



Holston

STUDENT HANDBOOK

SCHOOL YEAR 2026 - 2027

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Dear Holston Middle School Student:

The administration and the faculty at Holston Middle School are excited about the opportunity to work with you this year. As we begin the school year, it is important for you to take some time to familiarize yourself with the expectations and the requirements of the Knox County School System and Holston Middle School. The student handbook is a valuable resource for you and your parents. We have done our best to determine what you will need to know, as well as what you would like to know to make this a very successful year at HMS.

The ultimate purpose of education is to help each student become a successful member of society and to develop and accept the responsibilities and the obligation of good citizenship. It is our desire at HMS that students will work hard to achieve academic success and will participate in the many activities offered at this school.

OUR MISSION

High Standards

Motivated Students

Striving for Excellence

OUR VISION

Holston Middle School champions a culture of excellence, innovation, and curiosity by providing a student-centered space where learning is prioritized. Our passionate staff and stakeholders collaborate to create engaging opportunities that empower students to expand their problem-solving and critical thinking skills and to confidently face new experiences, in preparation for the next steps in their education.

OUR HISTORY

Holston Middle School serves students in the Gibbs, Fulton, Austin-East, Central, and Carter school communities. In 1991, Holston High School closed and was reprogrammed as a middle school. That same year, Gibbs Middle School, a separate wing of the original high school, was closed, and Gibbs students as well as those in the northeast edge of the city blended together to become the diverse community we know today as Holston Middle School. In Fall 2018, Holston experienced another rezoning to include students in the Burlington and Chilhowee Hills areas. Historically, Holston boasts strong STEM and arts programs, athletic teams, and academic growth. For 30 years, Holston Middle School Hurricanes have exhibited the scholarship, leadership, and citizenship necessary to succeed in high school and beyond.

HOLSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

600 N. Chilhowee Drive

Knoxville, TN 37924

865-594-1300 (phone)

865-594-4429 (fax)

<http://knoxschools.org/holstonms>

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Amber Roberts, Principal

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Sara Greene, 8th-Grade Principal (Fall 2026)

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Darrian Jefferson, 8th-Grade Principal (Spring 2027)

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Allison Mullins, 7th-Grade Asst. Principal

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Jim Wolfenbarger, 6th-Grade Asst. Principal

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COUNSELORS

Taylor Branson, 8th-Grade Counselor, 7th
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Hannah Roberts, 6th-Grade Counselor, 7th
Grade Counselor Last Names A-L

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FRONT OFFICE

Gustina Miller, Lead Secretary

Angela Murray, Bookkeeper

Hope Carr, Front Office Secretary

FACULTY

Please call the main office number (594-1300) or email teachers directly at
firstname.lastname@knoxschools.org

MISCELLANEOUS

KCS Transportation Office	594-1550
KCS Central Office	594-1800
KCS Superintendent's Office	594-1620
KCS Transfer Office	594-1506
KCS Health Services	594-3643

COMMUNICATION

Holston Middle School is a Personalized Learning Environment school that utilizes 1:1 technology to transition to student-centered instruction, promote student engagement, and allow for personalized learning to occur. All of our students are issued a Chromebook to use in class and at home. Learning for Holston students can occur anywhere at any time.

HMS will do “whatever it takes” to achieve success! We can’t do that without the voice and participation of our friends and families. Here are some of the ways that you can stay connected to HMS by Internet or app:



[Holston Middle School Site](#) (Link)



canvas

[Canvas Learning Website](#) (Link)



[Aspen Grade Portal](#) (Link)



[Facebook](#) (Link)



Instagram: @holstonmiddle



X: @holstonmiddle



[ParentSquare](#) (Link)

[StudentSquare](#) (Link)

GRADE REPORTING AND GRADING SCALE

All class grades are cumulative, representing all class work from the beginning of the course to the date of the report. Each successive report is not the average of previous grade reports; rather, it represents the compiled scores of all daily lessons, homework, projects, quizzes, examinations, and other classroom assignments during the entire 22, 45, 67, or 90 days covered by the report. Progress reports and report cards will be published within 5 days of the end of the grading period. Printed copies will be distributed after each semester; all other progress reports will be published online in Aspen.

Grade Percentage Range

A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	50 - 59*

The Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment (TCAP) results will compose 15% of final grades in math, reading/language arts, science, and social studies for students in grades 3 - 8. *Please note that the state of Tennessee's grading scale designates the range for F being 0-59; however, at Holston, the lowest score is a 50.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

Students start in Homeroom at 8:10, with core classes starting at 8:30. Because all courses matter, it is imperative to be at school on time. Schedules reflect four course types: Core (ELA, math, science, social studies), Related Arts (STEM, art, band, chorus, PE, health, and computer science), Intervention (ELA and math), and Enrichment (varied per grade level). Additionally, we will have several STEM-oriented offerings, as Holston is a TN STEM-Designated school.

DAILY SCHEDULES

Students in all grades must be enrolled in seven classes—Intervention or Enrichment, four core subject classes (ELA, Math, Science, & Social Studies), and two Related Arts classes. Eighth-graders taking Honors Spanish I will have an additional class. Please note that Core Class/Enrich may occur in different periods, depending on students' interests during registration.

6TH GRADE

1st	2A & 2B	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Core Class	Related Arts	Enrichment	Core Class (Lunch Period)	Core Class	Core Class
8:30-9:36	2A 9:39 - 10:10 2B 10:14 - 10:45	10:48-11:33	11:36-1:12	1:15-2:21	2:24-3:30

7TH GRADE

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5A & 5B	6th
Core Class	Core Class	Enrichment	Core Class (Lunch Period)	Related Arts	Core Class
8:30-9:36	9:39 - 10:45	10:48-11:33	11:36-1:12	5A 1:15 - 1:46 5B 1:50 - 2:21	2:24-3:30

8TH GRADE

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6A & 6B
Core Class	Core Class	Enrichment	Core Class (Lunch Period)	Core Class	Related Arts
8:30-9:36	9:39 - 10:45	10:48-11:33	11:36-1:12	1:15 - 2:21	6A 2:24 - 2:55 6B 2:59 - 3:30

BUS TRANSPORTATION

The function of the transportation system is to transport pupils between school and home. The KCS Transportation Department returns students to their assigned bus stops. KCS cannot take the responsibility to transport students to day care centers, babysitters, jobs, scout meetings, etc. Bus drivers will not stop at assigned bus stops when children are not present or cannot be seen by the driver. Students must pay close attention, and they must be at the proper places at the proper times. A student who wishes to ride a bus other than his/her assigned bus must bring a signed note from the parent/guardian to the office no later than 9:30 AM of the day of the request (copies of notes are located in the main office). The note must include the student's name, the requested bus number, the name of the person he/she will be accompanying, a parent/guardian signature, and a contact number for the parent/guardian for the request to be honored. For further information concerning bus transportation, please refer to the KCS website.

BUS CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

Bus transportation is provided for Knox County students who live outside the Parental Responsibility Zones (PRZ) for each school. A map of these zones, as well as a listing of bus stops and pick-up times, is available in the Counseling Office or the Knox County Transportation Office. Proper conduct on our school buses is a priority to ensure the safety of all children. Bus transportation provided by the Knox County School System is considered to be an extension of the school day.

Therefore, just as appropriate behavior is expected in the classroom, it is expected on the bus. Knox County bus rules are posted on each bus; failure to cooperate with the driver may result in the removal of student riding privileges and/or suspension from the bus.

DAMAGE TO SCHOOL OR SCHOOL BUS PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Students who damage school property or equipment or bus property/equipment will be required to pay for the repair or replacement of said property. This financial restitution may be in addition to other disciplinary action taken by the school for the incident.

SCHOOL WORK MISSED DUE TO EXCUSED ABSENCES

Homework assigned before an absence is due on the first day of the student's return to school. The student is responsible for contacting the teacher for make-up work and assignments immediately upon return to school. Assignments missed as a result of an absence must be made up within three school days unless it is a long-term absence of five or more days. In this event, the student will have one week to make up the missed work. Any other extenuating circumstances can be discussed with the teacher, with the final decision resting with the teacher. Students and

parents should use Canvas and Aspen to aid with assignments. Families will also need to make certain that the student has all of his/her books and computer.

STUDENT USE OF THE TELEPHONE

Students must obtain permission from a teacher to use the classroom telephone. Students will no longer be permitted to leave the classroom to use the phone to call home, as there are phones in each classroom. The only two reasons for students to use the school phone would be to ask for a change of clothes or for transportation changes when the school has altered after-school plans. Students should not use personal phones to contact family members unless specifically directed by a staff member. Lastly, students will not contact home for a medical need because the nurse will conduct those calls. However, the office staff will relay messages to students in cases of emergency.

FEES

A student fee is requested at the beginning of each school year to pay for supplemental materials in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, reading, and health. Additional fees may be requested for students enrolled in art, technology, etc. **The standard Knox County middle school fee this year will be \$35.** We will allocate the fee money in the following manner:

Technology: \$20 (technology, non-consumable materials, equipment, calculators, and batteries)

Instructional Support Fee: \$15 (consumable materials to support class work in all subjects)

*Though there is no fee for using the Chromebook, parents can purchase insurance for \$20 via SchoolCashOnline: knoxschools.schoolcashonline.com.

Additional classes, activities, and clubs that students elect such as year-long Band, year-long Chorus, Year-Long Art, Technology, Basketball, Cheerleading, etc. may require additional fees since they are elective courses or activities.

STUDENT ILLNESS AND ACCIDENTS

All accidents that occur on school property, during field trips, or during other school-approved activities must be reported to the office. If a student becomes ill during the school day, the student will be permitted to report to the clinic, and an attempt to notify a parent/guardian will be made by the nurse. If there is a clinic referral, a phone call to the parent or guardian will be made.

SCHOOL INSURANCE

Accident insurance is available to any student who wishes to purchase it. The insurance can be purchased only at the beginning of the school year. The principal will ensure that each student, before participating in interscholastic athletics,

purchases the athletic insurance policy provided by the vendor approved by the Board of Education.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBER

Any change of address, telephone number, or employment location/number must be reported to the school office immediately. Should an emergency arise, the school must know where and how to reach parents/guardians at all times.

SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE

Counseling services are available to all students. Problems concerning both school and personal needs can be helped by talking with a counselor. Students who wish to speak with the school counselor may make an appointment by notifying their teacher or contacting their counselor through Canvas. The counselor will send for the student as soon as possible. Students are not allowed to wait in the counseling area unless specifically instructed to do so.

CAFETERIA AND FOOD SERVICE

Breakfast and lunch programs will be offered each full day of school. Both meals are free for every student at Holston because of a Community Eligibility Provision grant. Since classes are in session during each lunch period, an orderly atmosphere must be maintained. Therefore, students are expected to comply with the following regulations:

1. Delivery of “fast food” is prohibited unless the student and parent have lunch together at an area designated by the principal.
2. No food or drinks may be taken from the cafeteria.
3. Teachers will escort classes to and from the cafeteria.
4. Students will sit at assigned tables.
5. Silent lunch may be assigned to students with an infraction to the regulations.

SCHOOL-WIDE GUIDELINES AND RULES FOR FOOD AND DRINK

- All food and drinks must be consumed in designated areas only, unless by special permission.
- Eating areas are to be left clean and trash-free, and trays properly returned to the designated area.
- Visitors are not permitted in the cafeteria during lunch periods without administrative approval.
- All school behavior guidelines should be followed during lunch.
- No food and drink (except water) are permitted in classrooms or other instructional areas except by special permission.

LIBRARY

Students are encouraged to use the library. Students may check out books for a two-week period of time. Check-out times are from 8:10 a.m. until 8:25 a.m. and from 3:30 p.m. until 3:45 p.m. each school day with permission from staff members. Students may also check out books during the school day with a pass from a teacher. Reference materials may be checked out for overnight use only. Failure to return books or to pay fines for books/materials will result in accumulating fines from year to year. In addition, students are financially responsible for lost books.

ATHLETIC EVENTS

The following guidelines should be observed for athletic events:

1. Students, athletes, and spectators are expected to display good sportsmanship.
2. Athletes and cheerleaders must have and maintain a "C" average to remain eligible for participation and must maintain acceptable behavior.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Students must be in attendance for the school day to attend after-school activities. Students must be picked up no later than 15 minutes after an activity has ended. If a student cannot be picked up in this time frame, he/she will not be allowed to attend the next similar school activity. If late pick-up is a problem, the school administration reserves the right to prohibit a child from attending after-school functions.

Students absent or suspended from school ARE NOT allowed to attend ANY after-school functions on the day(s) they are absent/suspended.

ACTIVITIES EXCLUSION

Many activities are planned each year to enrich the middle school experience for students. These activities include assemblies, field trips, guest speakers, special television broadcasts, intramural sports, interscholastic basketball, cheerleading, field day, cookouts, dances, clubs, etc. These activities are considered privileges, and student participation is based on proper conduct. Exclusion from activities for a period of time may be imposed by the staff or the administration on students who do not conduct themselves appropriately. Students who serve out-of-school suspensions are excluded from all school activities during the suspension time. Fees assessed before the suspension are not refundable. In addition, participation in social incentives, academic incentives, and field trips will reflect behavioral expectations. Letters will be sent to parents outlining these expectations.

RESTORATIVE LEARNING CENTER (RLC)

This classroom promotes behavior modification and accountability through completion of classwork, behavior reflections, and counseling by the Restorative Interventionist and her assistant. Students are assigned to the program by a building administrator and are referred for committing certain infractions of the school rules and regulations. Multiple strategies are used (videos, role play, group/one-on-one discussions, etc.) to ensure that students learn modifications to misbehaviors.

ALTERNATIVE-TO-SUSPENSION (ATS)

For infractions requiring a total separation of the student from the environment, an assignment of Alternative-to-Suspension may be warranted. While classwork completion and reflective writings are employed in this setting, one-on-one discussions of frequent misbehaviors are a necessary component. Disruption in ATS may result in an assignment of Out-of-School Suspension (OSS).

LOST AND FOUND

Lost items are sometimes turned in to the school office. Students may check the cafeteria during lunch for such items. However, the school cannot and does not assume any liability for personal items misplaced, lost, or stolen. It is strongly suggested that valuable items and large amounts of money not be brought to school, and outerwear clothing and backpacks be labeled with the student's name. At the end of each month, Lost and Found items will be purged.

INCENTIVES FOR APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR/HURRICANE STATION

Incentives and rewards will be established by the academic teams and/or the administration to encourage and recognize appropriate student behavior and academic success. Students who choose to comply with school rules are rewarded by being allowed to participate in special activities and events. In addition, our school store, Hurricane Station, carries snacks, school supplies, Holston gear, and other incentive items for students who have earned Cane Cash throughout the day. Cane Cash can be earned through the PBIS Rewards App by modeling the Holston Habits.

APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES/HOLSTON HABITS

Students must adhere to these general behavior guidelines:

BE READY

- Be on time.

BE RESPECTFUL

- Treat others with respect.
- Refrain from horseplay.
- Use good manners at all times.

BE RESPONSIBLE

- Be in the appropriate assigned area at all times.
- Report to classes with appropriate materials. Obey the first request of any staff member.
- Complete all assigned work.

BE SAFE

- Always obtain a written pass from your teacher to be anywhere other than your assigned area.

Holston Habits are specific expectations for the following areas of the building: classroom, bus rider area, outdoor area, auditorium, cafeteria, bathrooms, and hallways. These expectations for students to be ready, respectful, responsible, and safe are taught and modeled at the beginning of the year and must be followed throughout the school year.

INAPPROPRIATE ITEMS

Students may not bring toys to school. Toys of any kind will be confiscated and returned at a later time. Repeatedly bringing toys will result in further disciplinary action. No student can have in his/her possession at school such items such as drugs, tobacco, e-cigarettes, matches, cigarette lighters, razor blades, knives, box cutters, guns, or any items judged capable of inflicting harm to others or causing property damage. These items will be confiscated and not returned. Possession, use, and/or distribution of pyrotechnic devices such as firecrackers, smoke bombs, matches, lighters, ammunition, “snappers”, or related materials at school, at a school function, or on a bus is prohibited. Possession of any of the above items will result in out-of-school suspension.

RESTRICTED AREAS

Students are not allowed in the following areas:

- Parking lots during school hours without administrative permission.
- Rooms or areas designated “Staff Only.”
- Any unsupervised area during classes w/o permission.
- In the building after 4:00 without staff supervision for a school activity.

RELATIONSHIPS

- **No** pushing, scuffling, or horseplay
- **No** harassing or name-calling
- **No** P.D.A (public display of affection)
- **No** Fighting (unacceptable)

GUIDELINES FOR PACKAGES, MESSAGES, FLOWERS, BALLOONS, ETC.

To avoid excessive announcements, interruptions, and the overloading of office personnel, only emergency messages or packages (such as forgotten lunches, lunch money, etc.) from parents or guardians will be accepted for distribution to students during school hours. Students will be called to the office between classes only. The school will not accept deliveries (i.e., Valentine's Day and awards days).

NOTABLE SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

Student Discipline

According to Knox County Board Policy Handbook J-191.

To view this policy in its entirety, visit: www.knoxschools.org.

****At Holston, we have two methods to document progressive misbehavior: tickets (Level 1) and conduct referrals (Levels 2-5). We also have two methods to document positive behavior: PBIS and positive referrals (explained above). Please see the chart below for more details about how we process misbehaviors in accordance with Knox County Board Policy J-191.****

Zero Tolerance Policy

According to Knox County Board Policy Handbook J-194.

To view this policy in its entirety, visit: www.knoxschools.org.

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying or Cyber-bullying

According to Knox County Board Policy Handbook J-211

To view this policy in its entirety, visit: www.knoxschools.org.

Reporting and Response

According to Knox County Board Policy Handbook J-211

To view this policy in its entirety, visit: www.knoxschools.org

Attendance

According to Knox County Board Policy Handbook J-120

To view this policy in its entirety, visit: www.knoxschools.org.

Middle and High School Dress Code

According to Knox County Board Policy Handbook J-260

To view this policy in its entirety, visit: www.knoxschools.org.

Personal Communication Devices and/or Electronic Devices

According to Knox County Board Policy Handbook J-240

To view this policy in its entirety, visit: www.knoxschools.org

KCS | KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS

2026-2027 Knox County Schools Calendar

Monday, August 3	First Day for Teachers (School-based In-Service Day)
Tuesday August 4	Systemwide In-Service Day (PreK-12)
Wednesday, August 5	Administrative Day (Teacher Work Day)
Thursday, August 6	Administrative Day (Teacher Work Day)
Friday, August 7	Systemwide In-Service Day (½ Day School-based); Administrative Day (½ Day Teacher Work Day); 6th and 9th Grade Orientation
Monday, August 10	First Day for Students (½ Day)
Monday, September 7	Labor Day Holiday (Knox County Schools Closed)
Wednesday, September 9	End 4½-weeks Grading Period
Wednesday, September 16	Half Day for Students
Thursday, September 17	Constitution Day (Knox County Schools Open)
Monday, October 5 - Friday, October 9	Fall Break
Friday, October 16	End First 9-weeks Grading Period
Tuesday, November 3	Systemwide In-Service Day (PreK-12) (Student Holiday)
Tuesday, November 17	End 4½-weeks Grading Period
Wednesday, November 18	Half Day for Students
Wednesday, November 25 - Friday, November 27	Thanksgiving Holidays (Knox County Schools Closed)
Friday, December 18	½ Day for Students; End Second 9-weeks Grading Period; End First Semester
Monday, December 21 – Friday, January 1	Winter Break
Monday, January 4	Systemwide In-service Day (½ Day School-based; Administrative Day (½ Day Teacher Work Day)
Tuesday, January 5	First Day for Students after Winter Break (Full Day)
Monday, January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Knox County Schools Closed)
Wednesday, January 27	Half Day for Students
Friday, February 5	End 4½-weeks Grading Period
Monday, February 15	Systemwide In-Service Day (PreK-12) (Student Holiday)
Monday, March 8 – Friday, March 12	Spring Break
Friday, March 19	End Third 9-weeks Grading Period
Wednesday, March 24	Half Day for Students
Friday, March 26	Holiday (Knox County Schools Closed)
Monday, March 29	Holiday (Knox County Schools Closed)
Wednesday, April 7	Systemwide In-Service Day (School-based) (PreK-12) (Student Holiday)
Friday, April 23	End 4½-weeks Grading Period
Wednesday, May 26	Last Day for Students (½ Day); End Fourth 9-weeks Grading Period; End Second Semester
Thursday, May 27	Administrative Day (Teacher Work Day) – Last Day for Teachers
Friday June 18	Juneteenth Holiday (Knox County Schools Closed)

Calendar Summary

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

*In accordance with T.C.A. § 49-6-3004 – 177 student instructional days plus 3 days accumulated under the daily 7-hour schedule.

Note: This calendar allows cancellation of up to 8 instructional days due to inclement weather or serious outbreaks of illness before any make up days will be required.