



Student Handbook

2024-2025



ATHENS RENAISSANCE SCHOOL

Grades K-3

**405 South Street E, Athens, AL 35611
256-771-7147 Phone / 256-771-7146 Fax**

Grades 4-12

**601 S Clinton Street Athens, AL 35611
256-771-7147 Phone / 256-771-7146 Fax**

Principal

Mrs. Catherine Preston

Dean of Students / Assistant Principal

Mrs. Kendra Draper

Counselors

Mrs. Britney Carter

Ms. Lorri Haynes

Secretary / Bookkeeper

Ms. Cheryl Carter

Registrar

Mrs. Judy Palmer

Academic Pathway Selections

The ARS school day consists of academic pathways for students based on curriculum and student needs. Students enjoy the blended pathway where they have the opportunity to complete project based learning as well as real world application. This allows students to receive face to face guidance from our certified teachers in addition to the online instruction. If a student begins to fall behind, he/she may be required to come on campus additionally to complete work outside of their scheduled pathway.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Mon-Thurs.
8:00-8:30						
8:30-9:00	Scheduled Clubs	Blended B	Scheduled Clubs	Blended B	Flex & Extend	Classical K
9:00-9:30						
9:30-10:00						
10:00-10:30						
10:30-11:00						
11:00-11:30	Blended A	Blended A	Scheduled Clubs			
11:30-12:00						
12:00-12:30	Scheduled Clubs	Scheduled Clubs	Scheduled Clubs	Scheduled Clubs		
12:30-1:00						
1:00-1:30						
1:30-2:00						
2:00-2:30						Scheduled Clubs
2:30-3:00						

Standardized Testing

All students, both blended and virtual, are required to come on campus for all standardized testing. Students will be made aware of their testing dates as soon as they are set. This is a requirement to remain enrolled and in good standing with Athens Renaissance School.

Grades K-3 - Aimsweb Plus Testing

Grades 2-8 - ACAP State Testing (April)

Grade 10 - PreACT Secure Test (fall semester - around October)

Grade 11 - ACT with Writing Test (spring semester - around March/April)

Grade 12 - WorkKeys Test (fall semester - around October)

Safety Drills

Fire, tornado, and lock down drills will be held throughout the school year. Drill instructions are posted in each room and will be discussed by the teacher. Drills must be orderly and quiet and students must remain with their teacher and walk to the assigned area. Students must remain in their assigned areas until the teacher or a school administrator gives the all-clear announcement. The faculty and staff of Athens Renaissance School will work diligently to ensure the safety of all students.

School Communication to Students and Parents

The main form of weekly communication is through our school issued newsletter. It is important that you pay close attention to the newsletter each week in regards to important announcements, critical information, and upcoming events. The weekly newsletter is sent out through email, text message, facebook, twitter, and our school website. To view our most recent newsletter visit www.acs-k12.org/ars then select "resources" and then "newsletters."

Automated School Messaging Services

Athens City Schools provides an automated emergency messaging system that notifies students, parents and employees via telephone, text, and email of possible school closings, early dismissals and other emergency schedule changes. Please ensure you have registered yourself as well as anyone who may be picking up your student through the following link. <https://acsk12.parentlink.net/main/login/new-account-sign-up>

Prescription Medication

All medications must be hand delivered by the parent or guardian to the office staff or nurse. This includes all students who "Self-Administer" and/or "Self Carry" medications. The nurse or designee must verify all orders before students are allowed to carry and self-administer their medications. The nurse or certified medication assistant will count all controlled substances in the presence of the parent or guardian. Students are not allowed to carry medication on them while at school without proper physician orders giving permission to carry medication. Proper paperwork can be accessed here and must be signed by a physician -

<https://www.acs-k12.org/Page/207>

Counseling and Guidance Program

Information regarding intervention programs for mental health concerns and/or substance abuse in the North Alabama area may be obtained from the school counselor.

britney.carter@acs-k12.org

lorri.haynes@acs-k12.org

PTO - Parent Teacher Organization

ARS has an active PTO that collaborates with school administration and teachers to help better serve students and their families. PTO is a great way to volunteer through the school as well as provide help where needed. PTO yearly dues are \$15 and can be sent directly to the front office or through the [online portal by clicking here](#). For more information, please contact the PTO President, Mrs. Rebekah Penner athensrenaissancepto@gmail.com

Grade Reports

ARS grades are available electronically at the end of each 9 week period. Parents will receive communication when grades are available to be viewed. ARS does not send paper grade reports home.

ARS Grading Explained

Final grades are solely determined by the grade earned at the end of a course. Athens Renaissance School believes that students can achieve mastery at various times throughout the duration of a course. Therefore, quarterly grades are viewed as a snapshot of students' progress at that given time. Grades from each quarter are not "averaged" together at the end of the course. Instead, students maintain a running and ongoing "progress grade."

Attendance Policy

The Athens Renaissance School monitors student attendance in accordance with all applicable statutes set by the state of Alabama, as well as reports all truant students to the appropriate legal authorities. Parent(s)/guardian(s) with legal responsibility for a child are responsible for the student's attendance in a public school unless otherwise exempt by law. In the event that a Renaissance student is truant, the parent(s)/guardian(s) are subject to all penalties provided for under Alabama's Compulsory School Attendance Law. Excessive unexcused absences will result in truancy and the loss of a student's seat in the class

Classical Kindergarten - Students are expected to attend Monday-Thursday from 8:00-2:00. Excessive unexcused absences will result in truancy and the loss of a student's seat in the class.

Physical and Pacing Guide Attendance

Renaissance School attendance is based upon one of two methods or a combination of both. Traditional attendance is measured by the physical presence of the student at the Athens Renaissance School facility. Non-traditional attendance is measured through the completion of lessons/assignments to be considered present and attending, as well as to progress in the course. Simply logging into the learning management system (LMS) or course is not considered attending for purposes of Alabama's Compulsory School Attendance Law.

Non-traditional Truancy

For purposes of compulsory attendance, a student is considered truant when the student is off-pace in **one (1) or more** blended or virtual course(s). *Please note that missed, incomplete, and failing assignments may be used in the calculation to determine whether or not a student is on-pace in the course as outlined via the pacing guide.* Once a student is truant, the student will continue to be considered truant until such time that all assignments have been completed and the student is back on-pace.

Suspension of Current Driver's Licenses/Learner's Permits

Students 16 years and older who have a driver's license/learner's permit who withdraw or who are absent from school or are not on pace with their online learning platform for 10 consecutive days or 15 days total for unexcused reasons during a semester shall be reported by the school authorities to the Department of Public Safety. The Department of Public Safety shall notify such persons that their driver's licenses/learner's permits will be suspended on the 30th day following notification unless re-enrollment occurs or one of the other conditions is documented.

Child Nutrition Program

Lunch will be made available to all students during their on campus lunch period. Lunch cost is \$2.75 per day. Lunch accounts can be managed through the preferred online payment portal. www.myschoolbucks.com

Behavior Expected of Students

Students are expected to treat other students with courtesy, respect, and dignity and comply with the Code of Student conduct. Students are expected and required (1) to comply with the requirements of law, policy, regulation and rules prohibiting harassment, violence, or intimidation; (2) to refrain from inflicting or threatening to inflict violence, injury, or damage to the person or property of another student; and (3) to refrain from placing another student in fear of being subjected to violence, injury, or damage when such actions or threats are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any personal characteristic of the student that is identified in this policy.

Dress Code

All students are required to comply with the following guidelines:

1. Shoes must be worn and properly laced or fastened. Shoes determined to be dangerous or a safety hazard will not be worn.
2. Clothing will be worn as the manufacturers designed them.
3. Students will not wear clothing that reveals the body in an inappropriate manner.
4. Any clothing, ornaments or accessories that distract from the educational process will not be worn.
5. With the approval of the principal or designee, student participants of school-sponsored activities, e.g. dress up day, may dress in a manner that does not conform to the dress code.
6. The principal or designee is authorized to determine inappropriate dress and to declare violations of these requirements.

Students not in compliance with the dress code will be asked to change or have a guardian come pick them up immediately.

Honor Code

Athens Renaissance School holds all students to a high standard and believes in academic honesty in all courses. Using outside resources is allowed when completing tasks in each course. However, the act of plagiarizing work or using an AI generator in place of doing the work is unacceptable. Athens Renaissance School students are expected to recognize, understand and practice ethical behavior and academic integrity.

Web Publishing

The Athens City Schools' web sites are limited to usage associated with activities of the school district. The web site(s) cannot be used for profit, for commercial purposes, to express personal opinions, or to editorialize.

- A. Student pictures or other personally identifiable information can be used in accordance with FERPA guidelines.
- B. Individual students may be identified by full name unless permission to do so is denied by the parent or guardian in writing to the school administration. Full names may only be used in reporting student participation in school sponsored extracurricular activities, achievements, and other positive recognitions.
- C. Infringement of copyright laws, obscene, harassing or threatening materials on web sites are against the law and are subject to prosecution.

[ARS Curriculum Guide and course offerings can be found by clicking here.](#)