

# **CLINCH COUNTY MIDDLE PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK 2025-2026**

**Jerri Lynn Spivey  
Principal**

**Crystal Peterson  
Assistant Principal**



*Grow Clinch*  
CLINCH COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

**Stephanie Herlocker  
Instructional Coach**

**Ali Taylor  
Counselor**

**Lori Register  
Title I Coordinator**

The contents of this handbook have been adopted by the Clinch County Board of Education as policy for Clinch County Middle School. The intent of this handbook is to establish and communicate consistent guidelines which will contribute to the smooth operation of the school. Students and parents are responsible for being aware of all of the information in this book and should keep a copy for reference.

This handbook is provided to inform students and parents about the program of studies, procedures and regulations and extracurricular activities at CCMS. It is not possible to include all of the information that exists for students and parents. Please read the handbook carefully and contact the school office for any additional explanation or information needed.

**Clinch County Middle School  
1 Panther Way Suite B  
Homerville, Georgia 31634  
912-487-5366 phone**

**Public Notice**  
**Non-Discriminatory Policy**

Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); sex (Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act of 1990); or disability (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) in educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.

It is the policy of the Clinch County Board of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, age, native language, religion, creed, or handicap in educational programs and activities, admission to facilities, or employment practices. The following individual has been designated as the employee responsible for coordinating the Clinch County school system's effort to implement this nondiscriminatory policy.

Dr. Lori James  
Superintendent, Clinch County Schools  
46 South College Street  
Homerville, GA. 31634  
(912) 487-5321

**Process for Parents to Address Concerns**

**When parents have concerns about their child's education or educational setting,  
the following is an outline of the process to follow.**

1. The first step is to talk with the teacher(s) of the child.
2. If the parent is not pleased with the outcome or response after working with the teacher(s) on the specific concern, the parent needs to address his/her concerns to the principal of the school.
3. If the parent is still not pleased with the outcome or response after meeting with the principal, the parent will need to contact system level personnel based on the specific concerns.
  - **Transportation/Facilities/Maintenance** - Mr. Jason Bell, 487-5321
  - **Personnel, Student Discipline** –Ms. Denise Brown, 487-5321
  - **School Nutrition Program** - Ms. Tonya Stalvey, 487-5321
  - **Special Education, Section 504 Services** – Ms. Ann Johnson, 487-5385
  - **School Social Worker Services** –Mrs. Renee Harris, 487-5321
  - **RTI and Gifted Services** –Ms. Denise Brown, 487-5321
  - **Curriculum and Instruction, Professional Learning, Federal Programs, Testing-** Ms. Denise Brown, 487-5321
4. The Superintendent of Schools is willing to work with parents regarding concerns. However, parents should try to resolve their concerns as close to their child's classroom setting as possible. This is where services are provided and the school personnel know the most about the child and the issue. If you feel that you have followed this process and have been unsuccessful at having your concerns addressed, contact the Superintendent's Secretary at 487-5321.



## **2025-2026 Faculty and Staff**

Baxley, Breanna - 7th  
Bruce, Janin – Speech  
Cooper, Subrena - Paraprofessional  
Cox, Bradley - Band  
Crews, Brooklyn - Records  
Crumbley, Kayla – Bookkeeper  
Daniel, Casey – 7th  
Daniel, Karla - Receptionist  
Davis, Betsy - 6th  
Delk, Desirae – 6th  
Denmark, Sandra – 6th  
Denmark, Paige – STEM/Gifted  
Dixon, Kelli - 7th  
Futch, Katie – 7th  
George, Terrence – Health/PE

Gonzalez, Rose - Migrant  
Grady, Brenton – Paraprofessional  
Harper, Michael – 8th  
Hendricks, Laneston – 7th-8th Special Ed  
Herlocker, Stephanie – Instructional Coach  
Herrin, Elizabeth – 8th  
Howling, Tina-Paraprofessional  
Lecesse Ginger - 6th  
Lee, Dolly – Administrative Assistant  
Lee, Kaitie - 8th  
Mercer, Sean – Media Specialist  
Prescott, Jherri – Paraprofessional  
Smith, Kendall – 6th Special Education  
Spivey, Daylynn- Special Education  
Staten, Kelsie – 8th  
Taylor, Ali – Counselor

***Vision:*** Committed Today for Tomorrow’s Success

***Mission:*** Our mission for Clinch County Middle School is to provide lasting paw-prints of lifelong learning. We will accomplish this by engaging our students in individualized instruction in a positive, student-centered community with 21st Century teaching and learning, supporting high expectations for all.

# Clinch County School System 2025-2026 Calendar

<i>Pre-planning</i>	<i>July 30 - August 5</i>
<i>First Day of School</i>	<i>August 6</i>
<i>Labor Day Holiday</i>	<i>September 1</i>
<i>End of Q1</i>	<i>October 10</i>
<i>Parent-Teacher Conferences</i>	<i>October 14</i>
<i>PL Day (No School for Students)</i>	<i>October 15</i>
<i>Fall Break</i>	<i>October 16 - 17</i>
<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	<i>November 24 - 28</i>
<i>End of Q2</i>	<i>December 19</i>
<i>Christmas Break</i>	<i>December 22 - January 2</i>
<i>In-Service Days</i>	<i>January 5 – 6</i>
<i>1st Day of 2nd Semester</i>	<i>January 7</i>
<i>Martin Luther King Holiday</i>	<i>January 19</i>
<i>Winter Break</i>	<i>February 16</i>
<i>PL Day (No School for Students)</i>	<i>February 17</i>
<i>End of Q3</i>	<i>March 13</i>
<i>Parent-Teacher Conferences</i>	<i>March 17</i>
<i>Spring Break</i>	<i>April 6 - 10</i>
<i>½ Day Last Day of School</i>	<i>May 22</i>
<i>Post-planning</i>	<i>May 26 - 27</i>

## THE SCHOOL DAY

Our building is open from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. **If your student is on campus before or after that time, there is no adult supervision.** The Clinch County Middle School is not responsible for the supervision and safety of students prior to the beginning of the school day or after the end of the school day. We do not expect our staff to exercise charge over students who are left at the school campus before the beginning of the school day or who are not picked up after school in a timely manner. Failure to pick up your child may result in a report to the Department of Family and Children Services (DFACS).

**Regular breakfast hours are 7:30-7:55 a.m. every morning.** The first bell will ring at 7:55 a.m. and instruction begins; the tardy bell will ring at 8:00 a.m. Any student who is not in his/her classroom by 8:00 a.m. is tardy. It is most important that students arrive at school on time. When students arrive after teachers begin the day, it causes an interruption of classroom instruction; instructional time at Clinch County Middle School is valued. Dismissal begins at 2:55 p.m. Students feel safe and confident when they go home the same way every day. If it becomes **NECESSARY** to change the way your child goes home or for your child to ride a different bus, you must send a written note or call the school **BEFORE 2:00** p.m. The building will be closed to students at 3:30 p.m. At **NO** time after 3:30 p.m. should a student remain in the building or on campus unless they are under a teacher's supervision.

When possible, medical and dental appointments should be made outside of school hours. However, should an early check out become necessary, students will be released only to the parent unless the parent notifies the receptionist that he/she has granted permission for someone else to pick up his/her child. All students will be checked out at the front desk. Your child will be called over the intercom to come to the front desk. Parents will sign the student out at the front desk and will wait for the student in the front lobby. At the school system's discretion, students establishing a pattern of early checkouts may be referred to the principal.

## VISITORS

Visitors are welcome at Clinch County Middle School. **All visitors are required to come by the office upon entering the school building.** Immediately upon entering the campus, "any person who is not a student at such school, an employee of the school or school system, a school board member, an approved volunteer following the established guidelines of the school or a person who has been invited to or otherwise authorized to be at the school by a principal, teacher, counselor, or other authorized employee of the school shall check-in at the designated location as stated on posted signs and provide a reason for his or her presence at the school immediately upon entering the campus." Once the visitor has signed in, he/she will be issued a badge. For the safety of our students, we request that visitors wear the badge while they are in the building. This assures us that visitors have been to the office and checked in with our office staff. We respectfully request appropriate supervision of small children visiting the building to prevent disruption in the instruction of our students. Parents are urged to visit the school for conferences and planned activities.

### \*\*\*Note\*\*\*

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

## ARRIVAL-DISMISSAL/TRAFFIC CONTROL

In an effort to keep arrival and dismissal smooth and efficient, students will report to or be released from designated areas based on how they arrive and leave campus.

### ARRIVAL

#### 1. STUDENTS WHO WALK OR ARRIVE WITH ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

- Students should be dropped off in the front of the building with CCES students.
- To keep the car line moving, we request that you pull all the way forward and stay in your car.
- Walkers should follow directions of adults on duty and be alert for traffic at all times.

#### 2. STUDENTS WHO ARE DROPPED OFF (NOT WITH ELEMENTARY STUDENTS)

- These students may be dropped off in the bus loop area behind the school **beginning at 7:40 AM**. No cars are allowed in the bus zone area during bus unloading for safety reasons. If you arrive before 7:40, you will be stopped and redirected to the front drop-off line.
- For safety and traffic flow, drivers are not allowed to park or wait on campus or at the bus loop entrance before 7:40 AM. This area must remain clear at all times to allow buses to enter and unload safely.
- To keep the drop-off line moving smoothly, please remain in your vehicle and ensure your child is ready to exit promptly.
- The **back loop closes at 8:00 AM**. After that time, students should be dropped off at the front of the school and must report to the front office to check in, as they will be considered tardy.

### 3. STUDENTS WHO RIDE THE BUS TO SCHOOL

- Bus riders will be dropped off at the back of the building each morning.
- No cars are allowed in the bus zone area during bus unloading.

## DISMISSAL

### 1. STUDENTS WHO WALK HOME OR ARE PICKED UP WITH ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

- These students will be dismissed to the front of the building.

### 2. STUDENTS WHO ARE PICKED UP (NOT WITH ELEMENTARY STUDENTS)

- These students will be dismissed to the bus loop area behind the school.
- Parents may not enter the bus loop before 2:45 PM to allow buses to enter first. Drivers are not allowed to park or wait on campus or at the bus loop entrance before 2:45 PM. This area must remain clear at all times to allow buses to enter and load safely.
- To keep the line moving efficiently, please remain in your vehicle during pick-up.

### 3. STUDENTS WHO RIDE THE BUS

- Bus riders will be dismissed to the back of the building.

## ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance on the part of all students is necessary for success in school. Repeated tardiness and absences may cause one to become discouraged and bring about failure in school. The Clinch County Board of Education has an approved school calendar for the school year. This official calendar contains holidays and teacher in-service days on which students do not report to school. The calendar does not contain nor does the Clinch County Board of Education recognize vacation trips out of town with family members. Absence from school is defined as the non-attendance of a pupil on any day school is in session.

### GEORGIA COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW

Every parent, guardian, or other person residing within this state having control or charge of any child or children between their sixth and sixteenth birthdays shall enroll and send such child or children to a public school, private school, or a home study program that meets the requirements for a public school, private school, or home study program.

**Any parent, guardian, or other person residing within this state having control or charge of any child or children who shall violate this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$100.00 or imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, or both. Absence from school in violation of this part will constitute a separate offense.**

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

## **ABSENCES AND EXCUSES**

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes on time and each day. On the **FIRST DAY** students return to school from an absence, parents should provide the school with a written note explaining the reason for the absence. The note should include the date(s) of the absence, the reason(s) for the absence, and the signature of the parent or of the doctor who treated the student. If students are frequently absent and tardy, the principal may ask the parent to provide more information, such as medical documentation, about the absences, tardies, and early checkouts. Only five (5) handwritten notes will be accepted from parents per semester. No notes will be accepted after three (3) days.

After five handwritten parent notes per semester, parents will be required to present appropriate medical, governmental, or court documentation for the purpose of validating the absence. After exhausting the five handwritten notes, the subsequent absence will be categorized as unexcused unless proper documentation is received within the three (3) day.

Absence from school may be excused for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness or attendance in school endangering a student's health or the health of others.
2. A scheduled medical, dental, or eye examination.
3. A serious illness or death in a student's immediate family necessitating absence from school.
4. A court order or an order by a governmental agency mandating absence from school.
5. Celebrating religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
6. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student's health or safety.
7. Military affairs sponsored events for a parent/legal guardian necessitating absence from school.
8. Attendance of non-school activities or functions authorized by the superintendent or designee.

Absences shall not penalize student grades if the following conditions are met:

1. Absences are justified and validated for excusable reasons.
2. Make up work for excused absences were completed satisfactorily.
3. Excuse due within 3 days of returning to school. (Max of 5 parent notes)
4. If a student is absent for consecutive days only one handwritten note is required

Students who are going to be out of school for a minimum of ten (10) consecutive school days or more due to medical reasons, should contact the office to request services through the Hospital/Homebound Program. Parents or legal guardians of students, who feel extenuating circumstances are present to the extent that credit should be given, may communicate such circumstances to the child's principal.

***\*\*Out of school suspension is considered an unexcused absence and will result in zeros, unless extra make up work is completed.***

## **TARDIES/EARLY CHECKOUTS**

Being tardy means that a student has failed to be in the assigned classroom or instructional space at the assigned time without a valid excuse or arriving at school after the morning tardy bell. Parents must sign students in who arrive at school after the tardy bell and the student must obtain a tardy slip. The accumulation of unexcused tardies will warrant disciplinary action.

Tardy to school:

- 1st – 6th unexcused tardy - Warning
- 7th – 11th unexcused tardy – Lunch Detention
- 12th & above unexcused tardy - ISS

Tardy to class:

- 1st tardy to class - Warning issued by the teacher
- 2nd tardy to class – Lunch Detention (teacher assigns)
- 3rd tardy to class – Referral to Administration

Tardies will accumulate every nine weeks. **Parents of students with more than 5 unexcused tardies in one nine week grading period could be reported to the school system social worker.** Please refer to EXCUSED ABSENCES to see acceptable reasons (as these reasons also apply to excused and unexcused tardies).

Students are expected to remain in class for the entire school day. Checkouts should be limited to medical reasons or one of the excused reasons listed above (as these also apply to excused and unexcused checkouts). Parents are encouraged to make every effort to schedule doctor and dental appointments outside of school hours. Parents should not check out students for the purpose of avoiding car rider traffic. Excessive early checkouts are discouraged since these interrupt the educational process of a student and an entire class. **Parents of students with more than 5 unexcused early checkouts in one nine week grading period could be reported to the school system social worker.**

In order to be counted as present for the day, a student must be in attendance at least ½ of the school day.

### **CCMS ATTENDANCE CRITERIA**

- 3 unexcused absences - notified by 1st period teacher via phone, text and/or email
- 5 unexcused absences - letter sent home from CCMS and school social worker notified
- 7 unexcused absences - mandatory attendance meeting at CCMS and possible referral to Clinch Magistrate and DFCS
- 12 unexcused absences - retention meeting
- 13- 28 unexcused absences - Possible Summer School Attendance Recovery

### **SUMMER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE RECOVERY FOR 6TH - 8TH GRADE:**

- 1-4 sessions = \$50
- 5-8 sessions = \$75
- 9-12 sessions = \$100
- 13-16 sessions = \$125

### **STUDENT ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE DAYS**

We want to recognize and reward students who show up, work hard, and perform well throughout the school year. Our Attendance Incentive Days are designed to encourage positive habits that support academic success and a strong school culture.

**Students may earn up to four Attendance Incentive Days by meeting the following requirements:**

- Successfully pass all classes for the year
- Have no more than five absences during the year
- Earn passing scores on all sections of the GMAS

### **MAKE-UP WORK**

Students shall have an opportunity to make up work missed because of an absence. It shall be the student's responsibility to initiate the make-up process at the convenience of the teacher. All make-up work shall be scheduled with the teacher no later than the end of the third day back at school.

Absences due to suspension from school are considered unexcused. Students assigned out of school suspension (OSS) will be allowed to make up work upon return to school.

If a student is out of class to participate in a school function, he/she is not counted absent. The student should check with the teacher ahead of time for the assignment and have the assignments ready upon returning to school unless directed otherwise by the teacher.

**LEAVING CAMPUS**

Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds at any time during the school day without authorization from the school office.

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL FUNCTIONS**

School attendance is required on the day of any school function (activity) in which the student wishes to participate. Exceptions to this rule will be at the discretion of the principal.

**PROGRAMS FOR HOSPITAL/HOMEBOUND STUDENTS**

A student who has a medical diagnosis, non-communicable condition that restricts him/her to home or hospital for ten or more school days may be eligible for hospital/homebound instruction. Please contact the Principal or the Board of Education office (487-5321)

**ACADEMICS**

**GRADING PRACTICES**

The following chart outlines the grading practices of Clinch County Middle School. Report cards will be sent home each nine weeks to notify you of your child’s current academic and social growth depends upon grading system is as follows:

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

**REPORT CARDS**

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

<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>August 6 – October 10</b>
<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>October 13 – December 19</b>
<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>January 7 – March 13</b>
<b>Quarter 4</b>	<b>March 16 – May 22</b>

**POWERSCHOOL**

Parents with computer access may view their child’s grades and attendance at any time during the year by contacting the Records Clerk to get the login and password information for PowerSchool.

**PROMOTION AND RETENTION**

In order for a student to be promoted to the next grade, a student must satisfactorily complete, at a minimum, the following requirements:

1. All students must meet all attendance requirements (no more than 12 unexcused days absent).
2. A student must pass English Language Arts and Mathematics and either Science or Social Studies.
3. Eighth grade students must meet a set proficiency level on the State of Georgia mandated assessment. Students who do not meet the proficiency level will be given the opportunity for additional instruction and retesting. Failure to retake the state mandated assessment will result in the student being retained.

**CURRICULUM**

The instructional program at Clinch County Middle School is based on the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE). If you would like a more in-depth look at the curriculum, please visit the GSE website. If you still have questions, please ask your child’s teacher or the principal at our school.

## **HEALTH STUDIES**

Instruction units on human growth and development are taught in sixth - eighth grade classes as a part of the state of Georgia's required health curriculum. It is the right of parents to opt their child out of human growth and development units of study. A letter will be sent home to parents prior to this instruction. If you have concerns or questions, we encourage you to contact the school principal or teacher.

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework is an integral part of learning and academic achievement. Assignments will reinforce daily classroom activities. Anticipated completion time will vary according to the capabilities of each student. When your child is absent and needs homework assignments, please reach out to your child's teacher to schedule a time to pick it up.

## **TESTING**

Students in the Clinch County School system experience various forms of standardized and teacher-made tests. Discuss with your child's teacher the types of tests your child will encounter during the school year. The State of Georgia has a mandatory testing program for students in grade 3 and above. Parents/guardians will be notified prior to administration of state mandated testing and will receive student scores when the school receives test results. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the school counselor with questions regarding interpretation of test scores.

## **BOOK REGULATIONS**

All textbooks are furnished. Textbooks are to be kept clean and handled carefully. Before a student withdraws or leaves school at the end of the school year, all textbooks and library books must be returned. The Board of Education retains the right to charge students a reasonable fee for restitution of lost, damaged, or abused school system property. Students shall be notified in writing of any charges being assigned to them and that failure to pay those charges will result in withholding report cards, diplomas, or certificates of progress until restitution is made.

## **GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Clinch County Middle School provides Gifted Education for all qualified students. Students are referred automatically, based on test scores, and through teachers, parents, administrators, or self-referral. Students are reviewed for testing yearly and must meet state and local mandated requirements for participation in the program. For more information, contact the Gifted Education teacher at CCMS.

## **GEORGIA VIRTUAL SCHOOLS - CLINCH COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM**

The Clinch County School System recognizes the importance of putting technology into the hands of students, and one aspect of this goal is allowing students in Grades 3-12 to work through classes in the online forum of Georgia Virtual School (GVS). Recognizing that students are technological learners with a growing need for flexibility and that the business community, colleges, and universities seek high school graduates whose high level digital skills match their ongoing professional and learning needs, the school system offers Georgia Virtual classes as an option for students who desire this technological platform for learning. The rigor of the Georgia Virtual School courses mirrors the high level of expectation and quality that students are held to within the Clinch County School System. See your guidance counselor if you are interested in an online class through Georgia Virtual School. For additional information, visit [www.gavirtualschool.org](http://www.gavirtualschool.org).

## **MEDIA CENTER**

The media center will be open for the use of students each school day from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Students may come to the media center at any time with a pass/note form their teacher. Students will be charged a fine of \$.05 for each school day a book is overdue.

## **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

We will not have an Academic Achievement Awards Ceremony this year due to the reconfiguration of the grade bands in our schools. Eligibility for the Academic Achievement Award is being shifted to grades 5 and 8. The shift will not affect high school seniors. Seniors who qualify will be awarded their medals during this year's CCHS Honors Night. We will resume the normal Academic Achievement Awards Ceremony for the qualifying 5th, 8th, and 12th graders in the Spring of 2027.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

*Parents are requested to sign an acknowledgement of the receipt of the code of conduct and return the acknowledgement promptly to the school. The student code of conduct is available online, in the school office, and each classroom.*

All student behaviors shall be based on respect and consideration for the rights of others. Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that will contribute to the best interest of the school.

Students have the responsibility to know and respect the rules and regulations of Clinch County Middle School and the Clinch County Board of Education. Students have further responsibility to behave in a manner appropriate to good citizenship everywhere. When students do not respond to teacher initiated interventions and continue to fail to meet basic school-wide expectations teachers will follow a set discipline policy for minor and major behaviors.

In the event of immediate office discipline referral (OR) or a culmination of classroom disruptions resulting in an OR, the school administration will decide on the most appropriate consequence for the offending action. According to Georgia Law, "progressive discipline processes, shall be designed to create the expectation that the degree of discipline will be in proportion to the severity of the behavior leading to the discipline, that the previous discipline history of the student being disciplined and other relevant factors will be taken into account, and that all due process procedures required by federal and state law will be followed" (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-735).

The Code of Conduct applies at all times when students are:

- On school grounds or school property,
- Attending any school-sponsored event, activity, or function—whether on or off campus—including travel to and from these events,
- Riding in any vehicle provided by the school for transportation.

Students may also face disciplinary action for off-campus behavior that is either a felony or presents a potential threat to the safety and well-being of students, staff, or the overall school environment.

We encourage parents and guardians to take time to review the Code of Conduct and support its expectations through regular conversations with their children and members of the school community.

### **AUTHORITY OF THE PRINCIPAL**

The principal is the designated leader of the school and, in concert with the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. In cases of disruptive, disorderly or dangerous conduct not covered in this Code, the principal may undertake corrective measures which he or she believes to be in the best interest of the student and the school provided any such action does not violate school board policy or procedures.

### **AUTHORITY OF THE TEACHER**

Clinch County Schools fully supports the authority of teachers to manage student behavior and maintain a safe, respectful classroom environment. In accordance with Georgia law, school administrators will take appropriate action when a student's behavior significantly disrupts learning. Teachers have the right to refer students for disciplinary action, and those referrals will be taken seriously, with prompt and fair follow-up by school leadership.

## **CLASSROOM MANAGED BEHAVIOR DEFINITIONS (MINOR OFFENSES)**

1. ***Out of seat:*** Failure to remain in the assigned area.  
*Example: leaving the work area without permission, any instance in which the student left a designated area without teacher permission*
2. ***Physical Disruption:*** Bodily actions to disrupt the classroom or school environment.  
*Example: running, pounding, noise with materials, throwing self to ground, touching others without permission, horseplay, use of electronic devices*
3. ***Verbal Disruption:*** Any verbal behaviors to disrupt the classroom or school environment.  
*Example: talking out, tantrums, crying, yelling, making noise, speaking loudly*
4. ***Minor Verbal Aggression:*** Verbal behaviors to cause emotional harm.  
*Example: taunting, teasing, profanity, making fun of another student, name calling, screaming at peers, talking back to teachers, disrespect toward adult*
5. ***Non-compliance of school expectations:*** Failure to adhere to identified expectations and rules of the school.  
*Example: breaking identified rules for the cafeteria, playground, bathroom, hallway, and/or classroom.*
6. ***Dress Code:*** violation of board approved dress code.
7. ***Dishonesty:*** Deliberate misrepresentation of facts either verbally or through actions (including misrepresenting someone else's work as one's own).  
*Examples: cheating, lying, omitting facts or details, plagiarism, or use of any Artificial Intelligence platform without specific permission from the classroom teacher.*
8. ***Sleeping in Class:*** Sleeping during any enrolled class

## **CLASSROOM MANAGED DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES (TEACHER MANAGED)**

1. ***First Offense***
  - a. Verbal redirection
  - b. Restatement of expectation
  - c. Reteach expected behavior
2. ***Second Offense (same behavior)***
  - a. Teacher Managed Intervention applied (see Behavior Flow Chart for list of possible interventions)
3. ***Third Offense (same behavior)***
  - a. Parent contact (via text, call, email, Remind101, etc.)
  - b. Enter minor incident referral (MIR)
  - c. Teacher managed intervention applied
4. ***Fourth Offense (same behavior)***
  - a. Enter Office Referral (OR) and follow procedures for Office Managed behaviors

## **CLASSROOM MANAGED DISCIPLINE – TEACHER MANAGED INTERVENTIONS**

Examples of Teacher Managed Interventions include the following: verbal reminder, proximity control, classroom time out, break detention, lunch detention, loss of privilege, environmental change, conference with teacher, change in seating assignment, and choices provided to student.

## OFFICE MANAGED BEHAVIOR DEFINITIONS (MAJOR OFFENSES- ADMINISTRATOR MANAGED)

1. **Repeated and Excessive Classroom Managed Behaviors:** See above descriptions.
2. **Continuous Non-Compliance and/or Overt Insubordination:** Failure to engage in requisite activities after specifically prompted by teacher or other adult and classroom managed consequence are deemed ineffective.  
*Examples: refusal to follow an adult's spoken direction after Level I discipline procedure has been implemented.*
3. **Dishonesty:** Deliberate misrepresentation of facts either verbally or through actions (including misrepresenting someone else's work as one's own).  
*Examples: cheating, lying, omitting facts or details*
4. **Verbal Aggression to Peers and/or School Staff:** Verbal or physical behaviors to cause fear or emotional harm.  
*Examples: profanity, obscene gestures or pictures, verbal coercion in the form of threats, verbal or cyber bullying, verbal coercion in the form of threats to use force, violence, intimidation, fear or disruptive means*
5. **Physical Aggression:** Bodily actions to cause physical or emotional harm to another.  
*Examples: making an aggressive gesture ("bucking") at an adult or student, hitting, biting, kicking, grabbing, head butting, hair pulling, physical bullying, throwing objects that do or do not result in physical harm, tearing or destroying materials*
6. **Use of or Possession of Tobacco Products:** Tobacco paraphernalia, and tobacco products, or any tobacco product substitute(s), which includes any form of e-cigarettes, Juuls, vapes, and/or any of the paraphernalia that accompanies these products.
7. **Possession of Drug Paraphernalia:** Carrying, possessing, or concealing paraphernalia on your person, personal carrying case, book bag, locker, desk, or any other container under the control, ownership, or in possession of the student.  
*Examples: possession of alcoholic beverages, unprescribed legal drugs (including any and all counterfeit or look alike substances), illegal drugs as defined by law enforcement (including any and all counterfeit or look alike substances).*
8. **Possession of Weapons:** Carrying, possessing, or concealing weapons on your person, personal carrying case, book bag, desk, or any other container under the control, ownership, or in possession of the student.
9. **Skipping Class:** Failure to report to assigned class area within 10 minutes of designated time without written permission  
*Examples of written permission: note from teacher/administrator, office staff, counselor, etc. verifying student's whereabouts*
10. **Illegal or Unauthorized Entry/Exit of School Facilities:** Trespassing on school board property during periods of unauthorized time or leaving without proper authorization or formal dismissal with a parent or guardian.  
*Examples: after-hour entry of school board property, returning to school during a designated suspension/expulsion period, fleeing school property.*

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

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

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

13. **Inducing General Panic:**

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

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

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

### **OFFICE MANAGED DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES (ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSE)**

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

1. Warning and/or counseling with an administrator or counselor
2. Parent contact/conference
3. Loss of privileges
4. Lunch detention
5. Environmental change
6. Corporal punishment
7. In-school suspension (1 to 10 days) (ISS can only be assigned or extended by the administrative team)
8. Bus Suspension
9. Out-of-school suspension (1 to 10 days)
10. Referral to disciplinary tribunal
11. Alternative School placement
12. Expulsion
13. Referred to local law enforcement or juvenile court officials

### **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**

If you do not wish corporal punishment to be administered to your child, please fill out the appropriate forms from the front office. **This must be done annually and in writing.**

### **CHRONIC DISCIPLINE**

Under Georgia law (OCGA §§ 20-2-765 – 20-2-766.1), when a student is identified as a Chronic Disciplinary Problem Student or placed on a Correctional Behavior Plan, parents will be notified and invited to conferences, and a behavior plan will be developed and documented. Law enforcement will also be notified. Failure to cooperate may result in court involvement and a fine of up to \$500.

### **ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT FOR EXCESSIVE OFFICE REFERRALS:**

**8 Office Referrals** - A parent/guardian meeting along with a behavior contract

**9 Office Referrals** - A parent/guardian meeting in addition to ISS/OSS days

**10 Office Referrals** - Student will be assigned to the Alternative School for placement for 90 days

## CCMS Code of Conduct Chart

The discipline infractions on the following pages are aligned with the state discipline matrix. The chart indicates minimum consequences of discipline situations and is not intended as absolutes. Therefore, at the administrator's discretion, more or less severe punishment may be applied, e.g., such as criminal charges may be used in extreme cases. Discipline situations reported to the administration will be dealt with using administrative discretion.

Level	Infraction	Referral	Disposition
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computer trespassing (minor-internet use without permission, games, social networking sites, non-instructional without teacher permission)</li> <li>Profanity, obscene words, gestures, or materials (Minor)</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense 4th Offense 5th Offense 6th Offense	ISS - 1 day ISS - 1 day ISS - 2 days ISS - 3 days OSS - 2 days OSS - 3 days/behavior contract
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disorderly Conduct- creating or contributing to a mild disturbance that disrupts the normal operation of the school or classroom. It may include horse playing, mild profanity, inappropriate gestures, or materials.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense 4th Offense 5th Offense 6th Offense	ISS - 1 day ISS - 1 day ISS - 2 days ISS - 3 days OSS - 2 days OSS - 3 days/behavior contract
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student Incivility- insubordination or use of inappropriate language not directed toward school staff; might include disrespect, disregard of directions.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense 4th Offense 5th Offense 6th Offense	ISS - 1 day ISS - 1 day ISS - 2 days ISS - 3 days OSS - 2 days OSS - 3 days/behavior contract
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gum or food violation</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense & following	Lunch Detention- 2 days Lunch Detention- Week 1 day ISS
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unauthorized use of electronic device - Using or accessing personal devices (e.g., phones, smartwatches, earbuds, tablets, gaming devices) during the school day.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense 4th Offense & following	Lunch Detention – Week ISS - 1 day ISS - 3 days OSS – 1+ days/behavior contract <b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense &amp; Following: Device confiscated &amp; parent must pick up</b>
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism (including use of AI) – receiving or providing unauthorized assistance on classroom projects, assignments, or exams</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense & following	ZERO and Parent Contact ZERO and ISS- 2 days ZERO and ISS- 3 days and parent conference
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Battery- intentional physical attack with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in no bodily injuries; includes but not limited to pushing, hitting, kicking, shoving, pinching, slapping, and other intentional physical confrontations.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	OSS - 1 day OSS - 3 days Move to Level 3
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fighting- a physical confrontation between two or more students with the intent to harm resulting in no bodily injuries (mutual participation)</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	OSS - 3 days OSS - 5 days Move to Level 3
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Larceny/Theft- the unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity that does not belong to the student with a value between \$0 and \$20.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	ISS - 3 days ISS - 5 days OSS - 2 days

Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sexual Harassment- comments that perpetuate gender stereotypes or suggestive jokes that are not directed towards specific individuals.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	ISS - 3 days ISS - 5 days OSS - 3 days
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sexual Offenses- inappropriate public displays of affection (PDA), public groping, or inappropriate bodily contact.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	ISS - 2 days ISS - 3 days OSS - 1 days
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bullying- first offense of bullying as defined in Georgia Code Section 20- 2- 751.4</li> </ul>	1st Offense	ISS - 3 days
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance Related- repeated or excessive unexcused absences or tardies; including failure to report to class, skipping class, leaving class without authorization, or failure to comply with disciplinary sanctions.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	ISS - 1 day ISS - 2 days ISS - 3 days
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possession of Unapproved Items- the possession of very unauthorized item. This does not include the possession of fireworks, matches, toy weapons, or other items that can be construed as dangerous.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	ISS - 1 day ISS - 2 days ISS - 3 days
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recording fights, altercations, or any other event using a phone, tablet, or any type of electronic recording device and posting on social media or sharing with others.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	OSS - 1 day OSS - 2 days OSS - 3 days
Level 2	Arson- attempt to commit arson or use of matches, lighters, or incendiary devices at school; includes but is not limited to the <b>use</b> of fireworks.	1st Offense 2nd Offense	OSS - 5 days OSS -10 days/Tribunal
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disorderly Conduct- creating or contributing to the moderate disturbance that substantially disrupts the normal operation of the school environment but does not pose a threat to the health or safety of others; may represent a repeat action such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leaving campus without permission</li> <li>- Poppers and stink bombs</li> <li>- Rude and disrespectful behavior (major)</li> <li>- Use of profane, vulgar or obscene language or gestures (major towards student)</li> <li>- Use of slang or joking language that implies violence (e.g., threats or references to weapons)</li> <li>- Inciting or videoing a fight or other</li> </ul> </li> <li>major school disruption</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	ISS - 3 days ISS - 5 days OSS - 1 day

Level 2	Bullying as defined in Georgia Code Section 20-2-751.4, teasing, racial, sexually abusive comments towards another student (no contact contract) cyberbullying	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	ISS - 3 days OSS - 3 days OSS - 10 days/Tribunal
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computer Trespassing- viewing messages or images containing pornography or obscene language</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	OSS - 3 days OSS - 5 days
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gang-Related - any group of three or more students with a common name or common identifying signs, symbols, tattoos, graffiti, or attire that engage in criminal activity.</li> <li>Offense- Wearing of possessing gang-related apparel; communicating either verbally or non-verbally to convey membership or affiliation with a gang.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	ISS - 3 days OSS- 3 days OSS - 10 days/Tribunal
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ISS Disruption – failing to follow the rules or behaving in a way that disturbs the ISS environment.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense 4th Offense & Following	OSS – 1 day OSS – 2 days OSS – 2 days OSS – 2 days
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possession or use of tobacco paraphernalia or tobacco products, or tobacco product substitute(s), ecigarette or e-cigarette look-alikes, hookahs and hookah look-alikes, vapes, and juuls.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense & Following	ISS - 3 days OSS - 2 days OSS - 4 days
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refusal to relinquish an electronic device upon request.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	ISS - 2 days OSS - 1 days OSS - 2 days/Behavior Contract
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drugs except alcohol and tobacco - any medication prescribed to a student or purchased over-the-counter and not brought to the office upon arrival to school.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	ISS - 3 days OSS - 3 days Move to Level 3
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fighting- a physical confrontation between two or more students with the intent to harm resulting in mild or moderate bodily injuries.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	OSS - 5 days OSS - 7 days Move to Level 3
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Larceny/Theft- the unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity that does not belong to the student with a value up to \$250.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	OSS - 5 days OSS - 7 days Move to Level 3

Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sexual Harassment – Nonphysical and unwelcome sexual advances, lewd gestures or verbal conduct, or communication of a sexual nature; request for sexual favors; gender-based harassment that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or work environment.</li> <li>Offense- comments that perpetuate gender stereotypes, suggestive jokes, or lewd gestures that are directed towards specific individuals or groups of individuals.</li> <li>Examples: Includes but not limited to insensitive or sexually suggestive comments or jokes; leering.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	OSS - 3 days OSS - 5 days OSS - 10 days/Tribunal
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sexual Offenses – unlawful sexual behavior, sexual contact without force or threat of force, or possession of sexually explicit images; can be consensual</li> <li>Offense- inappropriate sexually-based behavior including but not limited to sexting, lewd behavior, possession of pornographic materials; simulated sex acts:</li> <li>Examples: sexting; lewd behavior, possession of pornographic materials</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	OSS - 3 days OSS - 5 days OSS - 10 days/Tribunal
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Threat/Intimidation – physical, verbal, or electronic threat which creates fear of harm without displaying a weapon or subjecting victims to physical attack.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	OSS – 5 days OSS – 10 days Move to Level 3
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trespassing – entering or remaining on school grounds or facilities without authorization and with no lawful purpose.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	OSS - 2 days OSS - 3 days Move to Level 3
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vandalism – participating in the minor destruction, damage, or defacement of school property or private property.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	ISS - 2 days OSS - 3 days Move to Level 3
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weapons (knife) – possession of a knife or knife-like item without intent to harm or intimidate</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense	OSS – 5 days OSS – 10 days/Tribunal
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weapons (other) – possession of a weapon, other than a knife or firearm, or a simile of a weapon that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense	OSS – 5 days OSS – 10 days/Tribunal
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic Dishonesty – intentional plagiarism (including use of AI) or cheating on a minor classroom assignment or project.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	ISS – 1 day & ZERO ISS- 2 days & ZERO ISS- 3 days, ZERO, & Parent Conference

Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student Incivility – blatant insubordination or the use of inappropriate language directed towards school staff or peers; intentional misrepresentation of the truth.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	OSS - 5 days OSS - 7 days Move to Level 3
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to Identify / False ID - Refusing to give your name or giving a false name when asked by school staff.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	OSS - 2 days OSS - 3 days OSS - 5 days
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alcohol – violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages, or substances represented as alcohol.</li> <li>Alcohol – possession of alcohol and/or under the influence.</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS- 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	Threat/Intimidation – physical, verbal, or electronic threat which creates fear of harm including displaying a weapon or subjecting victims to physical attack.	1st Offense	OSS- 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activating Fire Alarm - setting off a fire alarm without cause or in a non-emergency situation.</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS- 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arson – intentional damage as a result of arson-related activity or the use of an incendiary device.</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS- 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assault of School Employee – intentional physical attack on school employee</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS- 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Battery – intentional physical attack with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in severe injuries or any physical attack on school personnel; Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on battery three or more times during the same school year.</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS- 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breaking and Entering - Illegally entering school property or vehicle without permission.</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS- 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computer Trespassing (MAJOR) – any person who uses a computer or computer network with knowledge that such use is without authority and with the intention of: Cyber Bullying, Altering or Damaging the computer network, or computer program, sending messages or images containing pornography or obscene language, change or vandalize files or data of others, computer invasion, computer forgery, or computer password disclosure.</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS- 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Criminal Law Violations</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS- 10 days/Tribunal

Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disorderly Conduct – creating or contributing to a severe disturbance that substantially disrupts the school environment or poses a threat to the health and safety of others. Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on disorderly conduct three or more times during the same school year.</li> </ul>		
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drugs except alcohol and tobacco – unlawful use, cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance, or equipment or devices used for preparing or using drugs or narcotics or under the influence.</li> <li>Includes all CBD and THC (THC-8, THC-9, THC-10) products</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS- 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evade School personnel - Intentionally avoiding or running from school staff when asked to stop or comply.</li> <li>Failure to comply with Search &amp; Seizure</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS- 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Homicide</li> <li>Kidnapping</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS- 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indecent Exposure - deliberately exposing private parts of the body in a public or school setting.</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS- 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Larceny Theft, Theft – the unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity that does not belong to the student with a value exceeding \$250. Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on larceny/theft three or more times during the same school year.</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS- 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major School Disruption</li> <li>Molestation or Rape, Sexual Battery</li> <li>Robbery Extortion (Note: The key difference between robbery and larceny/theft is that the threat of physical harm or actual physical harm is involved in a robbery.)</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS - 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tobacco – distribution and/or selling of tobacco, or tobacco product substitute(s), e-cigarette or e-cigarette look-alikes, hookah or hookah lookalikes; Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on tobacco/e-cigarettes three or more times during the same school year.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense 4th Offense & following	OSS - 2 days OSS - 3 days OSS - 3 days OSS - 5 days

Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gang-Related – any group of three or more students with a common name or common identifying signs, symbols, tattoos, graffiti, or attire that engage in criminal activity.</li> <li>• Offense – the solicitation of others for gang membership, the defacing of school or personal property with gang-related symbols or slogans, threatening or intimidating on behalf of a gang, the requirement or payment for protection or insurance through a gang. It should be used for students who display a pattern of violating any other person related to gang activity.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	OSS - 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fighting – a physical confrontation between two or more students with the intent to harm resulting in severe bodily injuries. Level 3 may be used for students who violate the school policy on fighting three or more times during the same school year.</li> </ul>	1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense	OSS - 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual Harassment – physical or non-physical and sexual advances; requests for sexual favors, Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on sexual harassment three or more times during the same school year.</li> <li>• Examples: see above.</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS – 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual Offenses – engaging in sexual activities on school grounds or during school activities.</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS – 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Dishonesty – intentional plagiarism or cheating on a major exam, statewide assessment or project, or the falsification of school records (including forgery)</li> </ul>	3rd Offense	OSS – 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bullying – repeated acts, as defined in Georgia Code Section 20-2-751.4, occurring on school property or school possession that is a willful attempt or threat to inflict injury, or apparent means to do so, any display of force that puts the victim in fear of harm, any written, verbal, or physical act that threatens, harasses, or intimidates; causes another person physical harm; interferes with a student’s education; so severe and pervasive intimidated or threatens the educational environment.</li> </ul>	3rd Offense	OSS – 10 days/Tribunal

Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other Firearms – intentional or unintentional possession or use of any firearms other than rifle, shotgun, or handguns (including starter pistols) and any other destructive device which includes explosives.</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS – 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serious Bodily Injury – infliction of “bodily harm” that dismembers, disfigures, causes permanent loss of a limb or function of an organ and causes a substantial risk of death.</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS – 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student Incivility – blatant and repeated insubordination or intentional misrepresentation of the truth; Level 3 should be used for students who display a pattern of violating the school policy related to student incivility.</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS – 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vandalism – participation in the willful/malicious destruction, damage, or defacement of school property or private property without permission; Level 3 may be used for students who violate the school policy on vandalism three or more times during the same school year.</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS – 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weapons (knife) – intentional possession, use or intention to use a knife or knife-like item with the intent to harm or intimidate.</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS – 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weapons (other) – intentional possessions and use of any weapon, other than a knife or firearm, in a manner that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS – 10 days/Tribunal
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weapons (handgun/rifle/shotgun) – intentional or unintentional possession or use of a handgun in a manner that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm.</li> </ul>	1st Offense	OSS – 10 days/Tribunal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>		

**CUMULATIVE DISCIPLINE OFFENSES**

These offenses have been identified as major misbehaviors that are grossly detrimental to the orderly school process. These offenses will be tracked for the student’s entire middle school career:

- Physical Assault or Battery on Teachers, Administrators, and other school personnel
- Physical Assault or Battery of other Students
- Fighting
- Illegal Substances
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Pepper/Mace Spray
- Sexual Harassment/Sexual Misconduct
- Weapons

## **BULLYING POLICY**

### ***Bullying Definition***

The term “bullying” is defined as:

1. a form of written, verbal, or physical aggression intended to offend, harm, or embarrass another person,
2. that occurs **repeatedly** over time,
3. has a perceived or realized imbalance of power or status,
4. and interferes with the education or educational environment of another.

**Bullying can take the form of:**

1. **Physical Bullying:** The act of one person or a group of people using overt bodily acts to gain power over another.  
*Example: hitting, punching, kicking, slapping, pinching, or any other physical act intended to inflict harm on another.*
2. **Verbal Bullying:** The act of one person or a group of people using language (explicit, obscene, or insinuating) to gain power over another.  
*Examples: name-calling, threats, teasing, taunting*
3. **Indirect Bullying:** The act of one person or a group of people purposefully engaging in discourse about another, regardless if the subject matter is fictional or fact, with the intent of publicly or privately embarrassing, harassing, or degrading that person.  
*Examples: spreading rumors, gossiping,*
4. **Cyber Bullying:** The act of one person or group of people using the internet, computers, cell phones, or other electronic devices to purposefully engage in discourse about another, regardless if the subject matter is fictional or fact, with the intent of publicly or privately embarrassing, harassing, or degrading that person.  
*Examples: verbal or indirect bullying via electronic device*

## **BULLYING PROCEDURES**

### ***1. Immediate Referral***

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

## **DUE PROCESS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

In matters of school discipline and policy, all students will be treated fairly and equally by the same rules in accordance with their due process rights.

## **SCHOOL-WIDE DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

All students should be disciplined in accordance with school-wide discipline procedures unless an alternative discipline plan or consequences are detailed in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP).

## **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

Parent involvement through conferences is the most desirable avenue for correcting behavior problems. The parent or guardian should be contacted by phone whenever possible. In all cases involving major offenses, the parents will be given written notification stating the student’s offense and the administrative disposition.

## **PARTICIPATION IN AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

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

### **POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS (PBIS)**

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, or PBIS, is a framework of evidence-based and data-driven strategies for the specific purpose of addressing and correcting behaviors. PBIS has been proven effective in reducing discipline referrals, in-school and out-of-school suspensions, and improving the safety climate in schools. By reducing discipline issues and improving school climate, academic outcomes can also be improved. The program utilizes the discipline data from the schools to identify which behaviors are the most problematic and reoccurring. When those primary problem behaviors are identified, supports are put in place for students to receive instruction on the correct behavior. In this way, students are taught correct behaviors in much the same way they are taught academic subjects. PBIS utilizes different intervention tiers to meet the specific needs of students experiencing behavioral issues. The multi-tiered approach is designed to help students at all levels of behavior learn and practice correct behaviors, resulting in less time out of the classroom and greater academic success. If you have questions regarding PBIS, please contact Renee Harris at (912) 487-5366.

**The chart on the following page shows the CCMS Behavior Flow Chart that was developed using PBIS strategies.**

# Clinch County Middle School

## BEHAVIOR FLOW CHART

Observe Problem Behavior

Is the behavior classroom or office managed?

Classroom Managed

Office Managed

**Step 1:**  
\*Verbal redirection  
\*Restatement of expectation  
\*Reteach expected behavior

(Same behavior continues)



**Step 2:**  
\*Appropriate teacher managed intervention

(Same behavior continues)



**Step 3:**  
\*Direct parent contact  
\*Enter Minor Incident Report in Educator's Handbook

(Same behavior continues)



**Step 4:**  
\*Complete Office Referral in Educator's Handbook

**Classroom Managed**

- \*Breaking cafeteria rules
- \*Breaking playground rules
- \*Breaking bathroom rules
- \*Breaking hallway rules
- \*Dishonest (cheating/plagiarism/lying)
- \*Defiance (minor disrespect)
- \*Off-task (disruptive-loud, blurting out, making noises, playing with objects)
- \*Off-task (non-disruptive-out of seat, not paying attention)
- \*Indirect inappropriate language
- \*Intentional inappropriate language towards others
- \*Minor physical aggression (push, shove)
- \*Minor theft (pencil, eraser, candy)
- \*Not completing assignment
- \*Sleeping
- \*Technology violation (social media, inappropriate web searches)
- \*Dress code
- \*Out of designated area

**Office Managed**

- \*Bullying
- \*Major theft (money, property of others, chronic minor theft)
- \*Inappropriate gestures (sexual)
- \*Major physical aggression (fighting, spitting, biting, kicking)
- \*Extreme property damage
- \*Overt defiance (major defiance)
- \*Credible threats
- \*Inciting a fight
- \*Drug use/possession
- \*Arson/combustibles
- \*Bomb threat
- \*Assault/threat to staff
- \*Cyber bullying
- \*Technology violation (accessing mature content on social media or inappropriate web sites and searches)
- \*Skipping class
- \*Illegal violation
- \*Chronic dress code violations
- \*Chronic violations of classroom/office managed behaviors

**Step 1:**  
\*Staff member completes Office Referral in Educator's Handbook.

(Same behavior continues)



**Step 2:**  
\*Administrative conference with student to review student expectations

(Same behavior continues)



**Step 3:**  
\*Appropriate administrative action  
\*Administrator follows up with parent and referring staff member

- Possible Teacher Managed Interventions**
- \*Loss of privilege
  - \*Environmental change
  - \*Conference with teacher
  - \*Change seating
  - \*Provide choice
  - \*Verbal reminder
  - \*Proximity control
  - \*Classroom time out
  - \*Break detention
  - \*Lunch detention

**\*EVERY CLASS PERIOD STARTS WITH A CLEAN SLATE.**

## **OFF CAMPUS STUDENT MISCONDUCT**

A student who has been arrested, indicted, adjudicated, convicted, or having information filed for conduct that occurs off-campus, and while the student is not in attendance at a school related event or activity, will be automatically placed in an alternative education program without a hearing, or will be recommended for expulsion or long-term suspension at a Student Tribunal Hearing, provided that:

- The Superintendent or Principal has a reasonable belief that the student has engaged in conduct punishable as a felony or a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an adult, and the Superintendent or Principal believes the continued presence of the student in a regular classroom threatens the safety of other students or teachers or will be detrimental to the educational process. Students placed in an alternative education program under this provision will remain in such program pending the disposition of their criminal case. The Superintendent or Principal will review the outcome of the criminal case at that time and make a determination as to whether the student may return to his/her school or remain in the alternative education program.
- In addition, the School District has the authority to take disciplinary action regarding any off-campus, non-school related actions taken by students, which has a direct and immediate impact on school discipline, the learning environment, or the welfare and/or safety of students and staff. A student who has committed a criminal act while off-campus is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.
- The School District can also refuse to readmit or re-enroll a student that has been expelled or suspended because the student has been convicted of, adjudicated to have committed, indicted for, or having information filed for the commission of any felony or any delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an adult.

Authority to take disciplinary action also extends to any off-campus non-school related actions by students, at any time of the year, which have a direct and immediate impact on school discipline, the educational function of the school, or the welfare of students and staff. A student who has committed a criminal act while off campus is subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from school. Such act could include, but is not limited to, a felony, a delinquent act which would be considered to be a felony if committed by an adult, an assault upon another student, a violation of the laws prohibiting controlled substances, or sexual misconduct of a serious nature. A student whose presence on school property may endanger the welfare and/or safety of other students or staff, or whose presence may cause substantial disruption at school, is also subject to in-school suspension and/or assignment to an alternative education program

## **PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING GANG RELATED ACTIVITY**

Clinch Middle School maintains zero tolerance for gang activities on the school campus or school sponsored event. Violators will be reported immediately to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Violators will also be subject to immediate suspension or expulsion. Student may also be disciplined for gang-like activity. Gang-like activity is any association, or group of three or more persons associated in fact, whether formal or informal, which engages in a pattern of gang activity. The existence of such organization, association, or group of individuals associated in fact may be established by evidence of a common name or common identifying signs, symbols, tattoos, graffiti, or attire or other distinguishing characteristics. Gangs, as defined in state statute, are forbidden to gather or co-mingle at Clinch County school sites or school-related events. Individuals who engage in gang-related behavior at school or school sponsored activities disrupt the educational process and promote an atmosphere where unlawful acts or serious violations of school rules may occur.

***Examples of gang-related behavior may include, but are not limited to:***

1. The presence of apparel, jewelry, accessory or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol, or any other attribute indicates or implies gang membership or affiliation with such a group.
2. Initiation, hazing, intimidation, and/or related activities of such group affiliations that are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to students or staff.
3. Threatening to commit, or actually committing, any crime with the purpose of terrorizing another, causing the evacuation of a Clinch County school facility or school bus, causing disruption to the orderly operation at Clinch County school, or acting in reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror or disruption.
4. Using, employing, or relying upon gang membership or affiliation to threaten, intimidate, or to harass students and/or staff.

5. The use of certain hand signals or gestures that may, in any way, be linked to a gang or gang-related activity or behavior.
6. Graffiti that may, in any way, be linked to a gang or gang-related activity or behavior.
7. Identifying oneself as a member of a gang.
8. Recruiting or soliciting membership in a gang of gang-related organizations.

***Students who engage in gang-related behaviors are subject to consequences in accordance with Clinch County Middle School discipline procedures up to and including suspension, expulsion, and referral to the appropriate legal authorities.***

**BUS PROCEDURES, SAFETY, AND DISCIPLINE**

Students are expected to be at their designated bus stop when the bus arrives. Drivers will not wait on students. Students should be prepared to be at the bus stop at the correct time in all types of weather. Buses will not unload students at Clinch County Middle School before 7:30 a.m., and students will load the bus at 2:55 p.m. Students are expected to learn and follow all bus rules. Students should always cooperate with and listen to the bus driver or the substitute bus driver. **Parents and students are reminded that being transported to and from school is a privilege.** Improper conduct on the bus can result in suspension of bus riding privileges. Questions regarding the school bus program may be addressed to the Director of Transportation at 487-5321.

**BUS RULES**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Keep all items in backpack when getting on and off the bus.</li> <li>2. Arrive 10 min. early to bus stop.</li> <li>3. Be aware of your surroundings; look both ways when crossing road.</li> <li>4. Sit properly in assigned seat.</li> <li>5. Keep hands and feet to self, no horse playing or fighting.</li> <li>6. Keep aisle clear.</li> <li>7. Use inside voice, be courteous, no profanity</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. No eating or drinking on bus.</li> <li>9. No vandalism – students who write on or tear seats are will be responsible for paying for the damages.</li> <li>10. Phone use is at the discretion of the driver – if earbuds/headphones are in use, leave one ear open.</li> <li>11. Keep head, hands, and feet inside bus at all times.</li> <li>12. Report any inappropriate behaviors to the bus driver.</li> </ol>
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In order to protect the safety of all students that ride a bus, the following procedures will be followed in administering bus discipline. Bus referrals may result in one or more of the following (but not limited to) at the discretion of the administrator and based on the severity of the offense (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-735):

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense*** – Warning and parent contact
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense*** – Corporal punishment or 1 day bus suspension and parent contact
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense*** – 2 days bus suspension and parent contact
- 4<sup>th</sup> offense*** – 3 days bus suspension and parent contact
- 5<sup>th</sup> offense*** - 5 days bus suspension and parent contact

**Each additional offense** – After the 5th offense bus suspension will increase by 3 days. Continuous bus suspensions after the fifth offense may lead to bus privileges being revoked.

***Students guilty of major violations such as fighting, harassment, threats to a bus driver or to other students, will receive an office referral and will follow the discipline procedures outlined in the CCMS handbook.***

**BUS CONDUCT**

- Students shall be prohibited from acts of physical violence as defined by Code Section 20-2-751.6, bullying as defined by subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-751.4, physical assault or battery of other persons on the school bus,

- verbal assault of other persons on the school bus, disrespectful conduct toward the school bus driver or other persons on the school bus and other unruly behavior; and
- Students shall be prohibited from using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with the school bus driver's operation of the school bus.

If a student is found to have engaged in physical acts of violence as defined by Code Section 20-2-751.6, the student shall be subject to the penalties set forth in that Code section. A meeting of the parent or guardian of the student and appropriate school district officials must be held to form a school bus behavior contract whenever:

- A student is found to have engaged in bullying; or
- A student is found to have engaged in physical assault or battery of another person on the school bus.

The school bus behavior contract shall provide for age-appropriate discipline, penalties, and restrictions for student misconduct on the bus. Provisions may include, but are not limited to, assigned seating, ongoing parental involvement, and suspension from riding the bus.

These provisions regarding use of a bus behavior contract are not to be construed to limit the instances when other code of conduct violations may require use of a student bus behavior contract.

### **SCHOOL AND THE LAW**

Any unlawful act taking place on the school grounds or buses not only makes the students subject to penalties which the courts may prescribe but also may result in suspension or dismissal from school and school activities.

### **STUDENT DRESS CODE**

Clinch County Middle School students are expected to dress appropriately as we strive to create a safe environment while promoting an atmosphere of learning. Hairstyles and fashions that cause a distraction are unacceptable. Appropriate undergarments are expected.

1. Appropriate footwear includes boots, casual or dress shoes, flats, tennis shoes, and sandals. Shoes with hidden or clip on wheels are not allowed. Students must wear tennis shoes to participate in Physical Education (PE).
2. Skirts, and dresses may not be worn higher than three inches above the kneecap. Any open pleats, vents, slits, or holes must, also, be no more than three inches above the kneecap. The three inches apply to the front and back.
3. Shorts worn must reach the end of fingertips.
4. Leggings, yoga pants, jeggings, stretch pants, and bike shorts, must be worn with a top which completely covers the front and the back of a student's body at all times. Under no circumstances should tights and bike shorts be worn as regular clothing; they must be covered with some other garment (shorts, skirt, dress, or long shirt) that covers the legs to at least three inches above the knee cap.
5. Bare midriff should not be exposed, and low cut, strapless, or see through shirts, spaghetti straps, or excessively tight clothing are inappropriate. Sleeveless shirts must be at least two inches wide on the shoulders. Any garment that does not cover undergarments or which is immodest or revealing is inappropriate.
6. Suggestive jewelry and clothing with drawings, patches, and/or writing relating to drugs, sex, alcohol, Satanism, tobacco, gangs, illegal activities, weapons, violence, or a violent lifestyle, may not be worn.
7. Caps, hats, or other headgear, including hoods, may not be worn in the building. Combs, picks, brushes, rollers, and bandanas may not be worn at school. Sunglasses or visors may not be worn inside the building.
8. Bedroom clothing and bedroom shoes are not allowed. Blankets are also not allowed at school during the normal school day.
9. The heel of a shoe cannot be higher than two inches.
10. Any other questionable or distracting attire will be handled on an individual basis at the discretion of the administration. As styles change, the school reserves the right to provide further clarification of inappropriate dress.

*Punishment for violations of the dress code is a parent contact and the student must change clothes. If arrangements cannot be made for the student to change into the appropriate clothes, the student will be placed in In-School-Suspension (ISS) for the remainder of the day. Students who continue to violate the dress code will receive an office referral.*

## **RIGHT TO SEARCH**

The administration has the right to search your property or person if there is reasonable cause to suspect that a rule has been violated which indicates a need for such a search. There will be random bag searches by dogs, deputies, and school personnel and random searches by metal detectors. Students are required to cooperate. If a student is not cooperative, then the student will remain under the supervision of a school official until a parent of the student can be reached to assist in requiring the student to cooperate with school officials.

## **VIDEO SURVEILLIANCE**

Security cameras are in place throughout Clinch County Middle School. Privacy rights are not violated for students or teachers. Neither student or teacher behaviors are beyond scrutiny, nor does viewing security photos infringe upon constitutional rights. Fourth Amendment rights are not violated by the use of security cameras. Security cameras are not searches. Security cameras simply observe that which may be observed if administrators were present. Information gained from security cameras may become evidence in disciplinary concerns and student hearings.

## **STUDENT HEARING PROCEDURE--BOARD POLICY JCEB**

For the purpose of conducting certain student discipline hearings, as defined below, rendering a decision and imposing punishment, the Board of Education hereby adopts the following procedures:

1. The Superintendent shall convene a hearing in the following cases:
  - a. Where a student has committed an alleged assault or battery upon a teacher, other school official or employee, if such teacher or other school official or employee so requests;
  - b. Where a student has violated any school or system rule or engaged in any other act of misconduct or insubordination for which the student's principal recommends a suspension or expulsion longer than ten school days.
2. The Board of Education hereby designates its administrative staff to serve as members of hearing tribunals. When the principal of a school or his or her designee refers a student to the Superintendent or his or her designee for a hearing as described in paragraph 1, the Superintendent or his staff shall choose three of these members to serve as the hearing tribunal. No member of the hearing tribunal shall be a member of the staff at the school which the student attends.
3. Whenever a principal or his or her designee refers a student discipline matter to the Superintendent or his or her designee, the Superintendent or his or her designee shall send a letter by regular or certified mail to the student and his or her parents or guardians containing a statement of the time, place and nature of the hearing, a short and plain statement of the matters asserted and charges against the student, a list of potential witnesses, a statement setting forth the right of the student to present evidence, cross-examine witnesses and be represented by legal counsel. The hearing must be held no later than ten school days after the beginning of the suspension unless the school system and parents or guardians mutually agree to an extension.
4. The school principal or his or her designee shall be responsible for presenting evidence in support of the charges against the student and all parties shall be afforded an opportunity to present and respond to evidence and to examine and cross-examine witnesses on any and all issues. Any teacher who is called as a witness by the school system shall be given notice no later than three days prior to the hearing. The hearing tribunal shall have made a verbatim electronic or written record of the hearing. This record shall be available to all parties but the cost of transcribing such record shall be borne by the party requesting the transcript.
5. The hearing tribunal shall render a decision finding whether the student committed the offense and, if so, the appropriate punishment. The decision of the hearing tribunal shall be based solely on the evidence received at the hearing, including any evidence presented by either party relevant to the appropriate punishment to be imposed. The hearing tribunal shall render a decision in writing within ten days of the close of the record and shall furnish a copy of the decision to the student, his or her parents or legal guardians, the principal or his or her designee and the Superintendent. The decision of the hearing tribunal shall be final and shall constitute the decision of the Board of Education unless either party should appeal the decision to the Board of Education. In any case where the tribunal finds that the student has committed an act of physical violence as that term is used in O.C.G.A. 20-2-751.6, any recommendation of the tribunal as to when and whether the student may return to school

in accordance with the code section shall constitute the decision of the Board of Education unless there should be an appeal of the decision to the Board.

6. In the event a student or his/her parent does not wish to contest the charge(s) of violation(s) of the discipline rules of the school's code of conduct for which a tribunal has been requested, the student and parent may voluntarily accept the consequences prescribed by the school by signing a Waiver of Disciplinary Tribunal Hearing form. Such waiver shall specify the rule violation, the date and description of the incident, the prescribed consequences, and an agreement to waive the opportunity to participate in a tribunal hearing, present evidence, cross examine witnesses, and be represented by an attorney. The decision to waive the tribunal shall be final and cannot be appealed by the school or family. The waiver must be signed by the student, a parent, a school administrator and a district level administrator from the Superintendent's office, who shall act as hearing officer with authority to approve the disciplinary consequences set forth in the waiver.
7. Any party may appeal the decision of the hearing tribunal to the Board of Education by filing with the Superintendent a written notice of appeal within twenty days from the date the decision is rendered. Such notice of appeal shall set forth the decision of the hearing tribunal and the basis of the appeal. Any decision of the hearing tribunal not appealed in this manner shall be final. The Superintendent may suspend the disciplinary action imposed by the hearing tribunal pending the outcome of the appeal.
8. The Board of Education shall review the record of the hearing before the hearing tribunal, the decision of the hearing tribunal and the notice of appeal and shall render its decision in writing within ten days from the date it receives the notice of appeal. The decision of the Board of Education shall be based solely on the record before the hearing tribunal and the Board shall not consider any other evidence in ruling on the appeal. The Board may find the facts to be different than those found by the hearing tribunal and the Board may change the punishment, in accordance with state law. Any decision of the local Board may be appealed to the State Board of Education by filing an appeal, in writing, within thirty (30) days after the local Board renders its decision.
9. Any student subject to a disciplinary hearing who withdraws from the school system prior to the hearing must appear before a Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal to determine the student's eligibility to return to the school system in the event the student ever seeks to return to the system. Alternatively, the school district may, in its discretion, proceed with the tribunal in accordance with Board policy despite the student's withdrawal from school.

#### **PROCEDURES FOR REFERRAL TO JUVENILE AUTHORITIES**

Clinch County Middle School through the Clinch County School Resource Officer may make referrals to juvenile authorities or request a school system tribunal for the following offenses:

1. Possession of a weapon
2. Possession of drugs or alcohol
3. Sexual misconduct
4. Theft of valuables
5. Physical assault upon a student or school employee or other acts of physical violence and/or bullying
6. Constant interruption of school
7. Criminal misdemeanors or felonies
8. Truancy
9. Gang related activity
10. Any other good and sufficient cause as so deemed by school administration

Each individual case is reviewed for the severity of the act and the harm that has been done to other students or employees.

#### **DRUG FREE SCHOOLS**

It shall be the policy of the Board to take positive action through education, counseling, parental involvement, intervention, medical referral and police referral in handling of incidents in the schools involving the possession, sale, and/or use of behavior-affecting substances. These substances shall include, but not be limited to, cocaine, marijuana, LSD, glue, alcohol, barbiturates, anabolic steroids and controlled substances as defined by Georgia Law. The possession or use of alcohol and illicit drugs is wrong and harmful. It shall further be the policy of the Board of

Education to provide age-appropriate, developmentally-based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs, which address the legal, social, and health consequences of drugs and alcohol use and to provide information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illicit drugs or alcohol for all students in the system. These programs shall also provide information about any drug and alcohol counseling rehabilitation and re-entry programs available to students.

### **TOBACCO FREE SCHOOLS**

It is the policy of the Board of Education to prohibit any form of tobacco use in all school district buildings, buses, and enclosed work areas that are used for provision of routine or regular kindergarten, elementary, or secondary education or library services to children. This policy shall be in force at all hours, and shall apply to all forms of tobacco use, and to any person on school district property, including, but not limited to employees, students, and visitors. Students shall not have in their possession on school buses or on any school property, enclosed or open, during the school day any form of tobacco.

### **STUDENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

It is the policy of the Board of Education to maintain a learning environment that is free from sexual harassment. It shall be a violation of this policy for any member of the district staff to harass a student through conduct or communications of a sexual nature as defined below. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other inappropriate oral, written, or physical conduct of a sexual nature when made by a member of the school staff to a student or when made by any student to another student or system employee constitutes sexual harassment when it satisfies one or more of the following:

1. An employee of the District conditioning the provision of a District aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's education program or activity; or
3. "Sexual assault"- an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; or

"Dating Violence"- sex-based violence committed by a person-

- A. who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
- B. where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
  - i. The length of the relationship.
  - ii. The type of relationship.
  - iii. The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship; or

"Domestic Violence"- sex-based violence which includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction; or

"Sex-based Stalking" - engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to-

- A. fear for his or her safety or the safety of others; or
- B. suffer substantial emotional distress.

Any person who alleges sexual harassment by a staff member or student in the school district may complain directly to the principal, the assistant principal, or the counselor. Filing of a complaint or otherwise reporting sexual harassment

will not reflect upon the individual's status nor will it affect future employment, grades, or job assignments. The right to confidentiality, both of the complainant and of the accused, will be respected consistent with the Board's legal obligations, and with the necessity to investigate allegations of misconduct and take corrective action when this conduct has occurred.

All allegations of sexual harassment shall be fully investigated and immediate and appropriate corrective or disciplinary actions shall be initiated. Appropriate documentation shall be maintained on all allegations of sexual harassment. A substantiated charge against an employee shall subject such person to disciplinary action, including discharge. A substantiated charge against a student shall subject the student to disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.

### **STUDENT REPORTING OF ACTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OR SEXUAL MISCONDUCT**

1. Any student (*or parent or friend of a student*) who has been the victim of an act of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by a teacher, administrator, or other school system employee is urged to make an oral report of the act to any teacher, counselor, or administrator at his/her school.
2. Any teacher, counselor, or administrator receiving a report of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct of a student by a teacher, administrator or other employee shall make an oral report of the incident immediately by telephone or otherwise to the school principal or principal's designee, and shall submit a written report of the incident to the school principal or principal's designee within 24 hours. *If the principal is the person accused of the sexual abuse or sexual misconduct, the oral and written reports should be made to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee.*
3. Any school principal or principal's designee receiving a report of sexual abuse as defined in O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 shall make an oral report immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused. The report should be made by telephone and followed by a written report in writing, if requested, to a child welfare agency providing protective services, as designated by the Department of Human Resources, or, in the absence of such agency, to an appropriate police authority or district attorney.
4. Reports of acts of sexual misconduct against a student by a teacher, administrator, or other employee not covered by O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 or 20-2-1184 shall be investigated immediately by school or system personnel. If the investigation of the allegation of sexual misconduct indicates a reasonable cause to believe that the report of sexual misconduct is valid, the school principal or principal's designee shall make an immediate written report to the superintendent and the Professional Standards Commission Ethics Division.

## **MEDICAL SERVICES**

### **CLINIC SERVICE AND MEDICATIONS**

Children who become ill at school will be cared for by the school nurse or in the designated clinic area. Simple first aid procedures will be administered when warranted. Emergencies will be handled appropriately and parents will be promptly notified. If your child requires the administration of medicine during school hours, ***the parent and/or guardian of the student must hand deliver the medication, in its original prescription container, to the school nurse.*** No internal medicines such as Pepto-Bismol or Tylenol shall be given without prior parent approval. Authorization to administer Pepto-Bismol or Tylenol shall be given to school personnel by signing the appropriate authorization notice sent home at the beginning of the year. Children with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher will need to be picked up immediately. Children with contagious conditions may not return to school without medical certification from a doctor or the health department. If you would like your middle school student to possess his/her inhaler while in school or at a school sponsored activity, you will need to meet with the school nurse to obtain the authorization form. The authorization form will need to be completed and signed by the parent **and** the prescribing physician. Any necessary asthma medications can be administered by the school nurse with signed parental consent. All other types of medications should be given directly to the nurse by the parent and/or guardian in the original container with a clear label. No type of medication (over the counter or prescription medication) should be sent with a child on the bus, in his/her lunchbox, or otherwise as this is a violation of the school safety policy

### **HEAD LICE PROCEDURE**

In an effort to keep students free of lice infestation, and to prevent outbreaks of head lice, all Clinch County Schools maintain a No Head Lice Policy. At any time during the school year, the school nurse or other school staff designee can screen students for head lice. If any student is found to have head lice his/her parents/guardians will be contacted to pick

him/her up immediately. Parents/guardians will be informed of lice infestation by a letter that explains the problem, how to detect lice and nits, and steps to take in treatment. Parents will also be notified if nits are found. The parents/guardians are to treat the head lice in a timely manner. Treatment of head lice usually takes no more than two days. The parents/guardians must bring the student to the school nurse or designee to be checked and cleared for re-entry to school. Students who have been dismissed home due to head lice will not be allowed to ride the school bus. A parent/guardian or family member must bring the student in to the nurse to be checked, and must wait until the school nurse or designee has cleared the student to return to school. The school nurse may excuse up to two days of absence in a fourteen-day cycle period of the infestation. After the second absence following each episode of infestation, the school counselor or social worker will contact the parents/guardians. After the third infestation of lice in one calendar school year, the parents/guardians must take the student to the Health Department or to a physician for a letter of release back to school.

### **IMMUNIZATION**

The Clinch County School System, in accordance with the Georgia Department of Human Resources and Georgia law, requires all students entering a Georgia public school to have a Certificate of Immunization. This form may be secured from the Clinch County Health Department or from your private physician's office. The school must have this form on file in order for your child to be officially enrolled in school. Please help comply with Georgia law and protect your child by having this certificate completed before your child enters school. Questions regarding immunization may be directed to the record's clerk. According to an amended Georgia State Law (290-5-4.02), all entering sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) grade students will be required to show proof of a second **MMR** (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccination. This immunization is being required in order to protect children, as they get older, against the possibility of contracting measles. In the future, as a student enrolls in the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) grade, he or she must present a certificate showing proof of two **MMR** vaccinations. The shot may be secured from the Health Department or your private physician. For additional information, contact the school records clerk 487-5366.

## **COUNSELING SERVICES**

The purpose of the guidance program at Clinch County Middle School is to help each individual student achieve his/her highest growth mentally, emotionally, and socially. The counselor welcomes the opportunity to meet with students to help resolve their problems and concerns. Students may be referred to the counselor in any of the following ways

- Self-referral – any student who wishes to meet with the counselor to discuss a social, academic, or other concern may do so by placing a request in the counselor's box or by having a teacher/staff member send an email on the student's behalf to request a meeting. The student may write a note to the counselor, or the student may come by the counselor's office to make an appointment.
- Teacher referral- a teacher may refer a student for counseling by placing a "Referral for Counseling/ Evaluation" in the counselor's box, or the teacher may meet with the counselor to discuss a problem which he/she has encountered with the student in order to make a referral.
- Parent referral- a parent may request that the counselor meet with his/her child to help with a particular concern.

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

## **SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE**

We welcome your child to the School Nutrition Program in the Clinch County School System. **ALL STUDENTS AT CCMS WILL RECEIVE FREE BREAKFAST and LUNCH MEALS.** The food service program is a self-sufficient program that will operate from CEP, (Community Eligibility Provision) monies. Funds are received through payments for meals and reimbursements from this federal program. Thus, CCMS students will not complete Free and Reduced lunch forms.

CCMS will offer nutritious breakfast and lunches. Menus are planned to offer foods that are attractive and appetizing to children while meeting the nutritional requirements set by strict state and federal regulations.

- \* No food or drink may be taken from the lunchroom.
- \* Glass containers for food or drink are not allowed.
- \* Breakfast is served each day from 7:30 a.m. to 7:55 a.m.
- \* Lunch is served from 11:00 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

### **OUTSIDE VENDORS**

Food or drink may NOT be brought into the school for students by an outside vendor. Only parents/guardians may bring **lunch** to students during their scheduled lunch time. Students may bring their lunches from home; however, they are still encouraged to pick up a breakfast when arriving at school and going through the serving line at lunch time. Delivery of food to students during lunch time is discouraged.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

The Student Services Department of the Clinch County School System provides a complete range of programs and services for students with identified special needs. Special services are available from kindergarten through high school for eligible students who are handicapped emotionally and/or physically. Eligibility procedures include initial screening and further educational/psychological testing to determine program eligibility and the type and amount of help needed when eligible. Special attention is provided to meet the needs of individual students while working closely with parent(s). An individual education plan (IEP) is formulated for each eligible student. Individual plans consider the types of services and personnel required, each student's learning style, motivational factors, and environmental factors. Questions regarding these special services should be directed to the principal or Ann Johnson, Director of Student Services (487-5321).

### **NOTICE OF RIGHTS OF STUDENTS AND PARENTS UNDER SECTION 504**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly referred to as "Section 504," is a nondiscrimination statute enacted by the United States Congress. The purpose of Section 504 is to prohibit discrimination and to assure that disabled students have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to non-disabled students.

Parents and/or students are provided with the following rights through the implementing regulations of Section 504 as set out in 34 CFR Part 104:

1. Your child has the right to an appropriate education designed to meet his or her individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of non-disabled students. 34 CFR 104.33.
2. Your child has the right to free educational services except for those fees that are imposed on non-disabled students or their parents. Insurers and similar third parties who provide services not operated by or provided by the recipient are not relieved from an otherwise valid obligation to provide or pay for services provided to a disabled student. 34 CFR 104.33.
3. Your child has a right to participate in an educational setting (academic and nonacademic) with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate to his or her needs. 34 CFR 104.34.
4. Your child has a right to facilities, services, and activities that are comparable to those provided for non-disabled students. 34 CFR 104.34.
5. Your child has a right to an evaluation prior to a Section 504 determination of eligibility. 34 CFR 104.35.
6. You have the right to not consent to the school system's request to evaluate your child. 34 CFR 104.35.
7. You have the right to ensure that evaluation procedures, which may include testing, conform to the requirements of 34 CFR 104.35.
8. You have the right to ensure that the school system will consider information from a variety of sources as appropriate, which may include aptitude and achievement tests, grades, teacher recommendations and observations, physical conditions, social or cultural background, medical records, and parental recommendations. 34 CFR 104.35.
9. You have the right to ensure that placement decisions are made by a group of persons, including persons knowledgeable about your child, the meaning of the evaluation data, the placement options, and the legal requirements for least restrictive environment and comparable facilities. 34 CFR 104.35.
10. If your child is eligible under Section 504, your child has a right to periodic reevaluations, including prior to any subsequent significant change of placement. 34 CFR 104.35.

11. You have the right to notice prior to any actions by the school system regarding the identification, evaluation, or placement of your child. 34 CFR 104.36.
12. You have the right to examine your child's educational records. 34 CFR 104.36.
13. You have the right to an impartial hearing with respect to the school system's actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement, with opportunity for parental participation in the hearing and representation by an attorney. 34 CFR 104.36.
14. You have the right to receive a copy of this notice and a copy of the school system's impartial hearing procedure upon request. 34 CFR 104.36.
15. If you disagree with the decision of the impartial hearing officer (school board members and other district employees are not considered impartial hearing officers), you have a right to a review of that decision according to the school system's impartial hearing procedure. 34 CFR 104.36.
16. You have the right to, at any time; file a complaint with the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

If you have questions, need additional assistance, or want more information regarding Section 504 Procedural Safeguards and/or Grievances/Complaints, please contact the Director of Special Education and School System's 504 coordinator:

**Ann Johnson, Section 504 Coordinator**  
**Director of Student Services**  
**1 Panther Way**  
**Homerville, GA 31634**  
**(912) 487-5366**  
**ajohnson@clinchcounty.com**

### **Annual Notification to Parents Regarding Confidentiality of Student Education Records**

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

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school within 45 days of a request to the school administrator. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records without copies. Schools may charge a fee for the copies.
- Parents or eligible students have the right to request in writing that a school correct records that they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions:
  - School officials with legitimate educational interest
    - A school official is a person employed or contracted by the school to serve as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, or support staff member (including health staff, law enforcement personnel, attorney, auditor, or other similar roles; a person serving on the school board; or a parent or student serving on an official committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks;
    - A legitimate educational interest means the review of records necessary to fulfill a professional responsibility for the school;
  - Other schools to which a student is seeking to enroll;
  - Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
  - Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
  - Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;

- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, “directory” information which includes student’s name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, participation in official school clubs and sports, honors and awards, sports participation (including height and weight of athletes), dates of attendance, photograph, and grade level unless notified by the parents or eligible student that the school is not to disclose the information without consent.

### **RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RTI)**

RTI is an evidence-based approach to early intervention for students struggling with learning or behavior in general education settings. Its core principles are that evidence-based instruction is provided with fidelity, student progress is monitored frequently, students’ responsiveness to intervention is evaluated, and instruction is adapted as needed. RTI addresses concerns about traditional special education identification, the disproportionate representation of minorities in special education, the integration of general and special education, and the delivery of evidence-based programs to students.

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

### **TITLE I PROGRAM**

Title I is a federally funded program designed to provide additional services to students. Clinch County Middle School has been approved as a school wide Title I Program. The school wide program allows for the received federal funds to benefit all of the students at Clinch County Middle School. Clinch County Middle School proposed the following goals: to improve instruction in reading and math, to improve communication and morale in the school, to improve discipline, and to increase parental involvement. Activities and staff development will be planned and implemented throughout the year to meet these goals. Parents are encouraged to become involved in parent activities held throughout the school year.

### **FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM**

The purpose of parental involvement under Title I, Part A is to promote active involvement among local educational agencies (LEAs), administrators, school staff, parents, parental involvement coordinators or parent liaisons, community leaders, and other stakeholders working to improve student achievement and promote academic success. LEAs must ensure that strong strategies are in place to:

- A. Build capacity to involve parents/stakeholders in an effective partnership with the school
- B. Share and support high student academic achievement

The term family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including and ensuring that:

- A. Parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning.
- B. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school.
- C. Parents are full partners in their child’s education and are included, when appropriate, in decision-making as well as being a part of the advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.

Clinch County Middle School has a Family Engagement Coordinator, Mrs. Lori Register. If you have any questions, please contact her at 912-487-5385 ext. 1364.

### **CONFERENCES**

Your child’s success in school greatly depends upon your involvement and concern. Parents and teachers need to establish a cooperative relationship that is favorable to a child’s progress. At school conferences, teachers and parents may review the child’s learning experiences, and explore ways to improve them. Conferences may be initiated by teachers and/or parents. If you desire a conference, please call our office at 487-5366 and the secretaries will assist you. Conferences are best arranged before or after school hours.

## **FIRE, TORNADO, AND LOCKDOWN DRILLS**

Fire, tornado, and lockdown drills are held during the year. Teachers will instruct their students on the procedures to be followed during such drills.

## **BOOKBAGS**

To support school safety measures, all students are required to use clear or mesh book bags during the school day. Small personal pouches for hygiene items are allowed inside the book bag. Athletic bags are permitted but must be stored in designated areas during the school day. All bags are subject to search at any time by school personnel.

## **METAL DRINKING CUPS**

Stanley cups and other similar metal drink containers are not allowed at school. Students should bring only plastic, non-metal water bottles. Items brought to school in violation of this policy may be confiscated and held for parent pickup. Repeated violations may result in disciplinary action.

## **CELL PHONES AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

To comply with Georgia's HB 340, the Distraction-Free Education Act, students in Kindergarten through 8th grade are prohibited from accessing personal electronic devices (phones, smartwatches, tablets, headphones, etc.) during the school day—from the first bell to dismissal, including during breaks, transitions, and school activities. **Devices must be placed in approved secure storage upon arrival.** Exceptions apply for school-issued devices and those required by medical or IEP/504 plans.

In the event of a true emergency, school staff will ensure that students are able to contact their parents or guardians as needed. While personal devices are restricted during the school day, exceptions may be made at the discretion of school administration in emergency situations to ensure timely communication between the student and parent/guardian.

Students who violate the cell phone/personal electronic device policy will be subject to the following disciplinary procedure:

### **Consequences for violation of cell phone policy:**

- **1<sup>st</sup> offense** – Phone will be taken from the student and turned over to an administrator. The student will be assigned 5 days of lunch detention. Efforts will be made to contact parents/guardians. The student's parent/guardian must pick up the student's phone in the front office at the end of the school day. The student will not be allowed to pick up the phone.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> offense** – Phone will be taken from the student and turned over to an administrator. The student will be assigned 1 day of ISS. Efforts will be made to contact parents/guardians. The student's parent/guardian must pick up the student's phone in the front office at the end of the school day. The student will not be allowed to pick up the phone.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> offense** – Phone will be taken from the student and turned over to an administrator. The student will be assigned 3 days of ISS. The student's parent/guardian must pick up the student's phone in the front office at the end of the school day. The student will not be allowed to pick up the phone.
- **Subsequent Offenses** – A minimum of one day Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) and a required behavior contract will be imposed for additional violations. More severe consequences may follow based on administrative discretion, which may include extended OSS or other disciplinary actions.

### **REFUSING TO GIVE CELL PHONE TO TEACHER/ADMINISTRATOR:**

- Student will receive 2 days ISS.
- Cell phone must be given to the administrator
- If the cell phone is not turned in to the administrator, the student will be assigned OSS

## **PHONE CALLS**

Parents are asked to make after-school arrangements with children **before** they leave home. It is not desirable to interrupt class time to deliver messages. The teacher will be responsible for determining the need for phone use. The teacher must send a written notice giving permission for the student to use the phone. Students receiving telephone calls will be notified of messages before school ends for the day. Students are permitted to receive messages from parents only. All student messages must be called in to the front desk **no later than 2:00 p.m.**

## **FIELD TRIPS**

Classroom teachers schedule educational field trips throughout the school year. These trips are designed to supplement different aspects of the curriculum and to introduce students to the resources of the community. School discipline will be used as a determining factor for attending field trips. Office referrals will result in one of the following with decisions for extenuating circumstances being made at the discretion of the administration.

1. Students receiving 2 or more office referrals during the semester of the planned field trip must be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian at all times of the field trip.
2. Students receiving 3 or more office referrals during the semester of the planned field trip shall be prohibited from attending school related field trips.

## **SCHOOL PARTIES**

- All parties will be held on the same day as previously scheduled. All students are allowed to participate in the parties unless assigned ISS or OSS on the day of the party. Food brought in for parties must be store bought.
- In order to protect instructional time in the classroom birthday parties for individual students will not be allowed.

## **DELIVERY OF GIFTS TO STUDENTS**

No flowers, balloons, or other gifts may be delivered to students at school

## **BUYING AND SELLING**

Students are not allowed to buy and sell items for personal profit

## **CLINCH COUNTY SCHOOLS PPRA**

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, requires Clinch County Schools to notify you and obtain consent or allow you to opt your child out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas (“protected information surveys”):

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes (“marketing surveys”), and certain physical exams and screenings.

## **STUDENT COMPUTER USAGE POLICY**

The use of school computers and network resources is a privilege and not a right. Misuse or abuse of this privilege will result in disciplinary action. Unacceptable uses include but are not limited to the following:

- Accessing or trying to access social media, or any other similar website.
- Tampering with the teacher’s or another student’s information.
- Any form of hacking.
- Any illegal or questionable activities.

- Accessing or trying to access any illicit material including but not limited to:
  - Song lyrics
  - Pictures
  - Videos
  - Emails
  - Instant messaging

Any information transmitted or stored on this network is not private and can be viewed by administrators, faculty and other individuals as deemed necessary.

The purpose of telecommunications technology in the Clinch County School System is to support research, communication, and education and to provide access to vast, diverse and unique resources and opportunities for collaborative work. The use of computer networks within the Clinch County Schools, including Internet access, is in support of education and consistent with the educational objectives of the Clinch County Board of Education and The Georgia Board of Education.

This policy applies to all users of electronic information, services, and networks provided by the Clinch County School System, in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia Board of Regents via their PeachNet node. By using or accessing these facilities or services, the user agrees to abide by this policy which is consistent with the Georgia Board of Regents Acceptable Use Policy for PeachNet. Electronic information research skills are now fundamental for productive citizens and employees. Access to the Internet enables students, teachers, and administrators to explore thousands of libraries, databases, bulletin boards, and other resources while exchanging information with people around the world. The School System expects that its teachers will blend thoughtful use of the Internet throughout the curriculum and will provide guidance and instruction to students in its use. The School System shall ensure that teachers provide for students age-appropriate instruction regarding safe and appropriate behavior on social networking sites, chat rooms, and other Internet services, behaviors that may constitute cyber bullying, and how to respond when subjected to cyber bullying. As much as possible, access from school to Internet resources will be structured in ways which point students to those resources which have been evaluated prior to use. While students will be able to move beyond those resources to others that have not been previewed, students will be subject to supervision in an effort to provide Internet use that is particularly suited to learning objectives.

Having Internet access provides access to computer systems all over the world. As a result, users, and parents of users, must understand that the Clinch County School System cannot control the content of the information available. Some of the information is controversial and, sometimes, offensive. However, the valuable information and interaction accessible on this worldwide network outweigh the possibility that users may find inappropriate material. The Clinch County School System does not condone the use of such materials and takes all reasonable precautions to filter access to these materials. The ultimate responsibility for appropriate use of Internet resources lies with each individual user. Parents and guardians may request alternative activities not requiring Internet use for their children. All individuals (students, teachers, parents, guests, etc.) utilizing Internet access provided by the Clinch County School System must first sign an agreement indicating that they understand and will adhere to the regulations indicated in this policy. A parent signature is required on the agreement signed by all students.

### **Guidelines**

The operation of school-provided computer networks, including Internet access, relies heavily on the conduct of the users, who must adhere to strict guidelines. Internet access is a privilege, not a right. The following is a listing of guidelines related to the use of electronic information and the Internet. Although some specific examples of prohibited uses by students are stated, they are intended as illustrations only and do not purport to be an all-inclusive list of inappropriate behaviors. Failure to comply with these procedures shall be deemed grounds for revocation of privileges, appropriate disciplinary and/or legal action.

#### **I. Acceptable/Unacceptable Use**

- All access and materials used must be in support of education and research consistent with school district policy.
- All usage must be consistent with the rules appropriate to any network being used/accessed.
- Unauthorized use of copyrighted material is prohibited.

- Accessing, uploading, downloading, transmitting or distributing profane, pornographic, obscene or sexually explicit material is prohibited.
- Installation or use of any software program that has not been purchased by the Clinch County School System is prohibited.
- Distribution of material protected by trade secrets is prohibited.
- Use of any computer system for commercial activities is not acceptable.
- Accessing, tampering with or manipulating data not intended for the user including, but not limited to, teacher files and administrative data is prohibited.
- Using another user's account or password is not acceptable.
- Product advertisement or political lobbying is prohibited.
- Violation of any local, state, or federal law is prohibited.

## **II. Netiquette**

- Be polite.
- Do not use vulgar or obscene language.
- Do not reveal your address or phone number (or those of others).
- Electronic mail is not guaranteed to be private.
- Do not intentionally disrupt the network or other users.
- Abide by generally acceptable rules of network etiquette.

## **III. Security**

- If you identify a security problem, notify a teacher or system administrator immediately.
- Do not show or identify a security problem to others.
- Do not reveal your account password or allow another person to use your account.
- Do not use another individual's account.
- Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access.
- Electronic mail and/or files stored on school-based computers is not guaranteed to be private; authorized administrators and faculty may review files and logs of Internet use at any time, without reason or prior notice, to maintain system integrity and determine that users are acting responsibly or otherwise consistent with this policy.

## **IV. Vandalism/Harassment**

- Vandalism and/or harassment will result in the cancellation of the offending user's access privileges.
- Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet or other networks. This includes, but is not limited to, creating and/or uploading computer viruses.
- Harassment is defined as the persistent annoyance of another user or the interference in another user's work. This includes, but is not limited to, the sending of unwanted mail.

## **V. Compensation**

- The student and/or student's parent(s) shall be responsible for compensating the school system for any losses, costs, or damages incurred by the school system relating to or arising out of any student violation of these procedures.

## **VI. Penalties**

- Any user violating these provisions, applicable state and federal laws or posted classroom and school rules is subject to loss of network privileges and any other School System disciplinary options, including criminal prosecution.
- School and district administrators will make the final determination as to what constitutes unacceptable use and their decision is final.

## **VII. Disclaimer**

- The Clinch County School System makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing.
- The Clinch County School System will not be responsible for any damages a user may suffer including loss of data.
- The Internet is unregulated and the information found on the Internet has not been verified for accuracy. The Clinch County School System specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

## **INTERNET SAFETY POLICY - CLINCH COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM**

### ***Introduction***

*It is the policy for the Clinch County School System to:*

- (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications;
- (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity;
- (c) ensure that students will be provided age-appropriate instruction concerning safe and appropriate behavior on social networking sites, chat rooms, and other Internet services, behaviors that may constitute cyber bullying and how to respond when subjected to cyber bullying.
- (d) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and
- (e) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].
- (f) ensure that minors will be provided education concerning appropriate online behavior

### ***Definitions***

*Key terms are as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act.*

### **Access to Inappropriate Material**

- To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information.
- Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.
- Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bon fide research or other lawful purposes.

### ***Inappropriate Network Usage***

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Clinch County School System online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes:

- (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking', and other unlawful activities; and
- (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

### ***Supervision and Monitoring***

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Clinch County School System staff to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Clinch County technology specialist or designated representatives.

### **CIPA DEFINITION OF TERMS:**

#### ***Technology Protection Measure:***

The term "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that are:

1. OBSCENE, as that term is defined in Section 1460 of Title 18, United States Code;
2. CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, as that term is defined in Section 2256 of Title 18, United States Code; or

#### ***Harmful to Minors:***

The term "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

1. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
2. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals, and
3. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

### ***Sexual Act; Sexual Contact:***

The terms “sexual act” and “sexual contact” have the meanings given such terms in Section 2246 of Title 18, United States Code.

### **GENDER EQUITY IN SPORTS**

“No student shall, on the basis of gender, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be treated differently from another student, or otherwise be discriminated against in any interscholastic or intramural athletics offered by a local school system, and no local system shall provide any such athletics separately on such basis.” (O.C.G.A. 20-2-315(a)) Sports Equity Coordinator for the Clinch County School System is the Director of Administrative Services, located at Clinch County Board of Education, 46 S. College Street, Homerville, GA 31634. (912-487-5321)

### **EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

The Clinch County School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national origin, sex or disability in any student program or activity. It is the policy of the Board of Education to comply fully with the requirements of Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and all accompanying regulations. Any student, applicant for admission, parent or guardian or other person who believes he or she or any student has been discriminated against or harassed in violation of this policy must make a complaint in accordance with the following procedure: Any student, applicant for admission, employee, parent or guardian or other person with a complaint or report alleging a violation of Title VI, Section 504, the ADA or Title IX, excluding sexual harassment as described in 1b, shall promptly notify, in writing or orally, either the principal for his/her school or the appropriate coordinator designated by the school principal or the District.

### **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The procedures for filing complaints and grievances may be found on the school system website [www.clinchcounty.com](http://www.clinchcounty.com). Click on the Policy Handbook, Policies (at the top of the page), Personnel, and Code GAE, Complaints and Grievance.

Students’ complaints and grievances shall be resolved in the following manner:

1. The opportunity shall be provided any student, or his/her parents, to discuss with his/her teacher a decision or situation which he/she considers unjust (when a grievance occurs the guardian(s) must be a party to the proceedings);
2. If the matter remains unresolved, the student, or his/her parents, should take the matter to the principal for his/her consideration;
3. If the matter remains unresolved, it may be brought to the Superintendent, or a designee, for his/her consideration;
4. Complaints that remain unresolved following any action of the Superintendent may be referred in writing to the Board of Education. The Board’s decision, if it chooses to make one, shall be final.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Opportunities for extra-curricular activities that are provided to students at Clinch County Middle are voluntary. Parents have a right to prohibit their child’s participation in all school-sponsored extracurricular activities, organizations, or clubs.

### **ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY**

Any student wishing to participate in CCMS athletics must have met promotion requirements the previous year. Eligibility for CCMS athletics will be monitored every 4.5 weeks. Any student failing 2 or more academic classes at the end of 4.5 weeks will be placed on academic probation and will not be able to participate. At the end of 9 weeks, students will be reevaluated for eligibility. If they are no longer failing 2 or more academic classes, they will regain their eligibility. Any student turning 15 years of age before May 1<sup>st</sup> of their 7<sup>th</sup> grade year will not be eligible to play their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.

### **COMPETITIVE INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES**

In grades 6-8 to participate in extracurricular or interscholastic activities, the school system requires resident students, other than home study students, to be enrolled full-time during the semester of participation unless the student’s schedule approved by school officials during the registration process provides otherwise. Home study students must enroll, and attempt to complete, one qualifying course as defined in state law for each semester of participation.

## **SPORTS TEAMS AND CHEERLEADING**

The following organizations provide opportunities for students to develop skills, keep physically fit, participate in team work, play by the rules of the game, and learn good sportsmanship: Softball, Football, Basketball, Baseball, Tennis, and Cheerleading.

## **CLINCH COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT**

We desire for you to enjoy watching our students and possibly your children as they participate in extracurricular activities. But, please understand it is a privilege to do so, not a requirement. We cannot tolerate behaviors that include profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials, competitors, coaches, players, or administrators. If you need to speak to a coach, athletic director or other school official, please schedule a time to do so during school hours. This is considered professional courtesy. At no time should a parent confront a player, coach, fan, or official during or after a school event.

The guardian of a student/athlete can only be involved in one decision; whether or not the student may participate in the extracurricular activity. At no time does the guardian have ANY input in decisions made by a coach or sponsor. Also, the coach or sponsor does not have to talk to the parent about ANY internal decisions in regards to the team. However, a parent may decide to remove the child from the participating activity at any time, or the coach may find it in the best interest for the team to remove the student/athlete from the team.

### **If such an incident should occur, the following actions may take place.**

- You may be asked to leave the event (refunds for events will not be given)
- You may be banned from all future events at CCMS
- You may be arrested and charged with any and all appropriate violations if needed

## **STUDENT COUNCIL**

The Clinch County Middle Student Council is an elected body consisting of two representatives from 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades and four representatives from 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The goal of this leadership organization is to provide student input in decisions affecting students.

## **JUNIOR BETA CLUB**

The National Junior Beta Club is a leadership-service club that encourages effort, awards merit, and promotes qualities of character that make for good citizenship. Qualifications for membership include worthy character, commendable attitude, and credible achievement. At Clinch County Middle School, invitations are extended to 7<sup>th</sup> grade students at the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade year based on the following criteria:

1. Sixth grade report card reflects a yearly average of 90 or above in each of the following subjects: Reading, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, and Language Arts. This locally meets the “credible achievement” standard set by the National Junior Beta Club.
2. Sixth grade discipline referrals show that the student has not been placed in ISS more than once. This criteria meets the “worthy character and commendable attitude” standard set by the National Junior Beta Club.
3. There is a required membership fee of \$33 (\$13 National, \$12 Local, and \$8 for Jr. Beta Club shirt)

## **CLINCH COUNTY 4-H**

The mission of 4-H is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. This mission is accomplished through “hands-on” learning experiences focused on agricultural and environmental issues, agriculture awareness, leadership, communication skills, foods and nutrition, health, energy conservation, and citizenship.

## **YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION CLUB**

This is a student-led club focused on promoting safety, inclusion, and mental health awareness. Open to all students, the club organizes activities that support youth suicide prevention, violence prevention, and positive peer connections. It also provides opportunities for student leadership and is supported by a faculty advisor.

**FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES (FCA)**

FCA is a student-led, faith-based organization that encourages student-athletes and their peers to grow in leadership, character, and faith. The Clinch County Middle Huddle meets weekly at 7:30 a.m. and is open to all CCMS students. Dues are not required, but will allow a member to participate in all CCMS FCA events. Non-paying members are encouraged to attend all FCA Huddle meetings. Paid members are allowed to participate in the Homecoming Parade and will be able to sign up first for field trips and other special events. Paid members will also be allowed to have their picture taken with FCA for the yearbook.

**PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW CONCERNING TEACHER QUALIFICATION**



**Clinch County School System  
46 South College Street  
Homerville, Georgia 31634  
912-487-5321**

June 17, 2025

Dear Parents,

In compliance with the requirements of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) the Clinch County Board of Education would like to inform you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s). The following information may be requested:

- 1) Whether the teacher has met the Georgia Professional Standards Commission's requirements for certification for the grade level and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- 2) Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which Georgia qualifications or certification criteria have been waived;
- 3) Whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning your child's teacher's qualifications, please contact the Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Denise Brown at 912-487-5321.

Sincerely,

*Denise P. Brown*

Denise P. Brown  
*Assistant Superintendent*

*It is the policy of the Clinch County Board of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, age, native language, religion, creed, or handicap in educational programs and activities, admission to facilities, or employment practices.*