Name: _____Homeroom: _____

Important Phone Numbers: _____

DISCLAIMER: some policies may change due to new policies & procedures mandated by the district after the printing of the student handbook.

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2026-2027

John R. Kernodle, Jr. Middle School
3600 Drawbridge Parkway
Greensboro, NC 27410
336-545-3717 (Phone)
336-545-3714 (Fax)

School Colors – Navy, Silver & White
School Mascot – Cougars

School website: www.kernodlems.gcsnc.com
PTA website: www.kmspta.com
GCS website: www.gcsnc.com

Daily Schedule:

- 8:00 Office Opens
- 8:00 Building Open to students. Students should **NOT** arrive prior to this time due to no supervision.
- 8:20 Tardy (if you are not in your AA/homeroom & in your seat)
- 3:20 Dismissal
- 3:35 Car Riders must be picked up
- 4:00 Office Closes

Kernodle's Cougar Core Values

At Kernodle, we believe that students are responsible for their own behavior and ultimately, their own identities. Certain attitudes and behaviors are expected at Kernodle. We follow a set of core principles to guide behavior, expectations, and identity development. We promote four core values as a set of ideals for students to understand and follow. Kernodle's four core Values are**: RESPECT, COMPASSION, RESPONSIBILITY** and **PARTICIPATION**. All students are expected to learn the importance of these core values in the context of daily school life and be guided by them in their attitudes and behavior at all times.

DRESS CODE

Students will be expected to keep themselves well-groomed and neatly dressed at all times. Any form of dress or appearance which is considered destructive and detrimental to the purpose or conduct of the school, or any dress which might, in any way prove embarrassing to the student, will not be permitted. This includes but is not limited to clothing that has pro-violent, hate, race, or offensive words/graphics. **The following items of clothing have been determined to be unacceptable school attire: s**hort shorts, tank tops/muscle shirts, mesh or see-through clothing, halters or midriffs, tops that expose cleavage or shows undergarments, one-piece body suits, no one shoulder or off the shoulder shirts, hats (male or female), hanging chains, sagging pants, chokers or wristbands (which could be considered dangerous), sunglasses, short skirts, short dresses and track shorts with the split on the side, shoes with rollers on the bottom as well as other items deemed inappropriate attire by school administrators. NO pajamas, bedroom shoes or night clothing attire should be worn to school. Profanity, suggestive slogans, and/or references to alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products on clothing are prohibited.

Jeans with holes or rips **(above the knee)** are allowed but **cannot show skin at any time which means when the student is standing, sitting or walking.** Nor should undergarments be visible at any time with the holes, rips, or tears. Undergarments should not be visible at any time.

Students wearing inappropriate clothing will be required to immediately change to P.E. or any other appropriate clothing and will be allowed to call home for appropriate clothing if they would like; however, they will have to go back to class until another set of clothing arrives. **Students with repeated dress code violations will receive disciplinary action.**

School issued Laptops
If students are issued a school laptop and will be responsible for any damages that occur to the laptop and/or the charger while it is checked out to them. Students are expected to replace lost chargers. This year the school is a one laptop for every two students.

Backpacks/Purses
Backpacks, drawstring bags, carry bags, and purses should be left in lockers until the end of the school day. They are not to be carried from class to class nor off the hallway for any reason.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices (personal)
Cell Phone Policy: All student cell phones/electronic devices on campus must be stored in "off" mode in their lockers during the instructional day (8:00 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.) Students should not have cells phones out until they exit the building. There is a phone in the front office students can use for sickness and emergencies. Cell phones/electronic devices cannot be used inside the school building or on buses at any time. KMS is not responsible for the loss/theft of these items if they are brought to school.

Grading scale for Guilford County Schools:
A 90-100 B 80-89 C 70-79 D 60-69 F 59-below

Homework requests
If a student is absent only one day it is the student's responsibility to request work upon return to school the next day. If the absence is **two or more days,** you may call the Guidance Secretary at 336-545-3717 to have assignments gathered. **You must call prior to 10:00 a.m**. to ensure that assignments will be ready in the Front Office at 4:00 p.m. It is the parent's responsibility to pick up assignments.

Attendance Information
All students who are absent from school for a day or any portion of a day must bring a written note from home **within 3 days of their return**. This note must be presented to their AA/homeroom teacher. Students are responsible for assignments missed. If at any time a student is absent from school more than three consecutive days, the parent/guardian should contact administration/counselor and give reasons for the extended absence. Students who fail to attend school regularly will be referred to the school social worker. The parent/guardian will be notified after a child has accumulated three, six, and 10 unexcused absences in a school year. Violation of the Compulsory Attendance Statute 115C-378 can result in prosecution if absences cannot be justified. Any student with ten consecutive days of unlawful absences will be withdrawn from school on the eleventh absence.

What is the Process of Notifying Parents/Guardians of Absences? Parents/guardians will be notified of students being absent on the following schedule: after 3 absences; after 6 absences; after 10 absences. **Excessive absences will be a factor in consideration for retention.**

Absentee Information: All students who are absent from school for a day, or any portion of a day, must bring a written note **within 3 days of their return**. This note must be presented to your AA/homeroom teacher. Students are responsible for assignments missed and required to submit them no more than 2 days after returning to school. If at any time a student is absent from school more than five consecutive days, the parent/guardian should contact the school and give reasons for the extended absence. Students who fail to attend school regularly will be referred to the school social worker. The parent/guardian will be notified after a child has accumulated three and six unexcused absences in a school year. Violation of the Compulsory Attendance Statute 115C-378 can result in prosecution if absences cannot be justified. Any student with ten consecutive days of unlawful absences will be withdrawn from school on the eleventh absence.

Tardies and morning arrival
Students arriving after **8:20 a.m.** are **tardy**. The student must be seated in the classroom when the tardy bell rings to not be considered tardy; not walking up the hall or at their locker. A note (doctor, dentist, parent note) should be presented to the secretary in the front office if your child is tardy and the student will receive an "Admit to Class" slip.
In order for a student to be present for a full day they must attend school until 11:55 a.m.
Car Riders./Walkers are not excused if tardy.. Students with excessive tardies will receive disciplinary action.

Prior Approval Notes: Parents must submit a written request to school administration (form available in the office and the KMS website) for approval prior to any absence of **3 days or** more for reason other than illness, doctor's appointment or death in the family. All work missed is expected to be made up.

Dismissal
Afternoon Car Riders: Students not involved in extracurricular activities should be **picked up by 3:35 p.m.** Supervision cannot be provided after 3:35 p.m. Students should wait in the designated area for their ride to arrive. They are not allowed to walk across the car rider line in the street without an adult escorting them across. Nor should they be picked up in the bus lot or faculty parking lot.

Alternative Transportation: Due to limited capacity on buses, students WILL NOT be permitted to ride on a different bus. If you have any questions about this policy, please call the Transportation Department at 888-511-4427.

A student is counted absent if he/she leaves before 11:55 a.m. or arrives after 11:55 a.m.
Early Dismissal Notes: A note from the parent with the following information is required:

- Reason for leaving early
- Time of departure
- Name of person who will pick up the student
- Contact Phone Number
- Signature of parent/guardian

The note must be presented to the secretary in the Main Office area by 8:20 a.m. All students must report to the main office before leaving school if being dismissed early. For student safety, students will not be allowed to leave early after 3:00 pm. The parent/guardian must sign the student out in the main office.

****Valid photo identification is needed for all early pick ups.****

Athletics
Kernodle Middle School provides the following athletics:

Fall**:** Boys' and Girls' Volleyball & Soccer, Football (7th and 8th only), Cheerleading
Winter**:** Boys' and Girls' Basketball, Cheerleading, Wrestling
Spring**:** Boys' and Girls' Track, Boys' Baseball, Girls' Softball, Golf

Eligibility for Sports: North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) requires all students to have a physical to participate in sports and athletic try-outs. Forms may be obtained from the coaches, the front office, and on the website.

Academic Requirements
A student must pass 70% of all courses taken during the previous semester to be eligible for athletics.

Attendance Requirement
To be eligible for athletic participation, students must have been in daily attendance for 85% of the previous semester. For athletic eligibility purposes, daily absences cannot be made up under any circumstances, even if a student attends Saturday classes, extra help sessions, summer school, or other programs to make up academic work. A student must be a regularly enrolled member of the school's student body at the time of participation. All absences count, regardless of reason.

Cafeteria
Kernodle Middle School has been identified as CEP school meaning all students regardless of income will receive free breakfast and lunch. Students will be encouraged to get a lunch and breakfast. Some extra items such as ice cream will need to be purchased. All students are required to eat in the cafeteria during their lunch. Students may bring spill-proof water bottles containing water only to drink throughout the day. **Beverages brought from home must be in a sealed drink can or sealed carton. No glass containers are allowed.** Students should not leave the cafeteria for any reason without teacher's permission. Each student is responsible for keeping the cafeteria table and floor clean. Visitors will sit in a designated seating area. Any outside food that is brought to school for a student will be consumed in the office.

Dances
The Kernodle PTA sponsors dances and grade-level Fun Nights for Kernodle Middle School students only. A permission form is needed to purchase a ticket. Tickets are sold prior to the dance/fun night. See permission slips for start and end times of events. Students must be counted present at school on the day of the dance/fun night in order to attend. **Two weeks of good behavior (no out-of-school, in-school, bus suspension, or after school detention given by Administration) prior to the dance/fun night is required to attend these events**. *Any student not picked up at least 15 minutes after any school function will not be allowed to attend the next after-school event.*
You must be in school at least half the day to attend/participate in all after-school events.

Discipline/Student Behavior
Discipline: One of the most important lessons education should teach is discipline. While it does not appear as a subject, it underlies the whole education structure. It is the training that develops self-control, character, orderliness, and efficiency. It is the key to good conduct and proper consideration for other people.
Bullying**:** Bullying or harassing behavior includes, but is not limited to acts of disrespect, intimidation, threats or any pattern or gesture which takes place on school property or at any school sponsored function. **Bullying will not be tolerated** in any form and if it occurs all students will be subject to discipline pursuant to Guilford County's Student Code of Conduct.
Respect Self*:* Give your best effort at all times. Come to class prepared to learn. Be on time for class and bring necessary materials (paper, pencils, books, PE clothes, and planners). Actively participate in class in a positive and productive manner.
Respect Others: Keep hands and feet to yourself. Use appropriate language. Be polite and positive (refrain from putdowns, name calling, profanity, and vulgarity). All students are expected to abide by the GCS and KMS behavior guidelines for after school activities.
Respect Property: Keep the school buildings and grounds clean. Keep personal property safe. (Keep personal items including book bags in your own lockers and leave valuables at home.) No laser pointers or similar devices are allowed for students. Any inappropriate items will be held in the office for parents to pick up with administrative approval.
Students are not permitted to chew GUM in school.

Movement on Campus:
- ***Move on campus quickly.*** Come to class on time, follow route to class designated by team, walk at an appropriate pace.
- ***Move on campus quietly.*** Talk at an acceptable level and be considerate of others, close lockers quietly.
- ***Move on campus safely.*** Walk to class! (Without sliding, jumping, or running.) Always keep to the right side of the hallways and sidewalks. Keep your hands/items to yourself at all times.

Acts of Affection*:* Inappropriate displays of affection such as hand holding, hugging, kissing, etc. among students will not be allowed during school or at related activities or functions.

Bus Conduct: Riding a school bus is a privilege and not a right. A student's failure to follow bus rules and regulations may result in a suspension from riding a bus for a designated length of time. No food, drinks or electronic

devices are allowed on buses. **Students can NOT switch buses without PRIOR** approval from the transportation department. (888-511-4427)

Possession of Drugs/Tobacco/Vapes*:* Students shall not possess, use, sell, transmit, deliver, or distribute any drugs, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, vapes, or any other controlled or illegal substances or drug paraphernalia at any time while at school or at any school-sponsored activity.

Gang Intervention Policy: Kernodle Middle School, in an effort to "enhance a safe, secure learning environment and to help foster an attitude of respect for the rights of others", has adopted the following policy: This policy prohibits any gang-related involvement and activities at school, during school-related functions, or on school property. The school has identified gang activity and/or involvement as wearing, possessing, using, distributing, displaying, or selling any clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols, signs, graffiti, or other items that are evidence of membership in or affiliation with a gang. Immediate and severe disciplinary measures **(including suspension)** will be taken against any student in violation of this policy.

ASD *(After School Detention):* Any teacher or administrator may detain a student before or after regular school hours for misbehavior. Guilford County and Kernodle Middle School rules and policies apply to all school related activities including, but not limited to, sports events, dances, club activities, and field trips. Parents must be given 24 hours' notice in order for them to arrange for transportation.

OSS *(Out of School Suspension):* This prohibits students from entering the school grounds or attending any day, night, or after-school activity or riding a school vehicle during the period of suspension. Only administration can assign OSS.

Guidance Counselors
The counselors are available to help students succeed in their school experience. The Guidance Office assists students in their intellectual, emotional, and social growth by providing individual and group counseling, guidance programs and a forum where students can speak openly and confidentially. We encourage and invite all students to use the Counseling Center as needed.

Lockers
Lockers assigned to students are the property of Kernodle Middle School. Students are not to share lockers or combinations for any reason. **ONLY school- issued locks are to be used.** Lockers are not to be exchanged with another student without permission from their homeroom teacher. Students should use lockers only at times designated by teams. The Principal or their designee may inspect lockers at any time. Do not place stickers or signs on the inside or outside of your locker. Your locker and its combination lock are your responsibility. **Replacement locks will be available at a cost of $7.00.**

Physical Education (PE)
Dress & Other Policies:

- Each student is required to wear tennis shoes during PE class. No flip flops or sandals. Shoes must always be tied for safety reasons.
- Jewelry is not acceptable at any time during PE. This is for the safety of the student and those around them. New piercings must be covered with tape or a Band-Aid.
- **No spray deodorant, perfume or cologne will be permitted in the locker rooms.**
- ALL students must participate in our PE/Health program. They will receive a new KMS shirt and pair of shorts for a nominal fee. The uniforms must be kept in the lockers which are provided for each student. We strongly suggest that the uniforms be laundered at least once a week. If uniforms are lost, a new one must be purchased from your child's PE teacher. Uniforms should not be altered in any way.
- Due to the nature of some PE activities, students are encouraged to purchase and use a mouth guard.
- Each child is provided a lock and locker. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with their lock. There is a $7.00 replacement fee for lost locks.

- Students will not share a locker with another student in their class. Students are responsible for placing personal belongings in their **assigned** locker. If "valuables" are left unlocked, the school is not responsible if theft occurs.
- Student athletes are required to dress out on game days.
- Every student's grade will be comprised of PE and Health for the quarter. During Health, students are responsible for written assignments, in class as well as homework. Students are also expected to maintain a separate binder for their health assignments. All 8th grade students are required to participate in Red Cross CPR certification.
- **ALL** students participate in Family Life during the school year unless parents send a letter indicating that their child should not participate.
- If you are ill or injured and expect to be excused from participating, you must present a note from home to be excused. F**or more than 2 days, a doctor's note is required.**
- Failure to comply with any of these policies will result in points being deducted from the student's grade. Students are required to dress out.

Hall Transitions
Arrangements to use the restroom should be made during class change or during designated times. Teachers should not allow students to use the restrooms during the first 10 minutes or the last 10 minutes of class time. Students with physical needs that require frequent restroom visits should provide a note from a doctor. Teachers will explain to students their hall pass procedures to ensure only students who have permission are in the hallway.

Medication/Prescription and Non-Prescription (This includes aspirin, Tylenol, etc.)
Medication must be delivered in person by the parent or guardian at the time the **authorization form** is submitted. No student should ever bring in or take out medication. The school will assume no responsibility for students who self-medicate.
Responsibility of Medicines: Any medicine not properly kept in the main office will be treated as a prohibited substance and any student or students involved may be subject to discipline under the Guilford County Drug Policy.