

LEARNING

EMPOWERING

EXCELLING



**Lee County Middle School
West Campus**

2023-2024

**190 Smithville Road, North
Leesburg, GA 31763
Phone: 903-2140
Fax: 903-2160 Guidance Office
Fax: 903-2156 Front Office**

Property of: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

In case of emergency, please notify:

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Mission

The Lee County School System fosters relationships through diverse, challenging, and quality educational experiences that cultivate successful citizens.

Beliefs

We believe in...

- 1. Investing in our students through strong partnerships between home, school, and community.
- 2. Providing each student an equitable, challenging, and quality education through engaging learning opportunities.
- 3. Ensuring everyone an environment in which they feel safe, valued, and nurtured.
- 4. Offering diverse opportunities for all students to be successful through highly effective teachers and targeted resources.
- 5. Preparing all students with the academic, social, and work skills necessary to be productive citizens in school and life.

LCSS Vision:



LCMS WEST CAMPUS ADMINISTRATIVE WELCOME

On behalf of the faculty and staff, we want to welcome you to the 2023-2024 school year at LCMS West! We are honored to be the administrators of Lee County Middle School West Campus and to serve our students, parents, and community in this capacity. We are extremely fortunate to have a dedicated faculty and staff who believe in the ideals of a true middle school where the academic, social, emotional, and physical growth of each student is our common interest. As a National Lighthouse School to Watch, we believe that incorporating the middle school concept into all we do will maximize the learning of our students.

Since this is a great time to explore and grow, we encourage all students to become actively involved in the many opportunities provided throughout the year. There is a wide variety of activities, clubs, committees, and athletic teams to be a part of at LCMS West Campus. We also encourage all parents to develop a collaborative relationship with your child's teachers. Regular communication and involvement will help ensure a successful year for all. We hope that through combined efforts of home and school, your child will soar beyond all expectations.

We look forward to a wonderful year at LCMS West! Let's work together to make this the best year ever by focusing on positive relationships and relevant learning experiences.

Sincerely,

Lee County Middle School West Campus Administration

TROJAN CODE

We at LCMS West Campus expect parents to support the Lee County School System to ensure the best education for their child. Students are expected to be respectful, honest, responsible, and trustworthy. We feel that it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that their child possesses these qualities. Students are expected to abide by the following code:

1. Students will remain seated and listen courteously to announcements.
2. Every student is expected to complete and turn in homework in a timely fashion.
3. Every day, students should bring to class their agenda, book, paper, pen, and pencil and/or required materials. Students should limit items brought to school to those items necessary for school activities. Students are also discouraged from bringing large sums of money or other valuable items to school. The school is not responsible for items brought to school that are lost or stolen.
4. All papers, forms, notes, etc., are to be promptly returned with parent/guardian's signature upon request.
5. Students should have their agenda signed by a teacher for use as a pass to use the phones, visit the office, or any other legitimate reason to be out of the classroom.
6. During school hours, food and drink are to be consumed in the lunchroom or under adult supervision with permission due to a fundraiser, PBIS celebration, or school activity. All food from the lunchroom should remain in the lunchroom unless other directions come from a teacher or school administrator. **Only water in clear containers will be allowed in the classroom.**
7. At the end of the school day, students will leave when their bus is announced.
8. Students are expected to show respect for school personnel, other adults, students, family, and self.
9. Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, supplies, equipment, and furniture supplied by the school. Students may be expected to pay a fee for damages/loss.
10. Students are expected to give their best effort every day.
11. Students should set some personal goals and make strong efforts to accomplish them.
12. Appropriate behavior is expected at all school functions and on all school field trips.

Violation of the Trojan Code may result in disciplinary consequences given by classroom teachers and/or school administrators.

This handbook contains useful information for both parents and students regarding the daily operations of Lee County Middle School West Campus. It will also serve as a handy reference, and should act as a guide for effective planning and involvement in the school. Please note that the contents are alphabetized by the section headings.

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING

Team teachers will notify parents of the days/time when additional academic support will be offered to students after school. Teams will offer one after school tutoring session per academic subject each week. Students are expected to behave during this time, and parents are expected to **pick up their child by 4:00**. Students who stay after school for tutoring and are not picked up by the designated time may not be allowed to continue to stay for extra help.

BAND

Band is a year-round course that offers students a chance to learn to play an instrument. Band classes consist of a 6th grade beginning band, 7th grade intermediate band, and an 8th grade advanced band. Students are expected to purchase most instruments for this class with the exception of the larger brass instruments or secondary instruments. Band students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of performances which include but are not limited to District Honor Band Audition, District Honor Band Clinic, Christmas Concert, Solo and Ensemble, GMEA Festival, All State Band Performance, Sixth Grade Honor Band, Football Pep Band, Spring Concert, and Spring Band Trip. Students are graded on performance, homework, tests, and overall musicianship.

BUILDING EVACUATIONS

Building evacuations are an unfortunate but necessary precaution for public and private schools and institutions. Students will practice appropriate procedures for evacuating the building. At all times, our total focus will be the safekeeping of our students and staff. Procedures will be defined in the teacher handbook and posted in all classrooms.

CAFETERIA

To encourage proper nutrition, Lee County Middle School West Campus cafeteria offers breakfast and lunch for students daily. Breakfast is served from 7:45-8:10. Students who are **car riders will only be permitted to eat breakfast if they arrive at school by 8:00**. If a student has to be dropped off at school later than 8:00, administration asks that the student eats breakfast before coming to school to ensure arriving to class on time. A free and reduced lunch program is available for those students who qualify. Students are encouraged to pay weekly or monthly with checks payable to Lee County School Food Service. Food service personnel are available every morning in the main lunchroom to receive payment for meals. **No outside meals may be delivered to students at school. Carbonated beverages may not be consumed in the lunchroom.**

Meal prices are available on our system webpage under Departments-Food Services.

You can also pay and check balances on the site <https://www.schoolcafe.com/>

Students will not be allowed to charge over \$15.50 for meals in the cafeteria. By allowing charges up to \$15.50, students will continue to receive breakfast and lunch for a reasonable grace period in the event they forget to bring money to school. After students have reached their charge limit, they will receive an alternate meal for lunch consisting of a sandwich and milk. No more than 5 alternate lunch meals may be served to students. Additional action will be taken if charges remain unpaid. Students owing over \$15.50, will NOT be allowed to get a breakfast tray. Although the Food Service program will make attempts to notify parents of account shortages, it is the responsibility of the parent to check account balances.

Lee County Middle School West Campus cannot accommodate parents at lunch. Thank you for your understanding.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones may be used outside of the building prior to 8:00 and after 3:15. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off and stored in the locker/book bag during the school day. These items may not be accessible to students (kept in purse, pockets, etc.) during the school day. Cell phones and any other electronic device seen during the school day will result in these items being taken up from the student. LCMS West Campus is NOT responsible for any of the items brought to school by students. **The only exceptions to this policy are if the device is being used (1) in the classroom for instructional purposes as approved by the teacher or (2) for the purposes of a school scheduled activity such as a PBIS celebration. If, however, the device is used in any unauthorized manner during this time, disciplinary action may occur.**

The LCMS West Campus Cell Phone/Electronic Device policy is:

1st offense: \$10.00 charge and the device will be released to a parent/guardian only.

2nd offense: \$20.00 charge and the device will be released to a parent/guardian only.

3rd offense (and each offense thereafter): \$40.00 charge and the device will be released to a parent/guardian only.

Parents may retrieve items from the front office staff between the hours of 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM. Cash or money order only. No checks.

CHORUS

Chorus is a course for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students designed to build skills in music literacy using the voice as an instrument. Everyone's voice is unique, and individual attention is necessary to insure each singer's growth. Efficient singing techniques including body alignment, breath flow, and vowel shaping are explored. Only the best choral literature available is studied, along with the following performance opportunities: All State auditions, Solo and Ensemble participation, fall and Christmas concerts, Sixth Grade Statewide Honor Choir, District Honor Choir, GMEA Choral Festival, spring auditions, spring concert, spring Chorus trip, and various additional performance opportunities that may arise during the year. Students are graded on performance, class participation, tests, and overall musicianship.

CLUBS

Art Attack: is a club that will meet during club time and occasionally after school to explore photography, graphic design and the computer arts. In the 21st century, the demand for digital media is increasing rapidly. Based on the Rhode Island School of Design's STEAM initiative, Art Attack will explore the mingling of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics into Art/Design. Art Attack will be available to both LCMS East and LCMS West students. Sponsor: *Lindsey Tucker*

Beta Club: This is an honor society based on academics, character, democratic values, and leadership. Membership is based upon teacher recommendation and honor roll status as indicated by previous year. Students are required to complete ten service hours and maintain honor roll status. New member dues: \$30. Returning member dues: \$15. Sponsors: *Melissa Holt and Abby Cullifer*

Book Club: This club will give students an opportunity to pursue their love of reading through group book discussion and shared reading. Sponsors: *Amber Sheffield*

Chess Club: Students will learn the strategy and tactics involved in the challenging game of chess. Students will compete with others in the class. Sponsor: *Kaion Hamilton*

Computer/App Club: Open to students in 6th-8th grade with an interest in expanding their knowledge of computer applications and programs. Sponsor: *Heather Lawton*

Expressive Art Club: Express your feelings through art. Sponsors: *Danielle Dowdy and Keia Daniels*

Drama Club: The West Drama Club meets after school throughout the year to prepare students for the annual musical. Student will audition for the musicals offered at the middle school level and learn acting and music techniques to help them prepare for shows offered around the Albany area and at the High School. Sponsor: *April Spivey*

Fellowship of Christian Athletes: Open to 6th-8th graders. Interdenominational school-based Christian sports organization which focuses on serving the community. Sponsor: *Gordy Bonner and Dwayne Suggs*

Fitness Club: Open to 6th-8th graders. For students interested in improving overall fitness through activities and education. Sponsor: *Zeth Ford*

Future Business Leaders of America*: Open to 6th-8th graders who are interested in going into business related professions. Students work on skills involving keyboarding applications, computer technology, slideshow presentations, and exploration of various careers. Members have the opportunity to participate in two competitions each year. Sponsor: *Vonnie McClung*

Law Enforcement Club: Open to 6th-8th grade students. Students will learn the In's and Out's of law enforcement. Sponsors: *Officer Barnhill*

Math Club: Open to 6th-8th grade students interested in competition level mathematics. Sponsors: *Audra Davis*

Model United Nations: Open to 6th-8th graders who meet the academic requirements. This club requires students to do extensive research, write essays, and debate current event issues in a United Nations like setting. There are two competitions a year. Sponsors: *Bill Riddle and Lynn Coleman*

National FFA: Open to 6th-8th graders interested in participating in activities dealing with the various aspects of agricultural science and leadership skills. Sponsors: *Sierra Andrews, and Kelly Haviland.*

PBIS Club: This club allows students to have input on the PBIS program and LCMS West campus. Students can offer ideas for incentives and well as help implement strategies that are already in place. Sponsor: *Brittany Rooks*

Poetry Club: Open to 6th-8th grade students who are interested in learning the elements of poetry. This club will offer students the opportunity to pursue their poetic passion. Originality and creativity will be encouraged and poetic works will be discussed. Sponsor: *Dailyn Fretwell*

Puzzle Club: Open to all 6th-8th graders interested in learning how to work various types of puzzles such as Sudoku, Word Games, etc. Sponsor: *Alda Thompson*

Lego Robotics: Students can participate in building and operating remotely operated vehicles. Sponsor: *Katelyn Schmidt*

Board Game Club: Open to students 6th – 8th grade. Students will help organize school spirit activities and promote things like athletics, dances, and other school sponsored events. Sponsors: *Jennifer Peets and April Spivey*

STEM/Community Outreach Club: Students will take a STEM approach to address problems in the community and provide outreach based on identified problems. Sponsors: *Angela Proffitt and Lacy Ragin*

Student Government Association: Open to 6th-8th graders. Officers and homeroom representatives are elected in August. Sponsors: *John Savelle*

Word Nerds: A Book Club. This free club is exclusively for middle school students who love to read and discuss books. The club meets monthly on designated club days, with a maximum of ten members. This book club is an excellent opportunity for middle schoolers to connect with fellow book lovers, expand their reading horizons, and have fun exploring new stories together. So, if you're a bookworm looking for a community of like-minded readers, "Word Nerds" is the perfect place to be! Sponsor: *April Smith*

Yearbook: 7th-8th grade students only. Students must go through an application, interview, and selection process. Staff members must have their own camera, have internet access outside of school, and be willing to work on assignments from home when necessary. Sponsor: *Paige Kierce*

*** These clubs will have one combined program for both Lee County Middle School East and West Campuses. Students from both schools will be eligible for participation.**

CONFERENCES

Conferences with teachers, counselors, or administrators should be **scheduled in advance** to make sure they are available to meet with parents. Teachers, counselors, or administrators may be off campus or have other meetings scheduled during the day.

DRESS CODE

All students at LCMS West Campus are expected to select a mode of dress that is appropriate for school activities. Students are prohibited from wearing any type of apparel which distracts from the educational environment. When students are required to change clothes to attend school, a parent will be called. The expectations include:

1. No hats, bandannas, or sunglasses. Headbands should be less than 2 inches thick.
2. No clothing with any reference to drugs, sex, alcohol, gangs, violence, or profanity.
3. No tank tops, halter-tops, tube tops, or tops that reveal parts of the midriff. Sleeveless shirts or dresses must cover the majority of the shoulder and be non-revealing in the chest area. Undershirts that can be seen through sheer shirts must also follow this dress code.
4. No distracting body piercing (piercings other than ear or stud type ring in nose are deemed distracting)
5. No clothes with tears or holes above fingertip length unless covered by a patch with no skin showing.
6. If you wear a dress/skirt/top with no leggings, it must come to the knee. If you wear a dress/skirt/top with leggings, it must meet the “fist test” * and cover the rear end.
7. No face painting or stick on tattoos – unless it is spirit day.
8. All shorts must meet the fingertip test. This means that the shorts must be as long as the wearer’s longest finger when the arms are held properly by the side.
9. If leggings are worn, a top that meets the fist test length requirements for dresses and skirts must be worn. (See #6)
10. No spike jewelry, clothing, or wallet chains.
11. Undergarments should not be visible.
12. No pajama pants, pajama tops, or bedroom shoes may be worn (unless a school activity permits such garments).
13. Gang affiliation clothing, accessories, styles will not be allowed to be worn at school.
14. Blankets are not allowed at school.
15. Hoodies from hooded sweatshirts should be removed from the head while students are in the building.
16. Pants, shorts, and/or skirts should be worn at the natural waist line. No sagging or showing of any undergarment or second layer of clothing including, but not limited to, gym shorts and boxer shorts. Subject to a discipline referral for indecent exposure.

The fist test refers to a student standing with their hands by their side and a closed fist. The top must be longer than arms by their side with a closed fist. *

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY DISCRIMINATORY COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Refer to the Lee County School System Code of Student Conduct for information regarding this topic.

FIELD TRIPS

Students attending school-sponsored trips must have written permission from parents. Students are expected to conduct themselves in an acceptable manner, or they will have forfeiture of future field trips in addition to application of school discipline procedures. Students are expected to be in good academic and behavioral standing to be excused for educational field experiences. Sometimes money paid for field trips is nonrefundable should the student be unable to attend. Chaperones should be the parent/legal guardian/grandparent of the student and must be 21 or older. Chaperones will be expected to sign a contract with the school before being allowed to chaperone a field trip. **ALL CHAPERONES WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A BACKGROUND CHECK THROUGH THE SCHOOL'S FRONT OFFICE.**

FIRE DRILLS

Fire drills are held regularly as required by state law. They may occur at any time during the school year. Students are expected to exit in an orderly fashion as directed by supervising adults. Fire and emergency evacuations save lives. Students can recognize this drill by a continuous siren and blinking light.

FLOWERS

Parents and friends are asked NOT to send flowers/balloons to students at school. Students are not allowed to carry flowers/balloons on school buses and flowers will not be delivered to classrooms.

FOOD

Teams are permitted to offer various team building activities for students. For the safety of the students and the food provider, we require that food items be "store bought" if the activity involves food. Homemade items cannot be accepted. If students bring in items to share with other students related to a student's birthday, the same rule applies. The child's teacher must be contacted in advance before sending any refreshments to school for a birthday celebration or other special occasion.

GIFTED REFERRAL PROCEDURES

Student Referral: The purpose of the referral phase is to gather existing information, including observation of student behaviors, about the student in order for the Eligibility Team to determine whether further consideration for the gifted program is warranted. Referrals to be considered by the Gifted Program Eligibility Team located in each local school most often come from automatic referrals generated from review of standardized achievement test scores and reported referrals from classroom teachers and other school-based educators. However, any person who has knowledge of a student's intellectual functioning can make a referral. A referral may be made by teachers, counselors, administrators, parents or guardians, student peers, or by the student himself/herself.

Reported Referral: If a person wishes to refer a student for the gifted program, he/she must complete a Gifted Program Referral Form. Gifted Program Referral forms are to be turned in to the gifted education teacher at the student's school. Referrals may be turned in any time during the school year but will be reviewed by the local school Eligibility Team shortly after school opens in the fall for new to Lee County students and in the spring for all other students.

Students who move into Lee County that were actively engaged in a gifted program in another Georgia public school district will be placed in the gifted program in Lee County Schools once documentation of service in the former Georgia school district has been received. Students who move into Lee County that were actively engaged in a gifted program in a public-school district outside the State of Georgia will be reviewed by the local school Eligibility Team to determine if any assessment is necessary before determining eligibility for gifted services. Lee County Middle School West Campus students receive gifted services in math and/or reading.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

Lee County Middle School West Campus has the services of school counselors who work closely with students, parents, and other personnel. The counselor strives to promote a positive educational atmosphere. Student conferences with the counselor should be scheduled during non-instructional class time except in cases of emergency with prior approval of their teacher. Teachers and students deserve the courtesy of having uninterrupted classes. Parent conferences with the teachers are encouraged and the counselor is available to participate in such conferences. The counselor also provides classroom and small group guidance sessions with students.

HEALTH RECORDS

Georgia Law requires that every student enrolled in Georgia public schools have a Certificate of Immunization on file. Students who do not provide the school with an approved certificate will be referred to the school social worker. Non-compliance of this law will prevent the child from attending public school unless a waiver for school immunization is provided. Out-of-state transfer students are given a reasonable grace period to furnish the school with the appropriate Certificate of Immunization. Vaccinations and vaccination records may be obtained from the County Health Department or from your private physician.

HEALTH SERVICES

A nurse is available to help your child in case of illness or injury at school. Parents will be notified when a child is sick or complaining of continuous discomfort or pain. It is vital to always have up to date telephone numbers where a parent, relative, or friend can be reached at all times. If your home or work number changes, please notify the front office and/or nurse's office as soon as possible. In case of serious illness/injury, the school will telephone Emergency Medical Services for immediate assistance and transport the student to the nearest hospital. Any associated costs will be the parent's responsibility. **All medicine, whether prescription or over-the-counter, must be stored in the nurse's office and dispersed by the nurse. Any student in possession of medicine at school may be subject to disciplinary consequences.**

A school health information sheet is sent home on the first day of school with each child. This sheet provides needed information concerning medicines and emergency contact. A sheet is also

sent home concerning asthma inhalers. It is very important for the parent to fill out the health information sheet, sign it, and return it to school. If the asthma inhaler information applies to your child, this should be signed and returned as well.

HONOR ROLL

Superintendent's Scholar-----	96-100
Principal's Scholar-----	90-100
Jr. Trojan Scholar-----	85-100

Students must have the above grades **in all subjects including a yearly average of connections and physical education classes** to qualify for Honor Roll each nine weeks grading period. Honor Roll **for the year** will be based on the students' yearly average as of the 4th quarter progress report. This average will be calculated separately for each subject. Students must meet the above criteria for each subject in order to be a Superintendent's Scholar, Principal's Scholar, or Jr. Trojan Scholar for the year.

IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION/OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION

There are strict rules and guidelines that students must follow while they are in In School Suspension (ISS). Failure to abide by these rules could result in the student being assigned Out of School Suspension (OSS). Students may be assigned in school suspension (ISS) in lieu of after school detention (ASD), only if the parent is unable to pick up the child at the proper time from ASD. Students in OSS can receive 50% credit for any work that is turned in upon returning to school. Students who deface property, break windows, paint graffiti, litter, or do other damage to the school, personal property, or equipment may be required to pay for the damage, clean it, and/or replace the item in addition to being assigned ISS/OSS. **STUDENTS IN ISS OR OSS MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ON THE DAY(S) THE SUSPENSION IS BEING SERVED.**

LOCKERS

Each student may rent a school lock/locker for \$5.00. It is his/her responsibility to take care of this locker. Under no circumstances should the combination be shared or dialed in such a manner that someone may observe it. Students cannot share lockers. Students will be held responsible for damages and excessive wear and tear on locks/lockers. If a lock is lost or purposely damaged, the replacement cost will be \$5.00. Students are not to put stickers or other ornaments on the inside or outside of their lockers. Students may be required to keep all bags (Ex. book bags, purses, gym bags, etc.) in their locker during the school day. Students may use lockers only during designated times of the day. Students may not use lockers during class or at unscheduled times without permission from the current classroom teacher. All students are expected to bring required materials to class as scheduled. No harmful or illegal materials should be stored in lockers. Lockers may be opened and searched at any time with or without notification of the student at the discretion of the administration. See the Search and Seizure Policy in this handbook for further details. See Physical Education for information about PE lockers.

LOST ARTICLES

All articles that are found should be turned in to the office. Students seeking lost articles should check with the office. Unclaimed lost articles will be donated to charity at the end of each semester.

LOST OR DAMAGED ITEMS SUPPLIED BY THE SCHOOL

Lee County Middle School West Campus administers a system of maintaining and controlling all materials, supplies, and equipment owned by the school. Students are responsible for all items issued to them by a teacher or media specialist. Lost or excessively damaged items must be paid for by the student to whom the item was issued. Students will be required to pay full price for any book that is lost or damaged beyond repair. All materials, supplies, and equipment represent a sizable financial investment for the school. Lee County Middle School West Campus will establish rules and regulations as it deems necessary for the care and protection of these materials. Disciplinary consequences may result in addition to the student being charged for damaged items. If the instilled fee is not paid, additional disciplinary action may be taken.

MEDIA CENTER

The media center's primary function is to support the curriculum at LCMS West Campus. The media center is open from 7:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. Per state law, the media center operates on a fully flexible schedule. Flexible scheduling is addressed in the GaDOE rule IFBD 160-4-4-.01. A Georgia school library media program must include a plan for flexibly scheduled media center access for students and teachers in groups or as individuals simultaneously throughout each instructional day. Students who come to the media center should have an agenda signed by a classroom teacher unless they come as a whole group or are returning a book only.

Checking out books: Students may check out two books at a time. Books are checked out for a two-week period (due dates are stamped in the back of the book) and may be renewed once. Fines are charged on overdue books -- \$0.05 per school day after the due date. Overdue notices are given monthly. If students have fines under \$0.45 and no overdue book, they may check out one book. Students with fines of more than \$0.45 or with an overdue book will not be allowed to check out a book until the overdue book is returned and/or fines are paid.

Lost or damaged books: If a student loses or damages a book beyond usefulness while it is checked out in their name, they must pay the cost of the book. If a lost book is found and returned during the school year, the cost of the book – minus fines – will be refunded. For additional information, see the **Lost or Damaged Items Supplied by the School** section above.

Internet Use and BYOT: Parents must give permission for students to use the Internet and agree that students will follow BOE policy re: Internet Use and BYOT as described in the Code of Conduct. See the **Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment** page in this agenda.

Photo/Video Policy: Parents must give permission for students to have pictures/videos published online or by news media. See the **Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment** page in this agenda.

Printing: Students may print in black and white for \$.10 per page. Students are asked to copy and paste images/text from the Internet to a Google doc to reduce the amount of toner and paper used when printing.

Teen Read Space: The teen read space is provided for students to relax and enjoy time in a casual atmosphere. They may read, play games, or visit quietly. It serves as a reward for academic performance or behavior, and students may come for 15-minute periods with a Teen Read Space pass from their teachers.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

Lee County Middle School West Campus will conduct a brief period of quiet reflection for not more than 60 seconds for all pupils assembled. This will occur during the first period each morning and prior to the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Students are allowed a maximum of ten days (60 hours) for school sponsored activities as authorized by GA DOE Rule 160-4-2-16. Such activities must be sponsored by the GHSA or a recognized educationally related local, state, regional, or national organization or college visitation/scholarship competition. Students are not counted absent for participating in non-instructional activities (NI days), but are responsible for all assignments or makeup work.

Approval of Additional School-Sponsored Non-instructional Absences: The Board of Education will observe the following procedures for the evaluation and approval of individual absences beyond the maximum ten days (60 hours) allowed for school-sponsored non-instructional activity.

- a. A written request for absence shall be submitted by the student through the school principal to the Superintendent or his or her designee 30 days in advance of the anticipated date(s) of absences. Under emergency circumstances, the Superintendent may waive the 30-day requirement.
- b. The student's request must contain the dates of the anticipated absence, background information explaining the reasons for the first ten days of absences due to school sponsored non-instructional activities, and a rationale to support approval of additional days, including an explanation of how such additional activities away from class will be academically and instructionally beneficial to the student.
- c. The school principal will verify the reasons for the ten allowable absences and provide a recommendation for approval or disapproval of the request for additional absences.
- d. The Superintendent will evaluate the student's request and the principal's recommendations and make a recommendation for approval or disapproval.

OFFICE HOURS

The front office is open each day from 7:30 a. m. until 4:00 p.m. It is here that any necessary contact between home and school is made. All record keeping and other school business takes place in the administrative office. The school phone number is 903-2140. **Emergency calls after 4:00 PM: 903-2100 (Central Office) or 903-2212 (Bus Shop).**

HOURS OF SUPERVISION

Student supervision is provided from 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Students who are on the campus before or after supervised hours may be picked up by the school resource officer and transported to the police department for parent pickup. Students who are continuously on the campus after supervised hours may be asked to use the bus transportation provided by the school system.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

LCMS West Campus teachers communicate with parents in various ways. Many of our teachers send mass email messages, mass text messages, and/or maintain team websites to keep parents up to date on what is going on at school. Your child's team of teachers will let you know at the beginning of the year the method(s) of communication that they will be using so that they can ensure effective communication from school to home. All students are asked to record daily assignments and grades that they receive in this student agenda. Daily assignments are to be listed on the appropriate day in the calendar section of the agenda. It is the student's responsibility to maintain these records and important for parents to follow the student's progress in each academic class for each nine week grading period.

Parents may access their child's school related information through our online parent portal. Follow these steps to access Lee County Schools Parent Portal:

1. Open your web browser and go to <http://ic.lee.k12.ga.us/cparent>
2. Enter your student's Social Security number and date of birth in the appropriate blocks and click the submit button.
3. You should next see a screen containing your name and GUID. Either print this screen or write the GUID down as it is needed to setup your user-id and password. If you did not receive the GUID screen display, repeat steps 1 and 2. If you retry was also unsuccessful, contact your student's school and asked to speak to the Portal Coordinator.
4. Next, click on the Parent Portal hot link in the lower right corner of the box containing your Name and GUID. This will take you to the Portal Login. For reference the URL is <https://ic.lee.k12.ga.us/campus/portal/lee.jsp>
5. Looking at the top of the screen, click on the hot link at the end of the line reading, "If you have been assigned a Campus Portal Activation Key, click here".
6. Enter your GUID in the Activation Key boxes and click the submit button.
7. Next enter the user-id you wish to use and your desired password (twice). Passwords must be at least 8 characters long and be a combination of letters, numbers and or non alphanumeric characters. Then click the Create Account button.
8. The following should appear on the screen.

Congratulations! You have successfully created your Campus Portal account Click here to enter Campus Portal login page

Again for future reference the URL is <https://ic.lee.k12.ga.us/campus/portal/lee.jsp>

Enter the user-id and password you created and click the Login Button. The portal should then be displayed. If you have problems or questions contact the Portal Coordinator at your child's school.

PASS/ PLAY POLICY

All students participating in any interscholastic competitive activity must meet the requirements of State Board Policy of No Pass/No Participate. Briefly, the requirements are as follows:

1. The grading period will be a semester (18 weeks).
2. Students must meet Lee County Board of Education promotion policy.
3. Any interscholastic activity on a day preceding a school day may not begin prior to the end of the regular school day and must end by 7:00 PM.
4. A physical examination completed on the state mandate form provided by the school and completed by a medical doctor is required for all students prior to any involvement in any

athletic activity; a physical is valid for one calendar year. Completed forms will be on file at the school.

5. Special education students must meet eligibility requirements as specified by the student's IEP.
6. Ineligible students in athletics are prohibited from practicing, traveling, or trying out for a team or program.
7. In order to participate in an interscholastic event, students must be present for more than ½ the school day. Check-ins must be by 11:45 AM. Extenuating circumstances may be considered for approval by the Principal.

The Board of Education is responsible for regulating competitive interscholastic activities in grades 6-8, and therefore adopts the requirements set forth in State Board Rule 160-5-1-.19 Grades 6-8: Competitive Interscholastic Athletics, as to student eligibility, physical examinations, time restrictions, seasonal practice, special provisions and appeals. For eligibility purposes, all students in grades 6-8 must be promoted to the next grade to participate in competitive interscholastic activities. In addition, if a student fails 2 or more subjects in one semester period, they are ineligible for participation the following semester.

PASS/PLAY Policy will be used to determine academic eligibility for after school or out of school events for clubs as well.

STUDENTS IN ISS OR OSS MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN PRACTICES OR GAMES ON THE DAY(S) THAT THE SUSPENSION IS BEING SERVED.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students are scheduled for physical education. Students will be required to wear appropriate shoes for physical education classes. Students involved in team sports may be required to dress out. Grades assigned in PE include those given for participation. "Dress out" clothing should not be worn in the school halls and/or academic classrooms. To be excused from physical education due to extended illness (more than 2 consecutive days), a student will be expected to provide a doctor's statement. Short illness (2 days or less) should have a note from home to excuse a student. Lockers will be available upon request for students to rent during physical education.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are sent home with students at the end of every nine weeks. Numbers are used to report grades as follows:

A = 90-100 B = 80-89
C = 70-79 F= 69 and below

SCHOOL SAFETY ZONE

It shall be unlawful for any person to carry or possess or have under such person's control while within a safety zone (all property in, on, within 1,000 feet of any real property owned by or leased to any public or private elementary school, secondary school, school board and used for elementary or secondary education) or at a school building, school function, or school property or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the school, any weapon or explosive compound. Any person who violates this subsection shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000.00, by imprisonment for not less than two nor more than 10 years or both. Reference O.C.G.A.16-11-127.1

This paragraph excludes any instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher and principal.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

To maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel, school authorities may search a student and/or his/her locker under the circumstances outlined below and may seize any illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials discovered in the search.

1. **Personal Searches:** A student's person and/or personal effects (e.g. purse, book bag, etc.) may be searched whenever a school administrator has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student may be in possession of illegal or unauthorized materials. If a search of a student's person is conducted, it will be conducted in private by a school administrator of the same gender and with an adult witness present.

2. **Locker Searches:** Student lockers are school property. School authorities have the right to conduct periodic general inspections of lockers at any time without notice, without consent, and without a search warrant to assure that items contained are related to the school program. It is the responsibility of the student assigned to the locker to secure and be responsible for personal possessions and school property.

3. **Seizure of Illegal Materials:** If a properly conducted search yields illegal or contraband materials, such findings shall be turned over to the legal authorities for ultimate disposition.

SEVERE WEATHER

Tornadoes are common in Georgia. For this reason, tornado drills will be held periodically. Students should familiarize themselves with the proper location and procedures for each of their classes, which are posted in all classrooms. Students should recognize this drill by a wavering tone.

SPORTS

**PLEASE SEE THE PASS/PLAY POLICY FOR REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE.
ALL STUDENTS MUST HAVE A CURRENT PHYSICAL ON FILE BEFORE TRYING
OUT FOR A SPORT OR PARTICIPATING IN PRACTICE AND/OR EVENTS.**

Football: Open for 8th grade students. Spring practice begins in April of each year and lasts for one week. You must attend spring practice to participate in the fall. Fall season begins in August and goes through October. Daily after-school practices are required. Games are usually held once a week at 5:00 or 5:30.

Football/Competition Cheerleading*: Open for 6th – 8th grade students. Students will be selected during tryouts in February. The entire team will represent both LCMS East and West Campuses for competition. The cheerleaders from each zone will cheer at football games for their zone only. Cheerleaders will attend camp during the summer and will have after-school practices. The team's season ends in December. Competition cheerleaders are required to perform high level skills that include tumbling, stunting, and jumping.

Girls' Softball: Open to 6th- 8thgrade girls. Tryouts begin in August and the season lasts through September. Daily after-school practices are required.

Cross Country*: Open to 6th-8thgrade students. Tryouts begin in August and the season lasts through October. Daily after-school practices are required. Most meets are held on Saturdays and Fun Runs will be held on weekdays.

Girls' Volleyball: Open to 6th- 8th grade students. Tryouts begin in August and the season lasts through September. Daily after-school practices are required.

Basketball: Open to 6th – 8th grade students. Tryouts for both the girls' and boys' teams are in late October and the season lasts through January. Daily after-school practices are required.

Basketball Cheerleading: Open to all 6th – 8th grade students. Tryouts are in late October and the season lasts through January. Daily after-school practices are required.

Swimming*: The swim team is open to 6th-8th grade students. There are 10 slots available for the girls' team and the boys' team. Tryouts are in late October and the season lasts through January. Swim practice will be held at Albany State College.

Wrestling*: Open to 6th-8th grade students. Tryouts begin in October and the season lasts through January. Daily after-school practices are required during wrestling season. Matches are held during the week and on Saturdays.

Baseball: Open to 7th - 8th grade boys. Tryouts begin in January and the season lasts through March. Daily after-school practices are required.

Soccer: Open to 6th - 8th grade students. Tryouts for both the boys' and girls' teams will be in February and the season will last until April. Daily after-school practices are required.

Track*: Open to 6th – 8th grade students. Students may sign up to participate in January. Tryouts will be held in February. Daily after-school practices are required. There is an average of five meets per season.

Golf *: Open to 6th-8th grade girls and boys. Tryouts are in February and the season lasts through April. Practice will be held at various courses in the area.

**These sports will have one combined team for both Lee County Middle School East and West Campuses. Students from both schools will be eligible for participation.*

STATE TESTING

The purpose of this comprehensive student assessment program is to evaluate student achievement for educational effectiveness. These results are used for instructional improvement, program evaluations as well as developmental, enrichment, and remedial opportunities.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Philosophical Basis: School administrators are required under state law to enforce compulsory school attendance laws. Regular attendance by students facilitates the development of the skills and knowledge necessary to function in a modern democratic society. It is the belief of the Lee County Board of Education that regular school attendance is important to all students and to the school system. It is further believed that course content and grading procedures should be structured so that regular attendance is necessary in order to successfully complete course requirements. Subject to parental guidance, each student must be responsible for his/her own attendance. Administrators and teachers will make every effort to encourage regular attendance by students and to solicit assistance from parents and guardians in accomplishing this objective. An absence is defined as non-attendance (except for in-school activities excused by school authorities) in a regularly scheduled class or activity regardless of the reason for such non-attendance. Parents or guardians shall send a note of explanation to the school the day the child returns to school. A physician's statement may be required if circumstances warrant.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE PROTOCOL

Refer to the Lee County School System Code of Student Conduct for information regarding this topic.

STUDENT RECORDS

An electronic records file is maintained for each student at Lee County Middle School West Campus. All pertinent information provided by the parent/guardian and/or another school system has been scanned and loaded into each student's personal file in Infinite Campus. Paper copies of documents are not available. If a parent/guardian requests a copy of their child's Birth Certificate, there will be a \$5.00 charge. The request may not be able to be processed immediately. The parent may be asked to come back at a later time to pick up the document.

TARDIES/LATE ARRIVALS/EARLY DISMISSALS

All students are expected to be in attendance in their regularly scheduled classes by the time the bell rings to begin class. **Parents must sign tardy students in after 8:10 AM. Students should not be checked out after 2:30 PM unless the child is sick or has a doctor or dentist appointment.** Parents are encouraged to make dental, medical, and other appointments for their children after school hours or during vacation and holiday periods. **In the event of a doctor or dentist appointment, an appointment card should be presented to the office for our attendance records.** Students who have a valid reason to need to leave school early must be checked out through the front office. Students must be signed out by the parent or guardian. Notes or telephone calls may not be accepted for purposes of checking out a student. Repetitive tardiness at the start of the day, during school hours, and/or leaving early from school may result in the school pursuing action as habitual truancy. A record of tardiness will be kept by the office and recorded on the student's permanent record. All cases of unexcused tardiness should be considered discipline problems. The classroom teacher will take appropriate disciplinary action for each tardy. A student is considered tardy if the student is not in the teacher's classroom when the tardy bell rings.

The LCMS West Campus tardy policy is applicable to the number of unexcused tardies accumulated **per semester**. See the policy below:

3rd tardy: Written Warning from Front Office Staff

4th tardy: Before/After School Detention (set by the teacher)

5th tardy: Office Referral for ISS

All subsequent tardies will result in an office referral for ISS/OSS.

Students must be present every school day and must not have been tardy and/or checked out early more than 6 times to qualify for the perfect attendance recognition.

The principal has the responsibility of making decisions relating to check-outs. Decision will be made in the best interest of the student when emergencies or unusual circumstances arise.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

Video surveillance cameras monitor our building 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Video cameras have been provided to increase the safety and security of our school while enhancing the school climate.

VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS

Visitors are welcome but should report to the office. Visitors are to obtain and wear a visitor's pass. Parents will have to complete a request to visit in the classroom, and this request must be approved in advance. **All volunteers in the school system must complete an annual background check. This process can be completed by visiting the front office of the school.**

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

Information pertaining to the withdrawal of a student from school may be obtained from a counselor or from the guidance office upon request.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The student handbook is provided for you as a guide for a smooth year. Expectations and rules are clearly stated; however, not every situation that can occur in school is covered in this handbook. School authorities reserve the right to take the necessary action to handle such situations. Team teachers, with approval from the administration, have the authority to formulate rules for their classrooms and team areas. In order to continue to provide an appropriate learning environment for all students, the administration reserves the right to make changes in this handbook and in team policies as the need arises. Be assured that the school administration and teacher will make decisions based on the best interest of all students. In the unlikely event that a policy is changed, students will be informed before the implementation of the new policy. Any student may be suspended or expelled for in-school or out-of school conduct, which “may” adversely affect the education process, endanger the health, safety, morals, or well-being of other students, teachers, or employees within the school system or another school system.

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE LEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION NOT TO DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF AGE, RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION OR DISABILITY IN ITS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS OR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES.

1st Quarter LCMS West Tracking Form

Date	Infraction	Teacher Initials	Consequence	Parent Initial
			WARNING	
			WARNING	
			No Team Time	
			Detention No Team Time	
			Parent Contact and No Team Time	
			Parent Conference and No Team Time	
			Off Team Isolation and No Team Time	
			Referral to the Office	
			Referral to the Office	

Emergency Restroom Pass

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2nd Quarter LCMS West Tracking Form

Date	Infraction	Teacher Initials	Consequence	Parent Initial
			WARNING	
			WARNING	
			No Team Time	
			Detention No Team Time	
			Parent Contact and No Team Time	
			Parent Conference and No Team Time	
			Off Team Isolation and No Team Time	
			Referral to the Office	
			Referral to the Office	

Emergency Restroom Pass

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3rd Quarter LCMS West Tracking Form

Date	Infraction	Teacher Initials	Consequence	Parent Initial
			WARNING	
			WARNING	
			No Team Time	
			Detention No Team Time	
			Parent Contact and No Team Time	
			Parent Conference and No Team Time	
			Off Team Isolation and No Team Time	
			Referral to the Office	
			Referral to the Office	

Emergency Restroom Pass

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4th Quarter LCMS West Tracking Form

Date	Infraction	Teacher Initials	Consequence	Parent Initial
			WARNING	
			WARNING	
			No Team Time	
			Detention No Team Time	
			Parent Contact and No Team Time	
			Parent Conference and No Team Time	
			Off Team Isolation and No Team Time	
			Referral to the Office	
			Referral to the Office	

Emergency Restroom Pass

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