

Howell Graves Preschool

PARENT HANDBOOK 2026-2027

Sheneta Smith, Ed.S.
Principal

“Love to Learn”

3201 Alabama Avenue, Muscle Shoals, Al 35661

***Office 256-389-2630**

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This version of the HGP Student Handbook is up-to-date as of January 28, 2026. Should any changes to the handbook be made for the 2026-2027 school year, the Principal will notify parents in writing prior to the first day of school.

In the event of a conflict, discrepancy, or inconsistency between the Student Handbook and The Policies of the Muscle Shoals Board of Education, the Board Policy Manual shall take precedence and prevail.

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL
2026-2027

Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome you to Howell Graves Preschool. I am very excited about being your principal, and I am willing to assist you in any way that I can.

Our goal is to serve you in such a way that your child will have an enjoyable experience and be eager to attend school each day. Cooperation between the school and home is of utmost importance in accomplishing this goal. We invite our parents to participate in their children's learning experiences throughout this school year.

This handbook is provided to inform you and your child of basic policies and procedures that pertain to Howell Graves Preschool. The faculty and I are looking forward with enthusiasm to the new school year. Our mission is to make education a fun-filled adventure.

Sincerely,

Sheneta Smith, Ed.S
Principal,
Howell Graves Preschool

How to Prepare Your Child for Kindergarten

The transition to kindergarten is respected as a major milestone not only for the child, but for his or her family as well. The attitude towards school and learning that the child carries with them for the life is often determined by this very first experience with school. A smooth transition to kindergarten can help make sure your child is successful in school.

The information provided below is designed to help you prepare your children for their school experience.

Personal Needs Without help, can they...

- Put on and take off coat
- Tie their own shoes
- Wash their hands
- Snap, button, zip, and buckle
- Open lunch and snack items

Social Skills Can they...

- Listen to an adult & follow simple instructions.
- Cooperate with other children
- Sit for short periods of time
- Follow simple two-steps directions

Intellectual skills Do your children...

- Sit and listen to a story
- Hold a book upright and turn the pages
- Know their first and last name
- Tell and retell familiar stories
- Know colors, shapes, and sizes
- Counts 0-10

Intellectual Skills (continued)

- Identifying and saying ABC's.
- Alabama Reading Incentive recommends Kindergarteners know at least 18 uppercase and 18 lower case letters before entering kindergarten
- Recognizes and writes first name (remember -use capital letter for the first letter in a name)
- Recognizes the letters within their name

To help with a smooth transition into kindergarten you can follow these additional helpful ideas, provide opportunities to play with other children, teach your children socially acceptable ways to disagree, and encourage social values such as helpfulness, cooperation, sharing and concern for others.

GOALS

Children will have opportunities to:

1. Develop a positive self-image.
2. Enhance their social and emotional development.
3. Expand early concepts, independent thinking, and problem solving.
4. Make choices.
5. Improve all their communication skills.
6. Expand their interest in the natural world.
7. Advance in the development of fundamental motor skills and abilities.
8. Have their individual mental, social, emotional and physical needs identified.
9. Increase their capability for self-discipline.
10. Further their development of respect for others.
11. Promote their aesthetic appreciation and expression in drama, art, and music.
12. Nurture their creativity.

Parental involvement will include opportunities for:

1. Participation in education programs.
2. Active participation in their children's education.
3. Regular communication between parents and school personnel.

It is the official policy of Howell Graves Preschool that no person shall be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, disability, religion, national origin, or age, nor be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program, activity or employment (Board Policy GAAA).

OUR BELIEFS:

- **Learning is our primary focus.**
- **All students can learn regardless of individual differences.**
- **Student learning is promoted through a safe, positive and physically comfortable environment.**
- **Instruction and decision-making are data driven.**
- **Student learning is maximized through individualized, developmentally appropriate instruction and challenging problem solving.**
- **Technology implementation is beneficial to produce self-confident, life-long learners.**
- **Parental and community involvement plays a major role in the success of our school.**

HOWELL GRAVES PRESCHOOL SCHOOL MOTTO:

“Love to Learn”

MISSION STATEMENT: MUSCLE SHOALS CITY SCHOOLS

The mission of Muscle Shoals City Schools, a progressive system of excellence, is to provide innovative opportunities for all students to obtain wisdom, to build character, and to achieve their greatest potential through challenging expectations that create a vision for a successful future.

A

ARRIVAL TIME

Parents are requested to see that their child arrives at school on time (7:35 a.m.); however, children should not arrive before 7:15 a.m. If you choose to park and walk your child over in the mornings, please do not park in the spaces marked for faculty. We ask that you park in the spaces that are blank or that are marked for visitors. Please make sure your child arrives on time to prevent tardies.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

I. Attendance Expectations

Regular attendance is essential for academic success. Students are expected to attend school daily unless there is illness or an emergency.

Minimum Attendance: Students must be in attendance for 163 of 180 school days. At Muscle Shoals High School, which operates on the semester block schedule, students shall not be absent more than eight (8) days in any class for which they are given credit.

- **Chronic Absenteeism:** The Alabama State Department of Education defines chronic absenteeism as missing 18 or more days of school for any reason – including excused or unexcused absences. Chronic absenteeism may lead to a loss of course credit.
- **Truancy:** Truancy is the habitual and unlawful absence from school. In accordance with the Alabama school law, the parent(s) and/or legal guardian is responsible for REQUIRING any student under his/her control or charge and is under 17 years of age to attend school regularly except for legal absences as defined by the law and by the Alabama State Board of Education within its administrative rules and regulations. If a student under the age of 17 years becomes truant, the parent or legal guardian may be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to legal action. **No earlier than on the 7th unexcused absence, the school attendance officer will formally file truancy charges** against the child and/or parent or guardian if appropriate. If the parent or legal guardian files a written statement that he or she is unable to control said student, the student may then be subject to action by the juvenile court.
- **Perfect Attendance:** Schools may recognize perfect attendance for any student who is present every scholastic day and does not check-in late or check-out early.
- **Attendance Committee:** Each school shall form an attendance committee to review and consider extraordinary circumstances for awarding credit to students who do not meet the minimum attendance requirement or who are chronically absent.
- **School Activities:** Students who are away from school due to participation in school-sponsored activities shall be marked present and will be expected to make up missed schoolwork. The same rule for making up work applies here as to those who have been absent due to illness.

II. Excused Absences

An excused absence means that the student has presented a lawful reason for being absent and will be allowed to make up missed work. According to Alabama state law, excused absences include:

- Personal illness
- Inclement weather that would endanger the student's life or health, as determined by the superintendent or principal
- Legal quarantine
- Death of an immediate family member
- Emergency conditions as determined by the superintendent or principal
- Prior permission from the principal
- Court subpoena, legal requirements
- Religious observance
- Military deployment of the parent

III. Unexcused Absences

An unexcused absence occurs when a student does not provide a lawful reason for being absent, or the reason is not provided within three days of the absence. Students with unexcused absences will not be allowed to make up missed work, and a grade of zero may be given for missed assignments. Unexcused absences include but are not limited to:

- Absence due to parental neglect
- Truancy
- Poverty
- Work
- Failure to provide a reason for the absence
- Failure to provide a reason within three days
- Failure to obtain prior permission for planned absences

IV. Procedures for Reporting Absences

- **Written/Emailed Excuse:** A written or emailed excuse from a parent, guardian, or physician must be submitted within three days of the student's return to school.
- **Excuse Content:** The excuse should include the date(s) of the absence, the student's first and last name, the name of the homeroom teacher (if applicable), and the specific reason for the absence. The note must be signed by a parent/guardian or physician.
- **Submission:** Each school will develop and communicate procedures for submitting parent notes or doctor's excuses.
- **Pre-Approved Absences:** For planned absences, a written request with a detailed explanation must be submitted or emailed to the principal at least one week prior to departure. If the absence is due to an emergency, the communication with the principal should occur as soon as possible. Failure to communicate in a timely manner on planned absences/trips may result in the absences being deemed unexcused.
- **High School Senior College Visits:** Seniors are allowed up to three college visits per school year. These will not count against exams as long as proper documentation is

provided and they are pre-approved by the principal. Before the college visit, students must email the principal the scheduled date and subsequently provide documentation to confirm attendance.

- **Check-Ins:** Any student checking into school should bring a note of explanation at the time of the check-in or within three days thereafter to be filed in the principal's office. An admission pass to class will be given to the student and should be presented to the teacher upon entering the classroom.
- **Check-Outs:** Checkouts should be kept to a minimum. **For students who are not licensed to drive**, parents/guardians or those who have been formally designated to check students out of school should appear in-person, prepared to show photo identification and to state the reason for the check-out, at the school office. **For students who are licensed to drive**, parents/guardians may place a phone call to the school office up to five (5) times to request, stating a reason, that a student be allowed to check-out. After the fifth (5th) phone check-out, the parent/guardian must appear in-person. If a student requests to check-out, school office personnel must speak to the parent/guardian for approval. Only a parent/guardian or those who have been formally designated to check students out of school may do so. Students may not check-out of school and remain on campus.

Administration will determine whether a check-in or check-out is excused or unexcused (see lawful reasons for absence above for a list of what is considered excused). Excessive check-ins or check-outs, particularly unexcused ones, may result in disciplinary action similar to that for repeated tardiness.

V. Limitations on Parent Notes

The number of parent notes accepted for excused absences is limited.

MSMS, MES, HPE, WES, HGP, ELC will accept parent notes for up to 7 days per year. After 7 absences, all subsequent illnesses must be verified by a doctor's excuse.

- **MSHS** will accept parent notes for up to 5 days each semester. After 5 absences, all subsequent illnesses must be verified by a doctor's excuse. The attendance committee will accept a maximum number of parent notes for 5 absences for circumstances of excessive absenteeism, requiring medical documentation or a physician's note for any serious illness or accident.

VI. Tardiness

- A student is **tardy to school** when he/she fails to report on time to his/her first class of the day when the bell begins to ring (or other designation) to start the school day. An unexcused check-in to start the school day will be counted as **tardy to school** and may lead to an after-school detention/Saturday School assignment.
- A student is **tardy to class** when he/she fails to enter the classroom after the tardy bell (or other designation) begins to ring. If a student is more than 20 minutes late to a class, he or she will be assigned an absence for that particular class.

VII. Administrative Actions and Consequences

Parents/guardians will receive automated electronic messages related to student absences. Warning letters are generated on the 3rd, 5th, and 7th unexcused absence. Unexcused absences may lead to administrative actions and/or legal consequences. Students in violation of school attendance laws and policies may suffer the loss of privileges, be assigned to in-school suspension, or be referred to the Colbert County Juvenile Probation Officer.

VIII. Attendance Hearings

Students who are chronically absent may be required to appear before the attendance committee for a hearing. At the hearing, the committee will review and consider extraordinary circumstances for awarding credit to students who do not meet the minimum attendance requirement or who are chronically absent. Parents/guardians should be prepared to present proper justification for excessive absenteeism, such as doctor's notes or other good and just causes, to the committee. School officials will communicate time and place for attendance committee hearings and inform parents of the committee's decision in a reasonable amount of time.

This comprehensive attendance policy integrates the various guidelines from each school, ensuring that all students and parents understand the expectations and consequences related to attendance.

IX. Saturday School

Saturday School Procedures and Expectations

Students may be assigned to Saturday School by the principal or assistant principal as a disciplinary or academic intervention. The parents of elementary aged children who are habitually late (by no fault of their own) may also be required to accompany their children to Saturday School.

Saturday School sessions will be held at **Muscle Shoals Middle School**, and parents will be notified when a student is assigned. Students are expected to arrive **no later than 8:00 a.m.** with appropriate schoolwork and materials to complete.

Schedule and Attendance

1. Saturday School operates from **8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** Students must be in their assigned seats by 8:00 a.m. Any student arriving late will be marked tardy and assigned an additional Saturday School session.
2. Students arriving **after 8:30 a.m. will not be admitted** and will be assigned one day of In-School Suspension (ISS) the following week.

3. Students assigned to Saturday School for excessive tardiness who fail to attend will also receive one day of ISS the following week.
4. All students are required to bring textbooks, assignments, and necessary materials. Students who arrive without schoolwork will not be admitted and will be assigned to ISS the following week.
5. Students who leave before the designated 11:30 a.m. dismissal time will be required to attend the following Saturday.
6. **Pickup is at 11:30 a.m.** Students who are not picked up by 11:45 may be subject to Further disciplinary action.
7. If a student accrues more tardies than there are remaining Saturday School sessions available, they will be assigned one day of ISS per additional tardy.

8. Behavior Expectations

Students are expected to follow all school rules while attending Saturday School. The following guidelines must be observed:

- No talking without permission.
- No food or beverages are allowed during the session.
- No sleeping.
- No horseplay or disruptive behavior.
- Restroom and water fountain use will be permitted on an individual basis as needed.
- Library books may only be used if assigned by a regular classroom teacher.
- Failure to comply with any of these expectations may result in additional disciplinary consequences.

B

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Birthday parties with invitations and gifts are not permissible. However, a healthy or special snack may be shared at snack time on a child's or teacher's birthday. You may check with your child's teacher as to when is the best time to bring a special snack. Students are not to pass out birthday invitations while at school unless every child in the classroom is invited. Students are not allowed to have gifts (balloons, stuffed animals, etc.) delivered to school (birthdays, Valentine's Day, etc.)

BOARD POLICY MANUAL

The Muscle Shoals City Board Policy Manual can be found on the district website at www.msos.k12.al.us

The Muscle Shoals City Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

C

CAFETERIA MANAGER

Laura Opsteen is our CNP manager. If there is a problem concerning your child's lunch or lunch account, please feel free to call 256-389-2635. The staff enjoys serving children and wants to make school lunch a pleasant one. All other questions concerning child nutrition need to be directed to the CNP Director, Mrs. Blake Stone at the Board of Education 256-389-2600 Ext. 1010.

Applications for Free and Reduced priced meals. If you need a free/reduced lunch for your child, a form will be available in the school office. Kindergarten and new Muscle Shoals students **MUST** be approved before a free or reduced price lunch can be served. An application is always provided at registration to be completed as soon as possible. You may also fill the form out on the district website at My School Apps. Currently all students get free breakfast and lunch, but this is subject to change.

Good Nutrition. Children will not be allowed to bring candy or gum to school. Only 100% juice, milk, or water should be brought in a child's thermos for lunch. No soft drinks. We want to insure good nutrition for all students.

Fast Food Meals are not permitted for our students in our lunchroom. Please help encourage nutritious meals. If fast food items are brought by parents to school for their consumption, items must be in a plain bag.

Snack. We encourage good nutritious habits at all times. Please send fruit or raw vegetables for your child's snack. Peanut-butter crackers and baked chips are okay. Please do not send any

drinks with **red dye**. They stain our floors. **NO CANDY, COOKIES, CAKE (now State Law)**.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

Our CNP Director, Mrs. Blake Stone, has written information for parents of the 2026-2027 HGP students. Kid-friendly meals are available in the cafeteria every school day. Weather days and shortened school days may require a change in the usual meal service times and offerings. School menu breakfast and lunch menus and prices are posted on the school website under "School Menu".

Parents are always welcome to have lunch. **However, we ask that students not have guests visit for lunch for the first six weeks of school.** We need this time to get our students accustomed to school before having visitors for lunch. As a courtesy to the lunchroom staff, please call the school secretary by 9:00 a.m. on the day you plan to eat.

It is the parent's responsibility to make sure enough money is available to pay for meals purchased at school. Please-**NO CHARGES** on lunches or on extra food items. Parents will be notified if a child needs meal money.

Menus will be posted once a month on the Muscle Shoals City Schools website.
(www.msacs.k12.al.us)

Make meal account checks for the correct amount and make payable to Howell Graves Preschool. **Please place money in an envelope labeled with child's name, CNP computer number and amount of money enclosed.** Never send money to school without an envelope. Labeling the envelope enables the CNP staff to determine to whom it belongs. This year, our system is offering a payment method, MySchoolBucks, which allows parents to deposit meal money on-line. More information about this service will be provided at the beginning of school.

If a student brings a lunch or needs milk for a lunch or snack, this can be purchased separately. Milk is \$.50.

If a child cannot drink milk, a substitution of fruit juice or water can be made only if **a doctor's prescription** is brought to the cafeteria manager and kept on file.

If your child has any food allergy, you **MUST** notify the office, child's teacher, school nurse and lunchroom manager, and bring a doctor's prescription before substitutions will be provided.

CHECK IN - CHECK OUT PROCEDURES

No student shall enter school after 7:40 or leave school before 2:25 without checking in or out through the school office. A student must obtain a classroom pass to enter his/her classroom after 7:40. Parents are asked **NOT** to accompany a child to their classroom when tardy. A parent/guardian must check the student out through the office if he/she is to leave school before 2:25. Only those persons listed on the student's emergency card, emergency check-out list or those with a security card will be allowed to check out the child.

- Unexcused check-ins and unexcused check-outs will be considered as tardies. Check-ins and check-outs are considered excused for the same reasons as excused absences.
- Students who obtain more than 10 tardies per semester in the elementary grades will be expected to attend Saturday School following the 11th tardy and every Saturday thereafter for each additional tardy. Elementary students must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Saturday School begins at 8:00 a.m. and dismisses at 11:30 a.m. If the student and parent or legal guardian are tardy for Saturday School, it will be considered another tardy and will have to be made up. If a student and parent or legal guardian do not attend Saturday School as scheduled, the student will be sent to In-School Suspension on the Tuesday or date assigned following the Saturday scheduled for Saturday School. Tardy accumulation is operated on a semester basis.
- Check-outs within 30 minutes of dismissal time will only be allowed due to emergency situations (as determined by school administration).

Please do NOT park in the drive through lanes when checking students in/out of school.

Please Park on the road or in the parking lot and walk over to check your child in/out of school. If you get blocked in there is not guarantee you will be able to get out of line until we dismiss.

CLASS PARTIES

Classes may schedule four (4) parties during the school year. Parties last approximately 30 minutes and are usually held on the school grounds. Party dates are as follows:

Christmas Party: December 16, 2026-1:30 p.m.

Valentine's Party "Sneaker Ball": February 12, 2027 (during P.E. classes)

Easter Snack: TBA

End of the Year Party: TBA (May 2027)

CODE OF CONDUCT

The *CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MUSCLE SHOALS CITY SCHOOLS* is designed to assist school personnel, parents, and students in maintaining an environment conducive to learning and to accomplish the following:

1. Describe the responsibilities of school personnel, parent/guardian and students.
2. Standardize procedures for administering formal disciplinary actions.
3. Explain due process procedures relative to disciplinary action.
Please keep your Code of Conduct on hand for easy access.

CHILD CUSTODY

Child custody papers must be filed in the guidance counselor and principal's office if specific rules and regulations are to be followed. It is mandatory that school personnel abide by each child's custody agreement. We ask that parents work together to keep Howell Graves Preschool free of parents' personal conflicts.

CHILD FIND

The Muscle Shoals City School System serves children within our jurisdiction who need special education and related services to benefit from their education. Please contact the Student Services office at the Muscle Shoals Board of Education at 256-389-2697 if your child has a disability and is in need of these services.

D

DEPARTURE TIME

Parents are requested to pick their children up each day at dismissal time (2:25 p.m.). If students are not picked up on time, someone must remain on duty to watch them. Muscle Shoals Board Policy states that school personnel is responsible for child supervision for 20 minutes **only after school dismisses. NO CHILD SHOULD BE PICKED UP LATER THAN 2:45 FOR ANY REASON.** After the first week of school, we ask that you do not park in the two pick-up lanes in front of the school until 1:30 p.m. Please do **NOT** park in the pick-up lanes if you do not have your child's pick-up tag with you. You will need to park in the parking lot and bring your identification to the office.

DISCIPLINE

Each teacher will include their students in developing classroom rules. We believe this will aid in the children's understanding and compliance of their classroom rules. We want our children to learn responsibility to self and others since they will be our leaders of tomorrow. For additional information concerning discipline, please refer to Muscle Shoals City Schools Code of Conduct.

The following are HGP School Rules:

1. Show respect and consideration for your teachers and classmates.
2. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
3. Act in a safe, responsible, and non-disruptive manner.
4. Be respectful of the property of others.

FIGHTING MAY RESULT IN POSSIBLE SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL with principal's discretion. If the child is suspended, the child's parents will be notified immediately (if possible) and requested to pick up their child.

If the school is unable to contact the parents, a letter of suspension will be sent home with the child and a copy will be mailed to the parents. The child will then be suspended the following school day.

Please refer to the Code of Conduct for School Personnel, Parents and Students for the Muscle Shoals City Schools for more discipline information.

Howell Graves Classroom Management Plan and Procedures

Teachers should be and are responsible for checking students' folders and communication logs daily. This sets the tone for the school year.

1. When a student is having a major behavior issue the teacher will make a phone call to parent/legal guardian.
2. Parent/Teacher in-person conference if the behavior offense warrants a conference. You must make time for conferences within reason.
3. Parent/Principal/Teacher conference if a student shows disruptive behavior(s).
4. If a student has an IEP or 504 plan related to disruptive behavior(s) the plan must be followed.
 - Special Education teachers should be addressing and working with student's behaviors as addressed in their IEP.
 - Guidance Counselor and/or counseling services should be an advocate as well as working with students on addressing their disruptive behaviors.
5. Principal will be an advocate for faculty/staff and students but we must follow policy and procedures as well as the law.
6. Teachers should provide documentation of strategies and communication he/she has used to address the disruptive behaviors.

E

EMERGENCY CHECKOUT CARD

Each teacher will have a list of persons who may checkout your child in an emergency situation. Please keep your list current. Names may be added or deleted by a parent or guardian only and must be done in person in the school office.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

School Delay- Depending on the length of our morning delay (1 hour, two hours, etc.), Howell Graves beginning time will be 8:35 am (1 hour delay) 9:35 am (2-hour delay). Other schools in our system will convene at different beginning times.

Early School Dismissal - The reason for early dismissal is usually weather related.

Circumstances could exist that would necessitate schools dismissing as quickly as possible before extreme weather reaches our area. For early dismissal, all Muscle Shoals City Schools will dismiss at one, uniform time.

1st: LISTEN TO THE LOCAL RADIO AND TV STATIONS. As soon as we receive word that schools will be dismissed, it will be announced on local radio and television stations. We have implemented system-wide calling which should notify you of school closings. You will be notified according to the phone number (number indicated on registration form) you have given to the school. Please inform the office and any changes in your phone numbers.

2nd: Do not call the school to ask if school will be dismissed. We will not know about an early dismissal until we receive official word from the superintendent. However, if you suspect that school might be dismissed early or if school will not be in session because of weather, listen to the local radio and television stations. We would like to encourage you to not check out your child early. We can clear our campus in 10 to 15 minutes if students are picked up in the usual manner.

3rd: Children are checked out from their classroom instead of the office in emergency situations. A PARENT OR GUARDIAN MUST SIGN THE EMERGENCY CHECKOUT SHEET IN THE CLASSROOM. Names on the emergency check-out list must be changed or added only by a parent in the school office.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support of Howell Graves Preschool.

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

Howell Graves offers an excellent after-school program. Extended Day is in operation every day that school is in session. Extended day will not be in session on early dismissal days. Please call the Community Education Director at 256-389-2639 for more information.

F

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

You may want to take your child out of school to accompany you on an out-of-town educational trip or vacation. Permission for such a trip may be granted by the principal if your child is not in danger of exceeding 20 absences. Your child must, also, complete any required class work before making the trip. Please contact the principal for permission for such a trip. Otherwise, the absence will be unexcused.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are an exceptional way to help enhance a child's development. Although parents sign an inner system registration form, an additional permission slip will be sent home prior to each field trip. If this permission slip is not returned prior to departing on the field trip, the student will NOT be allowed to attend. Adequate supervision is required at all times during the field trips.

G

GIFTED EDUCATION

Gifted students are those who perform at or who have demonstrated the potential to perform at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment. These students require services not ordinarily provided by the regular school program. Students possessing these abilities can be found in all populations, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor.

Teachers, counselors, administrators, parents, or guardians, peers, self, or any other individuals with knowledge of the student's abilities may refer a student. Additionally, all second grade students will be observed as potential gifted referrals using a gifted behavior checklist.

For each student referred, information is gathered in the areas of Aptitude, Characteristics, and Performance. The information is entered on a matrix where points are assigned according to established criteria. The total number of points earned determines if the student qualifies for gifted services.

To make a referral, contact the Supervisor of Student Services at the Muscle Shoals Board of Education or the Gifted Education Specialist at McBride Elementary School.

GRADUATION

Howell Graves Preschool **does not** participate in a graduation ceremony for our students. The graduation mentioned on the school-wide calendar refers to Muscle Shoals High School's ceremony.

H

HEAD LICE

Head lice are a common problem in Alabama school children. Education, for all involved, should help in early identification of cases and understanding of the need for treatment. Head lice is incapable of hopping, jumping or flying, but are primarily acquired by direct contact with the infested person. Wearing clothing such as a hat, coat or scarf that was worn by an infested person, using an infested comb or brush, or lying on contaminated furniture, carpeting or bedding can also result in becoming infested.

Printed materials relative to the treatment of head lice is available to every parent of a child in Grades K-6. If, during the screening process or individual inspections of students suspected of being infested with head lice contamination is confirmed, the following procedure will be followed.

1. An infested child will be removed from class and the parent or guardian will be called to take the child home for treatment. Care will be taken not to embarrass the child.
2. After the infested child has been given the first treatment and nits have been manually removed, the parent should bring the child to school and wait for completion of an examination by a school official. If the student is not nit free, he/she will not be readmitted to school.
3. A second inspection seven to ten days later may need to be given by a school official.

HELPING SCHOOLS TAGS

One way that you, as a parent, can support education and make a contribution to Howell Graves Preschool is to purchase a Helping Schools tag. The tag cost \$15.00 extra and the entire amount will be given to the school of your choice. You can also have these tags personalized (up to 6 characters). We encourage you to purchase one of these tags to help Howell Graves Preschool.

SPECIAL VISITORS LUNCH SCHEDULE

2026-2027

OCTOBER

Kangaroo Class
Alligator Class
Zebra Class
Tiger Class
Lion Class

NOVEMBER

Panda Class
Owl Class
Giraffe Class
Leopard Class

DECEMBER

Bear Class
Rhino Class
Toucan Class
Monkey Class

FEBRUARY

Kangaroo Class
Alligator Class
Zebra Class
Tiger Class
Lion Class

MARCH

Panda Class

Owl Class

Giraffe Class

Leopard Class

APRIL

Bear Class

Rhino Class

Toucan Class

Monkey Class

Visitors are allowed to eat with students during any time except for the days that we have designated for “special visitor lunch days.” The dates and times for these special lunch days will be sent home during the month that is scheduled for each class. Students can start having visitors for lunch beginning Monday, September 14, 2026. This gives teachers and administrators enough time to get students familiar with the lunch procedures.

HOMEROOM PARENTS

Two (2) homeroom parents are to be named for each class. These parents will be responsible for planning and delegating responsibilities for the class parties as well as our “extra” activities. Parents, please realize that it takes everyone working together to have successful, enjoyable parties and school functions. If you are not a homeroom parent, please help in any way that you can.

HOURS

School hours for the first full week of school are 7:35 to 12:00 p.m. Doors open at 7:15 if you need to come early. Teachers will report at 7:15 during this first week. School hours for the rest of the year are 7:35 a.m., first bell—7:40 a.m., tardy bell. School dismisses at 2:25 p.m. Students should stay in their car until door open. They should not be playing in the landscape area, the street or on the sidewalk.

I

ILLNESS

If a child has an elevated temperature (over 100 degrees), he/she should be removed from the school setting. The parent must keep the student home until the temperature is normal for 24 hours.

INNER SYSTEM TRAVEL

At the beginning of each year, parents are asked to grant permission for their child to participate in inner system travel without signing individual permission forms. This is done on the registration form.

INSPECTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

Official student records, files, and data may be inspected by parents or legal guardians of a particular student. Students who are over 18 years of age may inspect their own records. These procedures shall be followed in making inspections of student records:

1. All requests for inspecting student records shall be made in writing on forms provided by the Muscle Shoals Board of Education. Permission shall be granted to eligible persons within a reasonable amount of time but in no case more than 45

days after making the request.

2. The request shall be signed by the person making the request and shall be kept permanently with the file folder of the student. This shall be available to parents, legal guardians, students who are 19 and older, and to school personnel who have access to these files.
4. When a student has attained 18 years of age or is attending a post secondary education institution (full time), the permission or consent required of the rights accorded to the parents shall thereafter only be required of and accorded to the student.

ISS

MUSCLE SHOALS CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM **ALTERNATIVE / IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION RULES & GUIDELINES**

1. Students assigned to the ISS/Alternative School are expected to conform to **ALL** rules published in the Muscle Shoals student Code of Conduct and the School Handbook, and follow all directives given by the alternative school director.
2. Students must report each day between 7:30 and 7:45 a.m., with textbooks, pencil and paper. Upon arrival students must be seated at their assigned cubicle. School will begin dismissing at 2:30 p.m.; students must be off the ISS/Alternative School campus by 2:45 p.m. or additional days may be assigned.
3. Students are **not** permitted to drive to the ISS/Alternative School. Students must be accompanied by a **parent/guardian** on the **first** day. The parent/guardian or a designated adult (not a student) may accompany the student on subsequent days. The student must be signed-in and -out every day.
4. Students must supply his/her own textbooks. No book bags or backpacks.
5. Searches and seizure will be conducted by staff if probable cause is warranted.
6. Students who arrive late to ISS/Alternative School will not be allowed in.
7. Students who check out will be assigned another day at the ISS/Alternative School to replace the day checked out.
8. If a student is truant from the ISS/Alternative School, additional days will be assigned to the length of the original referral time.
9. If a student is absent (excused) for the first day of his/her referral time, the initial time will start on the first day the student is able to return to the ISS/Alternative School.
10. In order for the student to have an excused absence from the ISS/Alternative School, a written explanation must be submitted the day of return from a parent or guardian, along with a phone number where the parent or guardian may be reached.
11. Students will be assigned to an individual study cubicle. Students cannot leave the assigned cubicle or communicate with any other student without permission.
12. There will be no sleeping, vandalism, throwing objects, talking, chewing gum, writing or passing of notes, inappropriate periodicals, communicating with other students using technology, watching non-educational videos or playing games on Chromebooks, disrespect, or moving about for any purpose without permission.
13. Students must satisfactorily complete teacher or ISS/Alternative School assignments daily; additional days may be assigned if work is not satisfactorily completed.
14. Students referred to the ISS/Alternative School will not be permitted on MSCS school campuses, during referral stay.

- 15. A student sent to the ISS/Alternative School is not allowed to participate or attend in any extra-curricular activities or practices during the ISS/Alternative School assignment period.
- 16. Students are not allowed to deface any school property.
- 17. Students **MUST** follow the **School Dress Code** as addressed in the Code of Conduct and the Student School Handbook. Students may bring a **cell phone** to the ISS/Alternative School but it must be turned in to the alternative school director upon arrival. If a student is found in possession of a cell phone after the school day begins, the director may assign additional days of ISS.

18. Meal Service:

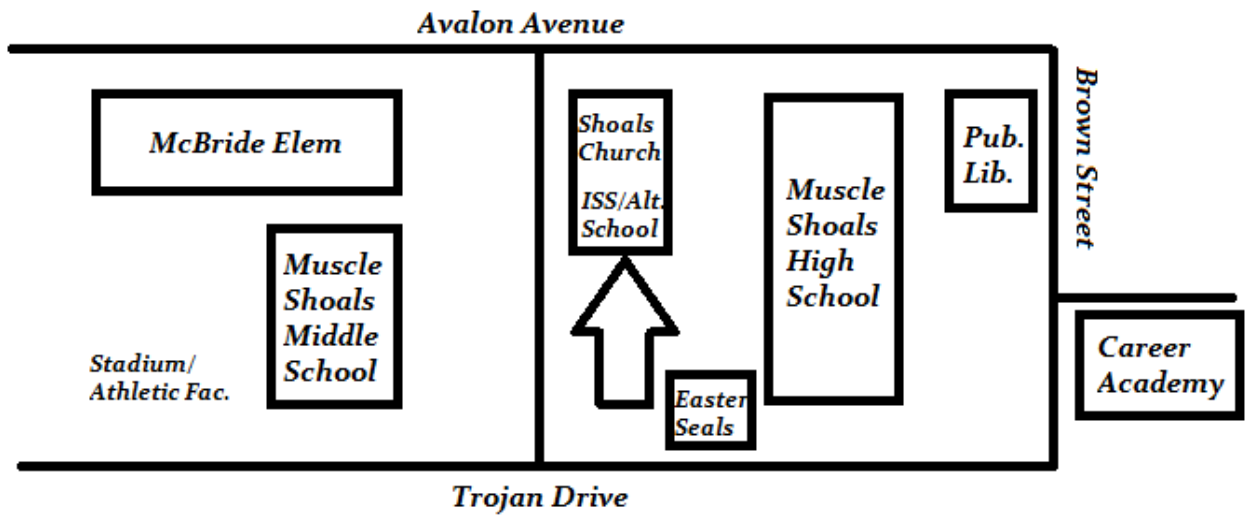
All students eat FREE (breakfast/lunch) due to participation in C.E.P. program.

- 19. A student may receive additional days if, based upon counseling sessions, he/she does not display appropriate behavior or attitude to adequately adjust to base school environment.
- 20. Misbehavior or failure to follow rules may result in additional days, suspension or expulsion.
- 21. Each student assigned to the ISS/Alternative School will sign a copy of the ISS/Alternative School rules indicating he/she has received, read and understands the rules of the program.
- 22. The ISS/Alternative School Administrator will make decisions that are in the best interest of the student and the ISS/Alternative School program.
- 23. When a student is assigned to the ISS/Alternative School program, their parent or guardian will be notified by the assigning school Administrator, as specified in the Code of Conduct and The Student Handbook.
- 24. Students are not allowed to have visitors during the hours they are assigned to the ISS Program. Parents are the only ones outside the school system who will be allowed to see students during their assigned time in ISS.
- 25. Complaints, grievances, and requests for corrective action may be brought to the attention of the Board only after reasonable efforts to resolve the matter at the school and administrative levels have been exhausted. All appeals must be filed in writing to the employee, supervisor, or administrator at the lowest administrative level who has the authority and ability to address the problem or to implement the requested action. The original complaint must be filed within seven calendar days of the occurrence of the situation in question. Appeals at all levels must be filed within seven calendar days of the grievant being informed of the decision. For appeals of Type I offenses, the principal's decision is final; Type II offenses, the superintendent's decision is final; Type III offenses, the Board's decision is final. At all levels, the student has a right to appeal to the juvenile court.
- 27. When using technology ISS/Alternative School students must remain on the sites pertinent to the assignments they are given. Visiting other sites and/or listening to music without permission from the ISS director may result in loss of technology privileges and/or additional days assigned in ISS/Alt School.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature (if available): _____ Date: _____

List individuals allowed to pick-up or check-out your child while in ISS (must be 18 and not a student)



Student Due Process Hearing Request or Waiver

If **expulsion** (*more than 90 school days and less than 180 school days*), a **long-term alternative school placement** (*more than 15 school days per incident*) or a **long-term out-of-school suspension** (*more than 10 school days and less than 90 school days per incident*) is recommended or assigned, according to Section 16-1-14 of the Code of Alabama 1975, the student shall be afforded an opportunity for a disciplinary hearing to determine whether the alleged violation has occurred. The hearing shall commence within 10 school days unless good cause is shown or upon agreement of the parties.

Student Name: _____

Infraction: _____

Date of Infraction: ____/____/____

Short and plain statement detailing the alleged conduct:

Provision(s) of the Code of Conduct and/or state law that were violated:

Recommended Discipline:

<i>Hearing Information</i>	<i>Date:</i>	<i>Time:</i>	A.M. P.M.
(within 10 school days)	<i>Place:</i> Muscle Shoals Board of Education Central Office		
	3200 S. Wilson Dam Road, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661		

Nature of the hearing: Representatives from the school will present evidence (oral or written) at the hearing that the student violated the Code of Conduct or state law. The student, parent, or legal counsel/advocate may present a defense (oral or written). At least five days before the hearing, the student, parent/guardian, legal counsel/advocate may review any evidence presented by the school representative related to the alleged incident leading to the suspension or expulsion consistent with federal and state records laws. Parties may question adverse witnesses who are present and offering testimony, excluding students under 14 years of age. Anonymity of witnesses shall be protected and witnesses may not be compelled to attend or testify. The student and parent/guardian will receive a decision within five school days after the hearing and may request an electronic or written record of the hearing.

____ I hereby request a student due process hearing regarding this matter.

____ I hereby waive my student's right to a due process hearing regarding this matter.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____ Admin Initial: ____

Parent Phone Number: _____ Parent Email: _____
Mailing Address: _____

K

KINDERGARTEN ASSESSMENT TESTS

All assessment data is used to guide instruction. Students will be assessed informally (weekly tests, end of unit tests, etc...) in reading (Open Court Reading) and in math EnVision Math as well as AMSTI. These assessments are used to monitor understanding and for grading purposes.

In addition, we have three, formal assessments that we administer to our students.

I-Ready Reading and I-Ready Math

I-Ready for reading and math are diagnostic assessments. They measure the emerging reading and math skills of students in grades pre-K through 3. They are administered three times a year (beginning, middle, and end).

FOREFRONT

Forefront is a universal screener for number sense.

GESELL Development Screening and Assessment

L

LIBRARY

Students with outstanding books (overdue, lost, stolen or damages) are not eligible to check out materials until the book is paid for or checked into the library. Full replacement cost will be charged for all lost or damaged books.

LOST AND FOUND

All personal possessions should be clearly labeled with the first and last name of the child. This is especially important for items of clothing. Items that have been lost and found will be kept in the office. At the end of the school year, all items remaining in lost and found will be donated to a local charity.

M

MEDICAL

GENERAL HEALTH

The Board may provide limited student health services aimed at addressing minor medical issues that arise during the school day while also supporting students with special or chronic health conditions.

It is the parents' responsibility to notify the child's school nurse directly if an emergency plan is needed for chronic illnesses.

Emergencies: School officials are empowered to take reasonable and appropriate actions to provide or coordinate emergency medical care for students requiring immediate attention. After ensuring the comfort and/or stability of an injured child, the school will notify the parent, guardian, or emergency contact.

Illnesses or injuries (non-emergent): Standard first aid procedures may be administered. The Superintendent is authorized to establish and implement procedures, rules, and regulations governing the administration and

management of medications in schools, as well as the prevention of communicable diseases, in accordance with state law and applicable health standards.

Acute or contagious illnesses: Parents or guardians will be notified and may be required to promptly remove their child from school. The school cannot allow students to stay if they have fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or a suspected contagious disease. If a parent or guardian is unavailable, the principal or school nurse is authorized to contact the Department of Public Health.

Fever - A child with a temperature of 100 or above should remain at home until he/she is fever-free for a full 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

Vomiting and /or diarrhea - Students should not attend school if he/she has had vomiting and/or diarrhea (or medication to stop/ prevent such) in the last 24 hours.

Rashes - Unknown or undiagnosed rashes should be reviewed by a medical provider. Proof of non-contagious status may be required for school attendance.

Head Lice -If head lice are suspected or confirmed, the student or class may be checked. If lice are found, the following steps will be taken with care and sensitivity:

1. The child will be removed from class, and a parent or guardian will be contacted to take the child home for treatment.
2. After the first treatment and manual removal of nits, the parent must bring the child to school and stay while a school official conducts a recheck. If nits are still present, the child will need to return home for further treatment before coming back to school.
3. A second inspection will be done by a school official 7–10 days later.
4. All personal information (names of students, parents, staff, and school) will remain confidential. Head lice treatment information will be provided to all parents upon request.

Meningococcal Disease and Vaccine - Meningococcal disease is a serious illness caused by bacteria. It is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2-18 years old in the United States.

How do you catch the disease?

The bacteria that cause meningococcal disease are very common. The disease is most common in children and people with certain medical conditions that affect their immune system. College freshmen living in dormitories also have an increased risk of getting the disease. The disease is spread through the exchange of respiratory droplets or saliva with an infected person, including kissing, coughing, sneezing, and sharing drinking glasses and eating utensils. In a few people, the bacteria overcome the body's immune system and pass through the lining of the nose and throat into the bloodstream, causing meningitis. Meningitis is a term that describes inflammation of the tissues surrounding the brain and spinal cord.

What are the symptoms of the disease?

- Fever
- Headache
- Stiff Neck
- Red Rash

- Drowsiness
- Nausea and vomiting

Meningococcal vaccine:

Who should get the vaccine and when? The meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) is recommended for all children 11-12 years of age and for unvaccinated adolescents at high school entry (15 years of age). High school seniors should also consider obtaining the vaccine before entering college, especially if they are planning to live in a dormitory. Please consult your physician or local health department for more information.

For more information on this and other vaccine recommendations, go to:

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/immunization/>

IMMUNIZATIONS

Students entering Alabama's public or private schools are required by law to have on file an appropriate Alabama Certificate of Immunization or Certificate of Exemption. This documentation is necessary to ensure that our students are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. All immunization records must be kept up to date.

IMPACTS OF HEAVY BACKPACKS (ACT 2017-19)

Overloaded school backpacks are causing an increasing problem of back pain and spinal strain for students across the nation. Please review the following website for more information.

<https://www.alabamaachieves.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/BackPack-2017RS-SJR008-ENACTED.pdf>

MEDICATION GUIDELINES

1. All medication (prescription and nonprescription) for students in grades K–12 must be brought to the nurse by an *adult*. Students may not carry medication, except with prior approval for emergency medication such as inhalers, Epinephrine, or certain seizure medication.
2. Controlled substances (e.g., ADD/ADHD medication) will be inventoried by the nurse or trained staff when received.
3. A completed medication authorization form must be on file before school staff can give any medication. Short-term **nonprescription medication** require a parent/guardian signature; **prescription medication** (and *OTC medication needed for more than two weeks*) require both doctor and parent signatures.
4. The form must state why the medication is needed. Medication will only be given for that reason.
5. Medication prescribed **once daily** should be taken at home. **Twice-daily** medication should be given at home in the morning and evening. **Three times daily**: before school, after school, and at night. *Lunchtime doses are an exception*. Discuss any special needs with the nurse.

6. A new form is required for any medication change. The school and doctor may fax forms if needed.
7. Prescription medication must be in the *original pharmacy-labeled bottle*, matching the information on the release form. Ask your pharmacist for a second labeled bottle if needed.
8. Nonprescription medication must be in the original, *unopened container* with the student's name on it. It will only be given as labeled unless the doctor provides different instructions. Medication in other containers will not be given.
9. First doses (or first doses of new dosages) must be given at home, except in emergencies.
10. Unused medication must be picked up by an adult. Any left after the last day of school will be discarded. No medication will be kept over summer break.
11. *Students with life-threatening conditions* (e.g., asthma, seizures, allergies, diabetes) *should have an emergency plan on file*. Parents must notify the nurse to initiate the plan, which will be created together.

These guidelines are in place to help keep all students safe and healthy during the school day. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the school nurse.

N

LEGAL NAME

Parents, please be aware that by state law a child's legal name (the name that appears on his/her birth certificate) must be written on the permanent records. This record will follow your child through his/her school years.

NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

Admission to Schools

- A. **Resident Students** – School-age children who reside within the municipal limits of the City of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, may be admitted to Muscle Shoals City Schools. For purposes of this policy, the residence of the student will be the residence of the parent(s), or legal custodian/guardian. If custody of the child is shared between parents, the residence of the student shall be that of the parent who has primary physical custody of the student, as established by an appropriate order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction.
 - The legal residence of the student means the fixed, permanent and primary domicile of the parent(s), parent with primary physical custody or the court appointed legal custodian/guardian. The legal residence means that true, fixed and permanent home and principal establishment to which, whenever absent, the parent(s), parent with primary physical custody, or court appointed legal custodian/guardian of the student has the intention of returning daily. The legal residence, as used herein, is distinguished from a

temporary or secondary place of residence established for some specific purpose, but not the fixed permanent residence of the parent, parent with physical custody, or the court appointed legal guardian.

- To be considered a resident student, a student must physically reside full-time with his or her parent(s), parent with primary physical custody, or court appointed legal custodian/guardian within the municipal limits of the City of Muscle Shoals, Alabama.
 - Custody/guardianship must be ordered through a Court of competent jurisdiction.
- B. Non-resident Students** – Students who do not reside within the corporate limits of the City of Muscle Shoals may apply for enrollment in the Muscle Shoals City Schools. The Board may establish criteria for admission of non-resident students, and may require the payment of tuition as a prerequisite to enrollment. The Board will not provide transportation to nonresident students.

All out-of-district applicants who are permitted to attend the Muscle Shoals City Schools shall complete non-resident applications. Applications for new non-resident students for each grade will be reviewed in the order they are received until the allotment of successful applicants has been accepted.

Children of full-time employees who work in Muscle Shoals City Schools but reside outside the City of Muscle Shoals may attend Muscle Shoals City Schools without payment of tuition. However, such student(s) must meet all standards established for non-resident students.

A non-resident enrollment application may be denied because a school, grade, or program(s) lacks space, staff, support services, facilities, or equipment, taking in-district enrollment projections into consideration, or because the student:

- does not meet the established eligibility criteria for participation in a particular program, including age requirements, course prerequisites, and required levels of academic performance;
- has been suspended or expelled from school, is in the process of being suspended or expelled, has withdrawn from a school to avoid possible suspension or expulsion;
- has a history of documented, disciplinary infractions within the past three (3) years, or has been adjudicated or convicted of a crime that involved personal injury, loss of or damage to property, or disturbing the peace or public order;
- has a record of excessive absences or truancy from school; or
- presents incorrect or incomplete information on the enrollment application.

The out-of-district approval process is as follows:

1. The parent or guardian must submit a completed application and provide any and all supplemental information requested by the district.
2. The principal/designee may interview/assess the applicants.
3. The school principal makes a recommendation to approve or not approve the enrollment application.
4. The recommendation is sent to the superintendent.
5. The superintendent approves or denies the request.

An approved application shall be valid for one year only. All nonresidents must complete an

Intent to Return Form each year.

The Muscle Shoals City School System reserves the right to revoke the enrollment status of an out-of-district student at any time for any misconduct that would warrant suspension or expulsion under the Code of Student Conduct, or because of false, misleading or incomplete information on the enrollment application. In the event of a revocation, the Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian of the circumstances which resulted in the revocation decision. There is no appeal process; the decision of the Superintendent is final.

O

OFFICE

Visitors must report to the office upon entering the school building. Office personnel will help you in anyway possible. If you have a message, or forgotten an item for your child, please seek assistance with this matter in the office. If it is necessary for you to visit your child's room, you must wear a visitor's pass to be received by HGP personnel. This pass must be obtained in the office.

P

PARENT CONFERENCES

The teacher will schedule conferences if needed. We encourage you to schedule a conference with the teacher whenever you feel the need to do so. To request a conference, please call the school office at 256-389-2630. We invite you to share any concerns or ideas with us that will benefit your child. Our school has student-led teacher conferences in late January and early February or whenever the school system calendar allows.

PARENTING PROGRAMS

Our intervention personnel will work with students and their families to secure services and help when needed. Additional workshops and support will be provided for all parents of students who participate in our intervention programs.

PARENTS-VISITORS

ALL PARENTS AND VISITORS MUST CHECK IN AT THE OFFICE UPON ENTERING THE BUILDING. TO BE RECEIVED OR WELCOMED BY THE HGP STAFF, YOU MUST WEAR A VISITOR'S PASS.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

A child must have attended school 180 days without having been tardy (excused or unexcused), having checked out, or having left early to obtain perfect attendance.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Each child will participate in physical education with a certified physical education teacher each day. The program will foster life-long physical fitness habits. In addition, each class will

participate in outdoor free play activities on a daily basis. If your child has a reason for not participating (due to illness or other limitations), please write a note which states the reason.

PROMOTION

Students are promoted from grade to grade on the basis of academic credit earned during the school year, in summer school programs or in such other academic programs as may be approved or recognized by the Board. The determination of whether to promote or retain will be made by school officials.

RETENTION

First Grade Readiness

Alabama laws (1) requires a child to complete kindergarten or demonstrate first grade readiness before entering the first grade; (2) authorizes local boards of education to admit children under five years of age on September 1 to kindergarten in certain circumstances; (3) authorizes local boards of education to admit a child under six years of age on or before December 31 to first grade if the child demonstrates first grade readiness; (4) requires the State Department of Education to create, and the State Board of Education to approve, an assessment on first grade readiness; and (5) requires the State Department of Education to develop an informational campaign to promote kindergarten.

R

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

In order to be registered for kindergarten at Howell Graves Preschool, we must have the following information/items for your child:

- * two or more emergency telephone numbers (excludes home telephone number)
- * doctor's name and office telephone number
- * current certificates of immunization (kindergarten students must have the second measles immunization and chickenpox immunization prior to entering school)
- * two proofs of residence (1 proof must be a current Muscle Shoals electric bill)
- * certified birth certificate (to verify age)
- * child's social security card (requested but not required)

IF FALSE INFORMATION IS PROVIDED BY ANY STUDENT(S) /PARENT(S) REGARDING LEGAL RESIDENCE IN ORDER TO ENROLL IN THE MUSCLE SHOALS CITY SCHOOLS, THE STUDENT(S) MAY BE WITHDRAWN IMMEDIATELY. ALSO, HOWELL GRAVES HAS THE RIGHT TO REQUEST AN UPDATED PROOF OF RESIDENCE AT ANY TIME DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.

REPORTING PERIODS FOR PROGRESS REPORTS

Howell Graves Preschool will report student achievement on either a weekly or monthly basis starting in September.

The following is a schedule of reporting periods:

September 3, 2026- first reporting period
November 5, 2026-second reporting period
February 4, 2027-third reporting period
April 15, 2027 - last reporting period

Report cards will be sent home on the following dates after each reporting period.
(The report cards will be mailed home on the last day of school for the fourth reporting period.)

October 9, 2026
January 7, 2027
March 18, 2027
May 26, 2027

S

SCHOOL DAY DUTY

School personnel will not be responsible for students arriving before 7:15 a.m. or staying after 2:55 p.m. In the mornings, students are to go to the multipurpose room if they arrive before 7:35 a.m. Parents, please be on time at 2:25 p.m. to pick up your child. Students, siblings and parents should not be playing or standing in the landscaping. Students are subject to possible disciplinary actions for this behavior.

SECURITY CARDS

Security cards have been created and utilized in an effort to insure safe pickup of our children. The designated person that picks up your child must have the security card with him/her. The security card will be given to the teacher on afternoon duty. It will then be given to your child. Upon dismissal, your child will return the card to the person that is picking him/her up from school. If you come to pick up a child without a security card, you will be asked to go to the office to be identified. You must have a card per person for pickup. Notify the office if you need additional cards.

SNACKS

We encourage nutritious snacks at all times. Raw vegetables and fresh fruit are ideal but crackers, baked chips, granola, etc. are also good choices. Your child will need a snack every day. We also serve breakfast each day. Some children choose to use this as his/her snack. You may check with your child's teacher so see what time of day your child will be having snack. No soft drinks are allowed.

SPRING FLING

Each spring, Howell Graves Preschool has a major fundraising event. Everyone works together to make this event successful. Funds raised at this event have been used to purchase teacher resource materials or school needs.

STUDENT GRIEVANCES

The process for appealing or grieving an administrative decision can be found in the Muscle Shoals City Schools Code of Conduct. Appeals must be filed **in writing** within seven calendar

days of an adverse decision. It is encouraged that an appeal begins at the lowest of level authority/ability to address the concern before initiating an appeal or grievance with the Principal (Level One), Assistant Superintendent (Level Two), Superintendent (Level Three), or the Muscle Shoals Board of Education (Level Four).

SUSPENSION

The following is the procedure used in suspension of students:

1. The school administrator authorized to suspend a pupil will give oral or written notice of the alleged misconduct. The student will be given an explanation of the evidence and a chance to present his/her side. Usually, the hearing will be prior to suspension, but students who pose a threat to persons or property or an ongoing threat to disrupting the academic process may be removed at once.
2. The administrator will notify the parent/guardian of the student's suspension by phone or in person and the student will be released in their custody or with their knowledge. If the situation warrants, the student may be released in the custody of the juvenile or civil authorities. If a parent/guardian cannot be reached by phone, the student will remain in the area designated by the school administrator until school dismisses at which time he/she may leave school. The administrator will then notify the parent/guardian of the action by sending a letter within 24 hours.
3. Before a student can be readmitted to school following suspension, school officials will hold a conference including the student, parent/guardian, principal and any others deemed necessary. The student and the parent or guardian shall be notified by the school principal concerning the future status of the student.
4. Students with disabilities will be disciplined in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the Alabama Administrative Code, Reference 290-080-090-10(5) (c).
5. To ensure compliance with Act 93-672, the following procedure will be practiced:
 - A. All out of school suspensions (OSS) will be reported to the system's attendance officer.
 - B. On the third OSS, the principal will schedule a conference for the student and his/her parent/guardian with the superintendent of his/her designee.
 - C. On the fourth OSS, the principal, with the concurrence of the system's attendance officer, will refer the student and his/her parent/guardian to the District Attorney of Colbert County.

T

TARDIES

School begins at 7:35 a.m. Please make sure that your child arrives on time. Should your child arrive late, he/she must enter the school through the office and be signed in by an accompanying adult. A child will be considered tardy after the bell rings at 7:40 a.m. The child must be inside the building when this bell stops ringing. If the child has an excuse from a doctor or dentist, the tardy will be excused. If a child enters school after 11:15, he/she will be considered absent the entire day.

TARDIES RESULTING IN SATURDAY SCHOOL

In an effort to reduce the number of tardies in our schools, the Muscle Shoals City System has

implemented Saturday School. Students who obtain more than 10 tardies per semester in the elementary grades will be expected to attend Saturday School following the 11th tardy and every Saturday thereafter for each additional tardy. Elementary students must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Saturday School begins at 8:00 a.m. and dismisses at 11:30 a.m. If the student and parent or legal guardian are tardy for Saturday School, it will be considered another tardy and will have to be made up. If a student and parent or legal guardian do not attend Saturday School as scheduled, the student will be sent to In-School Suspension on the Tuesday or date assigned following the Saturday scheduled for Saturday School. Tardy accumulation is operated on a semester basis.

TEACHER REQUEST

THERE IS NO TEACHER REQUEST ACCEPTED

TECHNOLOGY DAMAGES

Only the MSCS technology department should attempt to repair a damaged Chromebook. It is requested that parents and/or students not attempt to repair damage themselves or by taking the device to a store or outside computer technician as doing so could void the warranty or lead to further damage.

Students in grades pre-K through 5th grade are exempt from the annual technology fee and will not be assessed charges for a single incident of accidental damage. However, students in grades pre-K through 5th grade will be assessed repair costs for a second and subsequent incident of accidental damage.

Students in all grade levels will be assessed charges for lost or destroyed Chromebooks or a lost charger.

Approximate costs:

- Broken Charger (\$30)
- Keyboard/Touchpad Module (\$55)
- Bottom Plastic (\$30)
- Top Plastic Around Screen (\$30)
- Protective Case (\$20)

TELEPHONE MESSAGES

Our children's instruction is our first goal and thus we will not be able to interrupt classroom instruction unless it is an emergency. When you need to speak to your child's teacher, please call during the teachers planning time. If you cannot do this, please call the school office and a message will be given to the teacher or she will be asked to return your call.

TRAFFIC

One of the primary goals of Howell Graves Preschool is to provide a safe and caring environment for your child. You, too, can be a major contributor to our safe environment if you will abide by our traffic rules. If someone other than parents drop off or pick up a student, please make sure that person is aware of all of our traffic rules. This ensures the safety of your child and also helps with our traffic flow. In addition, the person picking up your child **MUST** have a security card.

MORNING TRAFFIC

In the mornings, we ask that you use only the right-hand lane of the drive through to drop off your child. We ask parents and students to always use the crosswalks and to **NEVER** walk between the parked cars. We also ask parents not to stop on Alabama Avenue and send their child unattended to the building. You may park in the parking lot across the street from Howell Graves and walk your child across.

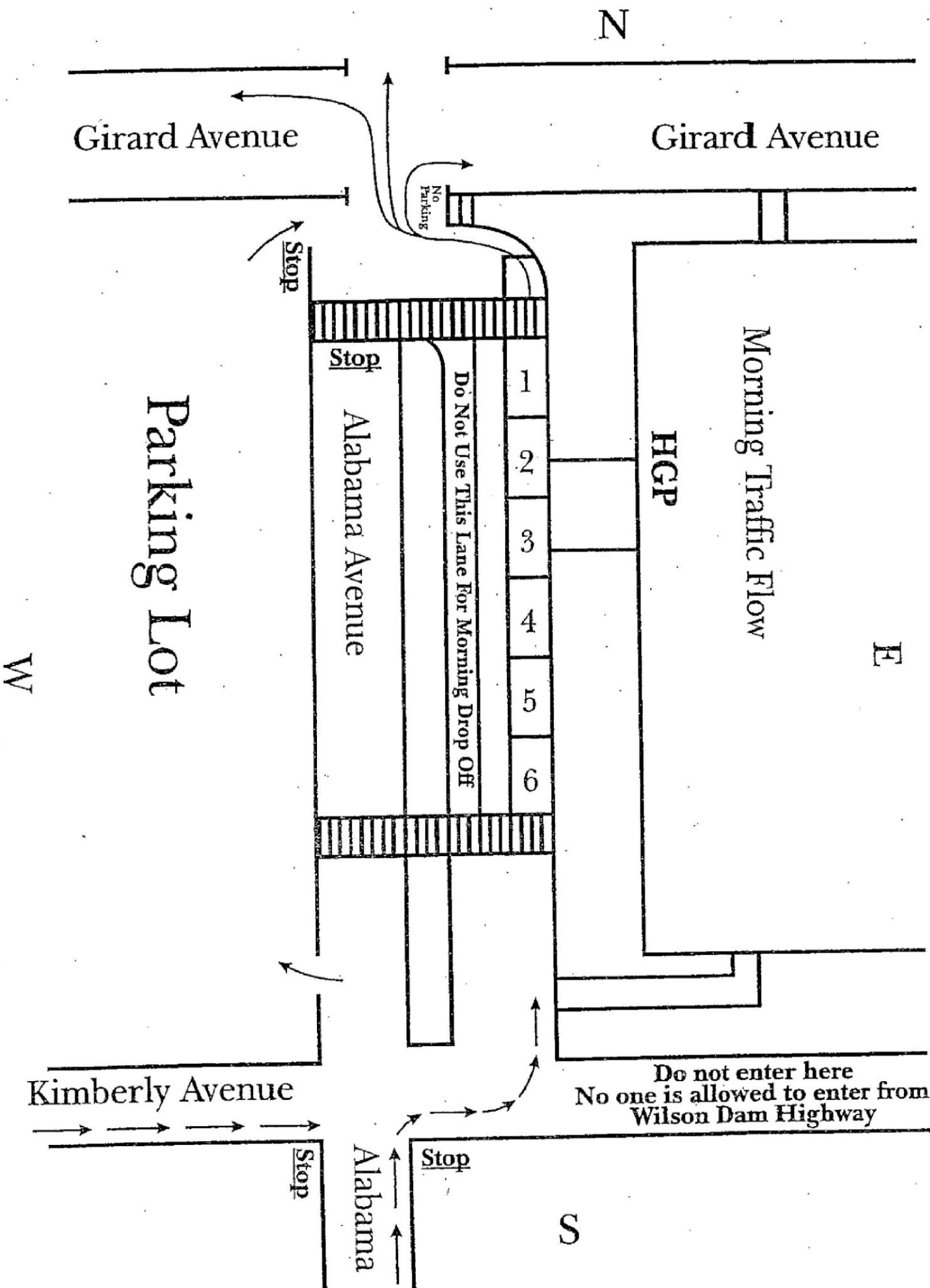
We realize, too, that many parents need to be at work after dropping off their child. To assist working parents, we ask that you not linger in the drive through lane. Be sure your child is ready to leave your car with all necessary items in hand. After your child exits the car, please pay close attention to the crosswalks. Students should stay in their cars until the school doors open. They should not be playing on the side walk, landscape or the street. Thanks for your help!

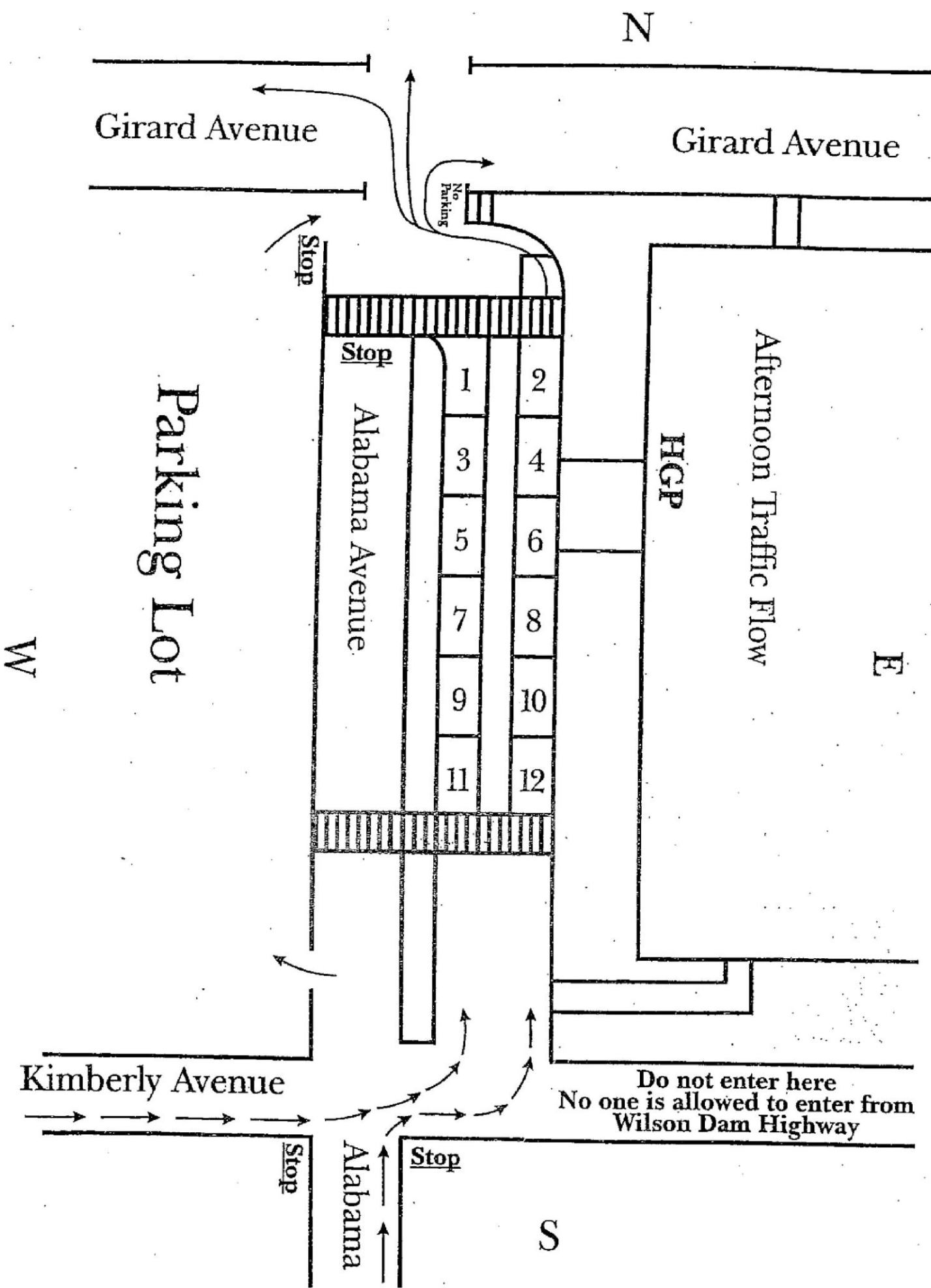
AFTERNOON TRAFFIC

In the afternoon, all teachers will assist in providing a safe pickup of each child. We have 12 parking spaces that will be loaded at one time. Red and yellow (stop and orange) signs will be used to signal students and parents. The red signs instruct cars to remain still and students to walk. The orange signs signal cars to move slowly. Once all 12 cars are loaded, the traffic controller will blow her whistle and wave the cars through. At that point, 12 more cars move forward.

If you park your car in the front parking lot or on Alabama Avenue and walk to pick up your child, please use the crosswalks. Never walk between the cars. Please respect the teachers if they remind you not to do so.

- ❖ Traffic flow charts for morning and afternoon are located on the following pages.
- ❖ Traffic lanes in the front of the school will be blocked in the afternoon until 1:30 p.m.
- ❖ Do not come back through the traffic if your child forgets something. Please park in the parking lot and walk across the street/crosswalk to enter the building. We want to keep the traffic flowing.
- ❖ Do not park on the side street that is designated for daycare pick-up anytime during school unless you have been given permission by a school administrator. If someone else will be picking up your child, please share this information with them.
- ❖ Parents/guardians (or their designee) should arrive no earlier than thirty minutes prior to dismissal to pick up your child.





TROJAN SUPPORT

Each Friday morning during football/basketball season we will have spirit items for sale. We will send a price list of items before the first game. If you want your child to purchase one of these items, please put their money in an envelope with their name on it and the item(s) to be purchased.

T-SHIRTS

T-Shirts for Howell Graves Preschool will be sold each year at a price of \$10.00 (this is included in the supply, party money, and t-shirt money). These shirts are to be worn when students attend field trips or participate in special activities. If your child loses or misplaces their shirt you can purchase another one but the cost may be more than \$10.00.

V

VANDALISM

Students who intentionally commit acts of vandalism (deface or damage school equipment or property) will be required to clean and/or pay for damage done. The student may be subject to other disciplinary procedures.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are always welcomed at Howell Graves Preschool. Please contact your child's teacher or the office if you are interested in sharing your time and talents. Be sure to pick up a visitor's pass.

W

WEAPONS

The Muscle Shoals Board of Education authorizes the superintendent or designated administrator to automatically suspend any student found to have a dangerous weapon (a dangerous weapon is defined as a knife, club, gun, chain, or any other object deemed dangerous by the superintendent) in their possession. This policy shall apply on all Muscle Shoals City Schools property (school buildings, school buses, etc.) and during any school sponsored event during or after regular school hours wherever located. Students violating this policy will be suspended and may be subject to further disciplinary action by school officials and possible legal action. As required by the Gun-Free School Act of 1994, any student bringing a weapon to school, as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United State Code, will receive a recommendation for expulsion from school for at least one calendar year and the student will also be referred to the juvenile or criminal justice system.

WELLNESS PLAN

Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value (MNV), as defined by USDA, shall not be given or sold to students on campus during the school day. Foods of MNV include foods and beverages with sucrose, high fructose corn syrup, and other sugars listed as the first ingredient. Persons who bring foods from outside the school for student recognition, parties, and other group functions, and events shall be encouraged to take every measure to ensure that foods and beverages meet

federal, state, and local laws and guidelines.

*Board Policy Vending and Snacks EHA

* Wellness ILA

WITHDRAWAL AND TRANSFER

The student or student's parent or legal guardian must request withdrawal of a student from the school office. The appropriate papers will be given to the parent or legal guardian. All other papers will be mailed to the school the student will be attending upon request of records from that school. Students are withdrawn from the statewide Powerschool system.

Compliance of State or Federal Regulations

Inquires or complaints regarding compliance with state or federal regulations may be directed to Title VI Coordinator – Denise Woods, Assistant Superintendent, Muscle Shoals Board of Education, 3200 Wilson Dam Road, P.O. Box 2610, Muscle Shoals, AL 35662 (256) 389-2600, Section 504 Coordinator and ADD-ADHD Education Coordinator – Taylor Darden, 3200 Wilson Dam Road, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661, (256)-389-2620 and Title IX Coordinator-Taylor Darden, Muscle Shoals Board of Education, 3200 Wilson Dam Road, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661, (256) 389-2682.

PARENT SIGNATURE PAGE

THIS PAGE IS TO BE SIGNED ELECTRONICALLY.

We believe that parental involvement and support is crucial to a child's success not only in school, but also in life. Parents and educators must work together to aid our children's mental, emotional, and physical development. Therefore, we enlist your support in the education of your child.

In order to provide all children at Howell Graves Preschool with an atmosphere conducive for learning, your support is necessary. Hence, we require you to read this handbook and discuss the pertinent information with your child.

Your signature certifies that you have read the information in this handbook and discussed it with your child.