

# Loris Middle School

*Power in the Pride*

## 2024-25 Parent & Student Handbook

School Hours: M - F, 7:30 - 3:45

Class Hours: M - F, 8:05 - 3:25

Address:

5209 Hwy 66

Loris, SC 29569

Webpage:

[lm.horrycountyschools.net](http://lm.horrycountyschools.net)

Facebook Page:

[facebook.com/LorisMiddleHCS/](https://facebook.com/LorisMiddleHCS/)

HCS Student Calendar

Principal:

Kelly Shaw

Phone: 843-756-2181

Fax: 843-756-0522

School Colors:

Blue, Gold, and White

School Mascot:

Lion

LMS Student Calendar

Vision

Mission

The faculty and staff of Loris Middle School extend a personal welcome to you and your parents as we begin a new school year. You are surrounded by teachers, staff members, and administrators who want you to succeed. We care about you and look forward to watching you grow academically, socially, and emotionally throughout the year. Middle school will be a time of change and new experiences for incoming sixth graders and continued growth and development for seventh and eighth graders. We hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities that will be provided for you.

This handbook and the [Horry County Schools Parent/Student Guide](#) will provide answers to many of your questions concerning school situations. Please read the resources carefully. The information contained here is gathered to help you have a successful, satisfying experience at Loris Middle School.

# Table of Contents

<b>Who To Contact</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Academic Expectations</b>	<b>5</b>
Awards and Recognition	5
District and State Testing Information	5
Category Weight Information	5
Grading Information	5
<b>Grade Scale</b>	<b>5</b>
Grading Information	5
Grading Reports	5
High School Credit Classes	5
Homework	6
Lions Learning Lab (after school tutoring):	6
<b>Make up Work Policies</b>	<b>6</b>
Work Missed While Absent	6
Late Work	6
Test Correction Policy	6
Promotion and Retention	6
<b>Schoology</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Schoolwide Expectations and Procedures</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>PBIS Expectations Matrix</b>	<b>7</b>
Assemblies	7
Bus	7
Cell Phone Use	7
Off-limits Areas	7
Restroom	7
<b>Student Behavioral Expectations</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Dress Code</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Discipline Guidelines</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Consequences for Infractions</b>	<b>9</b>
Lunch Detention	9
After School Detention	9
In-School Suspension (ISS)	10
Out-Of-School Suspension (OSS)	10
SOAR Academy	10
Expulsion	10
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Absence Procedures</b>	<b>10</b>
Principal Approved Absences	10
Excessive Absences	10
<b>Arrival and Dismissal</b>	<b>11</b>
Late Arrivals	11
Early Dismissal	11
Tardies During the Day	11
<b>Backpacks</b>	<b>11</b>

<b>Cafeteria Program</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Cheating and Plagiarism</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Classes</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Communication</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Dances</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Extracurricular Activities</b>	<b>12</b>
Athletic Programs	12
<b>Family/Parent Resource Room</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Food Policy</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Field Studies</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Field Trips</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Guidance Services</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Insurance</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Lockers</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Learning Commons/Media Center</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Medicine and Illnesses</b>	<b>13</b>
Sick Students	13
Medication	14
Immunizations	14
Medical Homebound	14
<b>Open House</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Parent Conferences</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Personal Electronic Devices</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>PowerSchool</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Prohibited Items</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Public Display of Affection (PDA)</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Recess Equipment</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Safe Schools Act</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Safety Drills</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>School Pictures</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>School Telephones/Messages</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Search Provision</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Student Information Change</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Technology</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>TextBooks</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Transportation/Bus Information</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Car Riders</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Visiting the School</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Withdrawals and Transfers</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Yearbook</b>	<b>18</b>

## Who To Contact

<b>Administration</b>	Mrs. Shaw Mr. Martin Mr. Williams Mr. Salmeri	Principal 6th Grade 7th Grade 8th Grade	<a href="mailto:kshaw001@horrycountyschools.net">kshaw001@horrycountyschools.net</a> <a href="mailto:jmartin001@horrycountyschools.net">jmartin001@horrycountyschools.net</a> <a href="mailto:jwilliams@g.horrycountyschools.net">jwilliams@g.horrycountyschools.net</a> <a href="mailto:jsalmeri@horrycountyschools.net">jsalmeri@horrycountyschools.net</a>
<b>Athletics</b>	Mr. Martin		<a href="mailto:jmartin001@horrycountyschools.net">jmartin001@horrycountyschools.net</a>
<b>Attendance &amp; PowerSchool</b>	Ms. Baczkowski		<a href="mailto:rbaczkowski@horrycountyschools.net">rbaczkowski@horrycountyschools.net</a>
<b>Band/Orchestra</b>	Mr. Barkley		<a href="mailto:wbarkley@horrycountyschools.net">wbarkley@horrycountyschools.net</a>
<b>Bookkeeper</b>	Ms. Rabon		<a href="mailto:srabon006@horrycountyschools.net">srabon006@horrycountyschools.net</a>
<b>Buses</b>	Mr. Hemingway		843-390-6822
<b>Food Services</b>	Ms. Wilson		<a href="mailto:swilson@horrycountyschools.net">swilson@horrycountyschools.net</a>
<b>Guidance</b>	Mrs. Newberry Mr. Mabry Mrs. Cannon	6th Grade 7th Grade 8th Grade	<a href="mailto:jnewberrymabry@horrycountyschools.net">jnewberrymabry@horrycountyschools.net</a> <a href="mailto:jmabry@horrycountyschools.net">jmabry@horrycountyschools.net</a> <a href="mailto:ncannon@horrycountyschools.net">ncannon@horrycountyschools.net</a>
<b>Nurse</b>	Mrs. Springer		<a href="mailto:tspringer@horrycountyschools.net">tspringer@horrycountyschools.net</a>
<b>PTO</b>	Mrs. Petrill		843-580-8233 (text only)
<b>Volunteers &amp; Community Resources</b>	Mrs. Livingston		<a href="mailto:llivingston@horrycountyschools.net">llivingston@horrycountyschools.net</a>

## Academic Expectations

### Awards and Recognition

The Quarterly Awards Day programs recognize students for their academic, behavioral, and fine arts achievement each quarter. Students earn rewards at various levels and for various categories such as Honor Roll, Connections Awards, and Perfect Attendance. Awards day programs will be held by grade level. They will be followed by an incentive celebration with things such as inflatables, music, and movie days. Students can also receive school logo items and coupons from our community partners as a reward.

### District and State Testing Information

Students are required to take a variety of district and state assessments throughout the year. Those tests include but are not limited to: MAP and iReady Diagnostics, Common assessments, SC Ready (Reading, Writing, Math, and Science, and EOC tests for students in high school credit classes.

Date	Assessment	Category Weight Information
Tuesday, May 13	SCReady Writing	
Thursday, May 15	SCReady Reading	
Tuesday, May 20	SCReady Math	
Thursday, May 22	SCPASS Science - 6th Grade Algebra I EOC, Geometry Exam	
Friday, May 23	English 1 Final Exam	Grading Information Grade Scale

### Grading Information

Grading Scale		Category Weights
Academic Classes	Connections Classes	Students typically receive 2 grades per week.
A= 90 - 100 B= 80 - 89 C= 70 - 79 D= 60 - 69 F= 0 - 59	S= 80 - 100 NI= 70 - 79 U= 0-69	High: 50% (tests, projects) Mid-Level: 30% (quizzes, labs) Low: 20% (homework, digital content)

### Grading Reports

Grade reports are issued digitally via email. Interim reports are issued four times a year in order for students and parents to monitor progress in each subject. Report cards are issued to students at the end of each quarter. Parents and students have live access to grades and attendance via PowerSchool.

### High School Credit Classes

LMS offers several high school credit bearing courses. All courses offered for high school credit include a cumulative final exam weighing as much as 20% of the final grade. Students may earn one Carnegie unit of high school credit by successfully completing the course requirements. Currently LMS offers: Algebra I Honors, English I Honors, Geometry Honors, and Fundamentals of Computing 1 & 2.

## **Homework**

Teachers will assign homework each evening, Monday through Thursday, and very seldom over a weekend or holiday. Here are the guidelines we follow:

1. Homework should always reinforce skills already covered during classroom instruction.
2. Homework cannot count more than 20% of a student's grade for the quarter.
3. Contact teachers and/or administrators when the homework quality and quantity appear unreasonable.
4. Middle school teams plan together to ensure that assignments are coordinated so that all tests and major assignments are not due on the same day(s).
5. Maximum time for total homework should not exceed ten minutes per subject per grade level nightly; (Ex: 6th grade= 60 minutes, 7th grade= 70 minutes, 8th grade=80 minutes).

## **Lions Learning Lab (after school tutoring):**

In our Lions Learning Lab, students will receive assistance on content area assignments, homework, and missing assignments reflected from PowerSchool. It is held twice a week from 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm. Parents/students should contact teachers regarding concerns about instructions or assignments. For specific questions please contact Rebecca Coleman. Bus transportation is available for students.

## **Make up Work Policies**

### **Work Missed While Absent**

Students who are absent will be given 5 days from the date of absence to make up assignments. It is the students' responsibility to obtain any assignments that were missed. Though the student has 5 days, it is important that they complete and submit the assignment as quickly as possible to prevent them from falling behind. Make up assignments must be completed outside of the normal class time unless the student is directed to do otherwise by the teacher. Contact your child's individual teacher with any questions about make up work policies for assignments not completed while a student was present. If an assignment was given prior to the student's absence, the due date may be earlier than 5 days. However, they will be given at least the same number of days students who were present were given to complete the assignment.

### **Late Work**

All work is expected to be turned in on time. Students who turn in work past the originally assigned due date will be allowed 5 school days to receive credit. Teachers may give partial credit for assignments that are turned in late. A zero must be assigned in the gradebook as a placeholder until the work is turned in. After five days, students will receive a permanent zero for the assignment.

### **Test Correction Policy**

Students are allowed 2 test corrections per quarter, per class. They can earn up to 50% of the points they did not get on their first attempt. For example, if the original score is 50, they can earn 25 pts back >> highest possible score =75. The method used for test corrections is determined by the individual teacher. Two examples of test corrections are: 1) corrections to answers with explanations or 2)Teacher provides remediation to students and incorporates assignments for remediation. The student must request to complete the test correction before the next test.

### **Promotion and Retention**

Students in 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades are expected to learn, at a minimum, curriculum standards in English language arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, and meet attendance requirements. Students may attend summer school for one or two subjects to be considered for promotion. Failing 3 or 4 subjects will result in repeating academic grade the following year.

### **Schoology**

We use a learning management system called schoology for students to submit assignments. Students are able to access Schoology by going to Clever and logging in. It is important that students monitor Schoology for assignments and announcements from their teachers. We will also post schoolwide announcements and information in Schoology. If you have questions about Schoology or classroom assignments, contact your child's individual teachers.

## Schoolwide Expectations and Procedures

Please refer to the [Horry County Schools Parent/Student Guide](#) for detailed district and state guidelines governing student behavior. These documents outline rights and responsibilities of students regarding conduct and safety issues. Parents should read these carefully and discuss them fully with students. We will work with students and parents to ensure that all students are provided a safe, orderly learning environment. Loris Middle School will adhere to all policies described. When minor infractions occur, we will conference with individual students, assign detentions, and/or contact parents. Serious infractions require parent conferences and may result in after school detention, overnight suspensions, in-school or out-of-school suspensions, transfer to the SOAR program, or expulsions.

Loris Middle School uses Positive Behavior Interventions and Support strategies to increase wanted behaviors and decrease unwanted behaviors. Student expectations are outlined and reviewed throughout the year. We understand that disruptive behavior not only impacts the student misbehaving, but the teacher and all other students involved. We will explicitly teach students our expectations and provide guidance in the implementation of those expectations.

## PBIS Expectations Matrix

Students at LMS are expected to be ready, responsible and respectful at all times. Students will be taught the appropriate behaviors and given opportunities to practice and earn PBIS points for consistently adhering to the expectations outlined in our PBIS guide. The PBIS guide will be made available to parents and students digitally. Parents and students may receive a paper copy upon request.

## Assemblies

Assembly programs are an important part of a student's educational experience. Students must always treat performers and participants with respect. The following procedures will be followed:

- Be attentive and respectful.
- Applaud and cheer only at the appropriate time.
- Remain seated with your class until given permission to move.
- Talk only during the appropriate times.

## Bus

Students are expected to adhere to the school's expectations on the bus as well. Bus referrals will be submitted by the bus drivers if students disrupt the safe and orderly transport of students to and from school. Bus misconduct including but not limited to moving seats, profanity, fighting, disobedience, or disrespect of the driver will not be tolerated. This can result in loss of bus privileges, ISS, and/or OSS. Students who fail to follow the expectations on the bus will receive consequences ranging from bus suspension to expulsion. Riding the bus is a privilege. A student can lose their privilege to ride the bus for the remainder of the year if they have extreme or excessive referrals.

## Cell Phone Use

Cell phones brought to school are to be powered down, turned off, and out of sight from 7:55 – 3:35. See the personal electronic device policy for more detailed information.

## Off-limits Areas

The following areas are off-limits to students:

- Hallways where students do not have classes,
- Teachers' workrooms,
- Woods, parking lot, retention pond, and ditches bordering the school,
- Any area without a pass/permission.

## Restroom

Restrooms are available for student use at designated times. Students are expected to use the restroom and return directly back to class. It is the responsibility of students to help maintain the cleanliness of restrooms by using the facilities appropriately and cleaning up after themselves. If a student witnesses inappropriate behavior in the restroom, they are expected to notify an adult. It is recommended that they leave the restroom immediately if a misbehavior is occurring when they arrive. All students present in the restroom during an incident are subject to disciplinary action.

## Student Behavioral Expectations

### Dress Code

Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring that individual students dress in an appropriate manner at all times on campus or when involved in school activities. The administration of each of the schools will determine the appropriateness of student dress. [The administrative team of each school will have the authority to decide if a student's dress is inappropriate and to follow through with corrective action.](#) Personal appearance of students should promote health and safety, contribute to a climate conducive to teaching and learning, and project a positive image of the district to the community. In addition to clothing, hats, and shoes, attire includes any jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, comment, or other items worn or displayed by an individual. The school administration's ruling regarding inappropriate dress and corrective action is final, pending review only by the superintendent or her/his designee. Disputes involving student dress are not appealable to the board. ([Horry County Schools Parent/Student Guide](#) page 11).

### HCS Dress Code Policy:

- Attire must comply with requirements for health and safety.
- Attire must not be immodest, obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, indecent, or offensive. Shorts, skirts, and dresses should be of adequate length to ensure modest when the student is seated or engaged in school activities. Appropriate undergarments should be worn and should be covered by outer clothing. Uniforms for extra-curricular activities that are worn during classes other than physical education must be modified to conform to the Student Dress Code guidelines.
- Attire must not evidence membership or affiliation with a "gang" in any negative sense of the term.
- Attire must not display any information about, representation of, or advertisements for alcoholic beverages, tobacco, controlled drugs, or illegal drugs or paraphernalia associated with the foregoing.

### LMS additional guidelines concerning dress:

Examples of unacceptable clothing includes, **but is not limited** to the following:

- Tube tops, exposed midriff/crop tops, halter tops, racerback tops, sleeveless jerseys without an undershirt
- Swimming attire
- Pajamas, sleepwear (including bonnets), loungewear
- One piece spandex jumpsuits
- Bandanas or durags
- Items with pictures or references to weapons or violence
- Items allowed outside but not in the building: hats, visors, hoodies, and sunglasses
- Shorts, skirts, dresses, shorter than four inches above the knee.
- Jeans with holes that are higher than four inches above the knee.

### LMS Consequences for Dress Code Violations

For each offense, the student will have to remain in ISS until the violation is corrected.

- 1st offense: Parent Contact
- 2nd & 3rd offense: Parent contact and After School Detention (ASD) or ISS during connections
- 4th offense: Parent conference and 1 day of ISS
- 5th+ offense: Parent contact, at least 1 day of ISS and may progress to OSS
- If a student refused to comply with a request to correct dress code or report to ISS, they will receive at least one day of OSS and a referral for refusal to obey in addition to the consequence for the dress code violation.

If you have questions about the LMS dress code policy, contact Mrs. Shaw.

Last updated: 7/28/24



## Discipline Guidelines

### Student offenses are divided into three categories by the district:

A student's prior record will be considered before consequences are issued. Consequences to be issued in cases of Level 1, 2, or 3 include, but are not limited to: after school detention, In-School Suspension, withdrawal of privilege/exclusion from participation in activities, restitution of property and damages where appropriate, confiscation of illegal equipment, Out-of-School Suspension, recommendation for alternative education program, recommendation for expulsion, and other sanctions as approved by the administration.

**Examples of behaviors at each level are below. This is not an exhaustive list. Conduct on the same level may receive different consequences depending on the prior discipline record, circumstances, district policy, and school policy.**

<p><b>Acts of Level 1 conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Detention violation</li> <li>● Disrupting Class;</li> <li>● Inappropriate language;</li> <li>● Violation of class rules;</li> <li>● Cutting class;</li> <li>● District Medication Violation;</li> <li>● Tardy;</li> <li>● Off limits;</li> <li>● Horseplay</li> <li>● Phone Violation (only allowed at recess);</li> </ul>	<p><b>Acts of Level 2 conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Aiding others (provoking a fight);</li> <li>● Bite/ pinch/spit and hick/kick/push;</li> <li>● Inappropriate affection;</li> <li>● Major disruption;</li> <li>● Tobacco, tobacco products, electronic or vape smoking devices;</li> <li>● Refusal to obey/defiant;</li> <li>● Bus violation;</li> <li>● Disrespect;</li> <li>● Confrontation/altercation;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Acts of Level 3 conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Threat to staff;</li> <li>● Bomb threat;</li> <li>● Making a false fire alarm;</li> <li>● Arson;</li> <li>● Fighting;</li> <li>● Assault;</li> <li>● Drug use, distribution, or possession;</li> <li>● Gambling;</li> <li>● Weapons;</li> </ul>
---	--	--

## Consequences for Infractions

### Lunch Detention

Lunch detention is a behavior consequence and consists of a student reporting to the lunch detention supervising teacher for each grade level in the cafeteria and eating his/her lunch at a designated table. Students remain at lunch detention for lunch and recess time. Lunch detentions are issued to a student for not following classroom rules or school policy and procedures. Students will receive a paper from his/her teacher with their assigned day. **If you do not report to the lunch detention location/teacher at the beginning of lunch on your assigned day then you will be expected to serve two consecutive days.** If you skip lunch detention twice in a row then you will be given a referral and consequences will be determined by your grade level administrator.

### After School Detention

After School detention is a behavior consequence and consists of a student reporting to the after school detention supervising teacher for each grade level. Students will remain at after school detention from 3:30 - 4:45. After school detentions are issued to a student for not following classroom rules or school policy and procedures. Students and parents will receive notice from an administrator with their assigned day. **If you do not report to the after school detention location on your assigned day then you will be expected to serve two days.** If you skip after school detention twice in a row then you will be given an additional referral and consequences will be determined by your grade level administrator.

### **In-School Suspension (ISS)**

In-School Suspension (ISS) may be assigned in lieu of out-of-school suspension (OSS). Students that receive this penalty report with their books, assignments and materials to the ISS classroom at 8:20 am on the day they are assigned. Students may be assigned to ISS for a full day, multiple days, or part of a day. Students will be given a work accountability sheet with assignments to complete in ISS. Failure to follow ISS rules and procedures will result in OSS.

### **Out-Of-School Suspension (OSS)**

Out of School Suspension (OSS) may be administered as a disciplinary measure in some cases. When a student is suspended out of school, he/she will not be allowed to come on any HCS grounds unless it is with a parent for a scheduled conference with an administrator. The student is not allowed to attend any functions at any Horry County School including extracurricular activities during the suspension. Not adhering to this may result in additional disciplinary action.

### **SOAR Academy**

SOAR Academy is an alternative educational program for students with excessive or extreme discipline referrals. Students who are assigned to SOAR are not allowed to come on any other HCS grounds unless it is with a parent for a scheduled conference with an administrator. The student is not allowed to attend any functions at any Horry County School including extracurricular activities. Students must meet specific criteria, including community service, to return to LMS from SOAR. For further information about student conduct, please refer to the HCS Parent/Student Handbook.

### **Expulsion**

Expulsion is the exclusion of a student for the remainder of the school year from classes or any school related functions. Expulsion is recommended by the administration for any activity which violates criminal laws. Expulsion is also applied in cases involving serious misconduct and continued minor misconduct after reasonable disciplinary measures have failed to achieve satisfactory results. Some offenses result in automatic expulsion. For further information about student conduct, please refer to the HCS Parent/Student Handbook.

## **General School Information**

### **Attendance**

Excused absences are unavoidable absences resulting from such circumstances as illness, death in the family, or home emergencies. Excessive absences may result in grade level retention. If a student misses 3 consecutive unexcused absences or 5 total unexcused absences, they are considered truant. All excuses should be turned in within 3 days of the absence and must have the student's name on the document. If you have questions regarding attendance, contact Ms. Robin Baczkowski at [rbaczkowski@horrycountyschools.net](mailto:rbaczkowski@horrycountyschools.net) or 843-756-2181, ext. 423405.

### **Absence Procedures**

- Student: Arrange for make-up work the day you return to school. Turn in assignment(s) no later than 5 days from return to school. If assignment was given prior to absence, it may have an earlier due date.
- Parent: Ensure a parent note or excuse is turned in to Ms. Baczkowski within 3 days of the child's return.
  - Parent notes are unexcused absences. A parent can request a principal approved absence.

### **Principal Approved Absences**

- Students are only allowed Educational Trips and 3 Hardships per year.
- Please see Ms. Baczkowski to complete the principal approval form.

### **Excessive Absences**

- Excessive absences may result in grade level retention or being required to attend summer school.
- Excessive absences for outside services such as counseling, OT, etc. may also result in truancy.
- Intervention for unlawful absences will include
  - parent conferences and, if necessary,
  - referral to the District Attendance Supervisor

## Arrival and Dismissal

Students are expected to report to school and classes on time. Students should arrive no earlier than 7:30 AM. Students not riding buses should be picked up immediately following dismissal. Students who are not in class by 8:05 am will be marked tardy and will be issued the appropriate consequences. School will be dismissed at 3:25pm. Parents/guardians are to remain in their vehicle during dismissal of carriders. Students will not be allowed to walk across the street to the parking lot. Parents will not be allowed to come to the cafeteria door to pick up students.

## Late Arrivals

Students who do not arrive before 8:05, unless riding on a school bus, will have to be signed in by an adult at the front office. Students will receive an unexcused tardy pass to class. This should be a rare occurrence. Tardies are disruptive the teacher and other students in the class. The tardy is only excused if the student has a medical excuse. **Upon the fourth unexcused tardy, a referral will go to the administrator for disciplinary action.**

## Early Dismissal

Loris Middle School operates under a closed campus policy. Students are to remain on campus from the time they arrive at school until they are properly dismissed. If a student must leave school early, please send a note requesting early dismissal and try to coordinate the time around class changes. A student may check out through the front office only if a parent, guardian, or approved adult comes to school to sign the student out. This procedure is in place to avoid continual class interruptions during the last instructional block. Students will not be dismissed after 3:00pm unless prior approval has been given by Mrs. Shaw. Excessive earlier dismissals may affect a student's grade and attendance, resulting in summer school.

## Tardies During the Day

Students are considered tardy if they are not in class at the schedule start of class time. Depending on the situation and the length of the tardiness, some tardies to class will be viewed as cutting class. Cutting class is a disciplinary infraction that will result in a referral. In order to safeguard the welfare of our students and to protect instructional time, it is necessary that all students are in their assigned location at all times. Students must have a hall pass prior to leaving class.

## Backpacks

As part of our ongoing efforts to prioritize the safety and security of our schools, Horry County Schools (HCS) is implementing additional protocols and procedures for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. All students who choose to carry a backpack must use a clear backpack. Go to <https://www.horrycountyschools.net/Page/19270> for additional information.

## Cafeteria Program

LMS will provide breakfast and lunch to all students at no cost. Breakfast will be served in the cafeteria. If students bring in their own breakfast, it must be consumed in the cafeteria. It is important that students memorize their lunch number to expedite the serving process. They must also have the number to purchase a la carte items. If you have questions, you may contact Mrs. Sabrina Wilson at 756-2181, extension 423308.

## Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism may result in the student receiving a zero for the assignment with no opportunity to re-do the assignment. There are instances where cheating and/or plagiarism may result in a referral to your grade level administrator. Every LMS student is expected to uphold the highest standards of honor with regard to academics, activities, and other school-related pursuits.

## Classes

Our school operates on a six period day which includes the following: four 60 minute year long classes (Math, English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies) and two 45 minute connection semester long classes. They can have up to four different connection classes each year. Some connections classes, such as band, are yearlong.

## Communication

LMS maintains newsletters, a Facebook Page, and a website for you to stay abreast of current events and school initiatives. Download the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) app to stay up to date on your child's grades. See the first page for links to our social media pages and newsletters. These can also be found on our school webpage.

## Dances

Dances are a privilege for students. Dances are chaperoned by staff and parent volunteers. Students should wear clothing that is comfortable and meets school dress code guidelines. Dances are from 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm. The admission fee is \$5. Dances will be scheduled and published in the newsletter and on Facebook. Students must pay and have returned a signed permission slip in order to attend. Dance tickets will be available for purchase the morning of each dance from 7:35 am - 8:15 am. No ticket purchases will be allowed after 9am for any reason. If a student is not picked up by 5:15 pm or has excessive discipline, they may lose the privilege to come to the next dance. Students are expected to follow HCS and LMS rules and procedures at the dance. Students who misbehave may receive disciplinary action and not be allowed to attend future dances.

## Extracurricular Activities

LMS offers a variety of organizations and clubs for our students including Junior Beta Club, Student Government, etc. Students and parents are responsible for making transportation arrangements for students who stay for after school activities. Check our school website, the newsletter, and our Facebook page for updates on school activities.

## Athletic Programs

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders may participate in B-Team football, basketball, cheerleading, and wrestling and Junior Varsity or Varsity sports such as soccer, tennis, golf, track, volleyball, and cross country. All students are invited to try out for these programs as long as they meet the eligibility requirements of the South Carolina High School League.

**In order to participate or practice you must have the following information complete:**

1. Current Physical (after April 1st)
2. All components completed and approved at - [studentcentral.bigteams.com](http://studentcentral.bigteams.com) (parent and student side)
3. Meet academic and behavioral expectations

**Students with failing grades, excessive absences, and/or discipline referrals may not be allowed to participate in a game, restricted from trying out, or removed from the team. This is at the discretion of the principal and coach.**

## Family/Parent Resource Room

The Family Resource Room is available to help the school, parents, and volunteers work together. Various programs, classes, and community events will be offered during the year for parents and volunteers. Resources such as computers, printers, and a scanner are available for parent use.

## Food Policy

Food is prohibited in classrooms. Breakfast and lunch must be consumed in the cafeteria. Students may have beverage containers with a lid that can be sealed. The following items are prohibited:

- Cups with straws that cannot be sealed
- Squirt bottles
- Glass containers
- Open canned beverages (sealed canned drinks are allowed but must be consumed in the cafeteria)
- Energy drinks

## Field Studies

Academic field studies are enrichment activities. Students who participate must have written parental permission prior to leaving the school campus. Students who have office referrals or academic deficiencies may, upon the recommendation of the principal, become ineligible to participate.

## Field Trips

Each grade level will have at least two field trips. Field trips can be for academics, behavior, clubs/organizations, and more. Students who participate must have written parental permission prior to leaving the school campus. Students must turn in payment and permission slips by the deadline stated on the permission slip. No exceptions will be made. Students who have excessive office referrals, failing grades, and/or excessive absences (excused or unexcused) may, upon the recommendation of the principal, become ineligible to participate. .

## Guidance Services

The guidance office assists students and parents with educational and vocational planning, maintains student records, provides group, and individual counseling, coordinates fall and spring testing (state and nationally mandated tests), and registration of all students. The staff also serves as a liaison with other service agencies. The 6th and 7th grade counselors will reach out to you regarding goal-setting conferences for your child. The 8th grade counselor will contact you regarding an IGP conference.

## Insurance

Horry County Schools provides limited student accident insurance for all students at no cost to the family. It is secondary to any other insurance coverage and only covers accidents occurring on school property during school hours up to the policy's limits. See the [Horry County Schools Parent/Student Guide](#) for more information.

## Lockers

Students will not be issued a locker. Students keep their backpacks and other items with them and must follow classroom procedures regarding their use and storage.

## Learning Commons/Media Center

The Learning Commons houses thousands of books and many periodicals for student use. It is open 30 minutes before school each morning and remains open throughout the day. A pass is required to go to the Learning Commons. Limits are placed on the length of time materials may be checked out, and fines will be charged for overdue materials. Fines will also be charged for materials that are not returned.

## Medicine and Illnesses

Loris Middle School has a full-time nurse, Mrs. Tina Springer, who provides emergency care for illnesses and injuries. She will monitor immunization records and dispense medicine. If a student becomes ill and cannot remain in class, they must obtain a pass and report directly to the health office. Unnecessary visits to the health office are to be avoided.

## Sick Students

If a student becomes ill at school and cannot continue to stay in class, he/she should obtain a pass from the teacher to go to the nurse. After assessment and treatment as needed, the student should return to class or a parent will be called by the nurse. If an accident does occur, the school nurse may administer first aid and will notify the parents and/or call EMS. Any treatment beyond first aid is the responsibility of the parent and/or family physician. Seventh graders receive hearing and vision screenings and dental checks.

## Medication

LMS does not provide students with over-the-counter medicine such as Tylenol. All medications, either prescription or over-the-counter, must be brought in by an adult and have a form on file. Open and/or unlabeled medication will not be accepted. When the nurse is not present, medicine will be dispensed by the adult in the office who has been trained by Mrs. Springer. Students who bring in medication will face disciplinary action.

- The parent or guardian of the student must request in writing that the student be given medication.
- The parent and child's health care practitioner request and consent must contain the following information:
  - name of medication
  - dose to be given
  - time to be given
  - number of days to be administered
  - any special instructions
- Consent forms:
  - [Permission for School Administration of Non-Prescription Medication](#)
  - [Permission for School Administration of Prescription Medication](#)
  - [Self Medicating Form](#)
  - [Self-Monitoring Form](#)
- The medication should be brought to school by the parent, guardian, or a responsible adult. The medication will be brought to school in a container appropriately labeled by the pharmacy, health care provider, or in the original container. Students who bring medicine without permission will be subject to disciplinary action.
- If prescription medication must be kept by the student (inhalers), the student must also have in his/her possession a medication permit signed by the school nurse.
- Leftover, outdated medicines will be discarded after two months.
- Medications will be prepared and sent on field trips, when possible, and when advance notice is given to the school nurse. The teacher will be responsible for transportation, securing, administration and documentation of medication on field trips.
- An Individual Healthcare Plan may be developed to assist our school in addressing your child's healthcare needs.

## Immunizations

All students are required to have a completed South Carolina Certificate of Immunization. Students entering the seventh grade must receive (or have received) a Tdap vaccine in order to attend school along with an updated South Carolina Certificate of Immunization to prove your child has had the vaccination. **ALL RISING 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS MUST HAVE A TDAP BOOSTER BEFORE ENTERING 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE.** Please provide proof of immunization to our nurse.

## Medical Homebound

Medical homebound instruction is provided for students with and without disabilities who cannot attend school for a medical reason – a mental or physical condition that exists due to an accident, an illness, or pregnancy – even when transportation is furnished. The goal of homebound instruction is to provide continuity of instruction and to facilitate the student's return to a regular school setting as quickly as possible. State Board of Education Regulation 43-241 outlines the provision of medical homebound services.

[HCS Medical Homebound Forms](#)

## Open House

Parents are encouraged to attend to learn more about our school programs and expectations and to meet your child's teachers. We also hold a 6th grade day camp for rising 6th grade students prior to the start of each school year.

## Parent Conferences

There will be a schoolwide parent-teacher conference night after the completion of the first and third quarter. Parents and teachers may also request conferences as needed throughout the year. These conferences are usually held during the teacher's planning period, before school, or immediately following school. Teachers will not be pulled during their class time for a conference. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher by email or phone to schedule a conference. Advance notice is requested so all participants will be prepared and present.

## Personal Electronic Devices

Cell phones, earbuds, and any other personal electronic devices should be off and out of sight from 8:05 am - 3:30 pm except. Wired headphones are allowed in class with teacher permission for instructional use only. **Airpods, Wireless Beats, and any other wireless headphones used during school will be confiscated and will have to be picked up by a parent/guardian.** Cell phone use during the school day will result in the phone being confiscated and a referral may be issued. This includes phone calls and/or messages from parents. We discourage students from bringing cell phones or other electronic devices to school because they may get lost, stolen, or broken. **LMS is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged cell phones or other personal electronic items.** Administrators and staff are not responsible for searching for lost or stolen devices. Students will not be allowed to miss class time or wander the building alone to search for devices. Parents/Guardians will not be allowed to enter the building during the school day to search for lost cell phones/devices. If time permits and an administrator is available to assist, they will be allowed to search for it after school hours. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with their personal electronics. Review the detailed policy at this link.

<https://tinyurl.com/yui7bsy8>

## PowerSchool

Access [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) to keep track of current grades, attendance, and class schedules. PowerSchool is updated in real-time. Contact Ms. Baczkowski for information on accessing your account.

## Prohibited Items

For the safety, wellness, and fidelity of the learning environment the following items are not prohibited: Fidget Spinners, Electronic Tablets, laser pointers, pen shockers, electronic gaming devices, blankets, stuffed animals, rollerblades, and skateboards. Students are not allowed to bring animals to school (unless it is a district approved service animal). If brought to school, these items will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day or returned to the parent/guardian at the discretion of school administration. Students are subject to disciplinary action/office referral for habitual offenses.

## Public Display of Affection (PDA)

Students may not show public displays of affection that are inappropriate for school.

## Recess Equipment

Students may not bring recess equipment to school. Personal recess items will be confiscated and held until the end of the day or for a parent to pick up. Repeated instances may result in a disciplinary referral.

## Safe Schools Act

It is illegal for any person to bring a weapon (gun, knife, or any object that could cause physical injury) on the school campus. This provision includes look-alike objects. When students possess weapons, the police will be called. The school may press charges and may recommend that the student be expelled for the year. It is also illegal for any person to threaten (physically, orally, or in writing) or to strike or hit any staff member. The police will be called for any serious violation that requires their assistance and charges may be filed.



## Safety Drills

The safety and welfare of our students and staff is our highest priority at Loris Middle School. Throughout the school year, we conduct safety drills, such as fire, severe weather, intruder, and the Standard 17 Bus Drill. Prior to these drills, your child's teacher will review procedures with the students. Some drills will be announced while others will be unannounced.

## School Pictures

All students will be required to take a picture in the fall for use in the yearbook, PowerSchool, and for student IDs. You may purchase pictures during fall or at the optional spring picture session. Buddy pictures are also available in the spring.

## School Telephones/Messages

Students are not allowed to use school phones unless prior approval has been obtained from office personnel and/or classroom teachers. Students who come to the office without permission to use the phone will receive a disciplinary consequence for being off limits. If you allow your child to bring a cell phone to school, it is the student's responsibility to keep up with and protect their device. **We are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged cell phones or other personal devices.** To prevent disruption to instruction, messages will not be given to students during class. In emergency situations, you may leave messages with the front desk, and we will deliver it to the student during class change. After the school day has ended, students may use the office phone as necessary once permission is granted by school officials. Students are expected to follow the HCS acceptable use policy for any device used on campus.

## Search Provision

Administrators have the authority to search book bags, lockers, or persons when they feel that there is a reasonable suspicion that an individual is in possession of weapons, illegal substances, stolen property, or other inappropriate items. School grounds and facilities will receive periodic searches by highly trained handlers and canines employed to conduct unannounced school inspections.

## Student Information Change

It is imperative that the school office be notified immediately of any change of address, phone numbers, or emergency information during the academic year. Every student must have an emergency phone number on file.

## Technology

### Personalized Digital Learning

Before a student may use a Horry County Schools issued device, the student and parent must sign the Policy for Student Use of School Issued Devices which can be completed during registration. A paper form will also be available throughout the year. Students who are in good standing with technology fees will be issued a **district-owned** electronic device for instructional use only. Students with excessive fines will not be issued a device until payment arrangements have been made.

**Students are responsible for following all procedures on use and care of their school-issued device.** Students who pay the Technology Fee will be allowed to take their devices home. All other students will have to leave their device at school. The school reserves the right to check student devices at any time. Consequences will be issued for any misuse of the device or intentional damage including but are not limited to the following: temporary loss of device, permanent loss of device for the remainder of the school year, disciplinary action ranging from lunch detention to expulsion hearing, referral to law enforcement, restitution in vandalism instances. Parents/Guardians may decline the assignment of a device. The technology fee "digital device insurance" can be purchased to help alleviate the cost of the student's device if damaged. Click [here](#) for more Information about HCS PDL.



## TextBooks

Students are responsible for the books they are issued, and students are required to pay for lost or damaged books. If a book is lost, the student should get the price from his/her teacher and pay the bookkeeper in the office. If the book is found later, the money will be refunded.

- Never throw, sit on, write in, or damage your textbooks or library books.
- Keep up with your books. Don't let anyone borrow them or leave them unattended.

## Transportation/Bus Information

Bus routes are coordinated through the Transportation Supervisor, Anthony Hemingway, for the Loris area. Contact the bus office to report any concerns about bus routes, pick up time, or other safety issues. Contact your grade level administrator for incidents involving other students on the bus. To assure safety on school buses, it is essential that students and parents recognize the necessity for all bus riders to cooperate fully with the bus driver and to observe the rules that they remain seated on buses and conduct themselves in an orderly manner. The bus driver has responsibility for supervision of students in the bus. He/she may stop the bus at any time misbehavior or threatening behavior offers a hazard to safe driving. A student who creates a disturbance shall be reported to his/her school administrators. Appropriate disciplinary action shall be taken. (Regulation JKD-R, 6/21/99). The bus driver shall assure that his/her passengers abide by them. Parents should not try to solve disagreements with drivers or students at school bus stops. Please contact the local bus supervisor or the school administrator. Students on a school bus are subject to being videotaped at any time in order to promote safety. The cameras record video and audio. The recordings may be used by the administration in taking disciplinary or other appropriate action against the students. (Policy JCDAD, 9/18/95). If the bus supervisor and the principal determine that a student's behavior on the bus poses a direct and serious threat to the safety of himself/herself or others on or off the bus, the student will lose his/her riding privileges for the remainder of the school year (Regulation JKD-R, 6/21/99). Students may also be suspended from school for offenses that occur on the bus.

Bus misconduct including but not limited to moving seats, profanity, fighting, disobedience, or disrespect of the driver will not be tolerated. This can result in loss of bus privileges, ISS, OSS, or expulsion. Suspension from the bus is NOT suspension from school. The student is expected to use an alternative means of transportation to come to school and to return home.

If your child needs to ride a different bus or be a car rider for a day, you must send a note with the details and a number where you can be reached during the day for confirmation. The note should be turned in at the front office first thing in the morning. **No changes in transportation will be taken over the phone or after 2:00pm.**

## Car Riders

Car riders are dropped off and picked at the cafeteria via the carrider loop. They should be picked up promptly at dismissal. Cars are not allowed in the bus loading/unloading area. Cars should stay in the circle to pick up students. Do not park in the lot unless you are coming inside the school. Students are not allowed to walk to the parking lot unattended. Students will not be released to anyone at the cafeteria door or allowed to walk to the parking lot. Students not picked up after dismissal will wait in the lobby area of the school. Students must be picked up by 3:45pm. Student operated motor vehicles are not allowed on campus.

## Visiting the School

We welcome visitors and encourage parents to make frequent contact with our school, to attend school functions, and to volunteer as chaperones or tutors. We ask that you check in at the main office when you arrive, so we may issue you an identification pass. Parents are not allowed to observe classes without an administrator present. Contact the school, and we will set up conferences or observation times for you. Advance notice is required. We do not allow students from other schools to visit students/staff during school hours.

## **Volunteers**

Volunteers provide many valuable services to the children and faculty of the school. If you have some time available, even if it's just for one hour a week, we would love for you to get involved and make our school an even better place for our children. Activities such as reading with a child, doing clerical work for a teacher, or assisting with PTO projects are always appreciated. All volunteers must complete a background check every three years. If you have already submitted a volunteer application at another school, contact Lisa Livingston, so we can have you added to the list at LMS. New volunteers must submit the background check and volunteer form at this link:

<https://bib.com/SecureVolunteer/HORRY-COUNTY-SCHOOLS/>

## **Withdrawals and Transfers**

Students moving to another school (in or out of the district or state) must get their parent/guardian to request transfer information from the guidance office. Records will not be released to another school without a proper records request.

## **Yearbook**

A hardcover yearbook will be published each year. Yearbooks will be issued to students near the end of the school year. Students who purchase yearbooks will get to participate in a yearbook signing day. Advance purchase is recommended because we typically sell out. Thank you for your support of our school.