and attachments that are related to that student or students. At NO TIME should a student consider VCS email (K-12), networked applications, or account or technology access private or confidential in any way.

While the school district does maintain Internet filters, there may be times when a student may accidentally or purposefully discover inappropriate materials online. VCS DOES NOT CONDONE use of such materials. Inappropriate use of VCS technology or network access is a violation of the Student Conduct Behavior Code.

Access is a privilege, not a right, and all students are expected to treat this learning tool with respect. VCS technology, network access, and electronic resources must not be used to:

- Harm other people.

- Interfere with other people’s work.
- Steal property.
- Gain unauthorized access to other people’s files or programs.
- Gain unauthorized access to online resources, including using someone else’s password.
- Make changes to the hardware or software configuration of any machine, including installing or deleting any software.
- Improperly use the network, including introducing software viruses and/or bypassing local school or office security policies.
- Steal or damage data and/or computers and network equipment.
- Access, upload, download, and/or distribute pornographic, hate oriented, profane, obscene, or sexually explicit material.

Failure to follow these guidelines can violate the Official Code of Georgia, O.C.G.A., Codes 16-9-90, 16-9-91, 16-9-93, and 16-9-93.1 as well as Title XVII of United States Public Law 106-554, known as the Children’s Internet Protection Act. Such use can also lead to disciplinary actions, up to and including loss of access to VCS technology resources and further disciplinary actions as defined by existing VCS policies. Such disciplinary actions may include confiscation of technology being used inappropriately if an incident occurs.

Supplemental Technology and Student Email

VCS provides access to Google G Suite for Education and Microsoft Office 365 and other Online Web services including but not limited to Zoom as supplemental resources to the VCS adopted Learning Management System for local schools to use if they wish. VCS will allow the use and issue student email (Google Gmail) accounts to students for use internal to VCS only. Students can access the email from any device via the Student Portal.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Vidalia City Schools is a “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) district in grades 9-12. This program is designed to support teaching and learning through safe, efficient, and monitored wireless access. If your child’s school or class is participating in BYOD, then students are allowed to bring mobile devices with the expectation they will be used as a supplemental instructional resource. The BYOD access may be limited based on the school’s identification of instructional need. To participate in the use of BYOD resources, all users must agree to use the school network when available, and not personal mobile data service providers, on their devices. Using the school network ensures a filtered, appropriate solution that is optimized for BYOD use. VCS is not responsible for any damages, fees, lost functionality, support, or costs that may be the result of students or staff members participating in BYOD. This is a voluntary program, and students will not be penalized if they do not participate. Whether the device is owned by a parent, student, staff member, or school, the user of the device is responsible for protecting the device at school, on the bus, or at school functions.

Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)

COPPA applies to operators of commercial websites and online services and limits their ability to collect personal information from children under the age of 13. COPPA allows the school to act as the parent’s agent and consent to the collection of a student’s information on the parent’s behalf within the educational context— where an operator collects personal information from students for the use and benefit of the school, and for no other commercial purpose. By signing the response form, parents grant consent for Vidalia City Schools, and Vidalia City Schools’ employees, to act as the parent’s agent in providing consent for the collection of student information within the educational context.

See Form on Next Page

Responsible Use of Electronic Media for Students
Form (Required)- Please sign and return to the teacher

Student:

I have received a copy of the Vidalia City Schools information regarding responsible use of electronic media for instructional purposes whether in class or as a virtual student. I understand that all Annual Notices to parents, including Parents Right to Know, FERPA, and COPPA are located in the student handbook that can be found on each school's website. I understand my rights and responsibilities as student enrolled in the Vidalia City School System and consent to the terms found within the handbook.

Student Name

School

Date

Parent:

I understand the handbook is located on the school website that my child attends. I have reviewed the contents of the handbook with my child and consent to the terms regarding responsible use of electronic media for instructional purposes whether in class or as a virtual student. I understand that all Annual Notices to parents, including Parents Right to Know, FERPA, and COPPA are located in the student handbook.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date