

JACKSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

"Aggie Excellence Begins with Aggie Expectations"

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

2026 – 2027 School Year

Dr. Jaclyn Stringer, Principal

Walter Rozier, Assistant Principal

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JMS

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Disclaimer: Policies are subject to change based on state department mandates, county policies, administration's discretion, and health concerns as they relate to our students, faculty, and staff.

Administrative Discretion: The Student-Parent Handbook is intended to serve as a general guide and may not address every possible situation or scenario that could arise during the school year. Therefore, the school administration reserves the right to use their discretion in addressing matters not specifically covered within this handbook, always with the best interest of the school community and student safety in mind.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Jackson Middle School!

My name is **Dr. Jaclyn Stringer**, and I am honored to serve as the Principal of Jackson Middle School. Education has been my life's passion, and I am excited to partner with our students, families, faculty, and community as we work together to make this an outstanding school year.

I have dedicated my career to serving students and supporting educators. Throughout my journey in education, I have had the privilege of serving as a teacher, counselor, principal, and educational leader. These experiences have reinforced my belief that every child can succeed when provided with high expectations, meaningful relationships, and a supportive learning environment.

As principal, my goal is to ensure that Jackson Middle School is a place where students feel safe, valued, challenged, and inspired to reach their full potential. I believe that strong schools are built through collaboration among families, educators, and the community. Together, we can create opportunities that help every student grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Our theme for the 2026–2027 school year is **"Aggie Excellence."** At Jackson Middle School, we believe that excellence is not a destination; it is a daily commitment. However, with excellence comes expectations. We will continue to promote **Aggie Expectations** as we strive for growth in academics, attendance, enrollment, and school culture.

I am passionate about building a positive school culture where students are encouraged to work hard, show kindness, demonstrate responsibility, and take pride in being Aggies. I want every student who enters our building to know they are capable of achieving great things and that our faculty and staff are committed to helping them succeed.

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family, serving in my church, and supporting activities that strengthen our community. These experiences remind me daily of the importance of faith, service, integrity, and relationships. These values guide my leadership and my commitment to education.

Thank you for being a part of the Jackson Middle School family. I look forward to working together as we pursue a year filled with growth, achievement, and **Aggie Excellence**.

With Aggie Pride,

Dr. Jaclyn Stringer
Principal, Jackson Middle School

"Aggie Excellence Begins with Aggie Expectations."

Jackson Middle School Mission Statement

The mission of Jackson Middle School is to foster academic excellence in a student-centered environment.

Jackson Middle School Vision Statement

Jackson Middle School strives to cultivate a community of lifelong learners who excel academically, thrive socially, and contribute confidently in an ever-changing world.

Jackson Middle School Beliefs

1. Reading is a gateway skill to all learning.
2. The success of the school is a shared responsibility among the school and community.
3. All students deserve to be challenged to their highest potential.
4. Education must provide opportunities to learn.
5. All students are unique and can be successful learners.

Jackson Middle School
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Dr. Jaclyn Stringer
Principal

Walter Rozier
Assistant Principal

Jackson Middle School
Bell Schedule – 2026 - 2027

7:10	Teacher Sign-In
7:15	Students allowed on campus/Report to cafeteria for breakfast
7:34	Students dismissed from designated areas
7:45	Tardy Bell
7:45 – 8:17	1st Period (Homeroom/Aggie Block) (Announcements)
8:20 – 9:15	2nd Period
9:18 – 10:13	3nd Period
10:16 – 11:11	4th Period
11:14 – 12:39	5th Period (30 Minute Lunch)
12:42 – 1:37	6th Period
1:40 – 2:40	7th Period (Extra 5 Minutes)
2:40/2:45/2:50	Dismiss

School Calendar for 2026 - 2027

Teacher Inservice	August 3, 4, 5
1st Day for Students	August 6
Labor Day Holiday	September 7
End of 1st 9 weeks	October 9
Fall Holiday	October 12
Inservice Day	October 13
Parenting Day/Students Learn from Home	October 14
Veterans Day Holiday	November 11
Thanksgiving Holidays	November 23 - 27
Early Dismissal	December 14 - 16
End of 1st Semester	December 16
Christmas Break	December 17 – January 1
Teachers Return (Inservice)	January 4
Students Return	January 5
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	January 18
Presidents' Day	February 15
Inservice Day	February 16
Students Learn from Home	February 17
End of 3rd 9 weeks	March 12
Inservice Day	March 25
Good Friday	March 26
Spring Holidays	March 29 – April 2
Early Dismissal	May 26 - 28
Last Day for Students/Teachers	May 28



ACAP POLICY

Alabama State Department of Education Digital Device Policy for ACAP Testing

Students shall not possess or use any digital device when they are participating in ACAP testing. The possession or use of a digital device by a student participating in the ACAP is strictly prohibited during the administration of the test, unless pre-approved by the ALSDE. If a student is observed in possession of a digital device during the administration of an ACAP test, the device may be confiscated. If a student is observed using a digital device during the administration of an ACAP test (or if there is reasonable suspicion that the device was used during the test), testing for the student shall cease, the device may be confiscated and searched for any information related to the ACAP. Additionally, the student shall be dismissed from testing, and the student's test shall be invalidated in accordance with ACAP policy. Violation(s) may result in disciplinary action by the LEA in accordance with the LEA's disciplinary policy.

ASSEMBLY

All students are required to attend assemblies unless they are approved for exemption by the school administration. Any misconduct or disruptions during assemblies may result in immediate removal and additional disciplinary action.

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES

All students will comply with the Attendance Policy. For a detailed explanation relative to attendance, refer to the Clarke County School Attendance Policy adoption by the Clarke County Board of Education, December 15, 1983. Violation of the attendance policy could result in juvenile court intervention.

The Clarke County School System and the Juvenile Court of Clarke County have developed a truancy program in an effort to stop excessive absences in the school system. The Juvenile Court has a full-time probation officer working in the school system to help administer this program.

Alabama law requires all children between the ages of seven (7) and seventeen (17) to attend school. If any child fails to attend school without a legal excuse, that child and the person having custody of the child could be referred to the Juvenile Court.

Any child found guilty of truancy may be placed in a juvenile detention facility. Any custodial adult found guilty of failing to require a child to attend school may be jailed for up to one year, or fined up to $500.00, or both.

A free, public education is one of the greatest benefits available to the children of our state. Please ensure that your child achieves his or her full potential by attending school regularly.

If a student has been absent, he/she must bring a **written excuse within three (3) days** from a physician or home stating the reason for the absence when the student returns to school. **This excuse needs to be turned in to the office first.**
Also see PROMOTION, TARDINESS, and SEMESTER EXAM EXEMPTION policy.

BOOK BAGS AND PURSES

Book bags must be **CLEAR** or **MESH** material. If you use a rolling book bag, you must have on file written permission from the principal and a letter from your doctor stating why you need to use this type of book bag. Purses must not be larger than eight (8) inches by ten (10) inches and not resemble stuffed animals, etc. In an effort to help with school safety and discipline issues, all students will be required to place these items in their lockers upon arriving on campus.

BUSES

Riding the bus is a privilege that may be revoked. The principal, his/her designee, or the transportation director are the only persons who can put a student off the bus. Drivers may turn students in and request they be removed from the bus, but only the administration can put students off. The school bus is an extension of the classroom and the driver is the Adult-in-Charge! Failure to follow the driver, or school bus rules and regulations will result in the student being warned the first time and turned in for disciplinary action afterwards. If a student is turned in to the administration, he/she will not be allowed to ride the bus home on the afternoon route. It is the parent's responsibility to pick the student up and arrange private transportation to and from school.

School Bus Rules, Regulations, and Violation Consequences

1.	Loud or distracting noises/excessive talking	3 days off the bus/ **Administrative discretion**
2.	Disrespectful/discourteous/lack of respect to others	3 days/5 days/15 days off the bus/ **Administrative discretion**
3.	Disrespectful/discourteous/lack of respect to the bus driver	3 days/5 days/15 days off the bus with in-school discipline/ **Administrative discretion**
4.	Inappropriate language	3 days/5 days/15 days off the bus
5.	Violation of Dress Code	3 days/5 days/15 days off the bus
6.	Uncooperative	5 days off the bus
7.	Tardy to bus	Warning/off the bus
8.	Slapping/Hitting/Fighting/Bullying/ Threats	3 days/5 days/15 days/rest of the year off the bus/**Administrative discretion** with in-school discipline
9.	Eating/Drinking on the bus	3 days off the bus
10.	Throwing objects in/out bus/window	5 days off the bus with in-school discipline
11.	Hanging out window	5 days/10 days/ 15 days off the bus with in-school discipline
12.	Out of assigned seat	5 days off bus with in-school discipline
13.	Damaging or tampering with bus equipment/seats/windows	Suspension from bus until $75 fine and damage restitution has been satisfied/remainder of the year off bus

When a student has been removed from the bus, the transportation director will notify all bus drivers. No driver should allow a suspended student to ride on a Clarke County School bus until suspension has been served.

CHANGES OF TRANSPORTATION

There will be no transportation changes made by the office for any student. Parents must send written verification of a transportation change to the office by 8:00 a.m. to be approved by the school principal or designee. In an emergency situation, the parent or guardian may come by the office thirty (30) minutes prior to dismissal.

CAR RIDERS AND WALKING STUDENTS

Dismissal for car riders is **2:40 PM** and walkers is **2:50 PM.** These students are expected to clear the campus by **3:00 PM.** No supervision is available after **3:00 PM.** Teachers are normally dismissed at that time. **While waiting, students should refrain from rough housing and all inappropriate activities.**

CHECK-IN/CHECK-OUT FROM SCHOOL

1. Students who leave school for any reason must check-out through the principal's office.
2. To check-out a student, ID will be required.
3. Parental verification will be necessary for students to check out of school.
4. Only those individuals listed in the PowerSchool system will be allowed to check-out the student.
5. The reason for the request will determine whether their absence from any part of the school day will be excused.
6. Students with excused check-outs will be permitted to do make-up work.

CHILD FIND

What is Child Find?

Child Find is a statewide effort by the Alabama State Department of Education and the Department of Rehabilitation Services to locate, identify, and evaluate children with disabilities from birth to age 21.

How Does Child Find Work?

Early Intervention and Special Education Services work closely with community service agencies, parents, and local school systems to locate children with disabilities.

Why Child Is Find Important?

It helps the child, the family, and the provider to plan appropriate services and link families to services for students meeting eligibility requirements in the following disability areas:

- Hearing Impaired
- Deaf-Blindness
- Intellectual Disability
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Emotional Disability
- Speech and Language Impairment
- Visual Impairment
- Specific Learning Disabilities
- Autism
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Developmental Delay

If you know of any children with disabilities or suspected disabilities, you may contact any special education teacher or Angie Jordan at 155 West Cobb Street, Grove Hill, AL 36451 or 251-250-2155.

Child Nutrition

If a student graduates, withdraws or leaves our district for any reason and does not request the balance left in their school lunch account before doing so, I give permission for that money to be transferred to another account.

Clarke County will be participating in CEP, Community Eligibility Provision, again in the school year 2026-2027. All students will be able to eat breakfast and lunch at no cost. Meal prices for extra items and second meals are listed on our website.

LINQ Connect, previously known as Titan Family Portal, the online student account management system, will be available to add funds to your student's account. They will be able to use their accounts for A La Carte and extra sales. To sign up for LINQ Connect, go to *https://linqconnect.com/main* and follow the online instructions.

CLARKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Classification of Violations

Violations of the Code of Conduct are grouped into three classifications of minor, intermediate, and major offenses. Each classification is followed by a disciplinary procedure to be implemented by the principal or designees.

Procedures for the Administration of Formal Disciplinary Action

In the following classes of violations and disciplinary procedures, it is understood that the principal or designee shall hear the student's explanation and consult further with school personnel, if necessary, before determining the classification of the violation. Each classroom teacher will deal with general classroom disruptions by taking in-class disciplinary action, by making a personal call to the parent(s) or guardian(s) when feasible, and/or by scheduling conferences with the parent(s) or guardian(s) and other school staff. Only when the teacher has spoken with a parent and the action taken by the teacher is ineffective or the disruption is severe, should the student be referred to the principal or designee. Failure to bring notebook, pencil, books, or required materials and equipment to class, refusal to do homework, or refusal to work in class is not cause for disciplinary referrals unless this has become constant. School personnel should notify parents or guardians of students who consistently exhibit poor work habits and may use in-class disciplinary measures and/or the grading process to attempt to correct the problem.

Minor Offenses – Class 1

1.01 **Excessive distraction of other students:** Any conduct and/or behavior, which is disruptive to the orderly education process in the classroom or any similar grouping for instruction. Example: talking excessively, interrupting class functions, provoking other students.

1.02 **Illegal organizations:** Any participating in fraternities, sororities, and secret societies.

1.03 **Threats, harassment, or intimidation of a student:** The intentional, unlawful threat by word or act to do violence to another student, coupled with an apparent ability to do so, and doing some act which creates a well-founded fear in the person that such harm is likely.

1.04 **Gambling:** Any participation in games of chance for money and/or other things of value.

1.05 **Tardiness/Reporting late to school or class**

1.06 **Use of profane or obscene language**
1.07 **Non-conformity to dress code**
1.08 **Minor disruption on a school bus**
1.09 **Inappropriate public display of affection:** Is interpreted as any physical contact such as hand holding, arms around waists, hugging, kissing, etc.
1.10 **Unauthorized absences from school or class**
1.11 **Intentionally providing false information to a Board Employee:** including, but not limited to forgery of parent's name; intentionally providing false information to parents, such as changing grades.
1.12 **Repeated refusal to complete class assignments and failure to bring required instructional materials to class.**
1.13 **Vehicular violations**
1.14 Any other violation which the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this category

Administrative Responses – Class I

Administrative responses for Class I violations include but are not limited to the following:

- Student conference
- Parent contact(s)/conference(s)
- After-school detention
- Suspension from school/bus
- Out-of-school not to exceed three (3) days (not to exceed a cumulative total of ten (10) days per semester for non-special education students and ten (10) days per academic year for special education students)
- Corporal punishment
- Assignment to in-school suspension

Intermediate Offenses – Class II

2.01 Defiance of Board employee's authority: Any verbal or non-verbal refusal to comply with lawful and reasonable direction or order of a Board employee.
2.02 Possession, control, or use of tobacco products: The use of any tobacco products while under school jurisdiction.
2.03 Battery upon students: The actual and intentional pushing or striking another student against the will of the other or the intentional causing of bodily harm to an individual.
2.04 Fighting: Any physical conflict between two or more individuals.
2.05 Vandalism: Intentional and deliberate action resulting in injury or damages of less than $200.00 to public property or the real or personal property of another

2.06 Stealing-Larceny-Petty Theft: The intentional, unlawful taking and/ or carrying away of public, real, or personal property valued at less then $100.00 belonging to or in the lawful possession or custody of another.

2.07 Possession of stolen property with the knowledge that it is stolen

2.08 Threats-Extortion: The verbal or by a written or printed communication, malicious threatening of injury to the person, property or reputation of another, with the intent to extort money or any pecuniary advantage whatsoever, or with the intent to compel the person so threatened or any other person to do any act or refrain from doing any act against his/her will. **NOTE:** Completion of the threat, either by the victim, constitutes a **Class III** offense.

2.09 Trespassing: The willful entering or remaining in any structure, conveyance, or property without being authorized, licensed or invited, is warned by an authorized person to depart and refuses to do so.

2.10 Possession of fireworks or firecrackers

2.11 Offensive touching of another person

2.12 Written or verbal propositions to promote sexual acts

2.13 Use of obscene manifestations (verbal, written, physical) toward another person

2.14 Directing obscene or profane language to a Board employee or visitor: Verbal assault upon a Board employee or visitor

2.15 Leaving premises without permission

2.16 Cheating-serious or repeated violations

2.17 Any other offense, which the principal may reasonably deem to fall within this category.

Administrative Responses – Class II

Administrative responses for Class II violations include but are not limited to the following:

- Parent contact(s)/conferences
- Corporal punishment
- Out-of-school suspension
- Assignments to Alternative School
- Assignments to in-school suspension

Major Offenses – Class III

3.01 Drugs and alcohol: Unauthorized possession, transfer, use, or sale of drugs, drug paraphernalia, or alcoholic beverages. In accordance with Legislative Act 94-783, a person/student who unlawfully sells, furnishes, or gives a controlled substance to a minor may be liable for injury or damages or both.

3.02 Arson: The willful and malicious burning of any part of a building or its contents. In accordance with Legislative Act 94-819, parents are liable for damages to school property caused by their child/children.

3.03 Battery upon Board employee: The threatening by word or act or the unlawful and intentional touching or striking of a Board employee against his or her will, or the intentional causing of bodily harm to a school Board employee. In accordance with Legislative Act 94-794, it is a felony to assault teachers or employees of the Board.

3.04 Robbery: The taking of money or other property from the person which may be the subject of larceny from the person or custody of another by force, violence, assault, or putting in fear of the same.

3.05 Stealing/Larceny/Grand Theft: The intentional unlawful taking and carrying away of property valued at $100.00 or more belonging to or in the lawful possession or custody of another.

3.06 Burglary of school property: The breaking into, entering, or remaining in a structure or conveyance with the intent to commit an offense therein during the hours the premises are closed to the public.

3.07 Criminal mischief: Willful and malicious injury or damages at or in excess of $200.00 to public property, or real property belonging to another.

3.08 Possession of firearms: Any firearm (including a starter gun) which will, or is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffle or firearm silencer; any destructive device. In accordance with Legislative Act 94-817, the possession of a deadly weapon on school premises with the intent to do bodily harm is a **Class C** felony.

3.09 Discharging of any pistol, rifle, shotgun, air gun, pellet gun, or BB gun or any other device on school property.

3.10 Possession of weapons: Any knife, metallic knuckle, tear gas gun, chemical weapon or device, or any weapon, instrument, or other object capable of causing bodily harm, or with the intent to be armed. In accordance with Legislative Act 94-817, the possession of a deadly weapon is a **Class C** felony.

3.11 Bomb threats: Any such communication(s) directed to a school employee, which has the effect or interrupting the educational process.

3.12 Explosives: Preparing, possessing, or igniting on school board property explosives likely to cause serious bodily injury or property damage.

3.13 Sexual acts: Acts of sexual nature including, but not limited to battery, intercourse, an attempted rape, or rape.

3.14 Aggravated battery: Intentionally causing great bodily harm, disability, or permanent disfigurement; use of deadly weapon.

3.15 Inciting or participating in major student disorder: Leading, encouraging, or assisting in major disruptions, which result in destruction or damage of private or public property, or personal injury to participants or others.

3.16 Unjustified activation of a fire alarm system

3.17 Igniting fireworks and/or firecrackers

3.18 Other offenses reasonably likely to cause great harm to person or property or seriously disrupt the educational process including, but not limited to the following:

A. Aggravated fighting involving two (2) or more participants under any of the following circumstances: (All parties involved in a fight are subject to disciplinary action).
   1. when fight has reasonable potential to cause injury to those other than the participants;
   2. which is premeditated by one or more of the participants;
   3. which occurs in congested areas, during class changes, or where other students, employees, parents or the public are subjected to potential harm as a result of the fight;
   4. which occurs in a classroom or during instructional time;
   5. which continues despite specific contemporaneous instructions to cease by a teacher or other adult acting in an official capacity; or
   6. which occurs on a school bus while the school bus is in motion.

B. Participating in an incident that is gang related, gang motivated, or that gang activity participation or motivation is a contributing factor to the incident that puts student learning or participation in school activities at risk.

C. Any act on a school bus that has the potential to cause great harm to the passengers, driver or property surrounding the bus.

D. Students trespassing on another school campus.

E. Any other violation which the principal may reasonably deem falls in this category.

<u>Administrative Responses – Class III</u>

Administrative responses for **Class III** violations include but are not limited to the following:

- Out-of-school suspension
- Assignment to in-school suspension
- Expulsion
- Legal action

CONDUCT

Students are expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen at all times, to be clean in person and language, and to be respectful and courteous to fellow students, teachers, and school personnel. Students are also expected to regard the property, rights of others, and to aid in the preservation of the building and equipment.

Conduct in Cafeteria

Upon completing breakfast or lunch, students will take their tray, milk cartons, silverware, etc. to dispose of them in the proper place. Students should refrain from leaving food and other waste on the tables and floors. There will be no breaking in the lines. Students who do not abide by the cafeteria policies are subject to being restricted from entering the cafeteria. Commercially prepared foods and drinks must be in a plain bag with no logos or markings bearing the product name or likeness.

Conduct in Halls

When changing classes, students should walk quietly on the right side of the hall. Students should refrain from playing, running, and talking loudly during the changing of classes.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Reasonable corporal punishment (paddling) for misbehavior is permitted by the Clarke County Board of Education. However, if a parent does not want their child paddled, Jackson Middle School will respect their decision. **Any parent or guardian who wishes to prohibit their child from being paddled must come by the main office to sign a form.**

COUNSELING

Individual appointments can be made through the main office. Individual, small, or large group counseling services and referrals are available.

DIGITAL DEVICES

All digital devices including air pods, headphones, ear buds, Smartwatches, etc. are prohibited unless a principal or coach gives a student permission to use them. (See Wireless Communication Devices for more information.)

DISCIPLINARY POLICY

Jackson Middle School adheres to the Clarke County Board of Education's policy regarding student discipline.

Students may be placed in in-school suspension to reduce the number of out-of-school suspensions. A student's behavior while in in-school suspension may result in the increasing or decreasing of in-school suspension days. This will be determined by school administration and/or ISS director.

DRESS CODE

The Clarke County Public School system has a mandatory dress code for all elementary, intermediate, middle, and high schools in the county. **The Uniform Dress Code for Jackson Middle School is as follows and will be in effect for all students:**

- **NAVY BLUE PANTS/SLACKS -** Pleated or regular slacks are acceptable. **NO** blue jeans or corduroys allowed. Slacks must be properly fitted at the waist and have a proper hem. For example, if a student is 32" in the waist, then the pants/slacks should measure 32" in the waist. There will be **NO** oversized slacks allowed. **NO** cargo pants or pants with exterior **pockets** (sewn down or open). **NO** sagging pants.
- **NAVY BLUE SHORTS -** Shorts are to be **NO** shorter than two (2) inches above the bend of the knee (measured in the back of the knee).
- **SHIRTS –** White or purple polo shirts and spirit shirts (Jackson Aggie shirts, club/athletic shirts) will be the only shirts allowed to be worn at Jackson Middle School.
- **SKIRTS/JUMPERS -** Skirts or jumpers will be **NO** shorter than two (2) inches above the bend of the knee (measured in the back of the knee) and longer than four (4) inches above the ankle. **NO FLOOR LENGTH** skirts. A navy blue jumper of the same length will be allowed. Uniform shirts must be worn under the jumper. If "tights" are worn under the skirt, the skirt must remain the proper length.
- **BELTS -** Black or brown leather like belts must be worn with pants, shorts, and skirts with loops. Belts must not be excessive in length and hanging from the waist. After market belt buckles are prohibited (large buckles with names, initials, etc.).
- **SHOES - NO CROCS or OPEN TOED SHOES ARE ALLOWED ON CAMPUS (flip-flops, sandals, etc.). Shoes must also have a closed heel. Tennis shoes/school-approved shoes should be worn from the house to school. If shoes are designed for laces, the laces must be in place, and laces must be tight and tied with pants leg**

pulled over the tops of the shoes. Shoes that have straps must be strapped.

- **SOCKS -** WHITE or NAVY SOCKS MUST BE WORN. (You may only wear ONE pair of MATCHING socks. Do not mix your colors or wear multiple pairs of socks.)
- **JEWELRY -** If necklaces are worn, they must be worn inside of the shirt. They cannot extend above the collar of the shirt or hang over the button opening of the shirt. **Chokers** are also prohibited.
- **No visible body piercings with the exception of wearing earrings will be allowed. (nose, lip, brow, tongue, etc.)**
- **OVERDRESS FOR COLD WEATHER DAYS -** JMS will only allow outerwear that is solid purple, gray, or black in color. A school uniform shirt must be worn under all outerwear. The JMS administration reserves the right to monitor this policy and make modifications if necessary.
- **Hoodies -** Hoodies are allowed. Students are not allowed to have the hood on inside the school building.

- **JACKSON MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE OR PROHIBIT WEAR THAT IS INAPPROPRIATE.**

The following dress or grooming is prohibited:

1. Biking shorts
2. See-through blouses or shirts
3. Halter, tank, or sun tops
4. Sunglasses inside the building
5. Wearing hats, caps in the building (boys and girls)
6. Bare feet, stocking feet, shoes must be worn
7. Picks, combs, rakes, or rollers in hair
8. Distasteful slogans or pictures on shirts
9. Shirt tail worn outside of pants (boys and girls); keep shirts tucked in
10. Mesh jerseys without a T-shirt
11. Mini-skirts, dresses, and shorts that are too tight and shorter than two (2) inches above the knees
12. Sleeveless tops or sweaters (inappropriate exposure) **NO BLOUSES AT ALL**
13. Sweat pants of any type including wind suits
14. Low-riding pants (below waistline)
15. Pants without belts
16. No sweatbands, wristbands, headbands, etc.
17. Extremely tight clothing of any type
18. No facial hair
19. A student may be asked to change their hairstyle if it is deemed inappropriate or disruptive by school administration.

20. No mixing colored socks and wearing multiple pairs of socks in various colors
21. If tights or yoga pants are worn, appropriate length skirt or shorts must be worn.
22. Dress-out day – Some out-of-uniform days will be authorized by administration. **(*See Out-of-Uniform Days; Dress-Down Days)***

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Jackson Middle School offers a variety of extracurricular activities including the scholar's bowl team, peer helpers, Lady Aggies, marching band, concert band, basketball teams, football, baseball, softball, cheerleading, volleyball under JHS, golf under JHS, cross-country under JHS, swimming under JHS, robotics club, beauty reviews, etc. Each organization has its rules for participation. In order for any student to be eligible to participate in any extracurricular activity, he/she must exhibit good conduct. Students who do not follow school policy may be expelled from an organization at the discretion of the club sponsor and the principal. Students are not allowed to get off a bus at any other school without a note from a parent that is signed by the principal.

FIELD TRIP, SPECIAL EVENT, AND ASSEMBLY PARTICIPATION

Field trips are a privilege, not a right. Students are expected to demonstrate good behavior and follow school rules at all times. Code of conduct violations may result in a student being denied the opportunity to participate in field trips or other special activities. The school administration will make the final decision regarding participation.

FIGHTING

Fighting will not be tolerated and violators will be subject to suspensions. Serious offenders shall be referred to juvenile authorities.

FIRE DRILL

When the school's fire alarm sounds, you are to exit the building using the procedures posted in each classroom beside the door.

GANGS

Any type of gang activity is prohibited at Jackson Middle School. The wearing of gang paraphernalia, such as bandannas/rags, gang emblems of any kind, and clothing with gang logos is not allowed.

GIFTED EDUCATION SERVICES

290-8-9-.12 Gifted. (1) Definition. Intellectually gifted children and youth are those who perform or who have demonstrated the potential to perform at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment. These children and youth require services not ordinarily provided by the regular school program. Children and youth possessing these abilities can be found in all populations, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor. --- Alabama Administrative Code

Teachers, counselors, administrators, parents or guardians, peers, the student, or any other individuals with knowledge of the student's abilities may refer a student. All second grade students will be observed as potential gifted referrals. A checklist of gifted *Traits*, *Attributes, and Behaviors,* provided by the *Alabama State Department of Education,* is completed by second grade classroom teachers. The gifted specialist works with students to generate work samples created by the second grade students. This information is then used to determine which second grade students will be referred for the gifted program.

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

Discrimination on the basis of sex, race, age, religious belief, disability, national origin, or ethnic group shall be prohibited in all educational programs and activities of the Clarke County Schools.

The Clarke County School System shall prohibit discrimination against any student on the above basis with respect to his/her participation in the gifted program.

If you have any questions or would like to make a referral, you may contact your child's teacher. You may also contact the Gifted Education Specialist, Mrs. Keller Monet L. Davis, by calling your child's school, or the Special Education Coordinator, Mrs. Angie Jordan, at (251) 250-2155.

HEALTH SERVICES

MEDICATIONS: The Clarke County Board of Education hereby adopts the following policy in regard to the administration by school personnel of **Any** medication to students. Members of the school staff **MAY NOT** administer medication to students. Parents are required to notify the principal or school nurse in writing in the event that a student must **bring medication to school. No student can have medicine of any kind in his/her possession. All medications must be handled through the nurse's office.** Any student having in his/her possession medication other than the specified daily dosage and who furnishes, gives away, or sells any controlled substance enumerated in Schedules I, II, III, IV, and V of the Alabama Uniform Controlled Substance Act; i.e. Act number 107, approved September 16, 1971, may be subject to suspension, probation, or expulsion.

HOMEROOMS

Students are assigned to a homeroom primarily to record their attendance.

HOMEWORK

The purpose of homework is to increase your knowledge of the subject. Homework should be completed as soon as possible after being assigned, rather than being put off until the last minute. After you think you have done your best, take some time and go over it again. Students should review the day's work in each subject after they have completed the homework assignment.

HONOR ROLL

All students are eligible for placement on the school Honor Roll. Students must achieve a grade average of "B" in all subjects in order to be placed on the Honor Roll. The Honor Roll is published at the end of each 9-week grading period.

LEAVING SCHOOL CAMPUS

When a student arrives at school, he/she is not to leave the campus without permission from school officials. A student leaving without permission before regular dismissal time is considered truant.

LOCKDOWN

If a lockdown is initiated, the office will make an announcement through the school intercom system. Students will follow the appropriate procedures. In the event of a lockdown, no one (including parents) will be allowed into the building until the lockdown is completed.

LOCKER USE AND SECURITY

Lockers are provided to keep personal items and valuables secure during the school day. Students are strongly encouraged not to alter or tamper with the locks on their lockers, including "jamming" them to prevent locking. Doing so defeats the purpose of the locker's security and may result in disciplinary action. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items from unlocked or tampered lockers.

These lockers are the property of Jackson Middle School, and the administration has the right to search the locker and its contents at any time. The fee for locker rental is included with the registration fee. The fee must be paid before a locker can be issued. Lockers will be kept neat and clean at all times. This means they must be kept closed and free from rubbish or trash. We intend to keep our halls attractive. Students must do their part to maintain their lockers. Lockers should be closed and locked when not in use. Books or other items may not be placed on top of the lockers. Each grade level determines when students go to lockers.

In an effort to help with school safety and discipline issues, all students will be required to place backpacks, purses, and cellphones in their lockers upon arriving on campus.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost articles are to be turned in by the finder to the office. The loser, upon proper identification, may reclaim the article. After a reasonable period of time, unclaimed items will be donated to charity or discarded.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students who are absent for any reason will be required to make up work missed in each class. Students are expected to contact their teachers to find out what assignments they need to complete**. Students with excused absences have three days to complete homework**. Failure to complete assignments may result in failure for that grading period.

Unexcused Absences

The student whose absence is unexcused is not entitled to make up instructional work or test(s) except when the unexcused period covers a nine weeks or term test which would place the student in danger of failing to obtain a final course credit or being promoted to the next highest grade. A student on external suspension will have absences treated as unexcused.

Parent Excuse Covering Absences

State law requires parents or guardians of students to explain the cause of any absence of students under their control or supervision. Every student returning to school after being absent shall present to the designated school official a written excuse signed by the parent or guardian ***within three school days of the absence***. In accord with State Law and Board policy, the determination of whether an absence is excused or 'unexcused' shall be made by the principal. *Any absence not excused shall be considered unexcused.*

MATH POLICY

Student Placement in Accelerated Math at the Middle School Level

Excerpt from the 2019 Alabama Math Course of Study:
"Accelerated courses have been carefully aligned and designed for middle school students who show particular motivation and interest in mathematics. In this pathway, students meet all the standards of Grade 7, Grade 8, and Algebra I with Probability within the Grade 7 Accelerated and Grade 8 Accelerated courses, thus merging all the standards from three years of mathematics into two years. This enables students to move through the content more quickly. Students who complete this pathway will be prepared to enter Geometry with Data Analysis in Grade 9 and then accelerate directly into Algebra II with Statistics in Grade 10, thus providing them with an opportunity to take additional, specialized mathematics coursework in Grades 11 and 12, such as AP Calculus, AP Statistics, or college dual enrollment classes. Clearly, this pathway will be challenging and should be reserved for Grade 7 students who demonstrate a high level of motivation and interest in studying mathematics."

End of Sixth Grade Year:
Students who take Math 8 Accelerated in the eighth grade will have taken Math 7 Accelerated in the seventh grade; therefore, careful consideration will be given to the placement of students in Math 7 Accelerated. In late

spring, sixth grade teachers will recommend those students who exhibit a high degree of proficiency in mathematics. Criteria to be considered for placement include but are not limited to the following:

- Placement Test
- Student Grades
- Standardized Test Scores
- Teacher recommendations

Students who are recommended will conditionally be placed in Math 7 Accelerated. Students who are not progressing satisfactorily will be placed in regular Math 7.

End of Seventh Grade Year:
In the late spring, Math 7 Accelerated students will be evaluated using the same criteria as above to determine if the student needs to move on to Math 8 Accelerated or needs to be placed in regular Math 8. Students selected will be placed conditionally in Math 8 Accelerated. Students who are not progressing satisfactorily will be moved into regular Math 8. Students who are reassigned will need to take Algebra I with Probability in tenth grade.

End of Eighth Grade Year:
When a student completes Math 8 Accelerated in the eighth grade, a form/letter will be sent home from the guidance office and approved by the teacher with the recommendation of how the student should proceed with their high school credits. A parent signature will be required so that the student can be placed in the proper class at the high school level. It will be explained to the parents of students who have earned less than an "85" in Math 8 Accelerated, that the student will need to take Geometry with Data Analysis in the ninth grade and proceed to take Algebra I with Probability in the tenth grade. Students who have earned at least an "85" in Math 8 Accelerated, will have the opportunity to take Geometry with Data Analysis in ninth grade and proceed straight to Algebra II with Statistics their tenth-grade year which allows these students to have more time to complete more specialized, advanced math courses their eleventh and twelfth grade years.

MEDIA CENTER/LIBRARY

The school library is open from 7:35 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. each day. A Media Specialist is available to assist students in finding materials needed for research, homework, or leisure reading. We encourage the use of the media center as much as possible. Multi-media computer systems and access to the Internet are available for students, with written permission from parents or guardians.

OUT-OF-UNIFORM DAYS (DRESS-DOWN DAYS)

- Students are expected to dress modestly and appropriately at all times, including on out-of-uniform days.
- Clothing must not be excessively tight, revealing, or display offensive language, symbols, or images.
- The school administration reserves the right to prohibit or require a change of attire if clothing is deemed inappropriate or disruptive to the learning environment.
- Students who fail to comply with these guidelines may face disciplinary action and may lose the privilege of participating in future out-of-uniform days.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Conferences can be scheduled by calling the front office or by contacting a teacher. Conferences can be scheduled before or after school or during a teacher's planning period.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

The objective of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is to promote the welfare of all children through a working partnership among parents, educators, and the community at large.

The PTO, in cooperation with teachers and administrators, works to provide worthwhile programs for our students. The PTO provides information to parents on child development, parenting skills, and educational issues through special programs and general meetings.

It is also the aim of the PTO is to be informed regarding educational issues within our school district, to make that information available to all our members, and to work with administrators and teachers to ensure educational excellence for all children.

We encourage everyone, parents and community members alike, who are concerned about the welfare of children to join the PTO as a vehicle for becoming involved in education. We welcome everyone to attend our meetings. Information concerning meetings and events will be sent home prior to the scheduled date and posted on the school marquee in front of the school.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Each student is expected to be responsible for his/her own possessions. Students are advised not to bring large amounts of money to school. They should bring only money they will need for the day. Students should not bring valuables to school. Students are not to bring any type of electronic or hand held video games, CD player, etc. to school. These items will be confiscated and held to the end of the school year. JMS is not responsible for lost, stolen, or misplaced devices.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXEMPTIONS

According to the Alabama State Department of Education, all students K – 8 will be required to take PE with no exceptions. All students must participate in PE. A current doctor's note must be on file with the school nurse for exemption for a student to not participate in PE.

PRESENCE ON ANOTHER SCHOOL CAMPUS

NO student from Jackson Middle School is to be present on a school campus, other than their own, while school is in session, without prior approval of the principal. This applies to all events held at another school.

PROMOTION

In order for a student to be promoted, he/she must complete all requirements for that grade level academically and be in attendance a minimum of 160 days during the school year. Failure to comply or meet these requirements satisfactorily shall result in the student not being able to move to the next grade. Daily attendance is important in maintaining good grades; therefore, we encourage students to strive for perfect attendance. Any student missing more than twenty (20) days will be subject to retention.

READING

Sixth Grade:
Effective with the 2026 – 2027 school year, students will take English Language Arts (ELA) instead of Reading. Please see the district website for the current version of the policy, Section 7.4.5 Promotion, c.6.

REPORT CARDS AND PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports will be sent home mid-quarter in a nine-week grading period. Parents are encouraged to keep up-to-date with grades through the PowerSchool Portal. Report cards will be distributed the week following the end of the grading period. Report cards must be signed and returned to school within five (5) days. If a conference is needed, it must be scheduled through the office. Report cards for the last nine (9) weeks will be sent home on the last day of school with the students. Those not receiving them on that day may pick them up in the office during the summer.

RESTRICTED AREAS

These areas are restricted to students:

1. No congregating or loitering on the front campus or main entrance at any time during the day.
2. No parking or loitering in the streets or in the parking areas.
3. Students are not allowed to sit on the bus during school hours.
4. Students are not allowed in the faculty lounge, faculty restrooms, or office area unless summoned by the administration.
5. Students are not allowed to run, jump, or play on the bleachers.
6. Students are not allowed in the gym unless they are scheduled for a class that period.
7. Students are not to congregate, stand, or block entrances.
8. Students are not allowed to walk across the grass. Use the main entrance walk or sidewalks when entering or leaving classes.
9. Students are not allowed in any area that is not supervised by school personnel.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO)

Jackson Middle School partners with the local police department to provide a School Resource Officer (SRO) on campus. The SRO serves as a resource for students, staff, and parents to help maintain a safe, secure, and orderly learning environment. In addition to ensuring campus safety, the SRO may assist with educational programs, provide mentorship to students, and support the enforcement of laws and school policies. The presence of the SRO reflects the school's commitment to safety, prevention, and positive community relationships.

SCHOOL VISITATION

Maintaining an orderly and safe environment is essential for effective learning. All visitors must enter the building through the front entrance and are required to check in at the main office. Visitors are not permitted to loiter or visit students or staff without prior approval from the office. Video or audio recording on campus is strictly prohibited unless approved by the school administration.

Visitors who become disruptive or behave in an unruly manner will be asked to leave immediately. Failure to comply or any serious disruptions or threats may result in a ban from campus and may lead to possible law enforcement involvement.

Students are not allowed to bring relatives or friends to school. No student from another school will be allowed to visit a student without permission from proper authorities.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Jackson Middle School adheres to the Clarke County Board of Education's policy regarding search and seizure.

SELLING OF ITEMS ON CAMPUS

The selling of non-school products is prohibited on campus. This includes, but is not limited to food, raffle tickets, etc.

SEMESTER EXAM EXEMPTION POLICY

All 7th and 8th grade students must take first semester exams. In order for a student to be exempt from second semester exams, they must meet **both** of the following requirements:

- A yearly average of 90 or above in the class
- No more than five absences for the class for the year. On the sixth absence for the class (excused or unexcused), the student **must** take the exam.

SICK POLICY

- If a student is sent home from school for an illness, then they must be symptom/fever free for 24 hours prior to returning to school.
- Example: If a student checks out of school on Tuesday with a fever, then they will not be allowed to return to school on Wednesday.
- The absence from school **will be excused** as an illness.
- A parent note will still be required for documentation.
- However, if the student is still sick after the 24 hour period of being sent home, a doctor's note may be required.
- The school will adhere to all policies and guidelines set forth by the Alabama Department of Public Health.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

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

Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies should be directed to:

Anna Traweek
Title IX Coordinator
155 West Cobb Street
Grove Hill, AL 36451
251-250-2155
atraweek@clarkecountyschools.org

Angie Jordan
Title II, Special Ed. Coordinator & Section 504
155 West Cobb Street
Grove Hill, AL 36451
251-250-2155
ajordan@clarkecountyschools.org

Federal and State Protected Classes
The regulatory authority for these requirements resides in the following locations:

- Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – 28 CFR Part 35
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 – 34 CFR Part 100
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 – 34 CFR Part 106
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – 34 CFR Part 104
- OCR Guidelines for Eliminating Discrimination in Vocational Education Programs of 1979 – 34 CFR Part 100 Appendix B
- Age Discrimination Act of 1975 – 34 CFR Part 110

STATEMENT OF LIABILITY

The administration and faculty at Jackson Middle School are concerned with your health and safety at school and will take steps to provide a safe learning environment. The administration and faculty are not responsible for accidents or injuries incurred on campus or at any school function.

STUDENT USE OF OFFICE TELEPHONE

Students are not permitted to use classroom telephones. Students should go to the office and contact the secretary if a call needs to be made.

TARDINESS

Students are required to report to their individual schools at the beginning of the school day. Also students are required to be on time for each class. Students cannot be admitted to class without a tardy slip. Teachers reserve the right to handle tardiness to their classes. A student who is late without permission may be assigned a short research paper, work assignment, loss of break, etc. Students who receive three (3) tardies in class or to school will be referred for appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary actions will include the following:

- Student conference
- Parent contact(s)/conference(s)
- Assignment to in-school suspension

Any students reporting to school after 8:00 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. The parent/guardian must sign the admission slip for the student before the student will be allowed to enter class.

TEACHER'S LOUNGE

Students are not permitted in the teacher's lounge. This includes purchasing soft drinks and getting copies from the copier. Any student found doing so may face disciplinary action.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Jackson Middle School adheres to the Clarke County Board of Education's policy regarding technology.

TEXTBOOK POLICIES

Students or their parent/guardian shall be held responsible for all state-owned textbooks received by the student in accordance with Act 221, Alabama Free Textbook law, Section 25. Before textbooks are issued to a student, the parent/guardian must sign a book contract stating that he/she will pay assessed charges for all books that may be damaged or lost by the student. Textbooks will not be issued to students owing for damaged or lost textbooks until payment has been made.

TORNADO/SEVERE WEATHER DRILL

In the event of severe weather, the office will announce for students to go to their designated area.

WEAPONS/DRUGS

Any article that threatens the security, safety, or well being of the students, teachers, or school personnel on the school campus or at a school sponsored activity or interrupts the school program is prohibited. Students must not bring on campus or have in their possession any form of weapon. This includes knives, razor blades, belt buckles, combs, etc. Any material object that is used to physically harm another person is determined a weapon and will be treated as such. The possession of weapons, the use of such weapon, or illegal drug will result in disciplinary action from the Clarke County Board of Education. In cases of student possession or usage of illegal drugs and other dangerous items on campus or at a school sponsored activity, the local law enforcement will be notified of the situation along with the parent and Clarke County Board of Education.

Wireless Communication Devices

A. <u>Possession of Wireless Communication Devices</u> – Students are allowed to bring wireless communication devices into school buildings and onto school grounds. Wireless communication devices include:

- a cellular telephone;
- a tablet computer;
- a laptop computer;
- a pager;

- a gaming device;
- a smart watch;
- Bluetooth headphones; and
- any other portable electronic device that has the capability of exchanging voice, messaging, or other data communication with another electronic device.

The Board is not responsible for the theft, loss, or damage to any wireless communication device brought onto campus by a student.

B. Storage of Devices– Unless one of the exceptions listed below applies, wireless communication devices must be turned off and stored off the student's person in a locker, car, or a similar storage location during the instructional day, which includes:

- when school is open and in session;
- during class time, lunch, transitions between classes, and any non-instructional periods; and
- any other times students are required to do so by the Student Code of Conduct or other school rules or are instructed to do so by school staff.

The Superintendent or designee is authorized to determine appropriate storage locations for such devices at each school.

C. Prohibition on Use and Exceptions –Students cannot use, operate, or possess a wireless communication device during the instructional day except under the following limited circumstances:

- The use, operation, and/or possession of the device is specifically included in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or an Individualized Health Plan.
- The use, operation, and/or possession of the device is for educational or learning purposes under the supervision of school personnel;
- The use, operation, and/or possession occurs during an emergency threatening the life or safety of the student or another person.

The Superintendent or designee is authorized to develop additional guidelines for implementation of these exceptions.

D. Searches–School officials may read, examine, or inspect the contents of any wireless communication device upon reasonable suspicion that the device contains evidence of a violation of Board policy, the Code of Student Conduct, or other school rules, provided that the nature and extent of such examination shall be reasonably related and limited to the suspected violation.

E. Additional Procedures Authorized – The Superintendent or designee is authorized to develop any additional rules necessary to carry out this policy.

F. Disciplinary Action –Any violations of this policy can result in disciplinary action as outlined below.

First Offense: *Wireless Communication Device returned only to parent/guardian.

Second Offense: *Wireless Communication Device confiscated and returned to parent/guardian on the last day of the term. Student assigned to In-School Suspension for three days.

Third Offense: *Wireless Communication Device confiscated and returned to parent/guardian on the last day of the semester. Student suspended from school for one day. Subsequent Offenses: * Electronic Communication Device confiscated and returned to parent/guardian on the last day of the semester. Three days out of school suspension.

* It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to schedule a time with the school administration to retrieve confiscated Electronic Communication Devices.

***Laws of Alabama Relating to Education – Issued by the Alabama State Department of Education*
Source: Clarke County Board of Education
Revised: July 20, 2025