Jim Pearson Elementary School

Family Handbook for 2026 – 2027

JIM PEARSON

LOVE • LEARN • DREAM

1240 Scott Road Alexander City, AL 35010
256.234.8625

Welcome to Jim Pearson Elementary School



VISION

To build relationships with love and learning.

MISSION

To inspire hope while developing students who are innovative lifelong learners.

MOTTO

LOVE. LEARN. DREAM.

Mrs. Stephanie Brooks, Principal
Mrs. Danielle Coleman, Assistant Principal
Ms. Latecha Graham, Assistant Principal

Message From the Principal

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the **2026–2027 school year**! As I begin my fifth year as principal of Jim Pearson Elementary, I am excited for the opportunity to continue partnering with our students, families, and staff as we embark on a new chapter together. This year's theme, **Writing Our Story of Greatness**, reminds us that every student, every family, and every staff member plays an important role in creating the story of our school.

At Jim Pearson, our mission is to provide a strong foundation for every child as they begin their educational journey. We are committed to engaging, challenging, and inspiring our students while maintaining high expectations for learning, character, and growth. Each day is another page in our story, and together we will create a school year filled with meaningful experiences, academic achievement, and lasting memories.

We believe that families are an essential part of every student's success. Through our **Academic Parent-Teacher Team (APTT)** meetings, offered both in person and virtually, we will partner with you to better understand your child's progress, set meaningful goals, and provide strategies to support learning at home. We are also excited to welcome you to our **Parent Den**, where you'll find resources, information, and a welcoming space designed to equip and empower families throughout the year. Please refer to the school calendar for important dates and opportunities to get involved.

Thank you for allowing us the privilege of being part of your child's story. It is an honor to serve as your principal, and I look forward to building strong relationships with our students and families as we **write another chapter of greatness together**. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or one of our assistant principals. We are here to support you and look forward to an incredible year at Jim Pearson Elementary.

Thank you,

Stephanie Brooks
Principal
Jim Pearson Elementary

ALEXANDER CITY SCHOOLS

375 Lee Street

Alexander City, Alabama 35010

Telephone: (256) 234-5074

Fax: (256) 234-8649

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mr. Scott Hardy

Mr. Adam Wade

Dr. Chante Ruffin

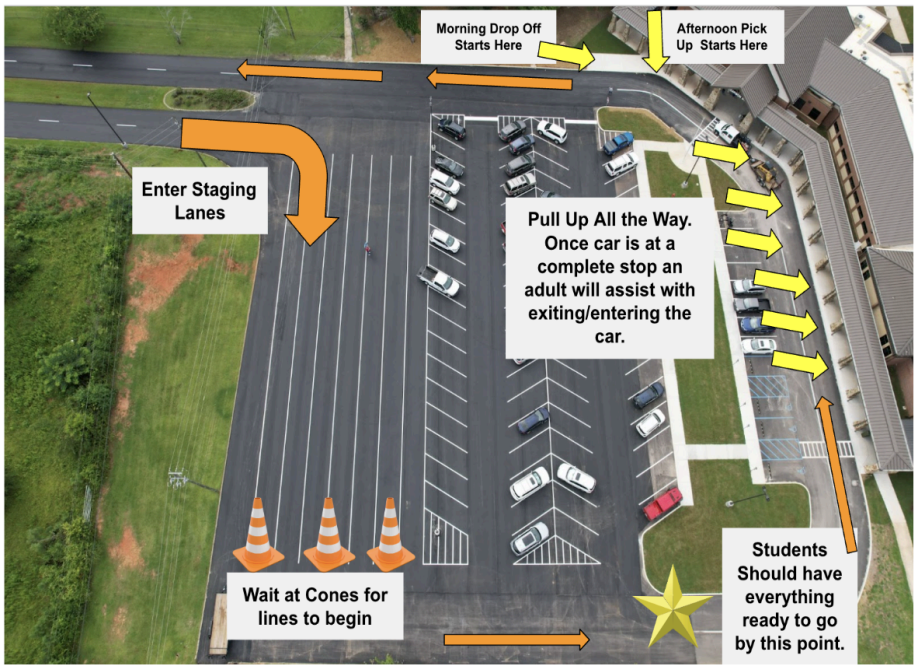
Mrs. Kimberly Carter

Mrs. Ellen Martin

CENTRAL OFFICE PERSONNEL

Superintendent	Dr. Jose Reyes
Deputy Superintendent	Mrs. Terina Gant
Director of Special Education Services	Mrs. Alison Todd
Director of Assessment and Accountability	Mrs. Kenyatta Simmons
Director of Federal Programs	Mrs. Alice Owens
Director of Auxiliary Services	Mr. Neal Wagoner
Transportation Supervisor	Mr. Randall Birmingham
Coordinator of Human Resources	Mrs. Gail Brasell
Chief Financial Officer	Mrs. Lisa Dickerson

Arrival and Dismissal at Jim Pearson Elementary



- Car Riders Will Drop Off & Pick Up in the Front of the School
- Bus & Daycare Drop Off & Pick Up is in the Back of the School
- Car Drop Off Begins @7:00 am
- Students entering the building after 7:30 will have to be checked in.
- Students should be ready to exit the car as soon as the car comes to a complete stop.
- No checkouts after 2:00 pm
- Afternoon Line Begins @2:35
- Adults picking up students must have car rider tag or will be asked to park and go into the office to show ID.

**All JP students will be assigned a car rider number & given a car rider tag.*

Arrival

The school doors will open daily for car and bus riders at 7:00. Car Rider students should only be dropped off on the sidewalk in the car rider line. Students should not be walked into the building prior to 7:30 or put out of a car at any other location on campus. Students should be ready to exit the car as soon as the car comes to a complete stop. *On rainy days the number of car riders increases which causes traffic congestion, please plan for delays. All students should be dropped off through the car rider line; no students should be walked across the crosswalk. The only exception is if the parent has business to take care of in the office.*

The school day starts at 7:30 a.m. each day.

Students are considered tardy if they are not inside the building by 7:30 a.m. Parents will need to park in the front parking lot in order to walk students in and sign the student in with the front office. Traffic patterns and policies are designed to keep every child safe while at school. We ask that each parent abide by these regulations in order to keep traffic and parking issues to a minimum, to ensure that everyone is safe while on campus. The back parking lot is designated for staff parking and bus transportation. Parents and visitors should use the parking lot at the front of the school building. *Breakfast is served in the lunchroom from 7:00 - 7:20. Anyone entering the lunchroom after 7:25 will receive a to-go breakfast to take to the classroom. Breakfast will be served until 7:30. Students arriving after this time will not be served breakfast.*

Dismissal

For afternoon pick up, every student will be given an individual car rider tag number at the beginning of the school year to ensure dismissal moves efficiently. Please pull to staging lanes and have your car rider tag visible and hanging from your rearview mirror. You will need a car rider tag for each student that you intend to pick up. ***If a vehicle does not have a student car rider tag, the driver will be asked to park in the parking lot and proceed to the front office with their ID.*** The person showing ID must be listed in PowerSchool as someone who can pick up the child. On rainy days, please plan on delays.

- No checkouts after 2:00 pm
- Afternoon pick up - 2:00 pm for Pre-k
  2:35 pm for Kg, 1st & 2nd

Arrival-Late Check-In

Students entering the school after 7:30 a.m. must be signed in by an adult at the office to receive a pass before going to class. Excessive tardies violate the state and board truancy policies, and families will be subject to the proper consequences. Students must attend school for at least 51% of the day (checked in by 11:00 am) or the day will be counted as an absence. (**Refer to Alexander City Schools Code of Conduct for details)**

Attendance

(Refer to ACS Handbook)

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn the importance of arriving at school on time, every day is important. Eventually, good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college.

A student is considered ***Chronically Absent*** when they have missed 18 days of school. **This includes ALL absences, excused or unexcused.** Attendance matters!

Return from Absence Procedure

Students who miss school for any reason, other than a school sponsored event, must turn in approved excuses to the office. Students have **three school days** to turn in excuses. Guardians will receive an email with a link to Formsite to upload excuses. Formsite is the website Alex City Schools utilizes for quick and easy excuse submission. Excuses for absences can also be sent to the student's teacher through the daily folder. Students are responsible for all missed work assigned by teachers. Makeup work is arranged with the teacher.

Check-Out Procedure

Students who must leave school during the school day for any reason must be checked out. In order to check a student out of school, you must:

- Be on the checkout list in PowerSchool. (Please keep updated as needed)
- Have a valid identification.
- Sign the checkout list in the front office.
- Students checking out will be counted as a tardy (Refer to the Alexander City Code of Conduct for details)
- Due to dismissal procedures, check out will end at 2:00pm.
- Students must attend school for at least 51% of the day (checked out after 11:00 am) or the day will be counted as an absence.
- Any changes needing to be made for persons able to pick up your child must be made in person at the front office.

Attendance Works

Help Your Child Do Well in School:
Build the Habit of Good Attendance



Did you know?

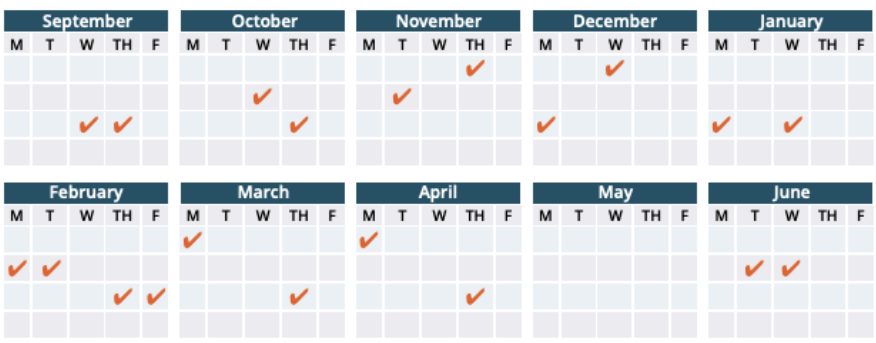
- Too many absences in preschool and elementary school can cause children to struggle socially and academically.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Missing 10% of school (2 days each month) can make it harder to learn to read and do basic math.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school — and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool and through elementary school so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day, is important.

What you can do

- Set a **regular** bedtime and morning **routine.**
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks **the night before**.
- **Keep** your child **healthy** and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Develop **backup plans** for getting to school if something comes up.
- **Monitor** your child's **absences**.
- Try to schedule **nonurgent medical appointments** and extended trips when school isn't in session.
- **If** your child seems **anxious** about going to school, **talk to teachers**, school counselors and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- **If** you are **concerned** that your child may have a contagious illness, **call** your school nurse or health-care provider **for advice**. Ask the teacher for ideas to support missed learning time.

Chronic absence is missing 2+ days every month over the course of a school year.



October 2025

Visit Attendance Works at www.attendanceworks.org for free downloadable resources and tools!

Important School Information

Bathroom Accidents

At this age, bathroom accidents will happen. *We ask that all students have a change of clothes in their backpacks in the event of an accident, and that the change of clothes is suitable for the season*. Students will be expected to change themselves. Parents will be contacted and asked to assist if needed. Students are expected to be potty trained before entering Jim Pearson, unless there is a documented medical condition or an IEP in place. Please keep clothes updated according to the seasons.

Buses

Students who ride the bus to and from school and/or on school sponsored trips will be expected to conduct themselves in a courteous manner. Any student who cannot abide by the regulations of the transportation department will be subject to disciplinary action which could result in loss of bus privileges **(See conduct and discipline section)**. Bus drivers have the same authority and the same responsibility for requiring good behavior as teachers. All school rules and regulations pertain to the bus, the bus stop, and the bus passenger.

Cafetería (Lunchroom)

The Jim Pearson Elementary School lunchroom is a federally funded program that is a closed campus as related to outside food in the lunchroom. Federal guidelines prohibit restaurant food or soda cans/bottles to be brought in by students; therefore, students may NOT have food brought in from restaurants. If your student is bringing lunch from a restaurant, please repackage the food item in a different container without the restaurant's logo. Each student is responsible for trash and tray disposal. **Parents are welcome to eat lunch with their child if prior arrangements have been made with the classroom teacher. Parents eating with their child will need to obtain a visitor's pass from the front office before going to the lunchroom. (Visitor's Lunch $5)*

Change of Address or Phone Number

Due to school records and other correspondence, a change of contact information, residence, address, or phone numbers after enrollment should be updated promptly with the school registrar in the front office. These changes will need to be made in person with a valid identification. Updated phone numbers are essential for student safety and success.

Classroom Observation Policy

We support open communication and value the partnership between families and educators. We understand that parents may wish to observe their child in the classroom to better understand the learning environment and instructional practices. To protect instructional time and maintain student privacy, the following guidelines must be followed:

- All observations must be scheduled in advance with your child's teacher and approved by the principal or designee.
- Observations are limited to one visit per quarter unless otherwise approved by administration.
- Each observation is limited to no more than 30 minutes.
- Visitors must sign in at the front office, wear a visitor badge, and be escorted to and from the classroom.

- Observers must remain seated and refrain from interacting with the teacher or students during instruction.
- Use of cell phones, audio/video recording, or photography is not permitted during classroom visits.
- A follow-up conversation with the teacher and/or administration may be scheduled if needed to address any questions or concerns.

This policy is in place to preserve the integrity of instructional time while maintaining a welcoming environment for families.

Complaints/Conference

We encourage parents to stay in communication and participate in conferences with classroom teachers throughout the school year. In the event of a frustration or complaint, every parent, guardian, or student should bring this matter to the attention of the principal. The principal will arrange a conference with the complainant and the teacher or appropriate staff member. This conference will afford a full hearing and review of all the facts in the case, and each party will be given full opportunity to present information vital to the resolution of the problem. Should the complainant not be satisfied, he/she will be referred to the Director of Student Services.

Deliveries

Cupcakes, treats, etc., are welcome to celebrate special occasions. Please contact the teacher when planning to send these treats so arrangements can be made prior to delivery. *Deliveries must be left in the office unless arrangements have been made with the classroom teacher.* Food brought to classes must be store-bought and in the original, unopened container. Please *contact your child's teacher before bringing anything* to ensure any food allergies are considered.

Field Trips

Due to field trips being an extra-curricular event, and good behavior by students is a must, any student who has been suspended in or out of school for disruptive or defiant behavior will require an adult to attend the field trip with them. All school policies will be followed at all times by students on field trips. Parents and guardians will be allowed to check students out at the location of the field trip only if they submit the name of the person checking them out prior to the field trip, and that person is listed in PowerSchool as an emergency contact. Field trip fees will be live on our My School Bucks website at least 14 days before scheduled trips. All field trip dues and fees are non-refundable. In the event of a documented sickness or emergency event, any money paid for the student will roll over to the next scheduled field trip unless the original trip requires a ticketed admission. Please contact the JP Bookkeeper for any questions.

Lost and Found

Items that are deemed as lost will be placed on one of the lost and found racks located throughout the school. Students will be encouraged to check the lost and found racks for items that may belong to them. Lost and found items will be added to Dojo via this google slide. Please check regularly and contact your child's teacher with the item and item number in order for it to be sent home. Lost and found items that are not picked up by the end of each semester will be donated locally.

Medication Guidelines
(In conjunction with ACS Handbook)

Children *cannot transport medication to school*. It must be brought in by a parent or guardian. If your child has a prescription medication that must be taken at school, a Parent/Physician Authorization form must be filled

out by your child's healthcare provider and signed by a parent/guardian. Over the counter medication may be brought in by a parent/guardian, and an Over the Counter Authorization form must be filled out by the parent/guardian time period of no more than ten (10) consecutive school days during a current school year. A PPA is required for all subsequent use of the OTC medication(s) and alternative medications.

Withdrawals

Only parents/guardians can request for a student to be withdrawn. Records will not be released as long as the student owes money or property to the school. The withdrawal form must be completed before the student is officially withdrawn.

Safety

Closing of School

In the event of severe weather that warrants a change in school opening/closing times, parents will be notified via system automated phone call, text message, email, ClassDojo message, local radio, and the Jim Pearson Elementary Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages. If no report is heard on the air, then it can be assumed that school will be in session.

Fire, Intruder, and Tornado Drills

Students, teachers, and staff members shall participate in frequent drills and emergency procedures. When the alarm is sounded, the students must follow the directions of the teachers quickly and quietly in an orderly manner. The school will use the intercom and alarm system to activate and notify students and personnel. Instructions for these drills will be posted in each classroom and discussed by each individual teacher. Students are expected to cooperate and follow instructions.

*Shelter in Place: This phrase might be encountered during inclement weather. A tornado warning will require schools to take our students to an inner hallway or a room with few or no windows and stay there until it is safe to release students. These areas have been reviewed and approved by the Tallapoosa County Emergency Management Agency. Please note that we **cease** operations such as checkout during an active warning. If you are at the school during a warning, we invite you to join us as we "shelter."

Visitors

Parents/Guardians are always welcome on our campus. All visitors must report to the main office and sign in. Parents/Guardians can be admitted to observe classes upon request made to the principal's office. All parents/guardians must report to the principal's office for approval of visit, and such visits shall not be permitted if the duration and frequency interferes with the delivery of instruction or disrupts the normal school environment. Visits for class parties, volunteering, or eating lunch need to first be approved by the classroom teacher.

School Management

Discipline

Jim Pearson Elementary School promotes building a safe learning environment for all students. Violations of the Alexander City Code of Conduct will be handled appropriately and accordingly. Class I, II, and III infractions come with different consequences, but all within the guidelines and policies of Alexander City

Schools. A list of behaviors and appropriate consequences can be found in the system's Code of Conduct on pages 45-61.

Class I infractions will be handled by the classroom teacher using our school-wide classroom management plan through Class Dojo. Classroom teachers utilize a 3 step classroom management form. Once a student has reached his or her 4th classroom step, he or she will be referred to the office via an office referral. Class II and Class III offenses will result in immediate referrals to the office. Administration will provide due process to any student referred to the office and make a determination of further action based on the ACS Code of Conduct. ***Student expectations are listed at the end of this handbook.***

Note: Disciplinary actions are decided by the administration.

Bus Infractions:

For **Class I** violations, such as failure to follow directions, refusing to sit in the assigned seat, being too loud, or any other action that causes the attention of the bus driver to be drawn from the duty of safely operating the bus, the procedure is as listed below.
For **Class II** violations such as using profanity directed toward another student, video/audio recording, being disrespectful to the bus driver or other school official or any other action that causes the attention of the bus driver to be drawn from the duty of safely operating the bus, the procedure is as listed below.

Grades K-5

	Class I	Class II	Class III
1st Offense	Warning	5 Days Off bus	1 Calendar Year off bus (*see note below) in conjunction with Class III violations from the code of conduct. (i.e. 5 Days OSS pending DRC)
2nd Offense	5 Days Off Bus	10 Days Off Bus	
3rd Offense	10 Days Off Bus	20 Days Off Bus	
4th Offense	30 Days Off Bus	30 Days Off Bus	
5th Offense	1 Calendar Year Off Bus	1 Calendar Year Off Bus	

***** The days those students are absent from school do not apply toward days suspended off the bus.**

Alternative School

Students who demonstrate repeating behavioral problems at the local school or referred for excessive/continued Class II or III offenses may be assigned to the ACBOE's Alternative School. Students who exhibit this type of behavior are referred to the central office for placement of such violations. Review the ACS Handbook for DRC procedures. Transportation to and from the Alternative School will be the responsibility of the parents. Hardship of transportation will not be heard at any hearing. Any student assigned to Alternative School will not be allowed to attend any school function during the time assigned. Students must fulfill their assigned days.

Cellphones, Electronic Games, etc....

Unauthorized possession or use of communication devices, including but not limited to cell phones and smartwatches, during school hours is prohibited. Certain electronic communication devices issued by the school may be allowed on school campuses when used in accordance with local school official directives. In addition, any student in use of communication devices on or off campus that disrupts or negatively affects the school environment may face disciplinary action. Possession, production, dissemination, and/or public display of obscene acts (including but not limited to sexual activity or nudity) shall be prohibited. Any such action(s) which may be in violation of the Code of Alabama, Section 13A-12-191, Section 13A-12-192, and Section 13A-12-197 will be reported to law enforcement officials. The Board is not responsible for the theft, loss, or damage to any wireless communication device brought onto campus by a student.

Electronic Devices and Testing (Applies to 2nd graders taking the ACAP and ACAP Alternate and students taking ACCESS):

Alabama State Department of Education Policy:
Use of Digital Device during the Administration of a Secure Test - Student Policy

The possession of a digital device (including but not limited to cell phones, Smart watches, cameras, or other telecommunication devices capable of capturing or relaying information) is strictly prohibited during the administration of a secure test. If a student is observed in possession of a digital device during the administration of a secure test, the device will be confiscated.

If a student is observed using a digital device during the administration of a secure test, testing for the student will cease, the device will be confiscated and is subject to search, the student will be dismissed from testing, and the student's test will be invalidated.

Local education agency (LEA) personnel will make all students, parents, and/or guardians aware of this prohibition through inclusion of this policy in the Student Code of Conduct Handbook and other regularly used modes of communication.

Dress Code(In Conjunction with ACBOE Handbook)

Each student will be expected to follow the dress code. A copy of this dress code can be found online in **Alexander City Code of Conduct.** Athletic type shoes are most appropriate for this level as they are best for PE and recess.

Out of District Policy (Refer to ACS Code of Conduct)

Students who are out of district must follow the ACS district policy. Attendance and discipline will be monitored each 9 weeks. Students will be placed on probation if they accumulate 4 unexcused absences and/or receive a Class II or Class III violation.

Property Damage/ Vandalism

Willful vandalism on the part of students who damage or destroy school system property will NOT be tolerated. If students are found guilty of such vandalism, the students and their parents/ guardians will be held financially accountable. Students will be subject to disciplinary action and possible prosecution under the law. This accountability includes damages to buses.

How do you SPOT a Wildcat?

	S Safety	P Practice Respect	O Own Your Actions	T Teamwork
Classroom	Follow directions. Use supplies appropriately. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.	Take care of materials. Use kind words and actions. Be a listener.	Try your best! Be responsible. Be honest and learn from your mistakes.	Cooperate with others. Work together to keep the classroom clean.
Hallway	Use walking feet. Walk face forward keeping to the right. Walk directly to your destination.	Keep your hands and feet to yourself. Enjoy hallway displays with eyes only. Stay quiet.	Make good choices. Do the right thing even when no one is watching.	Stay with your class. Help keep the hallways clean.
Lunchroom	Use walking feet. Face forward. Stay seated; raise your hand for help.	Use table manners. Use inside voices. Say please and thank you.	Clean up after yourself. Keep your hands and feet to yourself. Eat only your food.	Leave a clean table, chair, and floor.
Restroom	No playing or climbing. Use the toilet correctly.	Knock before entering. Give others privacy. Wait your turn.	Go, flush, wash. Return to class promptly. Use inside voices.	Remind others of rules. Report problems to adults.
Playground	Stay in the assigned area. Report problems to an adult. Use playground equipment correctly.	Include everyone. Use kind words and actions. Keep hands and feet to yourself.	Play by the rules. Remember your belongings. Line up when you are called.	Share playground equipment. Wait your turn. Solve small problems together. Leave the playground clean.
Library	Use furniture appropriately. Use makerspace materials the way they are intended. Use walking feet.	Use inside voices. Use rainbow road for check-out line. Be considerate of others in the library.	Choose books that YOU enjoy. Take care of books (book care rules). Return books on time.	Help others when you can. Use shelf markers to help keep shelves straight and neat. Remember your library basket each week.
Gym	When you hear the whistle, stop, look, and listen. Line up when called using walking feet. Ask for permission to leave.	Listen to the coaches. Use equipment correctly.	Play by the rules. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.	Work together with everyone. Use kind words and actions.
Bus	Sit on your bottom in your seat and face forward. Stay seated while the bus is moving.	Keep voice level down. Listen to your bus driver.	Keep hands, feet, and belongings to yourself. Use kind words.	Save food and drinks for home. Keep bus clean. Tell bus driver if someone is being unsafe.
Home	Follow car rider line safety guidelines. Check in with the office when on campus.	Utilize teacher planning times and ClassDojo for daily communication.	Keep PowerSchool contacts up to date. Turn in absent excuses within 3 days.	Check parent calendar, ClassDojo, and student folders daily.

Library Media Center

We encourage the students and staff to make use of this facility and its resources. All students will follow the expectations set forth by the library media specialist. All parents and guardians must sign Internet forms before using the Internet.

Library Schedule:

- Each homeroom is scheduled to come to the library at a specific time each week for instruction and book selection.
- Students also have an opportunity for open checkout out ***everyday*** during library flex times.

Library Circulation Policy:

All Students :

- Students must have library orientation and complete lessons on library manners and procedures before they may check out a book.

Kindergarten: one book per check-out

First Graders: two books per check-out

Second Graders: two books per check-out

Overdue Books: Students will be able to keep books for 2 weeks before they are overdue. Once overdue, students will receive a notice in their take-home folder. There is no fine for overdue books. As long as they are returned, students may continue to check out books from the library.

Lost or Damaged Books: If a student loses a book, they will be expected to replace it by paying the price on the notice, or a new copy can be purchased and sent to the library. When books are paid for, students will get a receipt of payment from the school. If books are damaged, students are expected to return the damaged books to the library for evaluation. If it is no longer able to be put into circulation, the student will need to pay for the book.

Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a web-based program that makes reading practice more effective and fun for every student. It personalizes reading practice to each student's current independent level and uses books available in your home, the school, or public library, and the classroom. AR's goal is to measure a student's reading comprehension on each book read. It builds a lifelong love of reading and learning.

The Accelerated Reader program is provided for kindergarten - eighth grade students. Students select books at their reading level, read independently, and take an independent comprehension test on the computer. Each book is worth a certain number of points based on its length and reading level. This helps teachers and media specialists manage and monitor children's reading abilities. Accelerated Reader is a great opportunity for our students to become passionate about reading and focus on reading comprehension.

Reading Success is Easy With AR:

- The students will read a book at their appropriate reading levels and at their own pace.
- Most books in our library have an AR test available. Those books are marked with a dot sticker to show the reading level and if they have a test.
- Each book has a point value, which is the maximum number of points that can be earned from that book if the student scores 100% on the quiz.

Accelerated Reading Policy

Accelerated Reader Rules:

- Students may test on books that fall within their reading level as set by their teacher or media specialists using their i-Ready/ STAR test results.
- Students need to work independently on their assessments. No cheating allowed.
- The student must read the entire book before testing. The book may be read to them or they may read it themselves.
- The students cannot take more than five tests a day.
- AR points will start over each 9 weeks.

Accelerated Reader Incentives:

- There will be a different reward for each nine week's grading period for students who meet their AR goal.
- Students will also be rewarded at the end of the year if they are a part of the 100 point club and receive at least 100 points with an 80% average for the school year.
- Students who meet their AR goals will be recognized each nine weeks.

AR in Kindergarten

- Students in Kindergarten will have the opportunity to begin AR based on teacher recommendations and qualifying test scores.
- All students will be eligible to participate in our Kindergarten year-long reading challenge each 9 weeks.
- Information for Kindergarteners participating in AR will be sent throughout the year if/when students are ready to begin.

Fees & Fines

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided without charge to the students. Students may be required to pay certain fees or deposits, including:

(1) Fees for damaged books, textbooks, and school-owned equipment
(2) Voluntary purchases of pictures, yearbooks, or other school offered items
(3) Voluntary field trips or special events

Deadlines are set in order to have time to get materials, order fundraiser items, and/or pay for field trips. No payments will be accepted after the deadline. Money should be turned over to your child's teacher **only**. *No money should be dropped off in the office* or given to anyone other than your child's homeroom teacher. Any fee totaling more than $10 will be receipted, and a physical receipt will be sent home with your child. Anything less than $10 will be documented through your child's teacher and the office. Please contact the bookkeeper with any questions.

All Fees are non-refundable, no exceptions.

Technology Devices (Chromebooks, iPads, MacBooks, Desktops, Cellphones)

Alexander City Schools promotes the use of instructional technology to enhance the learning experience for the students. This is why we have a 1:1 initiative with Chromebooks in our classrooms. The Alexander City Schools Board of Education has made the investment in giving each student a school owned Chromebook for instructional purposes. These electronic devices, along with MacBooks and desktop computers at school, are for instructional purposes.

Academics

Awards Day and Celebrations

Students will be recognized within their classrooms at the end of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd 9 weeks for a variety of accomplishments. Students will receive lanyards with name tags and ribbons to add to their name tags throughout the year. The 9 week celebrations are for students and teachers only; however, an end of the year awards celebration will be held in May to celebrate year long successes and accomplishments, in which guests are invited. Students can receive awards for achievements in areas such as AR, AR 100 Point Club, Perfect Attendance, Reading and Math Growth, Most Improved, Dojo Points, Positive Office Referrals, Student of the Month, etc.

SPOT Binders

Each student will have a SPOT Binder, Student Progress Organizational Tool. The purpose of this binder is to give a comprehensive view of student performance, communicate student progress towards grade level expectations with parents and guardians in an efficient and effective way, and for teachers to track/document progress in academics & behavior, providing a clear snapshot of how students are performing in different areas. SPOT Binders will be sent home at each progress report and report card date for parents/guardians to view, sign, and return.

Standards Based Report Cards

Jim Pearson utilizes a standards based report card system. Students will be given quarterly assessments to determine progress towards grade level standards.

Standards Based Grading Scale

4	Exceeds end of the year grade level standards
3	Meets end of the year grade level standards
2	Progressing toward end of the year grade level standards
1	Limited progress toward end of the year grade level standards

Promotion/Retention

Promotion of K-2 students will be based on a variety of factors: age, maturity, motor coordination, capacity for learning, academic progress, and mastery of grade-level standards. Each standard on the report card is a **critical** standard. Therefore, students will be considered for retention if they score below 2.0 in any foundational area. The final authority for promotion/retention decisions for students in grades K–2 rests with the principal, in collaboration with the classroom teacher and Problem Solving Team. If a student needs to be retained, the parent(s) or guardian(s) of that student will be informed as early in the school year as possible.

Testing

iReady Diagnostic K-2- Students will take this assessment on the computer three times a year (Fall, Winter, Spring) as well as to progress monitor throughout the year.

Forefront Number Screeners K-2- demonstrates students' developing math competency, including recognizing numerals and their value, as well as learning basic facts in addition, subtraction, and multiplication.

The Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP)

The ACAP is the Alabama accountability assessment for grades 2-8. Second graders will take the assessment in the spring, and their score will be used to measure growth for their third grade year. Third grade will also take the assessment in the spring as part of the state and district accountability requirements to measure student growth and achievement. Reading, math, and writing will be assessed in both second and third grade.

Parent Involvement

Announcements

Announcements such as the morning pledge, moment of silence, school announcements, and other important information will be made over the intercom in the mornings. Digital signage will also be available in the lobby and main office for parents to view while on campus. Parents can also refer to the Jim Pearson Elementary website, Jim Pearson Facebook, and School ClassDojo.

Dojo

Jim Pearson utilizes a parent communication and behavior management system called Class Dojo. This is a free website/app that will be used for communication between school and home. Guardians will receive

invitations to their child's class Dojo from their homeroom teacher. Please follow the signup instructions on the invitation to stay informed. Dojo is also utilized as a points/reward system for behavior management.

Jim Pearson's Parent Den

Jim Pearson's Parent Den will be used for workshops and other parent-centered events throughout the year. It is the goal of the Parent Den to provide an environment and location for parents to attend learning workshops that aid in building their capacity to support their children. Parents are also encouraged to volunteer by contacting your child's teacher or one of our administrators.

PTO

Our Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) plays a vital role in supporting the students, staff, and programs at [School Name]. The PTO works in partnership with the school to enhance the educational experience by organizing events, fundraising for classroom needs, and building a strong sense of community.
We encourage all parents and guardians to get involved—whether by attending meetings, volunteering at events, or simply staying informed. Your participation, no matter how big or small, makes a meaningful difference in our school!

Things to Remember as a Parent of a student at Jim Pearson Elementary!

1. All students are expected to attend and be on time each and every day.
    a. *Attendance matters!*
    b. 8 parent notes are allowed for the entire school year.
    c. Excuses for attendance must be turned in within **3 school days.**
    d. 3 Unexcused Absences: admin contact with parents, 5 Unexcused absences - referral to CHINS (Refer to ACBOE Code of Conduct for additional unexcused absences details/actions)
    e. Students are considered Chronically Absent if they miss 18 or more school days, including excused and unexcused absences.
2. Adults picking up students in the car rider line **MUST** have the school issued car rider hanger visible or will be asked to park, go inside, and show ID. When showing ID, that person must be listed in PowerSchool as a contact for the student.
3. There are no checkouts allowed after 2:00 pm.
4. Students are to be dropped off in the morning through the car rider line; no student should be walked in from the parking lot or dropped off at any other location before 7:30.
5. Sign up for Class Dojo through your child's teacher to stay connected with your child's teacher and receive school information. Also, join JP's facebook page and visit the school's website for info.
6. Keep your information in PowerSchool up to date. Come to the office if you have any changes that need to be made. *Announcements will also be sent through our Blackboard system.*
7. **Any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher or any of the administration prior to contacting ACS Central Office.**
8. The Parent Den allows parents and guardians to have access to resources to assist you with supporting your child's education.
9. You are welcome at Jim Pearson, we just ask that you follow all procedures to ensure the safety of everyone on campus.
10. We love your children and look forward to working with each and every one of you. Your support of your child and our school is extremely important and greatly appreciated.