Powell Middle School

Student Handbook

2026-2027

Mission Statement

Powell Middle School is a learning community where we promote individual talents, develop motivated citizens, and realize our fullest potential

Denise Watts, Executive Principal
Ginny Powers, 6th Grade Principal
Dr. Brad Smith, 7th Grade Principal
Glen Price, 8th Grade Principal

Powell Middle School
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Absences, Tardies, & Early Dismissals

In addition to Knox County Board of Education policy J-120, the following procedures are in effect at Powell Middle School:

- All notes regarding absences must be presented to the front office the day the student returns to school. For excused absences, students will be given up to three (3) days to obtain all work, then as many days as they were absent to make up the work, once the work is obtained it is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the teacher for timely completion.
- Students may miss up to ten (10) days, excused, with a note from a parent or guardian. After ten (10) days, all absences will require a note from a doctor.
- Students are expected to be in their homeroom by 8:30 a.m. Tardiness will be recorded as excused or unexcused in the school office.
- **Please note: The front doors are shut at 8:27 a.m. Any student arriving after this time will not have time to reach homeroom by 8:30 a.m. Therefore, the student must go ahead and pick up a tardy slip from the front office.**
- Students who are not seated in their homeroom by 8:30 a.m. and who do not have an excuse written by a doctor or other medical professional will be considered Tardy-unexcused.
- **Once a student has obtained 20 unexcused tardies, he or she will not be allowed to attend dances (formal and informal).**
- Excused tardies must be due to student illness, medical appointment (a note from the doctor must be presented stating circumstances), bus failure, or approval of the principal or assistant principal. A student tardy to school for reasons other than the above will be considered UNEXCUSED.
- If a student must leave during the school day due to illness or medical appointment, a parent/guardian must come to the school office and sign the student out. For your child's safety and protection, **the person checking the student out MUST be on the student's profile and identification must be presented.** No faxes, emails, or phone calls will be accepted for early dismissal or alternative route home.
- Excessive tardiness may result in disciplinary action.
- **Due to the demands of afternoon dismissal in the classrooms and office, we will be unable to call students for early dismissal after 3:00.**
- Students need to check Canvas class pages for work missed due to absences.

In accordance with KnoxCounty Board policy, chronic tardiness and/or early dismissals will result in referral to the social worker.

Activities Exclusion

Many activities are planned each year to enrich the middle school experience for our students. These activities include assemblies, field trips, guest speakers, basketball games, track, cheerleading, dances, clubs, etc. **These activities are considered privileges, and student participation/attendance is based on proper conduct.**

Exclusion from certain or all activities for some period of time may be imposed by the staff or administration on students who fail to conduct themselves appropriately in classes or at previous activities.

If discipline is a criterion for special class events, field trips, etc., the student may be ineligible depending upon set criteria. Students receiving OSS (out-of-school suspension,) are automatically excluded from all school activities on Knox County school property for the duration of the suspension.

Athletics

The only sanctioned sports/events in Knox County middle schools are boys' and girls' basketball, cheerleaders, and boys' and girls' track.

The Powell Community is very fortunate to have a thriving, year-round sports program run by the Knox County Recreation Department. In addition there are many "travel teams," in the area. However, please be aware that these teams, (baseball, softball, football, "Jr. Pro," basketball, swimming, majorettes, golf, volleyball, etc,) are in no way sponsored, approved, governed, or controlled by Powell Middle School or Knox County Schools.

Though many of these teams use the name Powell Middle School, the school system disclaims any affiliation or responsibility for these teams and/or any problems arising from someone's participation with these teams.

Any and all concerns regarding these teams should be made to the coaches involved or the Knox County Recreation Department at 215-6600.

Athlete team members must have and maintain a 2.0 GPA in order to remain eligible for participation in school-sanctioned sports.

All KCS and school policies will be enforced at athletic events.

Students out of school suspended are not allowed to attend after-school functions.
Administration reserves the right to exclude a student for safety/discipline reasons.

Students attending after-school basketball games at 4:30/5:00, are not allowed to leave campus and return unless accompanied by a parent. If there is a late game, 5:30 or later, students must go home and return.

If late pickup, 30 minutes past the conclusion of the activity, becomes a problem, students may be prohibited from attending future after school events.

Backpacks

Backpacks are permitted in the building and in classrooms. Teachers may implement procedures within the classroom that require students to place backpacks in a specific location in their classroom. Students are expected to follow the expectations of the adults in the classroom.

Bus Transportation

See Knox County Bus Code and Expectations Handbook for a full list of district expectations. **Students are only allowed to ride their assigned bus and access their assigned bus stop location except in the event of an emergency. In these situations, a written note, signed by a parent, must be brought to the office prior to 9:00 a.m. An administrator must approve all emergency bus riding changes.** Questions regarding transportation may be directed to the school or transportation at (865) 594-1550.

Cafeteria Expectations/Procedures

Students will enter the cafeteria from the lobby doors. Those students purchasing lunch will fall into the shorter serving line. Students will choose their lunch and enter their student ID number. Tables are

assigned, and students will sit at their assigned table numbers. Once seated, students must raise their hands to ask for any forgotten utensils, condiments, restroom, etc. Students will be allowed to use the restroom after receiving permission and obtaining a restroom pass. Once a student does stand up, the student is not to socialize while walking to obtain needed items. Students may talk to other students at their own table in a reasonable tone/volume voice level. Once students are dismissed, students are expected to pick up their own trash & trays and throw away upon dismissal. Further cleaning may be required before leaving the cafeteria.

Communication

The telephone number at Powell Middle School is (865) 938-9008.

Students may get permission from their teacher to use the office/classroom telephone.

Powell Middle teachers use a variety of methods to keep parents up-to-date on their student's progress (Canvas pages, Aspen, Parent Square, phone calls, e-mail, conferences, etc.). Each teacher, at the beginning of the year, will inform parents of the method(s) he/she will use. You may schedule a parent-teacher conference by contacting the teacher at (865) 938-9008 or via Parent Square/email. Family Portal/Aspen is a service provided to parents so they may check their student's grades at any time via the internet.

Email and ParentSquare tend to be the quickest and best ways to access teachers. Phone contact is limited during the school day due to our focus on instruction. Our goal is to respond to communication within 48 hours, but please know that emergencies and unexpected events sometimes arise that may interfere with this timeline.

For up to date information on current events, please also follow us on Social Media:
Facebook: Powell Middle School (Powell, Tennessee)

Counselors

At Powell Middle School, the School Counseling Department is committed to supporting our students in their academic development, social and emotional development, and college and career readiness. The focus of the school counseling program is to help students be academically prepared for secondary and post-secondary education, to be well-adjusted members of society, to become life-long learners, and to become productive citizens. Counselors are involved in many aspects of student support including individual and group counseling, academic planning and advising, and career exploration. If you have questions regarding these items or your student at PMS, we are happy to speak with you.

Nikki Chopin - nikki.gregory@knoxschools.org
- 6th and 7th Grade Students

Tuyen Tran -tuyen.tran@knoxschools.org
- 7th and 8th Grade Students

Dance Expectations, Policies, & Procedures

All dances at Powell Middle School shall be held in compliance with the following guidelines, which were generated through a process involving the Powell Middle School staff and Administration.

1. **Only Powell Middle School Students** will be admitted unless otherwise announced prior to the

dance. Students who are placed on activities exclusion by the administration for disciplinary and/or academic reasons may not be eligible to attend.

2. Dances will be "lock-in events." After students are admitted to the dance, no student will be permitted to leave until a parent comes to the door and requests a student.
3. Dances shall be held from 3:45 p.m. until 5:45 p.m. unless otherwise approved by the principal and announced in advance. **Supervision of students will end at 6:00 p.m.** Students may be picked up beginning at 5:30 p.m. Those not picked up within 30 minutes of the ending time will not be allowed to attend the next dance. **Chronic or excessive late pickup will result in permanent exclusion from dances.**
4. Administration reserves the right to exclude a student for safety/discipline reasons.
5. **Parents will need to pick up students in front of the cafeteria unless the location of the dance is moved to the gym. At that time, students will be picked up in the regular car rider line.**
6. Inappropriate student conduct will not be tolerated. Students who misbehave or conduct themselves in a manner deemed inappropriate by those supervising the dance, will call their parents and be picked up immediately. Also, since dances are school-sponsored events, these students may be referred to the administration the next school day for disciplinary action, which may include exclusion from future Powell Middle School extracurricular events.
7. School dress code will be enforced per Knox County School policy.
8. **Students who are out-of-school suspended from Powell Middle School or absent without a medical note will not be admitted to the informal dances.**
9. Once a student has obtained 20 unexcused tardies, he or she will not be allowed to attend dances (formal and informal) (see **Attendance, Tardies, & Early Dismissal Expectations**).

Deadlines and Responsibility

Individual teachers, teams, and other school officials at Powell Middle School have the authority and responsibility to impose deadlines for submission of work, notes, permission slips, money, etc. Since one of our goals relates to teaching students responsibility, please do not expect school administration or teachers to extend or ignore a deadline for an individual student. This includes but is not limited to, school forms, school dances, field trip expectations, payments for major (optional) school trips (8th grade, chorus, band, etc.), and 8th-grade dance. When we sponsor an opportunity, we must pay fees/reservations in advance by deadlines, so they must be enforced with students.

Deliveries

Powell Middle does not accept deliveries of outside food, drink, flowers, balloons, etc. at any time.

Discipline Information

The staff of Powell Middle School believes that good behavior and discipline are necessary for an orderly school environment. All students should be provided a safe and secure atmosphere in which to work and grow. Therefore, the staff of Powell Middle, in conjunction with students and parents, will strive to provide the necessary environment that allows students to reach their maximum potential. Our ultimate goal for students who disrupt the learning environment is to encourage a change in behavior so all students may continue with their education.

School administrators are bound by federal, state, and local regulations governing disciplinary matters. These regulations sometimes require that students be treated individually. Also, confidentiality must be protected for all students. If at times it seems that different consequences are applied for similar offenses, please be assured that administrative discretion will be utilized to ensure that all students are treated as fairly as possible. Administrators will consider the individual differences of our students when necessary.

It is considered a breach of confidentiality for us to discuss a student's discipline with anyone other than his/her parents.

At Powell Middle School, misbehavior is categorized into two divisions: Minor and Major Offenses. Minor Offenses are entered into a Discipline Log system, while major referrals will be disciplined according to Knox County School Board Policies.

Some student actions will result in immediate out-of-school suspension. For example, a student caught pantsing (joking or serious) will be suspended out of school no less than two days.

Discipline interventions will be assigned in accordance with KCS Board Policy J-190.

DISCIPLINARY OPTIONS FOR MAJOR OFFENSES

A continuum of restorative interventions: Silent lunch, class and grade level restrictions, Restorative Learning Center (RLC), and out-of-school suspension (OSS) are used at Powell Middle School as disciplinary options. Silent lunch and class and grade level restrictions are used for the most minor infractions. RLC is used for minor violations wherein it is decided that this administrative action is more appropriate than an OSS. Students in RLC are counted present and receive work. Students serving OSS will be allowed to obtain assignments and have the opportunity to make-up assignments. It is the student's responsibility to obtain these assignments and have them submitted in a timely manner as determined by the teacher.

Fighting

The faculty and administration of Powell Middle School consider student fighting a serious violation of conduct expectations. Fighting endangers the health and safety of the participants as well as by-standers and constitutes a major disruption of the educational process. ***Therefore, students who fight or entice others to fight are subject to immediate suspension from school. Enticing or encouraging physical violence may include (but not limited to) video recording or photographing others in conflict.*** Repeat offenders will face increasingly longer and progressive suspension for each incident.

Students who are faced with a fight or potential fight are to seek adult assistance immediately (even if that means coming directly to the office) rather than continue the conflict or retaliate. ("He/she hit me first" will NOT be considered a valid excuse.) Students who incite (this includes videoing/photographing) others to fight will face suspension from school as well as those actually fighting. If a fight occurs, students not involved in the altercation should immediately sit down in the closest chair or floor. For further information regarding Discipline and Major Misbehavior Offenses, please see the Knox County Board of Education Misbehaviors and Disciplinary Policy. J-190

Vaping/E-Cigarettes

Students of any age are forbidden to use or possess electronic cigarettes (vapor) while at school or while participating in any school-sponsored activity, at school or away. Upon the first offense, the student will receive a minimum suspension of at least two days and complete a KCS vaping prevention course; upon additional offenses, the student will receive a minimum of three days suspension, may be suspended from school indefinitely, and may be subject to alternative placement. KCSO may cite the student in violation of the tobacco policy to juvenile court.

Zero-Tolerance (J-194)

In order to ensure a safe and secure learning environment free of drugs, violence and dangerous weapons, any student who engages in the following behaviors shall be removed from the assigned school for a period of not less than one (1) calendar year. And shall be offered an alternative placement to complete schoolwork. The Director of Schools has the authority to modify this suspension requirement on a case-by-case basis.

Zero-tolerance acts are as follows:
Any student who while at a school bus stop, on a school bus, on school property or while attending any school event or activity:

(a) unlawfully possesses a legend drug or any other controlled substance;1 or
(b) knowingly possesses a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921; 2 or
(c) commits aggravated assault or, commits assault and intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causes bodily injury, on a teacher, principal, a School Security Officer (SSO), a teaching assistant, or any other employee of the school system, or a School Resource Officer (SRO); 1 or
(d) threatens mass violence on school property or at a school-related activity pursuant to T.C.A. § 39-16-517;1 or
(e) is in possession of an explosive or incendiary device.

Assault

Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly committing an unprovoked physical attack on another student. Minor physical contact, such as pushing or shoving, does not constitute assault. A child may not receive the same disciplinary consequence for their involvement in an altercation if the school administrator determines that they acted in self-defense to protect themselves from physical harm. (TCA 49-6-3401) Response E may only be used if the attack was premeditated and if the student committing the act presents an ongoing safety risk to others. When Response E is used, evidence of premeditation and safety risk must be listed in the discipline referral.

Dress Code Policy

In ALL cases of dress code violation, the student is required to:

- Fix the infraction by changing clothes
- If wearing a hat or other headgear, leave their hat with an administrator
- Comply with the KCS dress code policy for the remainder of the school year

The parent may be contacted. If dress code violations continue to occur, a student may be subject to additional disciplinary measures as described in **Policy J-190** "Misbehaviors and Disciplinary Options."

~ Knox County School Board Policy J-260: DRESS CODE ~

"The following standards will be observed in all Knox County Middle and High Schools:

1. Pants must be worn at the waist. No sagging allowed.

2. Shirts, blouses, and dresses must completely cover the abdomen, back, and shoulders and must have sleeves. Shirts or tops must cover the waistband of pants, shorts, or skirts with no midriff visible. Low-cut blouses, shirts, or tops or extremely tight tops, tube tops, or any top that exposes cleavage are prohibited.

3. Head apparel, except for religious or medical purposes, must not be worn inside the school building.

4. Footwear is required and must be safe and appropriate for indoor and outdoor activity.

5. Clothing and accessories such as backpacks, patches, jewelry, and notebooks must not display (1) racial or ethnic slurs/symbols, (2) gang affiliations, (3) disruptive, vulgar, or sexually suggestive language or images; nor, should they promote products which students may not legally buy; such as alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs.

6. Skirts, dresses, and shorts must be ***beyond*** mid-thigh length.

7. Sleepwear, pajamas, and/or blankets cannot be worn in school.

8. Prohibited items include (1) large, long and/or heavy chains, (2) studded or chained accessories, (3) sunglasses, except for health purposes, (4) sleepwear, and (5) skin-tight outer materials without appropriate coverage.

The school administration reserves the right to determine whether the student's attire is within the limits of decency and modesty. Any student not attired in accordance with this policy shall be subject to correction of the violation. If a correction cannot be made, the student shall be subject to additional disciplinary measures as described in Policy J-190 "Misbehaviors and Disciplinary Options."

Emergencies/Drills

Powell Middle School will conduct safety drills through the school year. These drills include, but are not limited to, fire drills, disaster drills, random searches, lockdowns, and evacuations. Students will follow all PMS and KCS policies and procedures during these drills and will listen to adult instructions. Student cell phone usage is not allowed during drills. If a true emergency occurs, parents will be notified according to KCS policies and procedures.

Grades & Assignments

Teachers will provide a syllabus for their classes at the beginning of the year. Please review with your student the class curriculum, expectations, teacher grading/assignment policies, and supplies/materials needed for class.

Students caught cheating or using unauthorized assistance/collaboration may have their assignment grade lowered or disciplinary action.

Students earn grades, which are available on Aspen's Parent Portal. Progress reports are officially posted every 4 ½ weeks throughout the year. Please note that 9-week, semester, and year-end grades are cumulative from each grading period. These grades that are officially posted may or may not be the same as a daily snapshot you may view from Aspen due to timing of grade entries, weighting of assignments, and appropriate grading period assessments.

Aspen

ASPEN is a service provided to parents so that they may check their student's grades at any time via internet access. If you need assistance with your username or password, please contact the Main Office at 938-9008 or the Technology Help Desk at 594-1830.

This is a “live” program so the grades seen on ASPEN are the most current. Please understand that teachers do not enter grades every day.

Grading Scale

90-100- A
80-89- B
70-79- C
60-69- D
59 and below- F

Concerns

If you have concerns regarding your child’s academic performance or behavior, please begin with your child’s teacher. You may call and leave a message or email/Parent Square the teacher. If you still have concerns after contacting or meeting with the teachers, please call or email the grade-level administrator.

Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying/Cyberbullying/Hazing

Knox County Schools prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyber-bullying. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying is conduct that disrupts both a student’s ability to learn and a school’s ability to educate students in a safe and orderly environment. All Knox County School’s staff is responsible for ensuring this is faithfully implemented in all areas under their purview or direct supervision. “Cyber-bullying” means bullying undertaken through the use of electronic devices. “Harassment, intimidation, or bullying” means any act that substantially interferes with a student’s educational benefits, opportunities or performance.

If the act takes place off school grounds, at any school-sponsored activity, on school-provided equipment or transportation or at any official school bus stop, the act has the effect of:

- Physically harming a child or damaging a student’s property
- Knowingly placing a student or students in reasonable fear of physical harm to the student or damage to the student’s property
- Causing emotional distress to a student or students
- Individuals or groups of individuals participating in harassment, intimidation, or any form of threatening behavior, including but not limited to, throwing gang signs or signals and tagging;
- Creating a hostile educational environment or if the act takes place off school property or outside of a school-sponsored activity, it is directed specifically at a student or students and has the effect of creating a hostile educational environment or otherwise creating a substantial disruption to the education environment or learning process.

Hazing is the use of embarrassing and often dangerous or illegal activities by a group to initiate new members. Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-2-120, hazing means, any intentional or reckless act in this state, on or off LEA property, by one (1) student acting alone or with others, that is directed against any other student that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of that student or that induces or coerces a student to endanger that student’s mental or physical health or safety

Students who feel they are being harassed, bullied, hazed, or intimidated may report this concern to any teacher or school administrator or the office of the Superintendent using any means of communication with which they feel comfortable. To view this policy in its entirety visit: HERE J-211.

Inappropriate Items

Many items that middle school students possess are inappropriate to bring to school. Such items may include electronic devices, excessive amounts of money, skateboards, cameras, toys, jewelry, and other expensive items, trading cards, playing cards, certain magazines, stuffed toys/animals, blankets, curling irons, etc. These may also include: emotional support inanimate objects, fidgets larger than what will fit in one hand and/or make noise, and any other items that may distract from the learning environment. If brought to school, these items may be taken up by any staff member and held until a parent/guardian picks up the item(s). In addition, if students choose to bring these types of items to school, Powell Middle School will NOT be responsible for them nor be obligated to investigate loss/theft/damage to them. All unclaimed, confiscated items are subject to loss or donation one week after the end of the school year.

Lockers

Lockers are the property of Knox County Schools and are subject to search. Students are to take care of and use their assigned lockers only (only magnetic decorations on the inside of the locker are permitted). Students are not permitted to share lockers. Any exterior decorations are NOT permitted. Students are allowed access to their lockers upon arrival, before lunch, and before dismissal. Students wishing to use a locker need to complete this FORM from August 11-28, 2026. Applications will not be accepted after August 28, 2026. Once the locker form is submitted, the student will then purchase a lock from the school for $7.00 on Give Backs. Locks must be on lockers at all times.

Lunch

All information and applications for KCS lunch programs are available online through the Knox County Schools Nutrition page. Information on this page includes lunch payment, free/reduced application, menus, etc.

Powell Middle is a CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) school for the 2026-2027 school year. This means that every student will be eligible for a free breakfast and lunch each day. Students may still pack their lunches if they wish.

Related Arts (Band, Advanced Art, Chorus)

Advanced Art, Band, and Chorus are year-long Related Arts Classes. If a student signs up for these classes, he/she is expected to remain in the class with all required equipment for the entire year.

Remember that by taking Advanced Art, Band, or Chorus, a student will reduce the number of other related arts classes available during the school year. An additional fee may be charged for these classes.

Sale of School Items

School pictures, yearbooks, etc., are available at appropriate times of the year. The price of these items is determined yearly by the cost of production. Students are not permitted to sell private items at school, as per school board policy.

School Fees

It is necessary for us to assess our students' school fee. The standard Knox County Middle School Fee for

the 2026-2027 school year is $35. We will allocate the fee money in the following manner:

Technology/School Materials Fee **$20.00** (Technology and non-consumable materials and equipment, calculators and batteries, etc.)

Instructional Support Fee **$15.00** (Publications and other consumable materials to support (class work in all subjects)

Total Fee= $35.00

*No other fee will be charged for core subjects.

Additional classes, activities, and clubs that students elect such as high school credit-bearing courses, band, chorus, year-long art, basketball, cheerleading, dances, etc. may require additional fees since they are "elective" courses and/or activities.

Please send in your fee money to your child's homeroom teacher as soon as possible. Students may pay via check (written out to Powell Middle School). Or, for your convenience, you may also pay by clicking on the following link: GiveBacks

- How to Pay Online - English
- How to Pay Online - Spanish

School Hours

- School hours begin at 7:30 a.m. with Panther Pause, homeroom at 8:00 a.m., and first period at 8:30 a.m. School dismisses at 3:30 p.m.
- Doors will be unlocked at 7:30 am. Please do not leave students unattended before this time as no supervision will be provided until 7:30 am.
- All students must be picked up by 4:00 pm. Any students remaining after 4:00 pm will be escorted back inside the building. Please keep in mind that school staff contracts end at 3:45 pm, so please be respectful and pick up students on time.
- School office hours are 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.
- Half-Day dates are below. Students will be dismissed at 12:00 pm.
    - September 16, 2026
    - November 18, 2026
    - January 27, 2027
    - March 24, 2027

School Pictures and Yearbooks

School pictures will be taken for the Yearbook in the fall. Information will be sent home via students approximately 2 weeks before. Yearbooks will be for sale online and in person throughout the year. This will be posted at school, announced on morning and afternoon announcements, Parent Square, Powell Middle Facebook, and Powell Middle website. and yearbooks are available at various times throughout the year. The price of these items is determined yearly by the cost of production. If you have questions, please contact the school to speak with the yearbook sponsor, Ms. Longmire.

Student Searches

Any principal, or his or her designee, having reasonable suspicion for a search may search any student, place or thing on school property or in the actual or constructive possession of any student during any organized school activity off campus, including buses, if he receives information which would cause a reasonable belief that the search will lead to the discovery of:

1. Evidence of any violation of the law;
2. Evidence of any violation of school rules or regulations or proper standards of student or faculty conduct;
3. Any object or substance which, because of its presence, presents an immediate danger of harm or illness to any person.

Please note that it is Powell Middle School policy to search students out of area or if more than one student is in a bathroom stall.

KCS School Board Policy that addresses searches is J-200.

Snacks/Drinks/Etc

Snacks, drinks, etc. are permitted only with permission of staff/administration. Individual teachers will have the final decision on whether these food items may be consumed in their classroom. Violators will face disciplinary action.

Students may bring a water bottle to school.

Anything in a glass container is prohibited.

Special Education/504 Services

Knox County Schools provides a continuum of services for students who qualify for special education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act. If you feel your child might require special services and want Knox County Schools to provide services, contact the school to which your child is zoned.

NOTE: Laws/regulations pertaining to IDEA/504 students may affect some Powell Middle School policies/procedures.

Student Schedules

Schedules are available on Aspen's Parent Portal. Printed copies will also be provided for students the first day of school. Please know that schedules are subject to change within the first weeks of school due to student needs and enrollment. Academic assignments for students are determined using various data and KCS guidelines. Information considered for academic placements includes, but are not limited to: previous placements, teacher recommendations, standardized assessments, universal screenings, IEPs, 504s, the need to balance classes, and other considerations as deemed appropriate by administration.

Walkers and Car Riders

Students will be admitted into the building at 7:30 a.m. and will be released to the front entrance for dismissal at 3:30 p.m. Parents should *not* drop off or pick up students in the bus rider lanes, Shropshire Blvd., U.S. Post Office, or any staff parking lot.

The car rider line and lower parking lot are the only acceptable areas for student drop-off.

The car rider lane is the only acceptable area for afternoon pick-up. Students are only able to enter the car under the awning area, not in front of the cafeteria windows.

In addition, parents who choose to park and pick up their student MUST park in an appropriate empty parking space and meet their student at the front entrance. Parents, please do not pull up behind and block behind any car for any amount of time. If this becomes an issue, the parking lots will be completely closed off. We realize the heavy traffic at drop-off/pick-up times, so plan accordingly by allowing extra time during peak times. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Please be aware that supervision for students awaiting their afternoon ride ends at 4:00 p.m. After 4:00, for safety reasons, students must wait for parents in the front lobby. Walkers are expected to leave the campus immediately upon being released at bus call/walker/rider bell. Students may not leave with a different bus group, car/walker/rider bell unless a parent note is signed by the administration by 9:00 a.m. the morning of the change.

Car riders are not to be dropped off or picked up at the U.S. Post Office, or along Shropshire Blvd. This is per the Knox County School Security, the U.S. Post Office, and Knox County Sheriff's Office.

Use of Wireless Communication Devices in School

Wireless communication devices include, but are not limited to, cell phones, wireless earbuds/headphones, glasses, and smartwatches.

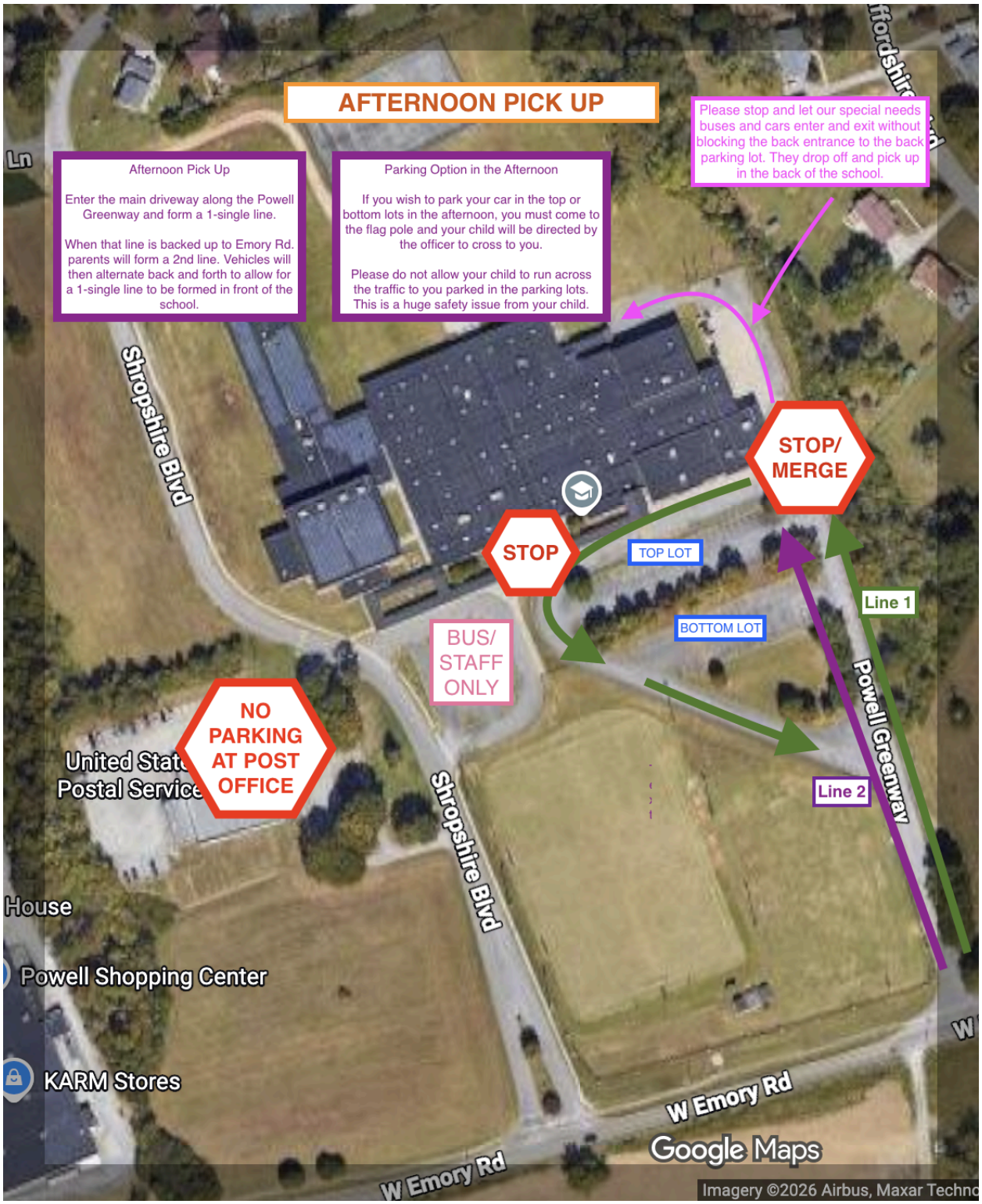
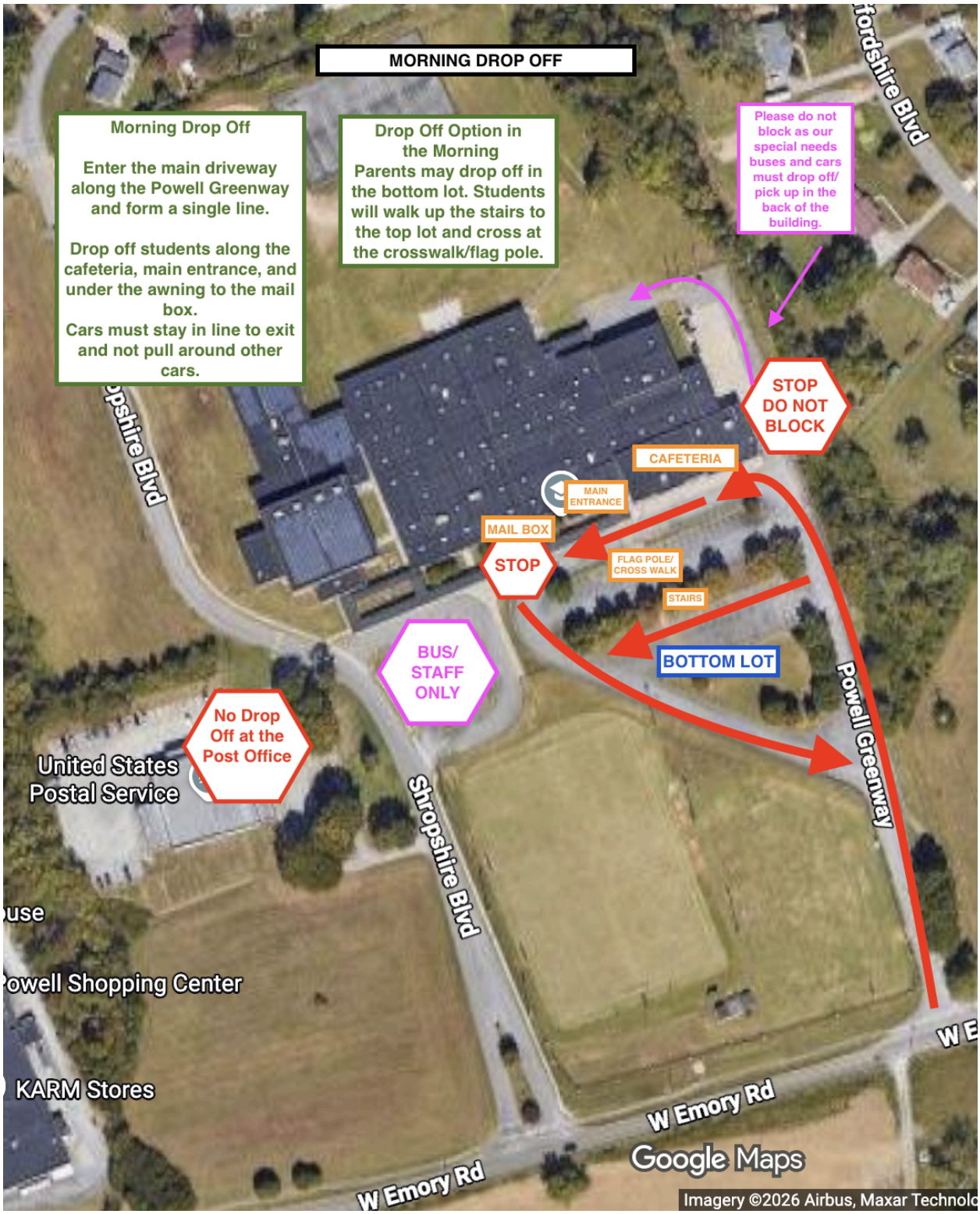
Wireless communication devices (WCDs) must be turned off before entering the building beginning at 7:30 am. Upon arrival, WCDs must be in the off mode (not on silent or vibrate) and put away for the entire day, either in the student's backpack or a secured locker. The WCD may not be stored on the student's person. WCDs may be turned back on upon exiting the building after 3:30 pm.

Note about students' WCDs – We understand that parents want to have instant access to their students; however, students are not allowed to use their WCDs during the school day except for approved educational purposes, as per KCS policy. This protects the educational environment. **Please help us by not expecting your student to read and/or respond to texts and/or phone calls during the school day.** If you need to contact your student, please call the front office at 865-938-9008.

Powell Middle School procedures for inappropriate use or storage of a WCD will result in the teacher immediately collecting the device. The grade-level administrator will collect the WCD. For the device to be returned to the student, a parent/guardian must pick it up at the school. Parents/guardians will be notified via ParentSquare. Repeated use of WCDs will result in continued device confiscation accompanied by progressive disciplinary actions.

For the entire board policy please reference J-240.

AFTERNOON PICK UP



MORNING DROP OFF