

# Farragut Middle School Student Handbook 2025-2026



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<https://www.knoxschools.org/farragutms>

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# Farragut Middle School

## Student and Parent Information

### Website and Visitors

- To know what's happening at FMS, visit <http://knoxschools.org/farragutms>
- The Farragut Middle School website is the first stop for students and parents to get current information about Farragut Middle School. **Parents should familiarize themselves with FMS procedures, guidelines, rules, etc. by visiting the FMS website.**
- **Note: All visitors entering the school must report directly to the office and have a photo ID for identification.**
- The office should be notified of any special circumstances regarding access to a student.

### FMS Administrative and Counseling Team

Mr. Adams - Head Principal

<i>6th Grade</i>	<i>7th Grade</i>	<i>8th Grade</i>
Mr. Hopper - Principal Ms. Partin - Counselor	Mr. White - Principal Ms. Tate - Counselor	Kimberly Hamlett - Principal Ms. Wright - Counselor

Dr. Ginel - Curriculum Principal

### Academics

Farragut Middle School will provide an educational program designed to help each student be college and career ready upon graduation from high school. Through implementation of the Tennessee State Standards.

#### **Daily Schedule**

- The day is broken into four academic classes.
  - English/Language Arts
  - Math
  - Science
  - Social Studies
- Students will attend 2 separate Related Arts classes.
- Lunch is between 10:30am-1:00pm based on pod.

**Knox County Schools Grading Scale**

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	BELOW 60

**1:1 Device Information**

- All students are issued a Chromebook.
- A KCS Technology Device Agreement must be signed to transport the Chromebook to and from school.
- Optional insurance may be purchased.
- Replacement costs will incur for negligent or intentional damage via online billing.
  - FMS does not operate billing/charges for devices. This is done through KCS billing.
- FMS/KCS reserves the right to revoke the ability to transport a device at any time.
- Comprehensive device information can be found at <http://knoxschools.org/farragutms>.

**School Procedures**

- Lost and Found: items will be donated at the end of each 9 weeks.
- Visitor Lunch: approved visitors may eat lunch with students in the front lobby or outside picnic area only. You must check out your student from the main office and check your student back in at the end of lunch.
- **Items/lunches may NOT be dropped off past 9:30 a.m.** Items must be labeled with the student's name, and the student is responsible for checking the office for them (**the office will not call for items/lunches**).

**Attendance**

- 5 unexcused absences: a student is considered truant from school per TN Attendance Law (TCA 49-6-3001) – Truancy is the legal term for unexcused absences only.
- TN Chronic Absenteeism refers to missing school for any reason (excused or unexcused) and defined as missing 10 percent or more instructional days.
- **NOTE: Up to 10 parent/guardian notes allowed per year to excuse an absence. Personal travel is not excusable. See [Board Policy J-120](#) for additional information.**

**Arrival**

- Students are expected to be dropped off on campus. Doors will open at 7:30am on regular start days.
- **Once a student is dropped off on campus, they may not leave campus.**
- If you arrive at 8:30am or later, you must report directly to the office to receive a tardy slip, then you must report directly to class.

- Students who are not seated in their 1st Period Class by 8:30am and who do not have an excuse written by a doctor or other medical professional will be considered Tardy-Unexcused. If a student is Tardy-Unexcused more than 4 times during a quarter (defined as a 9-week grading period) may lose the privilege to participate in any incentives during that quarter (*excluding end of the year events*).
- A student's number of unexcused tardies will reset each quarter when determining eligibility for quarterly incentives.
- Any student who acquires 20 or more unexcused tardies at any point in the school year **will be ineligible for any student incentives including end of year incentives (celebrations, parties, etc.)**

### ***3:30pm Dismissal***

- All students must dismiss at their appropriate time and use designated building exit doors.
- Students are expected to be picked up on campus at 3:30pm dismissal, **and no later than 4pm.**
- Dismissal Violations/Bus misconduct is subject to disciplinary consequences.
- Bus riders must remain in their class until their bus or grade level is called to the gym.
- Dismissal violations include leaving the class before bus or grade is called and not moving directly to the bus or gym when leaving class.
- **If riding a different bus, students must bring a parent/guardian note to the office by 8:30am for approval. Forged communication will result in disciplinary action.**
- Once a student dismisses, and leaves FMS campus, they may not be in the building or on campus unsupervised after 3:30pm.
- Administration reserves the right to modify an individual student's dismissal procedure.

### *Leaving School Early*

When leaving early is necessary, you must have a written request for early dismissal. **No dismissals after 3:00pm.** Parents and students **must** adhere to the following:

- Please bring a note signed by a parent/guardian **to the office between 8:00am and 8:30am.** stating the reason for leaving. Leaving school without approval and without signing out in the office will result in disciplinary action. Forged communication **will** result in disciplinary action.
- **A parent/guardian must come into the office to check out their student with a valid ID.** In case of emergencies, students may only be released to adults listed in his/her emergency information on file. **Release by phone or email is NOT an option. NO exceptions.**
- Students must be present at least 50% of the school day to be counted present for the day.
- To minimize disruptions in classroom instruction time, please make every effort to schedule student appointments in a way that least impacts their instructional time.
- Students not in their assigned area and/or without authorization are considered out of area and subject to disciplinary action.
- Failing to attend a scheduled class or activity without authorization is considered a class cut and subject to disciplinary action.

### ***Make Up Work***

- Missed work can be made up; however, students must request missed work within 3 days of an absence. **Failure to request missed work within three days of returning may result in the lost opportunity for credit.** Extended absences (4 days or more), parents may contact the teacher or grade level counselor to request make-up work. Please allow appropriate time for teachers and counselors to gather the necessary assignments (minimum 24 hours).
- **Make-up work should be completed before or after a regular school day, not during class time.**

### ***Dress Code***

FMS has a dress code that promotes a safe and optimum learning environment. Apparel or appearance which tends to draw attention to an individual rather than to a learning situation must be avoided. See [Board Policy J-260](#).

A few things to keep in mind about your clothing:

- No sagging. Pants must be worn at the waist.
- **No bare midriffs, strapless tops, low cut blouses, or any top that exposes cleavage. Abdomen and back completely covered and shirts/blouses must have sleeves.**
- No sleepwear, pajamas, or blankets.
- No head apparel in the building, except for religious/medical purposes.
- **Skirts, dresses, and shorts must be beyond mid-thigh length.**
- Clothing and accessories must not display (1) racial or ethnic slurs/symbols, (2) gang affiliations, (3) disruptive, vulgar/obscene, or sexually suggestive language or images; nor, should they promote products which students may not legally buy; such as alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs.
- Prohibited items include (1) large, long and/or heavy chains, (2) studded or chained accessories, (3) sunglasses, except for health purposes, (4) sleepwear, and (5) skin-tight outer materials without appropriate coverage.
- **NOTE: Any student not attired in accordance with this policy shall be subject to correction of the violation. If a correction cannot be made, the student shall be subject to additional disciplinary measures.**

### ***Medication(s)***

- Students who are required to take medication(s) during school hours must comply with the regulations established by the Tennessee Department of Health and Education. Over the counter medications are included in these regulations. See [Board Policy J-352](#) for a list of those regulations. Required KCS forms available in the FMS Front Office.
- **NOTE: Students in possession of OTC and/or prescription medications are subject to disciplinary consequences.**

### **FMS Sponsored Athletics**

- The school sponsored sports are as follows:
  - Boys and Girls Basketball
  - Boys and Girls Track and Field
  - Cheerleading

- There are numerous other sports and clubs that are classified as community sports and not directly affiliated with FMS or KCS. Information for these will be relayed if provided by their sponsors during morning announcements and FMS Student Canvas course.
- Students are encouraged to participate in after-school activities or other opportunities; however, **students must be picked-up on time. Frequent failure to be picked up at the close of the event, may result in a loss of the privilege to attend.**

## Field Trip and Volunteer Guidelines

If you are a volunteer, you must complete the KCS Volunteer Process. Contact the FMS Office for guidance. See [KCS Board Policy I-260](#).

**NOTE: Students must return to FMS campus after a field trip for proper check-out.**

## School Culture

Through our STARR model, our mission is to uphold and promote the principles of integrity, responsibility, and mutual respect for each other's physical and emotional safety to create an environment where every student and faculty member feels valued, respected, and empowered to succeed.

The foundation of STARR is built on 5 key principles within a student's daily learning environment:

1. **Safe:** Creating an environment that is physically and emotionally safe.
2. **Teachable:** Allows individuals to learn from the perspectives, insights and experiences of others to perform tasks, think about issues, and solve problems in new ways in order to grow.
3. **Aware:** An essential part of overall intellectual growth and development that allows individuals to navigate their relationships, make sound decisions, and pursue their passions with confidence.
4. **Respectful:** Understanding appropriate communications that allows individuals to express themselves while listening to others and respecting their beliefs and opinions
5. **Responsible:** Contributing to a safe and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning.

## School Discipline

Each student is to adhere to all schoolwide expectations addressed in the student handbook and KCS Board Policies. Failure to follow these policies and expectations to maintain a safe learning environment may result in disciplinary action.

This section outlines some of Knox County Schools Board Policies.

### ***Prohibited behaviors at FMS:***

- Name-calling, gestures, or other insults based on race, gender, or other perceived characteristics
- Pushing, shoving, horseplay, fighting
- Possession of Tobacco Products (including E-Cigarettes/Vape)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: 2 days OSS + 1-day RLC

- Subsequent Offenses: Additional days OSS
- PDA (public display of affection)
- Profanity, abusive language
- Bus Misconduct: Safety is a priority. Disruptions on the bus are subject to suspension.

### ***Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying and Cyber-Bullying***

Knox County Schools prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyber-bullying. A safe and courteous environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve.

- Name-calling, gestures, or other insults based on race, gender, or other perceived characteristics.

### ***Threats***

- Verbal, written, electronic, or gestured threats that are direct or indirect **will not** be tolerated and **will** result in disciplinary action up to long term suspension and possible criminal charges.

**NOTE: Engaging in these or other prohibited conduct will result in disciplinary consequences.**

### ***Cell Phones, Smart Watches, Bluetooth Headphones, and other Wireless Communication Devices (WCDs)*** [Board Policy J-240](#).

- Students may possess WCDs while on school property. **Devices may not be used between 8:30am-3:30 pm and must be in the off mode and stored in a locker, book bag, purses or personal carry-alls. A student who possesses a WCD in violation of this policy will result in confiscation and is subject to related disciplinary action, as defined in [Policy J-191](#).**

### ***Zero Tolerance Policy*** [Policy J-194](#)

- To ensure a safe and secure learning environment free of drugs, violence, and dangerous weapons, any student who engages in the following behaviors will be subject to removal from school for a period of not less than one calendar year. The Director of Schools has the authority to modify this suspension requirement on a case-by-case basis. Zero tolerance acts are as follows:
- Any student on a school bus, on school property, or while attending any school event or activity:
  - Unlawfully possess a legend drug or any other controlled substance; or
  - Knowingly possesses a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921; or
  - Commits aggravated assault or, commits assault and intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causes bodily injury, on a teacher, principal, a School Security Officer (SSO), a teaching assistant or any other employee of the school system, or a School Resource Officer (SRO).
  - Possession of explosive or incendiary devices.
- The intent of the Knox County School Board provides the Director of Schools the power to exercise and provide modifications to ensure that no student shall be out of school for more than two semesters for a zero-tolerance offense. The superintendent shall consider each zero-tolerance case on an individual basis to determine placement within the alternative school program.

## **[Knox County Schools Board Policies](#)**

A complete listing of [Knox County Schools Board Policies](#) can be found on the district website.

### **[Knox County Schools Civility Code B-230](#)**

**PHILOSOPHY OF PERSONAL CONDUCT:** It is the intent of the Board to promote mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct among district employees, parents and the general public. This policy provides rules of conduct that both permit and encourage participation in school activities and communication between parents, community members and school district personnel. This policy also identifies those behaviors that are considered inappropriate and disruptive to the operation of a school or other school district facilities. It is not the intent of the Board to deprive any person of his or her right to freedom of expression.

**EXPECTATION:** Students, faculty, staff, parents, guardians and all other members of the community shall: 1. Treat one another with courtesy and respect at all times. 2. Take responsibility for one's actions. 3. Be cooperative, to the greatest extent possible, toward one another and in solving problems based on what is in the best interest of students. 4. Refrain from behavior that threatens or attempts to disrupt school or school district operations; physically harms someone; intentionally causes damage; employs loud or offensive language, gestures, or profanity; or inappropriately shows a display of temper.

**RESPONSE TO UNCIVIL BEHAVIOR:** The Board does not condone a lack of civility by anyone, and recognizes the following appropriate administrative avenues for aggrieved parties to seek action or redress. 1. A student who believes that he or she has not been treated in a manner reflective of the Code of Civility should report such behavior to the appropriate building level administrator. 2. A parent, guardian or community member who believes that he or she has not been treated in a manner reflective of the Code of Civility should report such behavior to the staff member's immediate supervisor or the student's appropriate building level administrator. 3. An employee who believes that he or she has not been treated in a manner reflective of the Code of Civility should address the concern through the appropriate supervisory chain. If personal harm is threatened, the employee shall notify their supervisor and may also contact law enforcement. If a communication such as voice mail or e-mail or any type of written B-230 communication is demeaning, abusive, threatening or obscene the employee is not obligated to respond. 4. Any visitor on school district property who has breached this Civility Code may be directed to leave the premises by an administrator or security officer. If such a person does not immediately and willingly leave, law enforcement may be called.

## Knox County Schools Calendar



### 2025-2026 Knox County Schools Calendar

Thursday, July 31	First Day for Teachers (School Based In-Service Day)
Friday, August 1	Systemwide In-Service Day (PreK-12)
Monday, August 4	Administrative Day (Teacher Work Day)
Tuesday, August 5	Systemwide In-Service Day (½ Day School-based); Administrative Day (½ Day Teacher Work Day); 6 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation
Wednesday, August 6	Administrative Day (Teacher Work Day)
Thursday, August 7	First Day for Students (½ Day)
Monday, September 1	Labor Day Holiday (Knox County Schools Closed)
Friday, September 5	End 4½-weeks Grading Period
Wednesday, September 17	Constitution Day (Knox County Schools Open), Half-Day for Students
Monday, October 6 - Friday, October 10	Fall Break
Tuesday, October 14	End First 9-weeks Grading Period
Tuesday, November 4	Systemwide In-Service Day (PreK-12) (Student Holiday)
Thursday, November 13	End 4½-weeks Grading Period
Wednesday, November 19	Half-Day for Students
Wednesday, November 26 - Friday, November 28	Thanksgiving Holidays (Knox County Schools Closed)
Friday, December 19	Half-Day for Students; End Second 9-weeks Grading Period; End First Semester
Monday, December 22 – Friday, January 2	Winter Break
Friday, January 2	Systemwide In-service Day (½ Day School-based); Administrative Day (½ Day Teacher Work Day)
Monday, January 5	First Day for Students after Winter Break (Full Day)
Monday, January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Knox County Schools Closed)
Wednesday, January 28	Half-Day for Students
Thursday, February 5	End 4½-weeks Grading Period
Monday, February 16	Systemwide In-Service Day (PreK-12) (Student Holiday)
Monday, March 9 – Friday, March 13	Spring Break
Tuesday, March 17	End Third 9-weeks Grading Period
Wednesday, March 25	Half-Day for Students
Friday, April 3	Holiday (Knox County Schools Closed)
Monday, April 20	End 4½-weeks Grading Period
Tuesday, May 5	Systemwide In-Service Day (School-based)
Thursday, May 21	Last Day for Students (½ Day); End Fourth 9-weeks Grading Period; End Second Semester
Friday, May 22	Administrative Day (Teacher Work Day) – Last Day for Teachers
Friday June 19	Juneteenth Holiday (Knox County Schools Closed)

#### **Calendar Summary**

180	Instructional Days*
4	Administrative Days
2	Unscheduled In-Service Days
1	Unscheduled Parent-Teacher Contact Hours Day
6	Scheduled In-Service Days
10	Vacation Days

*\*In accordance with T.C.A. § 49-6-3004 – 177 student instructional days plus 3 days accumulated under daily 7-hour schedule.  
Note: This calendar allows cancellation of up to 8 instructional days due to inclement weather or serious outbreaks of illness before any make up days will be required.*