

Student Handbook

2019-2020

Miller County Elementary School
Home of the Little Pirates
Parent-Student Handbook

996 Phillipsburg Road ~Colquitt, GA 39837
School phone - 758-4140 ~ School fax - 758-3244

Accredited by:
AdvancED: formally Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Georgia Accrediting Commission, Inc.

The faculty, staff and administrators at Miller County Elementary School welcome students and families to the 2019-2020 school year. We are dedicated to providing the best possible education for our students. For this to be possible, it will require effort and cooperation from students, parents, teachers, support staff, and administration. We encourage families to take an active part in their child's education by helping with homework nightly and encouraging them to have a positive attitude about learning. We hope you will attend parent functions planned during the year and request conferences with your child's teachers any time you have a concern. We look forward to an exciting and rewarding school year.

Mission Statement: The Miller County Pirates exist to produce successful students that are prepared for career, life, post-secondary education, and to be responsible citizens.

Vision Statement: Miller County Pirates uphold the highest ethical standards and moral values and believe they can achieve excellence in their school community.

MCES Motto

Be a STAR student Show respect Treat others with kindness Always be safe Reach for the Stars

Student's Name:

Principal - Dr. Elizabeth G. Crawford Assistant Principal - Temika Brown

Miller County Elementary School 2019-2020 Faculty & Staff

Position Last First
Custodian Baker Shirley
Media Specialist Benefield Sarah
Pre K Bowen Debi
3rd Grade Brown April
Asst. Principal Brown Temika
Para Professional Brunson Michelle
ISS/Copying Bryant Carrie
Kindergarten Burke Jolene
Paraprofessional Callan Elisha
MCES Counselor Clenney Jana
Special Education Director Collins Jodi
Special Education Para Cook Joyce
Custodian Cooper Darius
Instructional Coach Cratic LaTonya
Principal Crawford Elizabeth
Registrar Cunningham Terri
1st Grade Dean Kydie
Paraprofessional Dennis Michele
Art/ESOL DePriest Kittie
2nd Grade Donley Wendi
Secretary Edwards Pam
Special Education Givens Andrea
Para Professional Godfrey Kristin
Special Education Godfrey Donna
Kindergarten Grant Janell
Federal Programs Director Green Robert
Paraprofessional Hayes Markeshia
Special Education Hathorn Chelsea
Maintenance Henry Bruce
Paraprofessional Hollinger Fanchon
Paraprofessional Houston Melody
4th Grade Jackson Dawn
Special Education Kirkland Nicole
Lunchroom Manager Leonard Krystal
Curriculum Director Lovering Gail
Maintenance Maloy John
Paraprofessional Massey Penny
Transportation Director Martin Allen
5th Grade Martin Wendy
Pre K Means Barbara
PE Middleton Misti
4th Grade Miller Jara
1st Grade Moates Kaley
2nd Grade Newsome Dana
Special Education Para Parker Mandy

3rd Grade Pearce Elizabeth
Superintendent Miller Shane
Pre K Rathel Debbie
Custodian Richardson Anthony

2nd Grade Roland Angie
3rd Grade Roland Mandy
5th Grade Sexton Jessica
4th Grade Smith Glenda
Para Professional Smith Katilyn
Kindergarten Smith Kristy
Special Education Para Stoker Kay
Music Thomas Holly
School Resource Officer Wade Lonnie
5th Grade Warren Selena
Pre K Whitley Melissa
1st Grade Worsley Alisan
Nurse Siefker Michelle
Special Education Para Worsley Roxanne
Pre K Yates Cyndi

To set up a conference with the MCES Principal:

Call Ms. Pam Edwards 229-758-4140

Email Dr. Elizabeth Crawford

ecrawford@miller.k12.ga.us

Please understand that phone calls and emails will be returned after school on most days.

Conferences will be scheduled after school also. Dr. Elizabeth likes to be out and about in the building supervising students, teachers, and staff. Thank you for understanding.

New Teacher Orientation

Friday, August 2

Pre-Planning

Fri. - Wed. August 2-7

1st Day of School

Thurs. August 8

Labor Day Holiday

Mon. September 2

Midterm Reports

Tues. September 10

1st 9 Weeks Ends (Early Release for students)

Fri. October 11

Columbus Day / Fall Break

Mon. October 14
2nd 9 Weeks Begins
Tues. October 15
Report Cards
Mon. October 21
Midterm Grades
Wed. November 13
Thanksgiving Break
Mon. - Fri. Nov. 25 - 29
2nd 9 Weeks Ends (Early Release)
Thurs. Dec. 19
Winter Break
Fri. - Fri. December 20 -January 3
In-service Day
Mon. January 6
3rd 9 Weeks (Students Return)
Tues. January 7
Report Cards
Tues. January 14
MLK Day
Mon. January 20
Midterm Reports
Mon. February 10
President's Day
Mon. February 17
3rd 9 Weeks Ends
Fri. March 13
4th 9 Weeks Begins
Mon. March 16
Report Cards
Mon. March 23
Spring Break
Mon - Fri. April 6-10
Midterm Reports
Tues. April 21
May Holiday (for Students) In-service for Teachers
Fri. May 1
Last Day of School (Half Day Staff and Students)
Fri. May 22
Graduation
Fri. May 22
Post Planning
Tues. - Fri. May 26-29
Report Card Pick UP MCES/MCMS-MCHS
Fri. May 29 (9-12 only)
2019-2020 Miller County School Calendar

Student Hours:

7:20 - Students arrive, Breakfast is served
7:20 - 7:45 Students remain in the cafeteria
7:50 - Students are released to the classrooms
7:50 - Breakfast ends
7:55 - Pledge/ Moment of Silence/Announcements
7:55 Tardy Bell Rings
8:00 - Instruction begins
3:15 - Students Released

ABC's of Success in School

A is for Attendance. Students are expected to attend school. Students are to arrive for school on time.

B is for Behavior. Students are expected to behave appropriately at all times. This includes following all rules, policies, and expectations set forth by the faculty and staff of Miller County Elementary School.

C is for Class work. Students are here to learn and to work. All class work (and homework) is to be completed as expected by your teachers.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

MCES doors open each day at 7:20. Students should not be unloaded by car or by bus before that time. Breakfast is served starting at 7:20 a.m. Students wishing to eat breakfast should go immediately to the lunchroom after arriving at school for breakfast. Students not eating breakfast should also go to the lunchroom. When students finish eating breakfast, they should wait in the cafeteria until the 7:50 and are released to class. Students not inside the building at 7:55 are counted as tardy for the day.

CHANGING THE WAY STUDENTS GO HOME

Students feel safe and confident when they go home the same way every day. If it becomes NECESSARY to change the way your child goes home or for your child to ride a different bus, you must send a written note with a parent signature, including instructions on how to go home. In emergency situations only, a written fax may be sent to 229-758-3244 or emailed to Ms. Pam Edwards at pedwards@miller.k12.ga.us before 1:45 p.m.

EARLY CHECK OUT

When possible, medical and dental appointments should be made outside school hours. Students are responsible for classes they miss. A student will be released only to the parent unless the parent notifies the secretary that he/she has granted permission for someone else to pick up his/her child. All students will be checked out at the front desk. Your child will be called to come to the front desk. Parents will sign the student out at the front desk and will wait for the student in the front lobby. It is not acceptable for a parent to wait outside the classroom door for his/her student. Teachers will not dismiss a student unless they are notified by the front office. At the

school system's discretion, students establishing a pattern of early checkouts may be referred to the Principal.

LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS

Students are required to stay on the school grounds at all times during school hours. Any student that leaves our campus without being signed out and picked up by a parent will be subject to disciplinary action. Law enforcement may be contacted as a necessary step should this occur.

MESSAGES FOR TEACHERS

All messages for teachers should be sent by email or through the school secretary. Messages are checked by the teachers at least once a day. Teachers will return phone or email messages during their planning time, or after 3:15. Parents are asked not to contact teachers about school/student concerns through Facebook or other forms of social media. Please do not leave any bus or car pickup changes on a teacher's email as she may not get those types of messages by the end of day. ALL SUCH CHANGES MUST GO THROUGH THE OFFICE.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Each morning students will participate in a brief period of quiet reflection for not more than 60 seconds as required by Georgia law (O.C.G.A.20-2-1050) followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS

Visitors are welcome at Miller County Elementary School. All visitors are required to check in at the office upon entering the school building. House Bill 161 requires that immediately upon entering the campus, "any person who is not a student at such school, an employee of the school or school system, a school board member, an approved volunteer following the established guidelines of the school or a person who has been invited to or otherwise authorized to be at the school by a principal, teacher, counselor, or other authorized employee of the school shall check-in at the designated location as stated on posted signs and provide a reason for his or her presence at the school immediately upon entering the campus."

Once you have signed in on the visitor's log In the front office, the office staff will issue a visitor's badge. For the safety of our students, we request that visitors wear the badge while they are in the building. This assures us that visitors checked in with our office staff. We respectfully request appropriate supervision of small children visiting the building to prevent disruption in the instruction of our students. Parents are urged to visit the school for conferences and planned activities.

Note

Visitors entering the school complex should be dressed for an environment conducive to learning. Visitors will not be allowed to enter the building if wearing inappropriate clothing (this includes bedroom clothing and clothing with inappropriate pictures and or words).

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

A note should be sent to the office several days before a student withdrawals. The note should state the child's last day in school, new address, and new school the child will be attending. This note will allow the office time to prepare all forms so your child's records can be sent to the proper place. Please make sure all textbooks and library books are returned to school before your child withdraws as this process cannot be completed until all books and charges are cleared. Your child will take a copy of withdrawal papers to his/her new school. All records will be forwarded upon notification of enrollment from the new school.

TELEPHONE

Use of the office phones will be restricted to emergency situations. Students and parents should plan ahead to avoid phone messages being delivered during the school day. Due to time constraints for locating students, messages for students must be made by no later than 1:45 p.m. each day. Messages called in after 1:45 p.m. cannot be delivered unless it is an emergency.

OUT OF COUNTY STUDENTS

It is the policy of the Miller County Board of Education to accept out of county students if they meet the criteria. There are academic and behavior standards students must meet and maintain while they attend Miller County Schools. Any out of county students who fail to pass 4 of the 6 classes in high school or qualify to be retained while attending the Miller County School System may be asked to return to the school that serves their county. Students who are referred to the office more than 6 times in a year, fight, or cause disruptions in the daily flow of school will also be required to return to their service area school. Due to attendance problems, students who reach 14 excused or unexcused absences during the full year or accumulate 7 tardies to school in a semester will be withdrawn. The principal has the authority to require the student to return to their service area school at any time they become a discipline problem. No out of county students will be accepted if problems with discipline, attendance, or any other good and sufficient reasons. The following guidelines will be followed:

This does not apply to students who are currently enrolled as long as they are continuous in their enrollment. If there is a break in enrollment, then they will be treated as a first time enrollee.

This does apply to siblings that are to be enrolled for the first time.

This does not apply to the children of employees.

This does not apply to children living with a relative or guardian in Miller County.

TOYS AT SCHOOL

In order to prevent distractions during the instructional day, it is necessary for students to leave all objects that interfere with instruction (i.e. toys, games, baseball cards, magazines, etc.) at home unless a teacher requests that a student bring a specific item for a specific occasion.

Parents will be notified when these special occasions may occur.

STUDENT IMAGES on SOCIAL MEDIA and WEBSITE

The district reserves the right to publish images of students related to school activities on the district & school website, in newsletters, Facebook@millercountyschools or other applicable media. Images are pre-approved by Principal or media webmaster prior to publication. Parents and guardians reserve the right to opt-out of having their student's image released for publication by contacting the school and completing an opt-out form.

CELLPHONES

MCES strongly recommends that all cellphones be left at home, however, MCES understands the need for some students to have cellphones for communication purposes after school hours. However, instructional time is very important. Cellphones are not to be on during school hours (7:30am to 3:30pm) and are not permitted on the bus. Cellphones should be turned off at all times at school and kept in a student's book bag. MCES is not responsible for lost or stolen cellphones. Cellphones that are out during the school day will be taken up and the parent will be called to come pickup the cellphone from school.

SNACK STORE

MCES will again have the Pirate's Pantry. The Pirate's Pantry will offer for purchase composition books, pencils, notebook paper, and erasers only. These supplies are intended to help students out in a pinch. Composition books: \$1.00; Pencils: \$0.25; Notebook Paper: \$1.50 - \$2.00; Large Pink Erasers: \$0.75. Prices are subject to change.

The Pirate's Pantry will also offer healthy snacks that may be purchased before recess each day.

PETS

For the safety of our students and faculty, no pets are allowed on campus or in the building.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Clearly mark any personal property (book bags, purses, coats, etc.) so that lost items can be returned.

LUNCH AND BREAKFAST

To encourage good nutrition, breakfast and lunch are offered daily. **ALL STUDENTS AT MCES WILL RECEIVE FREE BREAKFAST and LUNCH MEALS.** The food service program is a self-sufficient program that will operate from CEP, (Community Eligibility Provision) monies. Funds are received through payments for meals and reimbursements from this federal program. Thus, MCES students will not complete free and reduced lunch forms. Breakfast is available daily between 7:20 to 7:55 a.m. Students dropped off at school must be at the lunchroom by 7:45 in order to eat breakfast. Students arriving later will not be offered breakfast except when arriving on a late bus.

Monthly menus are sent home each month and weekly menus are printed in the Miller County Liberal.

Each Year a signed note from a medical doctor, indicating food allergies, is required. Please turn into the school nurse, Mrs. Michelle, so that appropriate substitutions can be made.

Please note that sodas (canned or bottled) are not allowed in the lunchroom for lunch. Please note that food from outside of the lunchroom can not be brought into the lunchroom unless it is in a lunchbox or brown paper bag.

LUNCHROOM CONDUCT

Good table manners are a MUST and students are expected to demonstrate acceptable behavior during meals. This includes being respectful to adults in the lunchroom.

Please discuss the lunchroom rules listed below with your child.

Loud talking, Throwing food, Passing food, Running, Hitting, Pushing, and Playful Behavior will not be tolerated.

COUNSELING SERVICES

The purpose of the guidance program at Miller County Elementary School is to help each individual student achieve his/her highest growth mentally, emotionally, and socially. The counselor welcomes the opportunity to meet with students to help resolve their problems and concerns. Students may be referred to the counselor in any of the following ways
Self-referral - any student who wishes to meet with the counselor to discuss a social, academic, or other concern may do so by placing a request in the counselor's box or by having a teacher/staff member send an email on the student's behavior to request a meeting. The student may write a note to the counselor, or the student may come by the counselor's office to make an appointment.

Teacher referral - a teacher may refer a student for counseling by placing a "Referral for Counseling/ Evaluation" in the counselor's box, send an email stating the problem/concern or request for counseling, or the teacher may meet with the counselor to discuss a problem which he/she has encountered with the student in order to make a referral.

Parent referral - a parent may request that the counselor meet with his/her child to help with a concern. The parent may email or call the counselor to request this service.

The counselor works with students on an individual basis, in small groups with students who have a common concern or need, and in classroom guidance activities, which have been developed to meet assessed needs.

CLINIC SERVICES AND MEDICATIONS

Children who become ill at school will be cared for by the school nurse. Simple first aid procedures will be administered when warranted. Emergencies will be handled appropriately,

and parents will be promptly notified. No internal medicines such as Pepto-Bismol or Tylenol shall be given without prior parent approval. Authorization to administer Pepto-Bismol or Tylenol shall be given to school personnel by signing the appropriate authorization notice sent home at the beginning of the year. Children with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher will need to be picked up immediately. Children with contagious conditions may not return to school without medical certification from a doctor or the health department.

MEDICATION

If it is necessary for a student to take any form of medication at school, a signed note from the parent or legal guardian is required before medicine will be given. Long term daily medication will need a form filled out and kept on file. This form may be obtained from the school nurse. All medicine should be in the original prescription bottle, with name of patient, name of physician prescribing and the name of the pharmacy filling such prescription. (Code JGCD) The nurse has the right to refuse to give any medication that is questionable or expired. We encourage you to give medication at home whenever possible.

When sending temporary medication, please send only what needs to be given during school hours (example: five days of antibiotics, send five pills). Over the counter medications for K thru 5th grade students can only be given with a written note from the parent. These medications are not provided at school and will need to be sent or brought to school by a parent or legal guardian. Any unused medicine must be picked up at the end of the school year or it will be discarded.

Asthma Medication: SB 472 authorizes a student's self-administration at school of asthma medication, thus relieving the school district and its employees of any liability in connection with self-administration. In order for a student to keep an asthma inhaler in his/her possession, the following must occur: (1) Written permission from a parent or legal guardian; (2) written physician's statement detailing the name and purpose of the medication, prescribed dosage, and time(s) or special circumstances for administration of the medication; and (3) written authorization from the parent/legal guardian for the school to seek emergency medical treatment for the student when necessary and appropriate. The parents must notify the school nurse if their child will have an asthma inhaler or an epi pen at school.

BOARD POLICY: Description Code: JGCD Medication

All medications other than the exceptions listed in this policy, whether prescription or over-the-counter, may be administered only in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the principal of each school. All medications must be taken by the student, parent or guardian to the school office (nurse's office) immediately upon arrival at school and must be in original pharmaceutical containers, clearly labeled as to the name of the student, the name of the medication, the appropriate dosage, and the times for dosage. Any student possessing prescription or over-the-counter medication not in accordance with these guidelines will be considered in violation of the School District's drug policy and shall be subject to the discipline set forth in the student code of conduct and/or the student/parent handbook.

A student for whom the school has on file supporting medical documentation may carry at all times with parental/guardian permission inhalers for asthma, auto-injectable epinephrine (epi pens) for allergic reactions and medical needs for diabetes. Students authorized to self-administer

such medications shall be instructed not to permit any other student to handle, possess, or otherwise attempt to use his/her medication and shall be informed that violations of such instructions will be dealt with in accordance with the student code of conduct.

In order for the student to carry and self-administer such medications, or in order for the school to store and administer the medication for students who are unable to self-administer because of age or any other reason, parents must provide a written statement from a licensed physician confirming that the student is able to self-administer the medication, if applicable, and written permission from the parent for the nurse or designated employee to consult with the doctor regarding any questions that may arise concerning the medication. Such permission shall release the school district and its employee and agents from civil liability for administering such medication to students, or if the self-administering student suffers an adverse reaction as a result of self-administration of such medication. Parents are encouraged to provide to the schools duplicate medication and supplies in the event a student is unable to self-administer or fails to bring the medication or equipment to school.

Nurses or other school employees are authorized to administer an epi pen, if available, to a student who is having an actual or perceived anaphylactic adverse (allergic) reaction, regardless of whether the student has a prescription for epinephrine. Any school employee who in good faith administers or chooses not to administer an epi pen to a student in such circumstances shall be immune from civil liability.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Students that enter school with any contagious disease or illness will be sent home.

If child is sent home for head lice, they must have an actual clearance from Health Department or doctor before returning.

HEAD LICE PROCEDURE

In an effort to keep students free of lice infestation, and to prevent outbreaks of head lice, Miller County School System follows the recommendations of the CDC. If any student is found to have head lice or lice nits (eggs) his/her parents/guardians will be contacted. Parents/guardians will be informed of lice infestation by a letter that explains the problem, how to detect lice and nits, and steps to take for treatment. The parents/guardians are to treat the head lice in a timely manner, including manual removal of ALL nits. Treatment of head lice usually takes no more than two days. If child is sent home for head lice on a recurring basis, they must have an clearance from Health Department or doctor before returning. Students who have been dismissed home due to head lice will not be allowed to ride the school bus. After the third day of absence following each episode of infestation, the school counselor or social worker will contact the parents/guardians.

IMMUNIZATION

The Miller County School System, in accordance with the Georgia Department of Human Resources and Georgia law, requires all students entering a Georgia public school to have a Certificate of Immunization. This form may be secured from the Miller County Health Department or from your private physician's office. The school must have this form on file in

order for your child to be officially enrolled in school. Please help comply with Georgia law and protect your child by having this certificate completed before your child enters school. Questions regarding immunization may be directed to the record's clerk. According to an amended Georgia State Law (290-5-4.02), all entering sixth (6th) grade students will be required to show proof of a second MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccination. This immunization is being required in order to protect children, as they get older, against the possibility of contracting measles. In the future, as a student enrolls in the sixth (6th) grade, he or she must present a certificate showing proof of two MMR vaccinations. The shot may be secured from the Health Department or your private physician. For additional information, contact the school records clerk at 758-4140.

PROGRAMS FOR HOSPITAL/HOMEBOUND STUDENTS

A student who has a medical diagnosis, non-communicable condition that restricts him/her to home or hospital for ten or more school days or on an intermittent basis may be eligible for hospital/homebound support. Please contact the Principal or the Board of Education office (758-5592) if this service is needed.

ACCIDENTS/ EMERGENCIES/ ILLNESS

Parents are required to provide the school with up-to-date telephone numbers where they can be reached in case of accidents, emergencies or illnesses. Additional numbers of responsible parties are also required as back up. It is the parent's responsibility to notify the school secretary when there is any change in mailing address and/or phone number(s).

PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS OR CONDITIONS

Students may have a physical impairment or condition that the school personnel may need to know about. It is the parent's obligation to inform the school in writing, by phone, email or by a conference concerning a student's impairment or condition on the first day of school or immediately after the condition occurs.

ATTENDANCE

The Miller County Board of Education recognizes the value of regular attendance in enabling pupils to profit from the school program. Not only is each day's lesson important to the individual student, but his/her presence as class participant contributes to the education of others. Regular and punctual attendance on the part of all students is necessary for success in school. Repeated tardiness and absences may cause one to become discouraged and bring about failure in school.

The Miller County Board of Education has an approved school calendar for the school year. This official calendar contains holidays and teacher in-service days on which students do not report to school. The calendar does not contain nor does the Miller County Board of Education recognize vacation trips out of town with family members. Absence from school is defined as the non-attendance of a pupil on any day school is in session.

In accordance with state law, all children between the ages of 6 and 16 are expected to be in

regular attendance in some bona fide school unless their mental and physical condition justifies their being excused.

Children enrolled in the public schools prior to their sixth birthday are subject to this law and the rules of the State Board of Education governing compulsory attendance, even though they have not attained six years of age. The Truancy Officer shall verify the enrollment of students attending private schools and be informed by principals, using methods designated by the Superintendent, of those enrolled in the system's schools. The Truancy Officer shall also investigate all cases of failure to enroll or habitual absence by children of school age who are residents of Miller County, and shall recommend appropriate action in accordance with state laws and State Board policies governing attendance.

GEORGIA COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW: State of Georgia: Georgia Code: 20-2-690.1.

All children enrolled for 20 school days or more in the public schools of this state prior to their sixth birthday shall become subject to all of the provisions of this article, the provisions of Code Sections 20-2-690 through 20-2-702, and the rules and regulations to the State Board of Education relating to compulsory school attendance even though they have not attained six years of age. (Code 1981, §20-2-150, enacted by Ga. L. 1985, p. 1657, §1; Ga. L. 1987, p. 1169, §1.)

Attendance: Rules Governing All Students:

Students who are absent may be temporarily excused from school when:

Personally ill and when attendance in school would endanger their health and the health of others.

A serious illness or death in their immediate family necessitates absence from school.

Mandated by order of governmental agencies, including pre-induction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, or by a court order.

Celebrating religious holidays observed by their faith.

Conditions render attendance impossible or hazardous to their health or safety.

Registering to vote or voting, for a period not to exceed one day.

Absences are deemed educational in nature by the building level administrator.

A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard, and such parent or legal guardian has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five school days per school year, for the day or days missed from school to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian prior to such parent's or legal guardian's deployment or during such parent's or legal guardian's leave.

Students are to be counted present for homeroom record keeping purposes when:

They attend at least one-half of the instructional day. K-5 only

They are serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly.

They are attending activities under sponsorship of the school.

They are foster care students who are attending court proceedings relating to their foster care.

A pupil, on returning to school after an absence, must give to the school a written excuse from the parent/guardian/ doctor stating the reason for the pupil's absence. Failure to bring in an excuse within five days after returning to school shall constitute an unexcused absence. No more than 5 parent excuses (per semester) will be accepted for excused absences.

A student who has an absence is permitted to make up work that has been assigned while the student was absent with no penalty attached. On the day that the student returns after an absence, the student must make arrangements for making up the work. The student must make up the work within the number of days that he/she was absent with a three day minimum. This does not apply to assignments that had been pre-assigned. The teacher, with administrative approval, may allow extra time to complete make-up work if extenuating circumstances exist. If the student fails to make up the work consequences developed by the grade/school configuration will be imposed.

Students placed in in-school suspension programs are considered in attendance at school; students otherwise suspended from school will receive an unexcused absence.

When extended absenteeism is a result of major illness or injury or other extenuating circumstances, the student may receive academic credit through the use of the homebound services.

When there is cause necessitating an individual student to be excused from school for a portion of the school day, the student shall be released from school only to parent/legal guardian or upon written request from parent/legal guardian. No student shall leave the school campus at any time between arrival at school and the time of dismissal from school without written parental consent. The parent must sign out in the office before departing the school campus. Absences without permission will be subject to disciplinary action. This applies to any student who leaves during the school day without permission.

Students who become ill at school shall see the school nurse or designee. The nurse or designee shall notify a parent or guardian of the illness. Students will be required to bring a written excuse from their parents or guardian on the first day back at school. The excuse will not be taken after 5 days. No more than 5 parent excuses will be accepted for excused absences.

A student who is tardy should present a note from his/her parent(s)/legal guardian(s) explaining the reason. The school will verify the excuse. Unexcused tardies will be subject to grade level/school sanctions. Parents must come in and sign in their children in when they are tardy to school. Please DO NOT just drop off your children to just walk in alone to the office when they are tardy.

An administrative review of all cases involving excessive absences will be conducted by the school administrative staff. Following this review, students may appeal hardship cases to the School Level Attendance Committee. Note: Cases involving unexcused absences are not considered hardship cases. The Attendance Committee will be set up by the principal or designee.

The student or parent/guardian has the right to appeal any decision of the Attendance Committee to the Superintendent or designee. Said appeal must be filed within ten (10) working days after rendering of the decision by the Attendance Committee.

Miller County Schools shall not release students to individuals other than custodial parent(s)/guardian(s) without written permission from the custodial parent(s)/guardian(s). It is the responsibility of the custodial parent(s)/guardian(s) to notify the school when their child will be picked up by anyone other than those filed in the child's record.

Absences and Consequence: Ages under 16

Three (3) absences: A letter from the school will be sent notifying the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the absences.

Five (5) absences

A letter will be mailed to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of all students who have 5 absences, requesting a meeting with the school level attendance committee or principal.

Parent (s)/guardian(s) and student may be asked to enter into an attendance contract or agreement with the school at this time.

Eight (8) absences

Eight unexcused absences will be referred to the Miller County Truancy Office.

Ten (10) unexcused absences:

Ten unexcused absences may be referred by the Miller County Truancy Office for possible referral to either Juvenile Justice or State Court if the parents have failed to comply with the requested meeting at the school level.

MEDIA CENTER

Our Media Center is open from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Students in grades 2-5 may check out two books at a time for a period of two weeks. First grade students may check out one book at a time and Kindergarten students may do so after Christmas break.

Damage:

Keeping our library books in great shape is a priority for our media center. In order to keep books in the best shape possible, we have a damage policy. You will be charged for any damages that your child does to the library book while in his/her possession. We check each book for damage before checking it out. We also check each book when it is returned. Students are not allowed to check out another book until damage fees are paid.

Damage fees

- Water Damage -you will need to pay the full cost of the book. Water damage ruins the book!
- Coloring - \$2
- Tearing pages - \$2, if 1-2 pages; the full price of the book if it must be replaced due to torn pages
- Removing barcode - \$1
- Tearing Spine or book cover - \$2

Here are a few tips to making sure the books stay safe, clean, and dry!

- Do not put water bottles in book bag - this could ruin homework and textbooks also.
- Wash hands before reading books.
- Keep books away from food and drinks.
- Carefully turn the pages at the corners and do not turn the corner down to mark a page - ask for a bookmark if you need one.

Overdue Fees:

- We do not charge overdue fees. If a book has been lost, you will be responsible for paying the full, original price of the book. Students are not allowed to check out a book until the misplaced

book is returned or the fine is paid. Holds will be placed on report cards for overdue books.

Rules:

Absolutely NO food or drinks allowed in the library.

Students must remain orderly in the library. At times, there are classes on both sides of the library, and we need to be respectful of other students.

SCHOOL PROPERTY/TEXTBOOKS

Students damaging school property or equipment in any way will be held responsible for the costs incurred to repair or replace the item(s)... Student acts of vandalism will result in stern disciplinary action.

Textbooks that are lost, stolen, or damaged must be replaced. Parents are responsible for the replacement/damage costs. Student records, including report cards, will be held until all costs/debts are either paid or the item is returned.

SEARCHES

Searches of students and their belongings on school property will be conducted in accordance to state law and local school board policy.

SNACK FOODS

Each day all students will be given an opportunity to eat a snack brought from home. Because of limited help in the front office and because instruction time cannot be interrupted to deliver a snack, parents are not to drop off snacks that their child forgot to bring to school. Please have child bring what she/he needs to school with him/her including homework, snacks, notes for different buses home, etc...

Please remember that MCES has the Pirate's Pantry with healthy choices that students are allowed to visit before recess.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

According to Georgia Law any student who is admitted to Georgia public school is requested to have an official copy of his/her social security number on file at the school. Parents do have a right to receive a waiver for this request if you do not want your child's SSN on file.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Dress code for professionals is outlined in the employee handbook. However, personnel are expected to model appropriate dress code for students that reflect a positive learning environment.

MCES upholds that being well-groomed is one of the key factors in creating a positive, significant, and respectful learning environment. Students are expected to dress for success.

Appropriate decisions regarding appropriate school attire must be made before the student arrives on school property or campus.

If a student is sent to the Principal's office because of a dress code infraction, instructional time is interrupted for the student, the teacher, and the class. Time lost from class if the student is referred is unexcused.

The dress code is in effect while the student is on campus on any day school is in session and during any function that is held on the campuses of Miller County School System. The dress code remains in effect during school programs and events.

Shorts may be worn by all students. Shorts must be mid-thigh in length.

Dresses / skirts must be worn at mid -thigh or below. Shorts should be worn underneath.

Sleeveless outer garments may be worn as long as undergarments are not visible. Halter tops, backless blouses, spaghetti straps, T-shirts with sleeves ripped or cut off, muscle shirts may not be worn. Tank tops are to be worn only with a covering.

Leggings or jeggings may be worn with a top, dress, or covering that comes to mid-thigh in length.

Pants are defined as garments that have pockets, zippers, or buttons and belt loops.

Students are prohibited from wearing shirts or tops that expose their midriff. Midriff must be covered at all times including standing and sitting.

Females are prohibited from wearing tops, dresses, or shirts that reveal cleavage

All pants and skirts must be worn above the hips. No "sagging" or undergarments showing. No pants or shorts with writing across the seat.

Sweatpants, pajama pants, yoga pants, jogger style pants, or boxer style pants are not allowed to be worn to school. Wind type suits may be worn.

Clothes may not have holes, tears, rips that expose skin or under garments. Tape on holes is prohibited. Clothes must be worn properly not backwards or inside out. No see through clothing will be allowed. Holes in jeans are allowed at the knee or below only. Tights may be worn under jeans with holes in other areas.

The following headgear is prohibited from the campus of the Miller County School System: wave caps, hoods, doo-rags, bandanas, sweatbands, headbands, headsets, or any other head covering.

Earrings: for males-studs are allowed but should be no larger than the lobe with NO hanging embellishments. ALL Students: NO nose hoops, lip, tongue, or eyebrow rings are allowed.

Gauges are not allowed. Any other jewelry deemed inappropriate by the administration will not be allowed.

Any jewelry or accessory that may be used as a weapon will not be allowed to be worn at school.

Clothing that displays words, symbols that advocate or depict violence, racism, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex or other illegal activity expressly or implied are prohibited. No student clothing should be disruptive to the smooth operation of the school.

Students will wear shoes at all times. No bedroom shoes, flip flops, or backless sandals will be permitted. Tennis shoes or little GA Boots should be worn daily at the elementary school for safety reasons.

Any extreme dress that is deemed inappropriate by the faculty is prohibited.

THE ADMINISTRATION WILL MAKE THE FINAL DETERMINATION OF WHAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR SCHOOL WEAR.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

Our school follows the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) guidelines from the State Department of Education (<https://www.georgiastandards.org>). We offer various special programs and opportunities to help each student experience success in a variety of activities. Our school also offers special programs such as gifted, early intervention program, ESOL, intervention services and special education. Each instructional program provides opportunities for the teacher, the parent, and the child to cooperatively share the responsibility for academic growth.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education (P.E.) is required of all students in Georgia schools unless excused by a written statement from the family physician. The nature of the disability and the duration of the excuse must be stated on the note from the physician. To prevent any possible accidents, tennis shoes only are required at all times in physical education.

MUSIC/ART/COMPUTER LAB

Each student in grades K-5 is provided music or art class and computer lab, unless the student is participating in intervention classes, as part of their curriculum. Students are expected to exemplify appropriate behavior and good citizenship during music or art class.

GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM

A student is eligible for placement in the Gifted Education Program if he/she meets eligibility requirements in three of the four areas listed below. Students must be screened in all four areas even if they have already met requirements in three of the areas.

Mental ability - 99th percentile or better (K-2) and 96% percentile or better (3-5), by age, on a composite/full scale score or appropriate component score of a standardized mental ability test.

Achievement - 99th percentile or better, by age or grade, on: Total Battery OR Total Reading OR Total Math of a standardized achievement test.

Creativity - 90th percentile on the Total Battery score of a standardized test of creative thinking. (The test must measure fluency, originality, and elaboration.)

Motivation - students must have a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale where a 4.0 = A and 3.0 = B, or a numeric grade point average (NGA) of 90 percent on a 100 point scale where 100 = A and a 89 = B or score at the 90th % percentile on a standardized motivational characteristics rating scale. Grades used to determine the GPA or NGA must be the previous full two-year average of regular school program core subject grades in mathematics, English/language arts, social studies, science, and full year world languages

GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM REFERRAL PROCESS

Category

Option A

Option B

Student must have a qualifying score in the mental ability AND achievement categories.

Student must qualify in three of the four categories.

Mental Ability

Grades K-2: 99th percentile composite score on a nationally age normed mental ability test

Grades 3-12: Greater than or equal to the 96th percentile composite score on a nationally age normed mental ability test

Grades K-12: Greater than 96th percentile composite on a nationally age normed mental ability tests OR 96th percentile on a component score on a nationally age normed mental ability test

Achievement

Grades K-12: Greater than or equal to 90th percentile Total Reading, Total Math, or Complete Battery on a nationally normed achievement test

Grades K-12: Greater than 90th percentile Total Reading, Total Math, or Complete Battery on a nationally normed achievement test

Grades K-12: Superior product/performance with a score greater than or equal to 90 on a scale of 1-100, as evaluated by a panel of three or more qualified evaluators

Creativity

Evaluation Data Required

Grades K-12: Greater than 90th percentile on composite score on nationally normed creativity test

Grades K-12: Rating scales used to qualify student creativity must equate to the 90th percentile

Grades K-12: Superior product/performance with a score greater than or equal to 90 on a scale of 1-100, as evaluated by a panel of three or more qualified evaluators.

Motivation

Evaluation Data Required

Grades 6-12: Two - year average of a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale in regular core subject of Mathematics, English/Language Arts, SS, Science, Full year of World Languages.
Grades K-12: Rating scales used to qualify student motivation must equate to the 90th percentile
Grades K-12: Superior product/performance with a score greater than or equal to 90 on a scale of 1-100, as evaluated by a panel of three or more qualified evaluators

STUDENT TESTING PROGRAM

Each student in the 3rd, 4th, & 5th grades will be given the Georgia Milestones Test (GMAT) in the spring. This test is used to determine strengths and weaknesses of each student and grade level achievement in the mastery of the Georgia Performance Standards.

Students in kindergarten are administered the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developmental Skills (GKIDS) to monitor progress toward mastery of kindergarten skills. This inventory test is ongoing throughout the school year.

These tests are extremely important to the student. Parents are urged to support the student by getting them to bed early, seeing that they have a good breakfast, and encourage a positive start before the test. Students who are tardy will not be allowed to enter a room where testing is already in progress.

GRADING PRACTICES

The following chart outlines the grading practices of Miller County Elementary School. Report cards will be sent home each nine weeks to notify you of your child's current academic growth. The grading system is as follows:

90-100 A 80-89 B 70-79 C Below 70 F

Conduct: E = Excellent S = satisfactory N = Needs Improvement U = Unsatisfactory

Rising Star Honor Roll - 95 - 100 A - Honor Roll = 90-100 A-B - Honor Roll = 80-89

Report cards are issued every 9 weeks. An Honors Program will be held at the end of the year in the gym to recognize student accomplishments for the year. A list of Honor Roll students will be sent to the Miller County Liberal each 9-weeks for publication. Conduct is included in honor roll.

CONDUCT GRADES

Conduct/Behavior at school is just as important as academic studies. Good behavior is vital to academic success in the classroom. Conduct grades will be earned at each grade level and will count towards all types of honor roll.

Conduct: E = Excellent S = satisfactory N = Needs Improvement U = Unsatisfactory

REPORT CARDS

Students will receive a report card every nine weeks. Cards should be signed by parents and returned to school the next school day. In addition to report cards, progress reports will be sent home at midterm and should be signed by parents and returned to school the next school day.

Parent Portal Contact Information: Parent Portal is an excellent tool for staying up to date with your child's academic progress during the year. If you have not already signed up for a Parent Portal account and would like to do so or if you are having trouble logging in, please contact Carole Tomberlin at (229)758-5592. You may also find information about parent portal on the district web page: www.miller.k12.ga.us Parent Portal also offers an app for smart phones that allows your child's grades to be at your fingertips.

HOMEWORK REQUIREMENTS

Kindergarten Homework Requirement:

Homework often targets practice in handwriting skills, sight word recognition, counting objects, oral reading, reading comprehension, and math addition and subtraction facts. Homework practice will be directly related to the skills being covered in the classroom. Homework may also be parent resources that are sent in the form of flashcards, bingo sheets, fluency grids, or games. However, students are given a "Daily Folder" which contains all ten SIGHT WORD LISTS with practice Reading Sentences on the back side of each list to enhance your child's ability to read the sight words "in context". The sight word lists should be studied "daily" as they are assigned and reviewed continuously throughout the year. Sight Word Tests are given on individual lists are announced, and the date of the tests are scheduled and documented in the monthly calendar. Cumulative tests are also given periodically throughout the year and are not always announced. Therefore, it is important to study the list students are currently assigned, but it is also necessary to review all words daily on lists that have previously been tested as well. All written homework will be placed in the "back pocket" of your child's "Daily Folder" and should be completed and returned to school in the same pocket!

Kindergarten students are required to pull a ticket when they do not complete and return written homework. Homework completion is documented in the student's daily calendar for teacher documentation purposes.

Homework Requirements 1-5

1. All homework should be a direct reinforcement or continuation of class work.

New material should not be introduced as homework.

Adequate instructions to adult supervisors should be given

Homework assignments should be limited.

Time spent on homework should be appropriate for the grade in school.

The total amount of homework, for all subjects combined should not exceed one class period in length per night

Friday homework should be limited.

An acceptable reason would be to complete class work.
Although Monday tests are discouraged, review for a test would be an acceptable reason.
Completion of long term projects is also acceptable.

The principal will review the homework policy established by teachers each school year.
The grade level teachers will write the homework policy for their grade in accordance with the district and local school policy.

The school and grade level policies will be sent home for all parents to sign at the beginning of each school year and with new students upon enrollment.

Make-up Work Policy

It is the expectation of the Miller County Elementary School that all work missed due to any absence will be made-up. If there is a planned absence, students are required to secure make-up work in advance. The responsibility for arranging to complete work missed is assumed by the student and parent/guardian in conjunction with the teacher. Make-up work is to be completed at the time specified by the teacher/ principal. The time limit is not to exceed 10 days. Exceptions will be decided by the parent/ guardian, student, teacher, and principal, with the principal having the final decision.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS

PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS IN GRADES K-5: Promotion and Retention Policy - Board Policy Descriptor Code: IHE

Please note the following criteria for Miller County School System students to be eligible promotion:

Requirements for Promotion from Kindergarten to First Grade:

Achieve on grade level score on the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developmental Skills, (GKIDS) in Reading and Math. An appropriately trained and certified teacher who is responsible for the entire class will administer this skill assessment.

Identify 100% of uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet and produce the most frequent sounds for all letters of the alphabet with 100% accuracy and automaticity.

Recite previously taught sight words with 75% accuracy and automaticity. Note: Students will be given no more than 3 to 4 seconds to respond correctly.

Oral Fluency of 15 words per minute in context

Achieve a minimum score of 75% on the First Grade Readiness Assessment.

Achieve a yearly average of 75% or above in both the Reading and Math Core Curriculum programs.

*Grades assigned in Kindergarten are based primarily on assessment scores.

However, students must be able to complete designated classwork independently, with proficiency, and in a timely manner.

Requirements for Promotion from First Grade to Second Grade:

Students must have a yearly average of 70 or above in the subject areas of Reading, English/Language Arts, and Mathematics.

Students must have an average reading fluency rate at the end of the year of 50 words per minute, while reading age appropriate text.

Requirements for Promotion from Second Grade to Third Grade:

Students must have a yearly average of 70 or above in the subject areas of Reading, English/Language Arts, and Mathematics.

Students must have an average reading fluency rate at the end of the year of 100 words per minute, while reading age appropriate text.

Requirements for Promotion from Third Grade to Fourth Grade:

Students must achieve an average of 70% or above in English/Language Arts, Reading, and Math for the school year and one other academic subject, (Science or Social Studies).

In addition, students must score in the "On/Above Grade Level" range in English/Language Arts on the Georgia Milestones.

Fluency of 120 words per minute. Passing will be a grade of 75% or higher.

Requirements for Promotion from Fourth Grade to Fifth Grade:

Students must achieve an average of 70% or above in English/Language Arts, Reading and Math for the school year and one other academic subject (Science or Social Studies).

Students should meet the following standards for Oral Reading Fluency

130 words per minute with at least 75% accuracy on grade level texts

Requirements for Promotion from Fifth Grade to Sixth Grade:

Students must achieve an average of 70% or above in English/Language Arts and Math for the school year and one other academic subject, (Science or Social Studies).

In addition, students must score in the "On/Above Grade Level" range in English/Language Arts on the Georgia Milestones.

Score "Developing Learner" or higher range in Math on the Georgia Milestones.

Fluency of 140 words per minute. Passing will be a grade of 75% or higher.

CONFERENCES

Parents are encouraged to meet with their child's teacher(s) on a regular basis concerning his/her progress in school. Conferences for teachers may be scheduled by calling the school secretary at 758-4140 or emailing the teacher to make arrangements. Conferences will be held during the teacher's planning period or after school. Conferences with the principal must be scheduled after 8:30 a.m. by calling the school secretary.

BEFORE CONFERENCES

Decide what you want to ask the teacher. Discuss the upcoming conferences with your child to see if there were anything he/she would like you to talk about with the teacher. Discuss the concerns with your spouse. Ideally, both parents should attend the conference. To make certain all concerns are addressed, parents are encouraged to bring personal notes relating to the conference. Try to get the facts about a school situation before reaching an opinion regarding the situation.

Determine what you can tell the teacher about your child. The teacher sees only one side of your

child. There may be things you know about the child that could help the teacher better understand him/her.

Be on time. Write down the time of your appointment and arrive promptly. The teacher may have other appointments after yours.

Note

Visitors entering the school complex should be dressed for an environment conducive to learning. Visitors will not be allowed to enter the building if wearing inappropriate clothing (this includes bedroom clothing and clothing with inappropriate pictures and or words).

THE INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCE

The following questions can serve as a guide to areas that you may wish to discuss:

What is my child's aptitude for learning?

On what level is he/she functioning?

Has he/she shown special interests?

Does he/she get along well with his/her classmates? Does he/she participate in group activities?

Has he/she shown any leadership qualities?

Does he/she accept authority?

Be ready to answer questions from the teacher, such as:

What is your child's reaction to school?

How is his/her emotional health?

How does he/she spend his/her time after school? What are his/her hobbies, special interests, and abilities?

What are his/her home study habits?

What is his/her response to rules and responsibilities at home?

What type of discipline works best at home?

AFTER THE CONFERENCE

The most important part of your role in the conference begins now!

Discuss the conference with your child. First, point out his/her strengths. Then talk about the areas that need improvement.

Start immediately on any action you have decided to take.

Feel free to call the school if you wish to check on your child's progress, or if you think another conference is needed.

Make certain your child understands that you and the teacher are working together in his/her interest. Negative comments about the school/teacher in the presence of your child may affect the child's motivation and attitude.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN

Set an example for your child that school is important. Get involved by communicating frequently with your child's teacher.

Be supportive of your child's teacher.

Laugh and talk with your child about school experiences. Also, listen attentively to what he/she says about school experiences.

Praise your child each day for something done well at school.

Help your child develop good organizational skills at home with school materials.

Encourage reading for pleasure at home. Read aloud to your child often.

Stress the importance of school attendance. Allow your child to stay home only if he/she is ill.
Start each school day right. A calm beginning at home makes the school day much better.
See that your child has ample rest at night and a good breakfast before coming to school.
Maintain open lines of communication with your child's teacher. Inform the teacher of any family situations that might influence your child's behavior at school.
Provide your child with proper school supplies.
Reinforce and review skills taught at school by checking over homework assignments.

STUDENT RECORDS

Student records are confidential. Parents may review their child's records at any time upon request. Non-custodial parents, unless parental rights have been terminated by a court of law, can have access to their child's school records.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school within 45 days of a request to the school administrator. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records without copies. Schools may charge a fee for the copies.

Parents or eligible students have the right to request in writing that a school correct records that they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions:

School officials with legitimate educational interest

A school official is a person employed or contracted by the school to serve as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, or support staff member (including health staff, law enforcement personnel, attorney, auditor, or other similar roles; a person serving on the school board; or a parent or student serving on an official committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks;

A legitimate educational interest means the review of records necessary to fulfill a professional responsibility for the school;

Other schools to which a student is seeking to enroll
Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes
Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
Accrediting organizations;
To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena
Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.
Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information which includes student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, participation in official school clubs and sports, honors and awards, sports participation (including height and weight of athletes), dates of attendance, photograph, and grade level unless notified by the parents or eligible student that the school is not to disclose the information without consent.

If you do not want MCES to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the school in writing by August 31st, 2019.

FIELD TRIPS

Teachers may take students on walking field trips or bus trips for educational purposes. Written parental permission is required. Students without written permission will remain at the school and participate in normal activities for the day. Parents who are available may be asked to help chaperone with their child's class, but no other children may attend. Parents that chaperone must have a volunteer / criminal history form on file. Please see Ms. Pam Edwards in the front office to complete your volunteer/criminal history form. All field trips will be tied directly to Georgia Performance Standards.

FUNDRAISING PROJECTS

Our school will participate in fundraising projects approved by the BOE during the school term. Money made from these projects will be used to purchase supplemental instructional materials, software, incentives, and supplies.

LOST AND FOUND

Students' names should be placed on each jacket, purse and book bag for identification. Any clothing left unclaimed at the end of each 9 weeks will be donated to charity.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Parents have a right to file a grievance complaint if they feel that a process or procedure has not been handled in an appropriate manner. The first step of the process is to contact the teacher or person responsible for the reason of the complaint. The next step is to contact the principal. After discussing the complaint with the teacher, then the principal, parents may take the complaint to

the Superintendent, then to the Board of Education. This is the proper chain of command in resolving a complaint at MCES.

CYBER SAFETY

The internet offers a world of opportunities that people of all ages are using. These ways of communicating and socializing can be fulfilling, but they come with certain risks. Miller County Elementary School provides its students with the necessary information to protect their identity and safety on the internet. Teachers will explain appropriate conduct, contact and content for online use.

INTERNET

Miller County School System Student Internet ~Acceptable Use Policy~ Terms and Conditions

The Internet is often referred to as the "information superhighway." This superhighway consists of a vast network of computers connecting people and resources around the world. The Internet is accessible to anyone with a computer and a modem.

PROCEDURES FOR USAGE

Parent(s) will be invited to attend a Miller County School System Internet Policies Class. Students will be instructed on Internet policy and usage.

NETIQUETTE

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the Internet are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply (See Below). The Internet is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others related to instructional and academic needs. Access to Internet services will be provided to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Students are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of Internet etiquette. These include (but are not limited to) the following:

Be polite. Do not get abusive in your messages to others.

Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.

Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.

Do not reveal anyone's personal address or phone number.

Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.

Do not use the Internet in such a way that you would disrupt its use by others.

All communications and information accessible through the Internet should be assumed to be private property.

Remember, the fact that a user CAN perform a particular action does not imply that they SHOULD take that action.

UNACCEPTABLE MATERIAL AND/OR USAGE

Just as certain print materials offend some people, certain materials available on the Internet may also offend. Some sites accessible through the Internet may contain material that is illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. However, the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with educational goals.

Examples of unacceptable use are (this list is not all inclusive):

Using the Internet for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts, use of pornographic and/or terrorist intent.

Using the Internet for financial or commercial gain

Degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance

Vandalizing the data of another user

Wastefully using time and resources

Gaining unauthorized access to Internet sites

Invading the privacy of individuals

Using an account owned by another user

Posting personal communications without the author's consent

Posting anonymous messages

Allowing someone else to use your Internet log in or using someone else's log in

Uploading/downloading from the Internet

Surfing the Internet

Using non-school owned jump drives.

Any other use deemed inappropriate by administration

ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES

It is not acceptable to use this Internet access for any purposes which violate the laws of the State of Georgia and the United States of America. Users must adhere to all copyright laws.

PENALTIES AND REPERCUSSIONS

Unacceptable uses of the Internet will result in revoking of these privileges for 30 school days for the first offense. On the second offense, privileges will be revoked for the remainder of the semester, and the third offense privileges will be revoked for the remainder of the school year. In order for the student to regain Internet access, he/she must repeat the application process the following school year. Any violations will be documented in the student's permanent record. Repeated Internet policy violations may result in the Internet privileges being permanently revoked.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Miller County Board of Education not to discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, color, national origin, religion or handicap in its educational programs or employment practices. (CODE GAE.1)

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin (Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964); sex (Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and Title II of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act of 1984); or handicap (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) in educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.

Employees, students and the general public are hereby notified that the Miller County Board of Education does not discriminate in any educational programs, activities or employment policies.

Inquiries concerning the application of:

Title II to the policies and practices of the system may be addressed to: Shane Miller, Miller County Board of Education, Colquitt, GA 39837; to the Regional Office for Civil Rights, Atlanta, GA 30302; or to the Director, Office for Civil Rights, Education Department, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Title VI B Rural to the policies and practices of the system may be addressed to Shane Miller,, Miller County Board of Education, Colquitt, GA 39837; to the Regional Office for Civil Rights, Atlanta, GA 30302; or to the Director, Office for Civil Rights, Education Department, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Title VI B to the policies and practices of the system may be addressed to: Shane Miller,, Miller County Board of Education, Colquitt, GA 39837; to the Regional Office for Civil Rights, Atlanta, GA 30302; or to the Director, Office for Civil Rights, Education Department, Washington, D.C. 20201.

504 to the policies and practices of the system may be addressed to: Shane Miller,, Miller County Board of Education, Colquitt, GA 39837; to the Regional Office for Civil Rights, Atlanta, GA 30302; or to the Director, Office for Civil Rights, Education Department, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Title IX to the policies and practices of the system may be addressed to: Shane Miller,, Miller County Board of Education, Colquitt, GA 39837; to the Regional Office for Civil Rights, Atlanta, GA 30302; or to the Director, Office for Civil Rights, Education Department, Washington, D.C. 20201.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Miller County School System has a Safety/Emergency Plan and Procedures Guide to address the safety needs of all of our students. This plan addresses tornadoes, fires, hurricanes, and other areas of danger that may be seen on our school campus. Students will go through the safety procedures periodically.

Fire Drills

Scheduled fire drills will be held throughout the school year. The fire alarms will sound, and the following procedures will be followed:

Classes will leave the rooms at the command of the teachers. Students will walk in single file to the designated safety area. The last person to leave the room should close the door.

Order must be maintained to ensure safety for everyone. Students must remain quiet and orderly in a single line while in the safety zone.

Teachers will take a copy of their class rolls and 3 colored cards to the safety zone.

The teacher will use the class roll to ensure that every student has safely left the building.

Teachers will use the colored cards to indicate if a student is missing. Students unaccounted for will be located by an administrator using a radio.

Everyone is to remain quiet and orderly in the safety zone until a signal is given to return inside the building.

Tornado Drills

The Miller County geographic area is sometimes in danger of severe thunderstorms and possible tornadoes. If there is threat of a tornado, an announcement of "CODE RED" will alert everyone via the intercom system. The following safety measures should be taken:

Teachers will have students move to inside wall & assume a crouched position with hands over their heads.

Order is very important. Students should remain quiet and attentive to any instructions that may be given.

Teachers will take a copy of their class rolls and 3 colored cards with them.

The teacher will use the class roll to ensure that every student is accounted for. Teachers will use the colored cards to indicate if a student is missing. Students missing will be located by an administrator using a radio.

Everyone is to remain quiet and orderly in position.

An announcement will be made when it is safe to return to the classroom.

If a school bus is caught in an open area during a threat of a tornado, the driver should assist the students to take cover in a shelter, ditch or ravine.

TRANSPORTATION (car/truck)

Students are not to exit vehicle or enter the building before the 7:20 bell rings. For safety reasons, please do not enter the bus loading area to pick up or drop off a student. Do not drop off any elementary student in the back of the school building. Elementary students in kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades will be dropped off and picked up at the front entrance only.

Students in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades will be dropped off at the flagpole the first two weeks of school only. After August 23rd, the number of cars should be reduced, so these students may be dropped off at the front entrance. Each afternoon, 3rd, 4th & 5th grade students should be picked up at the flagpole. A TARDY STUDENT, ONE WHO IS NOT IN CLASS BY 7:55, WILL NEED THE PARENT TO COME INSIDE WITH THE STUDENT TO SIGN-IN THEIR CHILD. Any student who has not been picked up by 3:30 p.m. will be taken to the Sheriff's Office located on West Pine Street.

Parents are encouraged to communicate with their child any arrangements for the day before the child leaves home. Not knowing where or how to go home can cause distress to some students. All students and their parents should plan ahead each morning so that the student knows where to go each afternoon. If an unexpected emergency arises and a parent needs to change transportation for the afternoon, please call the office before 1:45 p.m. This will give the office staff time to locate the student and get the message to them. No messages will be taken after this time unless it is an emergency.

TRANSPORTATION (Bus)

Every effort will be made to ensure that students who ride the bus arrive safely to and from school. Bus conduct rules are posted on each bus; students are expected to cooperate with the driver and observe all rules. Those failing to obey bus rules will be referred to the principal and will be subject to disciplinary action or suspension from the bus. Students must ride their assigned bus. (In an emergency situation only, parents may call the school secretary before 1:45 p.m.) to notify school of the change in transportation) Please, If at all possible, send a written note of changes with student to school with the date, driver's name, location where student will be dropped off, parent's signature and phone number.

BUS SAFETY RULES

School bus transportation is a privilege that may be withdrawn for inappropriate behavior. While on the bus, students must:

Observe the same conduct as in the classroom.

Be courteous and use no profane language.

Do not eat or drink on the bus.

Keep the bus clean.

Cooperate with and respect the driver.

Stay seated in the seat.

Keep hands and feet to oneself.

Do not be destructive.

Keep head, hands and feet inside the bus.

*The bus driver is authorized to assign seats.

CONSEQUENCES OF BUS REFERRALS

When students are reported to the school office because of improper bus behavior, the following steps are taken: Disciplinary action is at the discretion of administration and is based on the severity of incident.

Fighting - Automatic three (3) day suspension for first offense

Vulgar language - Automatic three (3) day suspension

1st Offense -. Warning/Conference Call/Letter

2nd Offense -. Paddling/one (1) day suspension

3rd Offense - One (1) day suspension

4th Offense - Three (3) day suspension

5th Offense - Five (5) day suspension

6th Offense - Ten (10) day suspension

After the 6th offense, the Miller County Board of Education will determine if the student is allowed to utilize future bus services.

In the event a student is taken off the bus, it is the responsibility of the parent to provide transportation to and from school. A student suspended from riding one bus may not ride any other bus until the suspension time is over. All students suspended off a bus **MUST** be picked up from school by 3:30.

Safe Student Riding Instructions

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year. We look forward to transporting your child this year. To insure that your child will have a safe riding experience this year, we ask that you review the safe riding instructions with your child now and periodically during the school year.

Statistics shows children riding a school bus are much safer than in their parent's personal vehicle or any other type of transportation on the roadways. The Miller County Board of Education believes the school bus is an extension of the class room; therefore the same rules of "Respect to Self" "Respect for Others" and "Respect for other's Property" will apply in route to the bus stop, departing from the bus stop and while on the bus.

Safe riding begins before your child ever leaves the house or arrives at the designated bus stop. In order to keep your child safe, your child needs to arrive at the bus stop five minutes before the scheduled pick up time, not before. These few minutes allow your child to arrive at the bus stop without the need to hurry. These five minutes will also limit your child's time near roadways and out in a variety of weather conditions for any longer than necessary.

While Waiting For The Bus:

Students should wait away from the roadway at their designated stop. There should be no horse playing, pushing or shoving while coming to the bus stop or while at the bus stop. Students that do not live on the same side of the road as the bus pick up must wait on their side of the road until the bus arrives. If your child has to cross the road, they must wait for the bus to come to a complete stop and then wait for the driver to give instructions for when it is safe for them to cross.

While Loading The Bus At The Designated Stop (same side of road)

Students must wait for the bus to come to a complete stop, wait for the entrance door to open and looking to be sure the red stop lights are flashing before ever approaching the bus to load. When more than one student loads at the same stop, they must line up in a single file line just prior to the buses arrival. There should be no pushing, shoving or horse playing while loading the bus. Students should always use the handrail when stepping up on the bus. Students should get seated in their seat as carefully but as promptly as possible and remain there until they reach their school or destination.

While Loading The Bus At The Designated Stop (opposite side of road)

When a student has to cross the road to board the bus, they must stand on their side of the road. Students must wait for the bus to come to a complete stop, wait for the entrance door to open and looking to be sure the red stop lights are flashing before ever approaching the bus load. Student must wait for the driver to give a verbal or physical sign that it is ok to cross the road. Even after all the above, students must quickly look both ways to be sure the road is still clear and all other vehicles have stopped. Students must always cross in front of the bus and should always use the handrail when stepping up on the bus. There should be no pushing, shoving or horse playing while loading the bus. Students should get seated in their seats as carefully but as promptly as possible and remain there until they reach their school or destination.

While On The Bus:

Once students board the bus, the driver is in full charge of the safety of your child. Students must follow the listed "Bus Regulations" found in "Code of Student Conduct" to insure a safe ride, whether it is from home to school or back home or any school-sponsored trips.

While Unloading The Bus At The School Or Destination

Students should unload the bus in single file from front to back with no pushing, shoving or horse playing while unloading the bus. Students should use the handrail as they depart the bus until both feet are on the ground. Students should check for an approaching bus on the door side before stepping off the bus while unloading. Students should look both ways before crossing the traffic area and should clear this area as quickly and safely as possible. Students should never return to the bus without supervision of an administrator.

While Loading The Bus At The School

Students should wait for buses in a safe area designated by the school. The bus should come to a complete stop and your child must wait for the driver to open entrance door before approaching the bus. Students should look both ways before leaving the curb and crossing the traffic area to approach the bus. Students must watch for other buses pulling up door side while loading the bus. Students should line up in a single file in the order they arrive to the bus and should use the handrail to load. There should be no pushing, shoving or horse playing while coming to, while loading and while getting to their seat. Students should get seated in their seat as carefully but as promptly as possible and remain there until they reach their designated stop.

While Unloading The Bus At The Designated Stop

Students should unload the bus in single file from front to back with no pushing, shoving or horse playing. Students should use the handrail as they depart the bus until both feet are on the ground. Students should exit the bus and clear the roadway and continue to move until they are safely away from the bus. Students who live on the opposite side of the road, they must cross in front of the bus while the bus is at their stop. When a student must cross the road, they should stop at the front of bus and look both ways before continuing to cross. When all is clear, students should clear the roadway as quickly as possible. Students should go directly home and never return to the bus for any reason. Please instruct your child to never retrieve an item that is dropped and goes under the bus. Students who have permission from parents to check their mail box that lives on the same side of the road as their mail box must clear the roadway and wait for bus to depart and traffic to clear before returning to the roadway to the mail box. If your child lives on the opposite side of the road of their mail box, they must cross over to their side of the road while the bus is at their stop. If your child has permission from you to check the mail box and you live on the opposite side of the road of your mail box, your child must also wait until after the bus has departed their stop and traffic to clear before crossing back over the road to check their mail box.

Rail Road Crossing

History has shown that more lives are lost in school buses at rail road crossings than at any other location. Every time a school bus and a train collide; the train wins! This is why it is so important for the driver to have their full attention on the rail road crossing. There is no other time when a driver's distraction can cost the loss of so many lives. Please reinforce with your child the importance of being "Silent At All Rail Road Crossings".

Bus Evacuation

Due to the unforeseen circumstances beyond the bus driver's control, your child may have to evacuate a bus at some time during the year. The decision to evacuate may be solely because we have the best interest of the students in mind. When evacuating a bus is necessary, students are placed in a safer location while waiting for assistance.

Most evacuations are due to breakdown which may leave the bus in questionable surroundings. Not all breakdowns results in an evacuation; several factors are taken into consideration before the decision is made to evacuate a bus. The location of an inoperative bus is the greatest factor when making a decision to evacuate a bus. Some locations we feel necessary to evacuate may be, but not limited to being next to a high volume roadway, high speed limit roadway, on or near a bridge, on a steep hill, in curve or near water.

When any type of evacuation occurs, students must follow the instruction of the driver to safely unload and to relocate in a safe location away from the hazard. On a rare occasion, the driver may not be coherent so we depend on the older mature students to help without placing them at any more risks. This type of evacuation is practiced with all students during each new school year so all students are aware of the safe evacuation practices with or without the driver's assistance. There are several reasons that a bus may have to unload from one bus to another bus

without it being an emergency. We ask for you to periodically remind your child to stay calm whenever it is necessary to unload from one bus to another bus for any reason.

All buses are designed with several "Emergency Exits". These locations are, but not limited to the entrance/exit door, rear door, emergency exit windows and roof hatches. Students should always use the front entrance/exit door during all evacuations when possible. When the service door is not available, the second choice should be the back door. All other exits should be used only when the loading door and the back door are not practical. When the rear door is the chosen exit, selected older and mature size students are instructed to assist students to the ground. All students are instructed to leave all personal belongings on the bus and to exit from the front to the back of the selected exit location. Students are instructed to walk away from the bus at least 100 ft. in the direction away from the recognized hazard or hazards.

School bus transportation is such an important part of the education system in Miller County. We appreciate your assistance as we try to provide the safest and most efficient transportation for our precious cargo-your child.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Students and parents should recognize their responsibility to know the contents of this discipline Handbook and to ask faculty or staff members for any clarification. The Miller County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, handicap, or disability in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies.

Why do we have a code of conduct?

It is the policy of the Miller County Board of Education that each school within this school district shall develop and implement age-appropriate student codes of conduct designed to improve the student learning environment which will comply with state law and State Board of Education Rules. Each code of conduct shall include the following, at a minimum:

Standards of student behavior during school hours, at school related functions, on school buses and at school bus stops are designed to create the expectation that students will behave themselves in such a way so as to facilitate a learning environment for themselves and other students. The standards should be designed also to encourage students to respect each other and school district employees, to motivate students to obey student behavior policies adopted by this Board and to obey student behavior rules established at each school within this school district; Behavior support processes designed to consider, as appropriate in light of the severity of the behavioral problem, support services available at each school, the school system and other public entities or community organizations which may assist students to address behavioral problems; Progressive discipline processes designed to create the expectation that the degree of discipline imposed by each school will be in proportion to the severity of the behavior of a particular student, the previous discipline history of the student and other relevant factors, while ensuring that each student receives the due process mandated by federal and state law; Parental involvement processes designed to enable parents, guardians, teachers and school administrators to work together to improve and enhance student behavior and academic performance. The process should enable parents, guardians and school employees to communicate freely their concerns about student behaviors that detract from the learning environment.

All other specific requirements as set forth in any existing State Board of Education Rule or in Georgia law.

The principal is the designated leader of the school and in concert with the staff is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. In cases of disruptive, disorderly, or dangerous conduct not covered in this Code of Conduct the principal may undertake corrective measures, which he/she believes to be in the best interest of the student, and the school, provided any such action does not violate school board policy or procedures. The Superintendent fully supports the authority of principals and teachers in the school system to remove a student from the classroom pursuant to provisions of state law.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this Code of Student Conduct is as follows:

- To ensure an environment for learning which is protected from interruption and harassment;
- To provide information to students and parents about the school system's rules of conduct and possible penalties for violations of these rules;
- To provide uniform administration of discipline in the schools; and
- To inform students and parents of when and under what circumstances the Code of Student Conduct applies.

As noted, these rules are designed to notify students of the types and range of behaviors that are unacceptable. However, it is not possible to specifically list every particular type of misconduct that is prohibited. Even though a particular type of misconduct is not listed as prohibited behavior, a student may nonetheless be punished for misbehavior that is criminal, threatens safety, or is substantially disruptive.

When the Code of Student Conduct Applies

The rules contained in the Code of Student Conduct apply both during and outside normal school hours to students who are:

- On school property, including at a designated school bus stop;
- Off school property while attending a school-related activity, function, or event;
- En route to or from school or school related activities;
- Off school property but who engage in conduct which could result in the student's being criminally charged with a felony and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to the health or safety of others or which would disrupt the educational process;
- or
- Off-campus but who engage in expressive conduct (e.g., text messaging, internet posting) which, the student promotes or distributes while the student is on school property or at a school-related activity, or which causes, or reasonably threatens to cause, a risk of material and substantial disruption to the orderly operation of the school.

EXPECTED BEHAVIOR

What Students Should Do

Expected behavior is that behavior which promotes learning and is appropriate under the circumstances.

Students should:

Participate Fully in the Learning Process: Students should report to school and class on time, with everything that they need, attend all regularly scheduled classes, remain in class until excused or dismissed, pay attention to instruction, complete assignments to the best of their ability, and ask for help when needed.

Avoid Behavior That Impairs Their Own or Other Students' Educational Achievement: Students should know and avoid the behaviors prohibited by this Code, take care of their books and other instructional materials, and cooperate with others.

Show Respect for the Knowledge and Authority of Teachers, Administrators, and Other School Personnel: Students must obey directions, use acceptable and courteous language, and avoid being rude or disrespectful, and follow school rules and procedures.

Recognize and Respect the Rights of Other Students: All students should show concern for and encouragement of the educational achievements and efforts of others.

Positive School Climate

Miller County School District has a focus on implementing a positive school climate that encourages active learning and meaningful relationships. Every Miller County school has developed an individual discipline plan to ensure equitable practices in creating a positive school climate. The positive climate building process is an evidence --- based framework that assists school teams in implementing systems change. The primary goal of the this framework is to help schools design effective environments that increase teaching and learning for all students. Through a problem --- solving approach, the framework begins with examining and improving the entire school climate. Teams use data to examine the reasons behaviors are occurring and then implement changes and interventions designed to address the identified needs. The positive school climate approach is a preventative and proactive system of addressing discipline problems that includes fair and consistent discipline practices.

Standards of Behavior

The following rules are considered standards of behavior and are mandatory and shall apply uniformly to ALL students. Any student who violates these standards will be disciplined according to these rules. Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to: Loss of privileges; Reassignment of seats in the classroom, cafeteria or school bus; Reassignment of classes; Separation in the classroom, cafeteria or school bus; Referral to Student Support Team/Counseling/Social Worker; Involvement of behavior interventionist/specialist; Removal from class; Bus suspension; Behavior plan/contract; Parent Notification/conference; In-school suspension; Out-of-school suspension; Detention; Expulsion; Assignment to an alternative educational setting.

Rule 1

Complying with Directions/Commands & Policies

No student shall fail to comply with directions or commands of principals, assistant principals, teachers, student teachers, substitute teachers, teacher aides, school bus drivers, or other authorized school personnel. No student shall willfully and persistently violate the Student Code of Conduct or any policy or administrative regulation of a school or the system as a whole.

Rule 2

Disruption and Interference with School

No student shall disrupt or otherwise interfere with the orderly operation of school or school activities. This

includes online content, internet usage, text messages, and all social media sites such as twitter, snapchat, kick, etc.

Rule 3

Substantial Disruption and Clear Danger

No student shall cause substantial disruption of the school environment or present a clear danger to any other

student(s) or school personnel.

Rule 4

Committing Illegal Acts

No student shall commit any illegal act. Acts which will not be permitted include, but are not limited to, violation

of any federal, state or local law, possession and/or discharge of fireworks, obscene and indecent acts, libelous or

slandorous acts toward other students, teachers, administrators, other school personnel or other persons.

Rule 5

Damaging, Destroying or Vandalizing Property

No student shall willfully or maliciously damage, mark, deface, destroy, or vandalize real or personal property of

another student, other persons legitimately at the school or the Board of Education during or after school hours.

Rule 6

Harassment, Bullying and Cyber bullying

No student shall sexually, emotionally, verbally, physically or by any communication by telephone, mail, broadcast, computer network or by any other electronic device or otherwise harass or bully any student, teacher, school employee or other person. Any student, in grades 6 through 12, committing the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, shall be assigned to an alternative school. Any form of harassment or bullying shall be promptly reported to an administrator or counselor. Teachers may be notified to maintain classroom discipline.

Rule 7

Assault, Battery, and Threatening Others

No student shall assault, commit battery upon, threaten, or otherwise abuse any student, teacher, school employee or other person. A student may be referred for permanent expulsion for violation of this section.

Rule 8

Physical Violence toward School Staff or Bus Drivers

No student shall commit any act of physical violence against a teacher, school bus driver, school official, or school employee. A student shall be referred to a disciplinary hearing for violation of this section. A student found to have committed an act of physical violence by intentionally making physical contact of an insulting and provoking nature may be disciplined by short-term suspension, long-term suspension or expulsion. A student found to have committed an act of

physical violence by intentionally making physical contact, which causes physical harm, shall be permanently expelled and, if applicable, referred to juvenile court.

Rule 9

Physical Assault and Bullying on a School Bus

No student shall engage in bullying as defined in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.4(a) or in physical assault, battery, other unruly behavior, verbal assault or disrespectful conduct toward the bus driver or others. If a student is found to have engaged in bullying, a meeting of the parent of the student and appropriate school district officials shall be required to develop a school bus behavior contract for the student. Such contract shall provide for progressive age-appropriate discipline, penalties, and restrictions for student misconduct on the bus.

Rule 10

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

No student shall possess, handle, display, discharge, transmit or otherwise use any firearm, air soft guns, pellet

guns, bb guns or destructive device, including but limited to explosives, incendiary device, chemical mace, tear

gas, pepper gas, and other irritant, aerosols, or weapons as defined in federal and/or state law, or other objects that reasonably can be considered a weapon OR have the appearance of a weapon.

Principals have the authority to ban or confiscate any item that, in their judgment, may be used as a weapon to cause bodily harm either to students, themselves or to others.

A student shall be referred for full calendar year expulsion for violating this section as related to firearms and destructive devices as defined in federal law.

Students violating this Rule by bringing weapons to school, on school grounds or to school related activities, that do not meet the federal law definition of weapons, but meet the state law definition or Board of Education definition, may be subject to long-term suspension, expulsion or permanent expulsion.

Rule 11

Using or threatening to use a Deadly Weapon and Bomb/Terroristic Threats

Any student who uses, or threatens to use a deadly weapon, including, but not limited to, a firearm or knife, which may cause bodily harm or death, shall be subject to permanent expulsion.

Students participating in or making a bomb or terroristic threat shall be subject to permanent expulsion. Student conduct off school grounds that has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order or discipline in schools, or maintaining the safety and welfare of the students and staff; or off-campus conduct which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony and when the student's continued presence at school becomes a potential danger to persons or property at the school, shall be subject to Board of Education discipline policies and administrative regulations.

Rule 12

Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drugs/Psychoactive Substances

The use and/or possession of tobacco by students in any form is prohibited; on (a) school property; or (b) any

property of the Board of Education; (c) while riding as passengers on vehicles operated by the Board of Education;

or (d) while participating in or attending any school sponsored event at any time.

The use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol are wrong, harmful and

illegal; therefore, no student shall possess, sell, use, transmit, handle, display, distribute, otherwise use or be under the influence of any: Narcotic • hallucinogenic drug • amphetamine • barbiturate • marijuana • other controlled substance • drug paraphernalia • over the counter or prescription medication(s) • alcoholic beverage • intoxicant of any kind or • substance represented to be illegal drugs or imitation controlled substance. A student may be referred for permanent expulsion for violating the section on illicit drugs and alcohol.

Rule 13

Absenteeism

No student shall be absent from school or from any class or required school function during school hours without the written permission of the parent/legal guardian and/or the approval of the principal, except in cases of personal illness or other providential cause.

Rule 14

Dress Code

Students shall comply with the System's Student Dress Code K through 12, as well as any and all individual school dress requirements.

Rule 15

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices

No student shall use a cell phone or other electronic communication devices except for health or other reasons as approved by the principal. Cell phones/electronic devices are not to be used at any time during the school day without the consent of the principal or his/her designee. Headphones are not permitted on any electronic devices without principal's permission. At no time are students permitted to film/record video of other students with any electronic devices unless under the direction of a teacher or staff member.

Rule 16

Verbal Assault and Physical Assault

No student shall verbally assault, threaten violence or physically assault other students, teachers, administrators, school personnel or persons attending school-related functions.

Rule 17

Disrespectful Conduct

Students shall not become involved in disrespectful conduct or use vulgar or profane language toward other students, teachers, administrators, school personnel or persons attending school-related functions.

Rule 18

False Reporting

No student shall falsify, misrepresent, omit, or erroneously report information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrators, or other school employee toward a student during or after school hours.

Rule 19

Passive Participation

No student shall incite, advise, encourage or counsel other students to engage in prohibited acts, be a passive participant or be an accomplice to a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, federal and/or state laws.

Rule 20

Internet/Electronic Use

No student shall violate the Miller County School System Acceptable Use Policy. BCSD provides a full range of electronic information systems, including Internet resources, for all students. Use of all electronic resources supports the vision, mission, and goals established by the BCSD. Access to these resources will be provided automatically.

Rule 21

Public Displays of Affection

Any display of affection such as kissing, embracing, etc., while at school is prohibited.

Chronic Disciplinary Problem Students

Definition: "Chronic Disciplinary Problem Student" means any student who exhibits a behavior pattern which interferes with the learning process of students around him and which is likely to recur. If a teacher or principal determines that a student is a chronic disciplinary problem student, then the principal shall:

Notify the student's parent as soon as practical. The parent shall be notified by a telephone call and certified mail with a return receipt requested or first class mail.

Invite the parent to the school to observe the student in a classroom situation.

Give the parent an opportunity to schedule and attend a conference with the principal and/or teacher(s) to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan. (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-765).

If not already in the RTI process, the student will be referred to Tier 3.

Before any chronic disciplinary problem student returns from an expulsion, long-term suspension or short-term out-of-school suspension, the principal of the school to which the student is to be re-admitted shall:

Request that the parent schedule and attend a conference with the principal so as to devise, update, or modify a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan.

At their discretion, invite a teacher, counselor, or other person to attend the conference. Failure of the parent to attend shall not preclude the student from being re-admitted to the school.

Ensure that a notation of the conference is placed in the student's permanent file.

The Response to Intervention (RTI) Process will be employed in the re-admission process, documented, and a copy placed in the student's permanent file.

Response to Intervention (RTI)

Response to Intervention is a regular education process for students experiencing problems of an academic, social or behavioral nature in school. RTI involves an inter-disciplinary group who works collectively to improve the delivery of instructional services to students as well as serves as a resource for teachers and other educators in the delivery of these services.

Parents may be invited to participate in the meetings to discuss their child's RTI status and in the development of interventions for their child. Parent participation is encouraged. The RTI documents shall be placed in the student's permanent file and copies given to all involved. If an RTI plan is utilized as a result of a discipline referral, parents shall receive a copy of the report and information on how to contact the principal.

It is recommended that after five (5) cumulative days of out-of-school suspension, the RTI

process be initiated. At this time, consideration of the student's behavior, lack of response to the behavior correction plan, and lack of response to being removed from the regular program must be considered. When the number of out-of-school suspension days reaches eleven (11) or more in any semester, the RTI process shall be initiated to develop or review the behavior correction plan and document the need for the out-of-school option or alternative educational placement.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS & PROCEDURES

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS:

A student whose behavior repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to teach the class, and where such behavior violates this Code of Conduct, may be removed from that class and reassigned to another educational setting. In addition, punishment consistent with the code violation may be imposed.

As part of the disciplinary process, the school district will utilize where appropriate, in light of the severity of the behavioral problem, student support services to help the student address behavioral problems, in addition to other disciplinary measures which may be imposed.

School administrators and teachers will follow a progressive discipline process whenever discipline is to be imposed. However, the degree of the discipline to be imposed for any violation, including the first times a student has committed a discipline infraction, will be in proportion to the severity of the violation.

School administrators and teachers will work together with, and seek the input of, the parents and guardians of students to improve and enhance student behavior. The school district recognizes the important role which parents and guardians play in developing positive behavior and academic performance.

2. SPECIFIC ACTIONS & PROCEDURES:

Detention: A student may be required to report either before, during, or after school hours to a specific school location and/or to a specific teacher or school official.

Procedure: The parent/guardian must be notified in writing at least 24 hours before the detention. The notification must explain the reason(s) for the detention and inform the parent/guardian that necessary transportation will be their responsibility.

Short Term Suspension: Short-term suspension is suspension from school and any school related activity for between one (1) and ten (10) school days. The principal or assistant principal may, at his/her discretion, assign a student to either in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension.

Procedure: The principal or assistant principal shall-

Tell the student, orally or in writing, the reason for the suspension and give the student an opportunity to tell his/her side of the story;

Attempt to contact the parent/guardian by telephone to inform them of the suspension;

Within one (1) school day after the suspension begins, send the parent/guardian notice by regular mail informing them of the reason(s) for the suspension and of their right to discuss the details of their child's misbehavior with school officials.

A principal or assistant principal may suspend a student without notice of the reason for the suspension or an opportunity to provide an explanation if the student is intoxicated, under the influence of drugs, or where his/her presence otherwise poses a continuing danger to others or a disruption to normal school operations. In such cases, however, the informal hearing outlined above shall occur as soon as practicable.

3. LONG TERM SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION: Long term suspension means the student loses the right to attend school or participate in school activities for more than ten (10) consecutive days.

Expulsion means the student loses the privilege of attending school or participating in school activities for the remainder of the grading period, remainder of the school year, or longer. Long term suspension and/or expulsion may only be imposed by action of the Disciplinary Hearing Officer, except as provided in cases where a tribunal is required, after the student has been afforded notice, opportunity for hearing, and other procedural rights prior to such expulsion or suspension becoming effective.

Rights of Student Where Long Term Suspension or Expulsion is Recommended:

The right to written notice of the specific charges which have been made against the student;

The right to a due process hearing;

The right to be represented by legal counsel at the hearing;

The right to testify and present witnesses; and,

The right to cross-examine witnesses who testify against the student.

Procedure:

The principal or assistant principal must initially recommend long term suspension or expulsion to the Disciplinary Hearing Officer.

A hearing before the Disciplinary Hearing Officer will be scheduled as soon as possible but not later than ten (10) school days after the student has been removed from school.

If the hearing date is more than ten (10) school days after the student has been removed from school, and the delay in scheduling is not caused by the student or his parent/guardian, the student will be returned to the school at the end of the ten (10) day period unless, in the judgment of the Disciplinary Hearing Officer, the student's return to school would create a danger to others or would disrupt the normal operation of the school.

Written notice will be sent to the parent/guardian by regular mail. This notice shall inform the parent/guardian of the following: the violation alleged; the date, time, and place of the hearing; the names of witnesses; and the punishment recommended. In addition, the notice shall inform them of the right to be represented by legal counsel at the hearing; the right to testify and present witnesses; and the right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the school district.

A verbatim electronic or written record of the hearing will be made and will be available to the parent/guardian or legal counsel of the student charged.

If long term suspension or expulsion is imposed, the parent/guardian will be notified of the decision in writing and of the right of appeal. This notice will be sent by regular mail within ten (10) days of the completion of the hearing.

If there is an appeal, the superintendent may in his/her discretion temporarily withhold implementation of the suspension or expulsion and return the student to school during the appeal process, but only if this will not endanger others or disrupt normal school operations.

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST SCHOOL OFFICIALS: A student charged with physical violence as defined in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.6 against a teacher, administrator, paraprofessional, school resource officer, bus driver or other school official or employee, including volunteers, shall be referred to a hearing before the hearing officer with the same rights as are afforded a student in the case of a recommendation of long-term suspension or expulsion. For any alleged act of physical violence against any school employee, the student must be suspended pending a student disciplinary hearing. If the student is found guilty of an act of physical violence which

causes physical harm to another, the student must be expelled and shall be referred to juvenile court with a petition alleging delinquent behavior.

VIOLATIONS ON SCHOOL BUS: The parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student engaged in bullying, physical assault or battery on another while on the school bus (or while boarding or departing a school bus) shall, in addition to other discipline which may be imposed, meet with school district officials to form a bus behavior contract which shall provide age-appropriate progressive discipline. When an alleged assault or battery on a school bus driver occurs, the student must have a disciplinary hearing.

APPEALS:

The decision of the Disciplinary Hearing Officer may be appealed to the Board of Education by the student's parent/guardian. The appeal process begins with a written request for review of the Disciplinary Hearing Officer's decision addressed to the Superintendent of the Miller County School District at 96 Perry Street, Colquitt, Ga. This request must be made within twenty (20) calendar days of the date of the hearing.

The Board of Education will consider only the record of the hearing before the Disciplinary Hearing Officer. A transcript of that hearing will be made only upon receipt of a letter of appeal to the superintendent. A copy of that transcript will be made available in the office of the Disciplinary Hearing Officer upon request. If a copy of the transcript is desired, the parent/guardian must pay the cost of preparing that copy.

The Board of Education has the power to affirm, reverse, or modify the decision of the Disciplinary Hearing Officer.

The decision of the Miller County Board of Education may be appealed to the State Board of Education. Notice of any such appeal must be filed with the Superintendent of the Miller County Schools within thirty (30) calendar days of the date the Miller County Board of Education renders its decision. The contents of this notice of appeal and the procedure to be followed before the State Board of Education of Georgia is contained in O.C.G.A. §20-2-1160.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION SETTING: Where, as the result of a violation of the Code of Student Conduct, a student of middle or high school age is suspended for more than ten (10) days or is expelled, the superintendent or his/her designee may, instead, permit that student to attend an Alternative Education Setting for the period of suspension or expulsion.

In addition, in the case of a student who chronically violates this Code of Student Conduct, even where individual violations are only minor violations, the superintendent or his/her designee, upon recommendation of the principal, may impose long-term suspension or expulsion. At the discretion of the superintendent or his/her designee, that student may be permitted to attend an Alternative Education Setting for the period of long-term suspension or expulsion.

DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Those students receiving services under the provisions of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Acts (IDEA) are entitled to certain disciplinary safeguards in addition to the same due process procedures given regular education students. These disciplinary safeguards are described in detail in our SPED Handbook

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Students under suspension or expulsion are not allowed on school district property or at school

related functions/activities.

Students are required to notify a teacher or administrator when illegal items (e.g., drugs, alcohol, beeper/pagers, etc.), dangerous items (e.g., guns, knives, explosive devices, or other weapons), or other items banned from school are found in the school building, on the school campus, or on the school bus.

School administrators and/or their designated representatives have the authority to conduct a reasonable search of students and their possessions. Lockers, desks, personal effects (e.g., purse, book bag, etc.) and vehicles when on school property, or at any school function or activity, may be searched at any time based on reasonable suspicion and illegal items or contraband seized.

A student is in possession of an illegal or prohibited item when it is found in or on the person of the student or in his/her personal effects, in his/her locker, or in a student's vehicle on school property or at any school function or activity off school property.

State law requires that victims of certain types of student misconduct file a written complaint with local school authorities. This includes an assault or battery by a student upon any student, teacher, or other school employee; or substantial damage which is intentionally caused by a student while at school to the personal property of a student, teacher, or other school employee where this could result in the long term suspension or expulsion of the student. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-753

O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1184 requires that certain criminal offenses committed by a student while on school property or at a school function be reported to the appropriate law enforcement authority and the district attorney. The crimes include aggravated assault with firearm involved (O.C.G.A. 16-5-21), aggravated battery (O.C.G.A. 16-5-24), sexual offenses (Chapter 6 of Title 16), weapon in unauthorized locations (O.C.G.A. 16-11-127), violations involving weapons in school safety zones (O.C.G.A. 16-11-127.1), possession of handgun by person under 18 (O.C.G.A. 16-11-132), and controlled substances violations (O.C.G.A. 16-13-30).

State law makes it unlawful for any person to manufacture, distribute, dispense or possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance or marijuana in, on, or within 1000 feet of any school property. Violation of this law is a felony and may be punished by imprisonment or a fine.

O.C.G.A. § 16-13-32.4 It shall be unlawful for any person to disrupt or interfere with the operation of any public school. Any person violating this Code shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1181

Georgia Law Regarding Battery Against A Teacher or School Employee: Any person who commits the offense of battery against a teacher or other personnel, engaged in the performance of official duties or while on school property shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment for not less than one (1) or more than five (5) years or a fine of not more than \$10,000.00 or both. O.C.G.A. § 16-5-23.1

Parents and guardians are encouraged to inform your child of the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

Information about Bullying: Bullying is prohibited by the Miller County School District.

Penalties for violating this prohibition may include, but are not limited to: Loss of privileges; Reassignment of seats in the classroom, cafeteria or school bus; Reassignment of classes; Separation in the classroom, cafeteria or school bus; Referral to Student Support

Team/Counseling/Social Worker; Involvement of behavior interventionist/specialist; Removal from class; Bus suspension; Behavior plan/contract; Parent notification/conference; In-school suspension; Out-of-school suspension; Detention; Expulsion; Assignment to an alternative educational setting.

Revision of Code : This Code of Student Conduct is reviewed annually and revised as needed to provide for equitable treatment of all students as well as to ensure compliance with current laws and regulations. The school district seeks input from all stakeholders including parents, students, community members, and school system personnel. Comments and suggestions may be directed to the attention of the district's Disciplinary Hearing Officer at CCSD's District Administrative Offices.

Definition of Terms

Assault:

Any threat or attempt to physically harm another person or any act which reasonably places another person in fear of physical harm. (Example: threatening language or swinging at someone in an attempt to strike).

Simple Assault - a person commits the offense of simple assault when he or she either:

Attempts to commit a violent injury to the person of another

Commits an act which places another in reasonable apprehension of immediately receiving a violent injury

Aggravated assault - a person commits the offense of aggravated assault when he assaults:

With the intent to murder, to rape, or to rob

With a deadly weapon or with any object, device, or instrument which, when used offensively against a person, is likely to or actually does result in serious bodily injury

A person or persons without legal justification by discharging a firearm from within a motor vehicle towards a person or persons.

Battery:

Intentionally making physical contact with another person in an insulting offensive or provoking manner or in a way that physically harms the other person.

Simple Battery - a person commits the offense of simple battery when he either:

Intentionally makes physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another

Intentionally causes physical harm to another

Bullying:

In accordance with Georgia law, bullying is defined as (1) Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; or (2) Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm.

Chronic Disciplinary Problem Student:

A student who exhibits a pattern of behavioral characteristics, which interfere with the learning process of students around him/her and which are likely to recur.

Clubs and Organizations:

Groups comprised of students who wish to organize and meet for common goals, objectives, or purposes and which is directly under the sponsorship, direction, and control of the school. This does not include competitive interscholastic activities.

Competitive Interscholastic Activity:

Functions held under the sponsorship of the school that involves its students in competition between individuals or groups representing two (2) or more schools. This includes cheerleading, band, and chorus.

Cyber Bullying:

When a student is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed, or otherwise targeted by another student using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, or mobile phones. Online content that poses a problem or disruption at school will not be tolerated and will be subject to appropriate discipline.

Detention:

A requirement that the student report to a specified school location and to designated teacher or school official to make up work missed. Detention may require the student's attendance before school or after school. Students in grades K through 12 may be assigned detention. Prior to the student serving a detention, the parent must be notified at least one (1) day in advance.

Disciplinary Hearing Officer:

School official appointed by the Board of Education to sit as fact finder and judge with respect to student disciplinary matters.

Disciplinary Tribunal:

School officials appointed by the Board of Education to sit as fact finder and judge with respect to student disciplinary matters.

Drug:

The term drug does not include prescriptions issued to the individual 1 aspirin or similar cold and/or similar medications taken according to product recommendation and board policy.

Caffeine pills are considered drugs

Expulsion:

The suspension of a student from a public school beyond the current school semester or quarter and only a disciplinary tribunal may take such action.

Extortion:

Obtaining money or goods from another student by threats, violence, or misuse of authority.

Fireworks:

The term "fireworks" means any combustible or explosive composition or any substance or combination of substances or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation, as well as articles containing any explosive or flammable compound and tablets and other devices containing an explosive substance.

Gambling:

Engaging in a game or contest in which the outcome is dependent upon chance even though accompanied by some skill, and in which a participant stands to win or lose something of value.

In-School Suspension:

Removal of a student from classes or regular school program and assignment of that student to

an alternative program isolated from peers.

Physical Violence:

Intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with another person; or intentionally making physical contact, which causes physical harm to another.

Suspension:

The removal of a student from the regular school program for a period not to exceed 10 days (short-term) or for a period greater than 10 days (long-term, which may be imposed only by actions of a disciplinary tribunal). During the period of suspension, the student is excluded from all school-sponsored activities including practices, as well as competitive events and/or activities sponsored by the school or its employees.

Theft:

The offense of taking or misappropriating any property, of another, with the intention of depriving that person of the property, regardless of the manner in which the property is taken or appropriated.

Waiver:

A waiver is an agreement not to contest whether a student has committed an infraction of the Code of Conduct and the acceptance of consequences in lieu of a hearing before a disciplinary tribunal.

Weapons:

Georgia Law, O.C.G.A. § 16-11-127.1(a)(2) and § 16-11-106(a), defines weapons as any objects which is or may be used to inflict bodily injury or to place another in fear for personal safety or well-being. The following things may be defined as dangerous weapons: any pistol, revolver, or any weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind, or any dirk, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, any stun gun, Taser, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife, straight-edge razor or razor blade, spring stick, metal knucks, chains, blackjack, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a way as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nunchaku, or fighting chain, throwing star or oriental dart or any weapon of like kind.

Bullying and Sexual Harassment

As defined pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

Harassment shall include, but not be limited to the following:

Unwelcomed sexual advances

Request for sexual favors

Request for unsolicited physical contact

Verbal conduct of a sexual nature that creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment

Writing sexually explicit notes or graffiti about another student

Obtaining or attempting to obtain property or sexual favors through the use of force, menace or fear

Acts initiated by a student against the chastity, common decency, and morals of another accompanied by threats, fears or danger

Intentionally or knowingly causing physical contact with another in an offensive or provocative manner

Intentionally or knowingly threatening another with imminent physical or psychological injury

Inappropriate touching, rubbing or grabbing of others

All charges of sexual misconduct and/or harassment will be investigated, documented, and filed

in the student's discipline record.

Definition: Bullying means any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; or any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm.

Cyber bullying is when a student is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed, or otherwise targeted by another student/students using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones. Cyber bullying that occurs outside school hours but has an impact on the school setting will be addressed by school personnel as well.

First Offense of Bullying

If the principal determines that a student has committed the offense of bullying, the principal will assign the appropriate consequence(s), hold a conference with the parent explaining the offense, review this section on bullying, and explain the consequence(s) related to the bullying in the Student Code of Conduct. This conference will be documented and a copy placed in the student's permanent file.

Second Offense of Bullying

If the principal determines that a student has committed a second offense of bullying, the principal will assign the appropriate consequences and implement the Response To Intervention Process. The principal will notify the parent in writing that a third offense of bullying will result in a request being made for long-term suspension from regular school and placement in an alternative program. Principals will also follow the procedure section in for Chronic Disciplinary Problem Students.

Third Offense of Bullying

Upon finding that a student in grades 6 through 12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, the principal shall make a referral for a disciplinary tribunal for the long-term suspension of the student to an alternative setting. Documentation of the Student Support Process with a copy of the behavior correction plan, and data showing efforts to modify the bullying behavior must be included with the disciplinary request and placed in the student's permanent file.

Level I Behavior Definitions (Minor Offenses)

Not prepared for class: coming to class without books, notebooks, or pencil.

Out of seat: Failure to remain in assigned area.

Example: leaving the work area without permission, any instance in which the student left a designated area without teacher permission

Physical Disruption: Bodily actions to disrupt the classroom or school environment.

Example: running, pounding, noise with materials, throwing self to ground, touching others without permission, horseplay, use of electronic devices

Verbal Disruption: Any verbal behaviors to disrupt the classroom or school environment.

Example: talking out, tantrums, crying, yelling, making noise, speaking loudly

Minor Verbal Aggression: Verbal behaviors to cause emotional harm.

Example: taunting, teasing, profanity, making fun of another student, name calling, screaming at peers, talking back to teachers, disrespect toward adult

Non-compliance: Failure to engage in requisite activities after specifically prompted by teacher or other adult.

Dress Code: violation of board approved dress code.

Tardy: Failure to be in the classroom without a pass after class has begun.

Level I Discipline Procedures (Teachers)

1. First Offense

Verbal warning

Restatement of expectation

2. Second Offense

Verbal warning

Restatement of expectation

3. Third Offense

Verbal warning

Restatement of expectation

Enter Minor Incident Report (MIR) and give consequence based on classroom management plan.

Level I Discipline Procedures (Repeat Offenses) (Administrative Response)

Repeated MIR can result in the one or more of the following (but not limited to) at the discretion of the administrator and based on the severity and frequency of the offense (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-735):

Parent contact

Detention (Recess, Lunch, PE)

Corporal Punishment

In-school suspension (1 to 3 days) (ISS can only be assigned or extended by the administrative team)

Out-of-school suspension (1 to 3 days)

Level II Behavior Definitions (Major Offenses)

Repeated and Excessive Level I Behaviors: See above descriptions.

Continuous Non-Compliance and/or Overt Insubordination: Failure to engage in requisite activities after specifically prompted by teacher or other adult and level one consequence are deemed ineffective.

Examples: refusal to follow an adult's spoken direction after Level I discipline procedure has been implemented.

Dishonesty: Deliberate misrepresentation of facts either verbally or through actions (including misrepresenting someone else's work as one's own).

Examples: cheating, lying, omitting facts or details

Verbal Aggression to Peers: Verbal behaviors to cause emotional harm.

Examples: profanity, obscene gestures or pictures, verbal coercion in the form of threats, verbal or cyber bullying, verbal coercion in the form of threats to use force, violence, intimidation, fear or disruptive means

Physical Aggression: Bodily actions to cause physical or emotional harm to another.

Examples: hitting, biting, kicking, grabbing, head butting, hair pulling, physical bullying, throwing objects that do or do not result in physical harm, tearing or destroying materials

Use of or Possession of Tobacco Products: Smoke or smokeless products.

Out of area: Failure to remain in assigned area including school elopement.

Level II Discipline Procedures (Administrative Response)

Immediate Referral: Referrals to the office for Level II behaviors can result in one or more of the following (but not limited to) at the discretion of the administrator and based on the severity and frequency of the offense (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-735):

Parent contact

Detention (Recess, Lunch, PE)

Corporal Punishment

In-school suspension (1 to 10 days) (ISS can only be assigned or extended by the administrative team)

Out-of-school suspension (1 to 10 days)

Level III Behavior Definitions (Severe Offenses)

Physical Aggression: Willfully inflicting pain and injury or attempting to cause physical harm.

Verbal Aggression to School Staff: Verbal behaviors to cause emotional harm.

Examples: profanity, obscene gestures or pictures, verbal coercion in the form of threats, verbal or cyber bullying, verbal coercion in the form of threats to use force, violence, intimidation, fear or disruptive means

Possession of Banned Paraphernalia: Carrying, possessing, or concealing paraphernalia on your person, personal carrying case, book bag, locker, desk, or any other container under the control, ownership, or in possession of the student. Examples: weapons (manufactured or homemade), fireworks or any other explosive device, material or liquid, use or possession of alcoholic beverages, un-prescribed legal drugs (including any and all counterfeit or look alike substances), illegal drugs as defined by law enforcement (including any and all counterfeit or look alike substances).

Illegal or Unauthorized Entry to School Facilities: Trespassing on school board property during unauthorized periods of time.

Examples: after-hour entry of school board property, returning to school during a designated suspension/expulsion period.

Theft: Any taking or attempting to take items, possessions, physical objects otherwise belonging to another person without expressed consent.

Examples: personal items, school property, identities (figuratively or explicitly)

Inappropriate Technology Use: As outlined in the general guidelines for technology use in the student handbook.

Inducing General Panic:

Example: The use of mail, telephone, telegram, or other instrument of commerce; the willful making of any threat; or the malicious conveyance of false information knowing the same to be false which concerns an attempt being made, or to be made; to kill, injure, intimidate any individual; or unlawfully to damage or destroy any building, vehicle, or other real or personal property.

Violation of State or Federal Laws: Any act considered illegal under State or Federal Law.

Example: Public Intoxication, Physical Assault, Sexual Assault, Arson, Burglary, Indecent Exposure, Possession of illegal Drugs (This list is not meant to be inclusive of all possible violations of the law but examples for the purpose of this description).

Level III Discipline Procedures (Administrative Response)

Immediate Referral: Referrals to the office for Level III behaviors can result one or more of the following (but not limited to) at the discretion of the administrator and based on the severity of the offense (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-735):

Parent contact

Notification of authorities

In-school suspension (1 to 10 days) (ISS can only be assigned or extended by the administrative team)

Out-of-school suspension (1 to 10 days)

Expulsion

Referred to local law enforcement

Bullying Policy

Bullying Definition

The term "bullying" is defined as:

a form of written, verbal, or physical aggression intended to offend, harm, or embarrass another person,

that occurs repeatedly overtime,

has a perceived or realized imbalance of power or status,

and interferes with the education or educational environment of another.

Bullying can take the form of:

Physical Bullying: The act of one person or a group of people using overt bodily acts to gain power over another. Example: hitting, punching, kicking, slapping, pinching, or any other physical act intended to inflict harm on another.

Verbal Bullying: The act of one person or a group of people using language (explicit, obscene, or insinuating) to gain power over another.

Examples: name-calling, threats, teasing, taunting

Indirect Bullying: The act of one person or a group of people purposefully engaging in discourse about another, regardless if the subject matter is fictional or fact, with the intent of publically or privately embarrassing, harassing, or degrading that person.

Examples: spreading rumors, gossiping,

Cyber Bullying: The act of one person or group of people using the internet, computers, cell phones, or other electronic devices to purposefully engage in discourse about another, regardless if the subject matter is fictional or fact, with the intent of publically or privately embarrassing, harassing, or degrading that person.

Examples: verbal or indirect bullying via electronic device

Bullying Procedures

1. Immediate Referral

Bullying referrals will be addressed according to district and state policy. Please refer to The State of Georgia Bullying Law (O.C.G.A. 20-2-751.4) when addressing instances of bullying in the school.

Refer to district bullying policy when addressing bullying.

General Information

Parent involvement through conferences is the most desirable avenue for correcting behavior problems. The parent or guardian should be contacted by phone whenever possible. In all cases involving a Level II-IV infraction the parents will be given written notification stating the student's offense and the administrative disposition. The student's failure to complete the punishment as designated will result in escalation to the next step on the ladder.

*** Students who are placed in ISS and/or OSS are not to be on any Miller County School Campus after normal school hours. Once the student has served his/her time in ISS/OSS, then he/she can resume attending extracurricular activities. Students should not attend high school or middle school athletic events while serving time in ISS or OSS. Students should not be attending recreational league practices or games if those practices or games take place on any Miller County Schools campus.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT (Paddling)

If you do not wish corporal punishment to be administered to your child, please fill out the appropriate forms (do not paddle from) the front office within the first ten (10) days after the beginning of school. This must be done annually and in writing.

Quick Reference for Discipline Procedures

Level I: Minor Behaviors

DEFINITION: Behaviors that...

Do not require administrator involvement

Do not appear chronic

EXAMPLES:

Not prepared for class: coming to class without books, notebooks, or pencil.

Out of Seat: leaving the work area without permission.

Physical disruption: excessive noise, destroying materials, throwing self to ground, touching others

without permission, horseplay, use of electronic devices.

Verbal Disruption: talking out, tantrums, crying, yelling, making noise, speaking loudly.

Minor Verbal Aggression: taunting, teasing, making fun of another student, name calling, screaming at peers or staff, minor disrespect toward adult.

Non-compliance: doing opposite of what was asked, refusal to follow an adult's spoken direction.

Tardy: entering the classroom after class has begun without a pass.

Dress Code: violation of board approved dress code.

PROCEDURE:

Inform student of rule violated

Implement classroom strategies/consequences

Contact parent if necessary

Enter minor discipline report (MIR)

Level II: Major Behaviors

DEFINITION: Behaviors that...

Require administrator involvement

Are chronic Level I behaviors

EXAMPLES:

Repeated and Excessive Level I Behaviors

Continuous Non-Compliance and/or Overt Insubordination: refusal to follow an adult's spoken direction after Level I discipline procedure has been implemented.

Dishonesty: cheating, lying, omitting facts or details, altering records

Verbal Aggression to Peers: profanity, obscene gestures or pictures, threats.

Physical Aggression: hitting, biting, kicking, grabbing, head butting, hair pulling, throwing objects that do or do not result in physical harm.

Out of area: running away from school, skipping/cutting class.

PROCEDURE:

Inform student of rule violated

Describe expected behavior

Contact parent

Enter discipline referral

Send student to administrator

Level III: Severe Behaviors

DEFINITION: Behaviors that...

Require administrator involvement

Violate school district policies or state policies or laws

Are chronic Level II behaviors

EXAMPLES:

Physical Aggression: destroying school property, fighting, Verbal Aggression to School Staff: profanity, obscene gestures or pictures, threats, etc.

Possession of Banned Paraphernalia: weapon, fireworks, alcoholic beverages, un-prescribed drugs, illegal drugs.

Illegal or Unauthorized Entry to School Facilities: after-hour entry of school board property, returning to school during a designated suspension/expulsion period.

Theft: personal items, school property, identities.

Use of or Possession of Tobacco Products

Inappropriate Technology Use.

Inducing General Panic: the willful making of any threat of false information in order to induce panic.

Sexual Misconduct: lewd and lascivious conduct.

PROCEDURE:

Inform student of rule violated

Send for an administrator to remove student from area

Contact Parent

Enter discipline referral

Bullying Policy

DEFINITION: Behaviors that

Are aggressive or passive aggressive in nature and intended to offend, harm, or embarrass the victim,

Occur repeatedly overtime,

Have a realized or perceived imbalance of power or status,

Interfere with the education or educational environment of another.

EXAMPLES:

Verbal Bullying: name-calling, threatening, harassing.

Physical Bullying: hitting, kicking, punching, spitting, or any other physical contact intended to cause harm.

Indirect Bullying: Intimidating someone with physical gestures, spreading false rumors.

Cyber-Bullying: name-calling, spreading rumors, harassing via electronic device.

PROCEDURE:

Inform student of the bullying

Send for an administrator to remove student from area

Enter discipline referral

Implement district policy

Contact Parent

STUDENT REPORTING OF ACTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OR SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

"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 the student handbooks and in employee handbooks or policies.

Student Reporting of Acts of Sexual Abuse or Sexual Misconduct

Any student (or parent or friend of a student) who has been the victim of an act of sexual abuse or 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.

Any teacher, counselor or administrator receiving a report of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct of a student by a teacher, administrator or other school system employee is urged to 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.

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 designed by the Department of Human Resources, or, in the absence of such agency, to an appropriate police authority or district attorney.

Reports 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.

Listed below are DEFINITIONS for "sexual abuse" and "sexual misconduct".

"Sexual Abuse" means a person's employing, using, persuading, inducing, enticing or coercing any minor who is not that person's spouse to engage in any sexual act as defined in O.C.G.A. 19-7-5

"Sexual Misconduct" includes behavior by an educator that is directed at a student and intended to sexually arouse or titillate the educator or the child. Sexual misconduct by an educator may include, but is not limited to, the following behavior:

- Made sexual comments, jokes or gestures.
- Showed or displayed sexual pictures, photographs, illustrations, or messages.
- Wrote sexual messages/graffiti on notes or the Internet.
- Spread sexual rumors (i.e. said a student was a gay or lesbian)
- Spied on students as they dressed, showered or used the restroom at school.
- Flashed or "mooned" student.
- Touched, excessively hugged or grabbed students in a sexual manner.
- Forced a student to kiss him/her or do something else of a sexual nature.
- Talked or asked about a student's developing body, sexuality, dating habits, etc.
- Talked repeatedly about sexual activities or sexual fantasies.
- Made fun of your body parts.
- Called students sexual names.

Notification Required Under ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) Sec. 1112:

Parent's Right to Request a Teacher's and a Paraprofessional's Qualifications

In compliance with the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act, parents may request the following information:

- Whether the student's teacher or paraprofessional:
 - has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas 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
- notifications must occur within 30 calendar days from the start of school or upon enrollment
- notification applies to children participating in any and all programs
- responses to requests must be provided in a timely manner
- records will be maintained that meet ESSA requirements