Dawson County Schools

One Dawson. Excellence Together.

Vision

To be an exemplary school district, preparing students for success.

Mission

To provide quality instruction and student support that results in preparedness for college, career, and life.

Commitments

1) Graduation for ALL students.
2) Providing a safe, supportive learning environment.
3) Cultivating relationships with students, families, schools & community.
4) Fostering a culture of engagement, innovation, and high expectations for student learning.
5) Providing extra-curricular activities and other opportunities, which develop life skills and positive personal growth.

DAWSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

2020-2021 STUDENT CALENDAR

July

August

3-6	Pre-planning
7	First Day of School

JULY 2020

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST 2020

17 Days

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September

7	Labor Day (No School)
24-28	Fall Break

October

22	Early Release/ Parent Conference
23	Prof. Dev. (Student Holiday)

SEPTEMBER 2020

18 Days

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER 2020

21 Days

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November

11	Early Release/ Veteran's Day
23-27	Thanksgiving Holiday

December

22	Early Release & Last day of 1st Sem.
23-31	Holiday Break

NOVEMBER 2020

16 Days

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER 2020

16 Days

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January

1	Holiday Break
4	Prof. Dev. (Student Holiday)
5	Students Return
18	MLK Day (No School)

February

11	Prof. Dev. (Student Holiday)
12	Student/Staff Holiday
15	Presidents' Day (No School)

JANUARY 2021

18 Days

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

FEBRUARY 2021

17 Days

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March

11	Early Release/Parent Conference
12	Prof. Dev. (Student Holiday)

April

5-9	Spring Break

MARCH 2021

22 Days

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL 2021

17 Days

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May

26	Last Day of 2nd Sem. & Early Release
27-28	Post Planning

June

TOTAL DAYS

180 - Students

190 - Staff

MAY 2021

18 Days

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNE 2021

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

School Hours

	Begin	End	Early Release
Elementary	8:10 a.m.	3:05 p.m.	12:30 p.m.
Middle	7:45 a.m.	2:45 p.m.	12:15 p.m.
Junior High	7:40 a.m.	2:30 p.m.	12:00 p.m.
High	7:40 a.m.	2:30 p.m.	12:00 p.m.

- Early Release
- First/Last Day of Semester
- Pre/Post Planning/Prof. Dev.
- Student/Staff Holiday

ELEMENTARY GUIDANCE PROGRAM

Academic:

- Provide guidance lessons covering test taking strategies and healthy study habits are delivered to students prior to state testing
- Serve on the response to intervention team, for students in need of additional academic and/or behavior support.
- Serve on the PBIS team for classroom behavior management. Provide parent information and support.

Personal/Social:

- Provide guidance lessons such as social skills, impulse control, problem solving skills, anger management, body safety, etc.
- Brief counseling on family change, anxiety, depression, or emotional episodes
- Parent information and support regarding child development

Career:

- Guidance lessons covering career standards for all students K-5
- School-wide events emphasizing career awareness

Classroom Lessons and Small Groups:

- How to get along with other students (social skills)
- Developing empathy
- Impulse control & problem solving skills
- Anger management skills
- Friendship & respect for others
- Tattle vs. Report
- Career awareness
- K-5 Body safety.

Brief Counseling with Students Facing Particular Difficulties:

- Family changes
- Anxiety reducing techniques
- Referrals to outside agency.

Parent Information and Support:

- How to help your child
- Child development information
- Refer to needed resources
- PBIS

ELEMENTARY GRADING GUIDELINES

BELIEFS

- Grades include both formative and summative assessments.
- Grades provide clear, consistent, and timely feedback.
- Grades reflect content knowledge.
- Grades are an indicator of progress toward mastery of learning objectives.
- Grades are an opportunity for students to take ownership of, and responsibility for, their own learning.
- Behavior and effort are assessed separately from learning objectives.
- Grades are a method of communication between school, students, and parents.

ACADEMIC GRADES

- KINDERGARTEN – 2ND GRADES
  Students will be evaluated using a standards-based report card. In standards-based grading, student progress is measured by determining student progress toward mastery of grade level standards. Rather than receiving one grade per content area, students will receive a breakdown of performance by standard enabling parents to more readily identify areas of academic strength and opportunities for improvement. In addition, the report card includes information on work ethic/habits and behavior that impact student achievement.
- 3rd – 5th GRADES
  Formative Assessment *(not included in final grade calculation)*

- Formative Assessment is used during learning to provide information to teachers and students about student learning progress.
- Formative Assessment helps to identify and remediate individual and class deficiencies in learning and is not included in students' overall grade.
- Formative Assessment is used at a time when adjustments may be made to teaching and learning activities to ensure students achieve learning goals based on the curriculum, therefore, formative reassessment happens as a regular part of the process.
- Formative Assessment must be academic in nature and support the learning objective.
- Formative Assessment includes a variety of formats such as, but not limited to: daily practice, class discussions, teacher observations, classroom assignments, classroom presentations, homework, quizzes.

Summative Assessment *(included in final grade calculation)*

- Summative Assessment is used after instruction to measure student growth related to standards and is given at a particular point to determine if a student has mastered the learning objective.
- Summative Assessment includes a variety of formats such as, but not limited to: tests, projects, and major presentations.

Grading Calculations

- Formative assessment grades shall be used to inform teachers as they plan and adjust instruction to meet the learning needs of all students.
- Summative assessment grades will represent 100% of a student's final grade and should be recorded in the PowerTeacher gradebook as follows:
    - A minimum of 6 summative assessment grades will be recorded each quarter for English/Language Arts and Reading courses (3 for language arts standards and 3 for reading standards).
    - A minimum of 4 summative assessment grades will be recorded each quarter for Math, Science, and Social Studies.
    - Summative assessment grades below 50% shall not be recorded. The teacher will present a reteach/reassessment opportunity.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR RETEACH/REASSESS

- Teachers will provide retake opportunities on summative assessments.
- Teachers will record the highest grade in PowerTeacher gradebook.

EXTRA CREDIT

- Extra credit is not available.

COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS

- The electronic gradebook, PowerTeacher, is used for all grade reporting. Teachers will keep grades current to ensure that parents have an accurate representation of a student's current grades.
- Progress reports will be available to parents at approximately the midpoint of each nine-week grading period. It is the teacher's responsibility to communicate with the parents of struggling students.
- Report cards are issued at the end of each nine-week grading period.

★ GRADING GUIDELINES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE; PARENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED PRIOR TO ANY CHANGES.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There's power in volunteers! Your contribution of time and commitment will enhance learning opportunities for all students at our school. All volunteers must complete mandated reporter training. Please see the Principal at each school for additional specific requirements for volunteering. Information is provided at the beginning of the school year. In pursuing our vision of student learning, volunteers are needed for:

- **Room Parents:** Teachers always need help coordinating holiday parties, special activities, field trips, and other programs throughout the year. If you are interested in volunteering, let your classroom teacher know. A sign-up sheet will be available during open house.

- **Book Fair:** The Book Fair is sponsored by the Media Center with proceeds going to buy books and other materials needed throughout the year. Volunteers are needed to assist children with book choices, run the cash register, and organize/restock the merchandise.
- **Teacher and Staff Appreciation:** Teacher and Staff Appreciation will be the month of May. This is our chance to say "Thank You!" to the people who touch our children's lives each and every day.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Our school is strengthened by your involvement as a parent in our Parent Teacher Organization. The school vision is to become a caring and cohesive community where learning is a priority, and students are inspired to reach for the best. Our school has much to offer. Together, we can ensure our children the best opportunities available for success.

DAILY PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE

School attendance is critical because it underscores the significance of learning and the importance of obtaining an education in our society. It teaches responsibility, instills a work ethic, and helps develop good habits that will carry over to other aspects of life. Good attendance determines, to a large extent, a student's level of success in school. If you know your child will be absent, please call the school. An attempt will be made to call you if your child is absent and the school has not been notified.

ABSENCE REQUIREMENTS

When returning from an absence, <u>a student must bring a written note (within 3 days) from the parent to the teacher, explaining the reason for the absence.</u> Absences will be marked either excused or unexcused. Excused absences include:

- Personal illness;
- Death or serious illness in the immediate family;
- Recognized religious holidays observed by your faith; and
- Absences mandated by order of governmental agencies.

Work missed due to an excused absence must be made up within 3 school days-- this includes homework and tests.

Board Regulation JB-R states, "For Grades K-8, schools will accept no more than 10 parent-generated excuses. Also, schools will verify all excuses from medical offices once 10 are accrued. An exception is allowable with proper documentation from a medical or mental health practitioner indicating current treatment, the student's diagnosis, and that their condition may require absences that do not necessitate an office visit, per treatment plan."

STUDENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP:

<u>DROP OFF BEGINS AT 7:50 A.M.</u>

- Students should **NOT** arrive before 7:50 A.M. No adults are on duty to supervise students before this time.
- Adults will be present as children unload vehicles after 7:50 A.M.
- Parents will **NOT** be allowed to drop students off in the **bus loading area.**
- If you will be walking your child into the building, you must park away from the car drop-off area.

<u>AFTERNOON PICK UP BEGINS AT 3:05 P.M.</u>

- Parents who consistently pick their child up late will be required to meet with the principal and/or social worker. Children who are repeatedly not picked up on time will be addressed accordingly.

LATE ARRIVAL

The instructional day begins promptly at 8:10 A.M. Any student arriving at 8:10 A.M. or after is considered tardy and must sign in at the office. For safety purposes, outside doors are locked at 8:10 A.M.

EARLY DISMISSAL

There will be no early checkouts after 2:30 P.M. All phone calls for changes in student transportation should be before 1:30 P.M.

We encourage you to pick up your child early only for medical reasons or emergencies so that students don't miss important instructional time.

Students will be released only to the parent or to those persons listed by the parent on the student information sheet. This person must sign the check out sheet each time the child is released from the school. This person may also be asked to show his/her driver's license or some other form of photo identification. Please notify the office in writing of any changes to this information.

Students are released from the office only. Please do not go to your child's classroom to check him/her out of school.

CHEWING GUM
In order to keep our school building and school grounds clean, we do not allow gum at school.

DRESS CODE
Any dress that interferes with the school day or is lewd or obscene will be prohibited. This may include, but is not limited to: heavy chains, see-through clothing, dangling earrings, bare midriff, sagging pants, and inappropriate footwear. Logos and words relating to violence, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or including vulgar language may not be worn to school. The interpretation will be left to the teacher and/or staff's discretion. Hats are not to be worn by either boys or girls in the building. Exceptions are made on certain days for special occasions.
DRESS CODE
The following articles of clothing are **NOT** to be worn at school:

- Clothes that display offensive words, designs, sexual content, or depict violence or represent gang, cult, or non-sanctioned clubs or organizational affiliation.
- Clothes that advertise tobacco, drugs, and/or alcoholic beverages.
- Clothes that distract from the educational process of other students. Such articles of clothing include but are not limited to: sleeveless shirts and blouses, clothing with revealing necklines, transparent clothing, midriff tops, tank tops, strapless tops/dresses, spaghetti strap tops/dresses, mini-skirts, biking shorts, trench coats, sleepwear, and clothes that are excessively loose, flared, or pants with holes above the knee.
- Student's shorts, dresses and/or skirts should comply with a standard of no more than five inches above the kneecap. A standard index card (3 x 5) will be used as a measuring tool. The shorts must be hemmed and without fraying. The administration reserves the right to suspend the privilege of wearing shorts at any time during the school year if the guidelines provided are consistently ignored.
- Tops are considered too short if during normal activities, such as raising his/her hand or bending over, the stomach or back is exposed.
- Students shall be required to show reasonable attention to personal cleanliness and neatness. Health regulations and safety factors require that shoes be worn at all times at school unless a class activity requires shoe removal as determined by the teacher. Shoes should be appropriate and fit securely. Flip-flops and/or shower shoes are not allowed.

The administration reserves the right to interpret the appropriateness of student dress and appearance. **Any clothing or appearance that detracts from the educational process will not be allowed**. Penalties for violating the dress code may include, but are not limited to, the requirement to secure appropriate dress or appearance, detention, ISS, OSS, parent contact and/or tribunal hearing.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO LIFE THREATENING ASTHMA OR ALLERGIC REACTIONS
Dawson County Schools has partnered with the District 2 Health organization to implement a program for the emergency response to life-threatening asthma or systemic allergic reactions (anaphylaxis). More than 20% of children have their first life-threatening allergic reaction at school. Designated school staff members are trained to assess the clinical signs, call 911, and administer the medications (the epinephrine injection or the nebulized bronchodilator). The student must be transported to the nearest emergency room for evaluation and treatment should a life-threatening asthma or allergic reaction occur.

HEALTH CARE RELEASE
In order to provide the best possible care for your child, special health care needs or chronic conditions should be shared with appropriate school personnel. In the event of a life-threatening situation or critical injury, the school will take the appropriate emergency medical action. Additionally, the school will make every effort to notify the parent immediately. The parent is financially responsible for medical care and transportation.

HOMEWORK
All homework and tests in a grade level will be coordinated to avoid too much work being assigned in one day. The homework will come directly from skills taught in class. Since homework will have an effect on students' grades, students and parents should take it seriously. Types and amounts of homework will vary from grade to grade.

ILLNESS & MEDICATION AT SCHOOL
IF YOUR CHILD NEEDS MEDICATION AT SCHOOL, the parent will need to take it to the school nurse in a correctly labeled container. Prescription drugs must be in the original container with a doctor signed order with directions. Parents will need to sign a permission form. Directions should accompany non-prescription medicine from home. Directions different from the directions on the label of any medication should be in writing, dated, and signed by the parent.

ILLNESS
Before returning to school, students must be fever free and symptom free for 24 hours without medication.

INSURANCE
An insurance policy approved by the board of education is available for the students. Forms will be given out the first day of school with information pertaining to cost and coverage.

LOSS OF OR DAMAGE TO A TEXTBOOK OR LIBRARY BOOK
Textbooks and library books are the responsibility of the student when issued or checked out. If books are lost or damaged, parents are expected to pay in accordance with the scale fixed by the State Department of Education. If a book is found, reimbursement will be made.

LOST AND FOUND
Any article of clothing that is left at the school that does not have a name in the label will be kept for a period of 30 days. If, after this time no one has claimed the article, all items will be donated to charity. Please help us to eliminate these problems by speaking with your child about an item that you may think that he/she may have left at the school. We will be happy to help your child locate that item to get it returned.

PARENT CONCERNS
Parents with questions or concerns about a particular teacher's policy or classroom procedure should notify the teacher. Conferences may be scheduled by appointment, during the school day, depending on the teacher's schedule.

Parents have the right to obtain the qualifications of our teachers and paraprofessionals. The information available is:

- If the teacher has met the certification of the state,
- If the teacher is teaching under provisional status, and
- The bachelor's or graduate degree held by the teacher in their field or degree.

To request any of the above information, please contact the Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Human Resources at 706-265-3246.

PHONE CALLS
Students will be allowed to use the phone only in case of emergency. This will be at the discretion of the principal or the teacher.

PHOTO/VIDEOTAPE RELEASE
A form is provided in your open house package requiring your permission in order for your child to be photographed, interviewed or videotaped for stories/articles promoting our school or the school system. These stories may appear in newspapers, social media or on television. Please make sure that you return this form to the school indicating if you give your consent for the release of photographs/videotape to the media in school-related coverage.

REPORT CARDS
Report cards are given every nine weeks. Teachers will make every effort to keep parents informed and involved in their child's educational development. Conferences with parents, notes home, emails, assignments sent home for signature, homework, and mid-term reports are a few of the methods teachers use to inform parents. Parents are encouraged to ask for an appointment with the teacher early in the year and to expect notification from the teacher regarding the student's progress.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS:
Each elementary school's staff members are working together to create, promote, and maintain a safe and orderly learning environment for all students. Expectations are listed below:

KES P.A.W.S. **P**ledge to do your best **A**ccept Responsibility **W**ork Together **S**how Respect	**BMES** **B**e Responsible **E**ncourage Others **A**+ Attitude **R**espect Everyone
RES Tiger PRIDE **P**ositive Attitude **R**espectful Behavior **I**ntegrity **D**oing Your Best **E**mpathy	**RvES: SPARK** a Spirit of Service **S**ervice **P**ride **A**ttitude **R**espect **K**indness

SURVEYS
In order for state and local agencies and the school system to evaluate programs and activities, surveys/needs assessments are conducted. The Georgia Department of Education uses a statewide "Needs Assessment." Based on federal requirements all questionnaires, assessments, surveys, etc. require an active, positive consent. Permission must be received from parents of students in order to collect information typically related to drug use, violence, attitudes and/or behaviors. You may examine the surveys at the Central Office. The questionnaires are totally anonymous.

VALUABLES/PERSONAL ITEMS
Only necessary items requested by the teachers should be brought to school. If unnecessary items such as cell phones, toys, radios, jewelry, games, money, baseball cards, etc., are brought to school, school personnel are not responsible for these items. The student alone is responsible, and that responsibility should never be turned over to anyone else. There will be no trading, buying, or selling among students.
The following are examples of items that are distracting to other students and teachers, and if these items are brought to school, they will be taken up and turned in to the office: water guns, squirt bottles, laser pointers, trading cards, iPod/MP3 players, unauthorized video games, and cellular phones. ***The school is not responsible for items that are brought to school, even when taken up by school personnel. It is the responsibility of the parent to come by the office to get these items.***

VISITORS/SCHOOL SAFETY
To ensure that our school is as safe as it can be, all visitors are expected to observe the following procedures:

- Visitors must enter the building through the main entrance and report directly to the office. This includes parents picking up students early or dropping off late.
- The secretary will assist the visitor in signing in and getting a visitor's sticker.
- Visitors must wear their sticker at all times while in the building or on campus.

- At no time should any visitor go directly to a classroom without first coming to the office to register. All school personnel have been instructed to escort any unregistered visitors back to the office to get a visitor's sticker.
- Any adult checking a student out will be asked for picture identification.
- Parent drop-off is between 7:50 A.M. and 8:10 A.M.! No supervision is provided prior to 7:50 A.M.

Because we have so many volunteers and guests in our building every day, the procedures outlined above could require a short wait. Please be patient, as the safety of our children is our first priority.

MEDIA CENTER INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

The media center at our school is an important part of our school's educational program, providing staff and students with materials for research, pleasure reading, and production needs. A media advisory committee composed of faculty and parent representatives works with the media specialist to ensure that the needs and priorities of the school's instructional program are reflected in the services, policies, and procedures of the media program.

HOURS AND PROCEDURES FOR USE

The media center is open every school day from 7:50 A.M. to 3:35 P.M. Students may use the center before, after, and during the school day, but must present a hall pass. Under the direction of a teacher, an entire class may visit.

The classroom teacher and the media specialist work together to ensure that resources are available to support the teacher's instructional objectives.

Students use identification cards to check out books independently. Online computer catalogs assist students in locating information on books. Computers allow students to work independently in research or other educational activities in the media center. Our school is connected to the internet. Students may do research online or write emails with teacher supervision and parent permission. Video cameras are often used to tape student activities and productions.

Other resources are available for the staff: iPads, multimedia projectors and screens, software, digital cameras and digital video cameras, a laminator, letter cutter and binder machines, and copy machines. (SMART BOARDS)

CIRCULATION

Most of the print books located in the main library room are available for student check out. Reference materials are for use in the media center or can become accessible to students through teacher check out. Students are limited to checking out one book at a time; however, permission is sometimes granted for special school projects requiring more than one or two books.

Books are to be returned or renewed weekly, and **students are responsible for all books they check out.** Prompt attention to late books is requested. **Funds collected in payment for a lost book will be refunded if the book is later found**. Fines may be charged for damaged books. No late fees are charged.

PARENT RESOURCE ROOM

A Parent Resource Room has been created for parents' use at every elementary school with informative and educational parent materials. You are encouraged to check out this helpful resource.

EQUAL RIGHTS LAW

Federal law prohibits on the basis of race, color, of national origin (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); sex (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1992 and the Carl Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act of 1990); of disability (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1990) in educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. Employees, students, and the general public are hereby notified that the Dawson County Board of Education does not discriminate in any educational programs or activities or in

employment policies. The following individuals have been designated as the employees responsible for coordinating the school system's effort to implement this non-discriminatory policy:

Title I, Title IV & Perkins Act – Dr. Janice Darnell, Executive Director of Instructional Support & Student Services
Title IX – Hershel Bennett, Assistant Superintendent, HR & Operations
Section 504 and ADA and Title VI – Dr. Todd Langley, Director of Exceptional Children

Inquiries concerning the application of the Perkins Act, Title I, Title IV, Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 and ADA to the policies and practices of the Dawson County Board of Education may be addressed to the persons listed above at the Dawson County Board of Education, 28 Main Street, Dawsonville, Georgia 30534; call the Dawson County Board of Education at 706-265-3246; or to the Director, Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, P.O. Box 2048, Atlanta, Georgia 30301; or to the Director, Office for Civil Rights, Education Department, Washington, D. C. 20201

NOTICE OF GEORGIA COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

O.C.G.A. §20-2-690.1 requires any person in this State who has control or charge of a child between the ages of six and sixteen to enroll and send that child to school, including public, private, and homeschooling. If a parent, guardian or other person who has control or charge of the child causes the child's absence, then that person, and not the child, is in violation of this statute. Such a violation is a misdemeanor and carries a penalty of up to $100 fine and 30 days in jail for each violation. The law specifies that each day's absence constitutes a separate offense. Violators will be prosecuted.

For purposes of this notice, the term "parent" includes any adult who has charge and control over the child, including a biological, adoptive, foster, or stepparent, a guardian or any other person who has primary responsibility for the child's welfare. In this regard, two parents residing in the same household with the child are equally responsible for the child's attendance at school.

Older children share the responsibility for their school attendance with supervising adults and are subject to adjudication in Dawson County Juvenile Court as an unruly child for violation of this statute. A complaint will be filed in the Juvenile Court of Dawson County against a child age ten (10) to fifteen (15) who is habitually and without justification truant from school. For the purposes of determining the pursuit of court complaints, truancy is defined as ten (10) or more days of unexcused absence from school. Please note that parents may themselves choose to file truancy complaints prior to any complaint made by the school system. If a student is sixteen (16) or older, any complaints regarding truancy must be filed by the parents.

A child may be placed on probation for truancy by the Juvenile Court Judge upon admission or determination of guilt (adjudication) to a truancy charge. This Probation may last for up to two (2) years and may include specific conditions, including, but not limited to, a curfew, community service, participation in an truancy reduction program or counseling, and/or monetary fines. This District Attorney and/or the Department of Juvenile Justice may also request a protective order to ensure that the parent(s) actively assist in the child's compliance with conditions of probation, including attendance in school. Further unexcused absences from school by the youth may result in immediate sanction by the Department of Juvenile Justice, including a possible violation of probation, which may result in more severe penalties, up to and including detention.
If you have any questions regarding the information included in this document, please contact the Principal of your child's school or the School Social Worker, who will be glad to address any questions you may have.

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR 2020-2021

We welcome your child to the School Nutrition Program in the Dawson County School System. The food service program is a self-sustaining program, which operates from monies received through payments for meals and reimbursements from federal and state programs. Meal choices are offered daily at each school. Current monthly menus are posted at each school as well as the school system's website.

BREAKFAST PRICES

Full Price	$1.50 per day
Reduced Price	$0.30 per day
Free	$0.00 per day
Adult	$2.00 per day

LUNCH PRICES

Full Price	$2.35 per day for Elementary Schools
	$2.65 per day for Middle/Junior High/High Schools
Reduced Price	$0.40 per day
Free	$0.00 per day
Adult	$3.75 per day

All students who qualify for free/reduced lunch automatically qualify for free/reduced breakfast.
Parents/guardians are encouraged to prepay for meals either on a weekly or monthly basis.
***Additional pricing for a-la-carte items are posted in the school cafeterias.**

1. **Paying with cash** – put your payment in a sealed envelope on which you've written your child's name, ID number, and teacher's name.
2. **Paying by check** – write the child's name, ID number, and teacher's name on the check**.**
3. **Paying for more than one student at the same school** – please write each child's name, each child's ID number and their teacher's names and the amount of money you are paying for each child on the check or envelope.
4. **Paying with debit or credit card on www.MySchoolBucks.com. There is a $1.96 charge per transaction per student and no charge for viewing account information.**
5. Please check on a regular basis to be sure your child has adequate money in his/her school meal account, especially if you allow your child to use money from their meal account to buy extras in the school café. If your child charges meals up to the approved limit, parents will be asked to bring money to the school or immediately pay online.

FAMILY APPLICATIONS FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS

If you believe your family/child qualifies for the free/reduced price meal benefits, complete a **family** free/reduced meal application. PLEASE COMPLETE ONLY ONE APPLICATION FOR YOUR FAMILY THIS YEAR. BE SURE TO LIST ALL CHILDREN ENROLLED IN DAWSON COUNTY SCHOOLS AS WELL AS ALL OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS ON THE SINGLE FAMILY APPLICATION.

Family applications for free and reduced meals are available at each school office or cafeteria and are sent home to every household at the beginning of the school year. **A new application must be completed for your family each school year.** Even if your child/children were determined eligible for the benefit last year, a new application must be completed for this year. Parents/guardians are responsible for charges incurred until a current approved free/reduced meal application is on file (applications take 10 working days for approval).

MEAL CHARGES

Family applications for free and reduced price meals are available at each school office and in each school cafeteria. **Parents are responsible for charges incurred until a meal application has been processed and approved.**

Charging breakfast and/or lunch is for emergencies only and should not be considered as a choice on a routine basis.

Meal Charge Procedure

Elementary School Students – The procedure for elementary students without adequate funds to purchase school meals allows them to charge $10.00. If a child has charged $10.00 and does not have any money, **parents will be notified to bring money to the school or pay immediately on-line at MySchoolBucks.com.**

Students who owe for charges are not allowed to purchase supplemental sale items. Supplemental sale items cannot be charged. **The signed parental permission form must be on file** if a student is not allowed to purchase supplemental sale items from their account.

To prevent your child from accruing charges, please provide money for your child's meals each day or **prepay for meals in advance**. **To assist parents, student account balances can be monitored at any time via our online payment program, MySchoolBucks.com**. This service can be used regardless of whether you use the online funding option (a service fee of $1.96 is charged) or send cash or checks directly to the school. **Create an account for each** child, then throughout the year, monitor the student meal account balance (or fund their account). Add your children by entering their student ID number and selecting their school. We highly recommend that you set a **Low Balance Alert ($10 or higher is suggested)** using the links on the page to receive an email reminder when funds are low.

During the month of May, all student charges must be cleared.

School Nutrition Managers make every effort to inform students and parents when funds are low by sending **weekly notices home via students, verbal reminders to students, telephone calls and/or emails. Parents are responsible to ensure that children have an adequate lunch from home or sufficient funds to purchase school meals.**

Adult meal charges must be paid monthly.

Parents can get student meal history and account information from www.MySchoolBucks.com.

NSF CHECKS

In the event the cafeteria receives a returned check due to Non-Sufficient Funds (NSF) or a closed checking account, a $30 processing fee will be levied to cover costs for the returned check.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

DAWSON COUNTY SCHOOLS LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES

STUDENT ATTENDANCE – Board Policy JB

In responding to student attendance issues, the school system shall comply with all requirements of state law, State Board of Education rule, and the Student Attendance Protocol that has been developed by the county's Student Attendance Protocol Committee.

Excused Absences

It is the policy of the Board to excuse students from school for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness or attendance in school that endangers a student's health or the health of others. Recommendations from the school nurse as to whether a student's absence should be excused may be considered in cases involving illness at school or the detection of head lice.
2. A serious illness or death in a student's immediate family necessitating absence from school.
3. A court order or an order by a governmental agency, including pre-induction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school. In such cases, it is expected that the student will provide a copy of the order, subpoena or note from the court clerk.
4. The observance of religious holidays, necessitating absence from school
5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety
6. The Board authorizes high school administrators to allow for eligible students a period not to exceed one day for registering to vote or voting in a public election.
7. A student whose parent is in military service in the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard, and such parent has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted excused absences up to a maximum of five school days per school year to visit with his or her parent prior to such parent's deployment or during such parent's leave.
8. Students shall be counted present when they are serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly.
9. Students in foster care shall be counted present when they attend court proceedings related to their foster care.

The principal may in certain circumstances require students to present appropriate medical or other documentation upon return to school for the purpose of validating that absences are excused.

Out of school suspensions are considered to be unexcused absences, but are not counted for the purposes of determining truancy.

Grades and Absences

Final course grades of students shall not be penalized because of absences if they following conditions are met:

1. Absences are justified and validated for excusable reasons.
2. Make up work for excused absences was completed satisfactorily.

Uniform Withdrawal Criteria

For the purpose of accurately measuring the academic performance of students continuously enrolled in public schools, the Board adopts the following uniform criteria for withdrawing students.

1. Appropriate school personnel are authorized to withdraw a student who:
   a. Has missed more than 10 consecutive days of unexcused absences;
   b. Is not subject to compulsory school attendance; and
   c. Is not receiving instructional services through homebound instruction or instructional services required by the federal Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
   d. The Superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall use his or her best efforts to notify the parent, guardian, or other person who has charge of a student if the school system plans to withdraw such student who is younger than 18 years of age and is not subject to compulsory school attendance.
2. Appropriate school personnel are authorized to withdraw a student subject to compulsory attendance if the superintendent or superintendent's designee has determined the student is no longer a resident of the local school system or is enrolled in a private school or home study program.

3. Appropriate school personnel shall withdraw students retroactive to the first day of the consecutive absences.
4. An un-emancipated minor who is older than the age of mandatory attendance who has not completed all requirements for a high school diploma and wishes to withdraw from school must:
    A. Have the written permission of his or her parent or legal guardian prior to withdrawing.
    B. Prior to accepting such permission, the school principal or designee shall hold a conference with the student and parent within two days of receiving notice of the intent of the student to withdraw from school.
    C. The principal or designee shall make a reasonable attempt to meet with the student and parent to share the educational options available and the consequences of not having earned a high school diploma.

Policies and Procedures to Reduce Unexcused Absences: Notification

1. The school system requires its schools to provide to the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of each student enrolled in school a written summary of possible consequences and penalties for failing to comply with compulsory attendance. By September 1 of each school year or within 30 school days of a student's enrollment in the school system, the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of such student will be asked to sign a statement indicating receipt of such written statement of possible consequences and penalties. In addition, students age ten or older by September 1 must sign a statement indicating receipt of written statement of possible consequences for non-compliance to the local board policy; and
2. The school system will notify the parent, guardian or other person or other person who has control or charge of the student when such student has five unexcused absences. The notice will outline the penalty and consequences of such absences and that each subsequent absence will constitute a separate offense. After two reasonable attempts to notify the parent, guardian or other person who has charge of the student, the school system will send written notice via certified mail with return receipt requested.
3. Students shall be notified through the student codes of conduct of the definition of truancy and a summary of possible consequences and penalties for truancy, including possible dispositions for children in need of services and the possible denial of a driver's license.

Other General Attendance and Tardiness Rules

1. The Attendance Review Committee shall automatically refer students under the age of sixteen (16) with ten (10) or more unexcused absences from any of their subjects to the School Social Worker.
2. Should a High School student age eighteen (18) or below accumulate A) ten (10) or more unexcused absences in any semester long course or B) five (5) or more unexcused absences in any 9-week long course, that student will not receive credit for the semester. Students who are not granted credit for a course shall have an opportunity to appeal their circumstances to the Attendance Review Committee.
3. For determining action to reduce truancy from school, tardies and early checkouts shall be considered. At the High School, attendance is counted on a subject period basis and applies per semester. Absences accumulated in this manner shall be considered in determining referrals to the Attendance Support Team and School Social Worker. Students who have emergencies necessitating their absence from school for a portion of the school day must have been present for one-half of the instructional day in order to be counted present.

The superintendent is authorized to promulgate administrative regulations to implement the provisions of this policy.

SECLUSION OR RESTRAINT OF STUDENTS – Board Policy JGF(2)

The Board of Education shall require that all schools and programs within the district comply with the State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.35 concerning "seclusion" and "restraint", as those terms are defined within the rule.

This policy is not intended to prevent the use of physical restraint in limited circumstances where a student exhibits behaviors that place the student or others in imminent danger and the student is not responsive to verbal directives or

less intensive de-escalation techniques. The Board of Education recognizes that in determining when and how to implement this policy and any procedures related to it, educators will have to exercise their professional judgment and discretion. Therefore, the policy is not to be construed as imposing ministerial duties on individual employees. Further, it is not intended to interfere with the duties of law enforcement or emergency medical personnel.

For schools and programs within the district that use physical restraint as defined within the SBOE rule, the Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement written procedures governing its use, which shall include the following provisions:

1. Staff and faculty training on the use of physical restraint;
2. Written parental notification within a reasonable time, not to exceed one school day from the use of restraint, when physical restraint is used to restrain a student;
3. Procedures for observing and monitoring the use of physical restraint;
4. Documentation by staff or faculty participating in or supervising the restraint for each student in each instance in which the student is restrained;
5. Periodic review of the use of restraint and the documentation described in item 4.

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES – Board Policy JAA

The School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national origin, sex or disability in any student program. It is the policy of the Board of Education to comply fully with the requirements of Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act and all accompanying regulations.

Any student, parent or other person who believes he or she or any student has been discriminated against or harassed in violation of this policy must make a complaint in accordance with the procedures outlined below.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Complaints made to the School District regarding alleged discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color or national origin in violation of Title VI, on the basis of sec in violation of Title IX or on the basis of disability in violation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act will be processed in accordance with the following procedure:

1. Any student, employee, parent or other person with a complaint alleging a violation as described above shall promptly notify, in writing or orally, the appropriate coordinator designated below for the school system. If the complaint is oral, the coordinator shall promptly prepare a memo or written statement of the complaint as made by the complainant and shall have the complainant read and sign the memo or statement if it accurately reflects the complaint made. If the complaint is made to a school principal, he or she shall be responsible for notifying the appropriate coordinator of the complaint.
2. If the alleged offending individual is the coordinator or the principal, the complaint shall either be made by the complainant to the Superintendent or, if the complaint is initially made to the school principal, reported by the principal to the Superintendent. If the alleged offending individual is the Superintendent, the complaint shall be made to the designated coordinator, who shall, without further investigation, report the complaint to the Board chairperson.
3. The coordinator shall have fifteen work days to gather all information relevant to the complaint made, review the information, determine the facts relating to the complaint, review the action requested by the complainant, and attempt to resolve the complaint with the complainant and any other persons involved. The coordinator/designee shall prepare a written response to the complaint detailing any action to be taken in response to the complaint and the time frame in which such action will be taken. Copies of this response shall be furnished to the complainant, the appropriate coordinator and the principal or his or her designee.
4. If the complaint is not resolved at the conclusion of the fifteen day period or if the complainant is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaint, the complainant shall have the right, within five days of receiving a copy of the written response, to have the complaint referred to the Superintendent of Schools. If the alleged offending individual is the Superintendent, the complainant may have the complaint referred to the Board of Education, rather than the Superintendent.

5. The superintendent shall have fifteen work days to review the complaint and the response of the coordinator or designee and attempt to resolve the complaint. The superintendent shall furnish to the complainant a written response setting forth either his or her approval of the action recommended by the coordinator or designee or the action to be taken by the School District in response to the complaint in lieu of that recommended by the coordinator or designee and the time frame in which such action shall be taken.
6. This policy is not intended to deprive any student or parent of any right they may have to file a complaint under any other applicable policy of the local board or to contact the Office of Civil Rights or other appropriate state or federal agency with regard to any allegations that the School District has violated the statutes described above.
7. The School District shall be responsible for distributing and disseminating information relevant to this policy and procedure to students, parents and employees through appropriate procedures.
8. No reprisal shall occur as a result of reporting unlawful discrimination or harassment under this policy, and any attempt to retaliate against a complainant shall be disciplined as is appropriate.
9. The confidentiality of any individual making a complaint or report in accordance with this policy, to the extent it is reasonably possible and complies with the law, shall be protected, although the discovery of the truth and the elimination of unlawful harassment shall be the overriding consideration.

HB 1321: FALSIFYING REPORTS OF ALLEGED INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR BY TEACHER/SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Students and parents have the right to report misconduct of school personnel to the Professional Standards Commission. However, "falsifying, misrepresenting, omitting or erroneously reporting information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator or other school employee toward a student" is prohibited. According to the school Code of Conduct, this is considered to be either a Level III or Level IV disciplinary offense.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS – Board Policy JBC

Eligibility Criteria

All students who are minors as defined by Georgia law shall be admitted to the schools of the Dawson County School System only upon being enrolled by a parent, legal custodian or guardian of the student, who is a resident of Dawson County. Students who are adults or legally emancipated under Georgia law and who are residents of Dawson County are also eligible for enrollment. An adult must enroll all minor students. The Dawson County School System shall immediately enroll children located in the county and who are in the legal custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice or the Department of Human Resources except for those in a youth development center. The Principal of the school to which a student is seeking admission shall require from any adult who is not the parent of the student proof of legal custody or guardianship. Any student whose parent, legal custodian or legal guardian is an employee of the Dawson County Board of Education eligible for employee benefits, is also eligible for enrollment. The superintendent shall develop regulations regarding the interpretation and administration of these provisions.

Homeless Students

All minor students who are determined by the Principal or his designee to be homeless within the meaning of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, including unaccompanied youth as defined by the Act, shall be admitted to the schools of this system. Homeless students are defined as lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including children who are:

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship;
2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
3. Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
4. Are abandoned in hospitals;
5. Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
6. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings;
7. Migratory children living in conditions described in the previous examples.

The Principal or designee shall make reasonable inquiry and consult the Homeless Liaison to determine whether any child is homeless within the meaning of this policy, the federal act, and the policies and regulations of the State Department of Education.

The superintendent shall designate an appropriate staff person to be the district's liaison for homeless students and their families. The liaison shall assist, as needed, homeless students and their families in securing records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, proof of residency, or other necessary documentation for enrollment.

For more information please go to dawsoncountyschools.org and click on Parent Information, then click on Homeless Information.

HARASSMENT – Board Policy JCAC

It is the policy of this School District to prohibit any act of harassment of students by other students or employees based upon race, color, sex, national origin, or disability at all times and during all occasions while at school, in the workplace or at any school event or activity. Any such act by a student or employee shall result in prompt and appropriate discipline, including the possible termination of employment or suspension or expulsion of the student.

Sexual harassment may include conduct or speech which entails unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, taunts, threats, comments of a vulgar or demeaning nature, demands or physical contact which creates a hostile environment. There may be other speech or conduct which students experience as inappropriate or illegal harassment which should also be reported. Harassment can take many forms and it is not possible to itemize every aspect of the harassment forbidden by this policy.

Any student, parent or other individual who believes that a student has been subjected to harassment or discrimination by other students or employees of the School District as prohibited by this policy should promptly report the same to the principal of their school or to the appropriate coordinator designated in Policy JAA, who will implement the board's discriminatory complaints procedures as specified in that policy. Students may also report harassment or discrimination to their school counselor or any administrator. Students and employees will not be subjected to retaliation for reporting such harassment or discrimination. If at any point in the investigation of reported sexual harassment of a student, the coordinator or designee determines that the reported harassment should more properly be termed abuse, the reported incident or situation shall be referred pursuant to the established protocol for child abuse investigation.

It is the duty of all employees to promptly report harassment forbidden by this policy. All supervisors will instruct their subordinates as to the content of this policy and, through appropriate professional learning activities enlighten employees as to the varied forms or expression of prohibited harassment. The principals of all schools shall ensure that students and parents are informed through student handbooks and verbally that such harassment is strictly forbidden, how it is to be reported and the consequences for violating this policy.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT – Board Policy JCDA

It is the policy of the Board of Education that each school within this school district shall develop and implement age-appropriate student codes of conduct designed to improve the student learning environment and which will comply with state law and State Board of Education Rules. Each code of conduct shall include the following, at a minimum:

1. Standards of student behavior during school hours, at school related functions, on school buses and at school bus stops designed to create the expectation that students will behave themselves in such a way so as to facilitate a learning environment for themselves and other students. The standards should be designed also to encourage students to respect each other and school district employees, to motivate students to obey student behavior policies adopted by this Board and to obey student behavior rules established at each school within this school district

2. Behavior support processes designed to consider, as appropriate in light of the severity of the behavioral problem, support services available at each school, the school system and other public entities or community organizations which may assist students to address behavioral problems
3. Progressive discipline processes designed to create the expectation that the degree of discipline imposed by each school will be in proportion to the severity of the behavior of a particular student, the previous discipline history of the student and other relevant factors, while ensuring that each student receives the due process mandated by federal and state law
4. Parental involvement processes designed to enable parents, guardians, teachers and school administrators to work together to improve and enhance student behavior and academic performance. The process should enable parents, guardians and school employees to communicate freely their concerns about student behaviors which detract from the learning environment
5. All other specific requirements as set forth in any existing State Board of Education rule or in Georgia law

Each school shall involve parents in developing and updating student codes of conduct. Each code shall require disciplinary action for each infraction of the code. All student codes of conduct shall be submitted to the board for approval.

The student code of conduct shall be distributed to each student and the student's parents or guardians during the first week of school and upon enrollment of each new student. The parents shall be requested to sign an acknowledgment of the receipt of the code of conduct and return promptly the acknowledgment to the school. The student code of conduct shall be available in the school office and each classroom.

Teacher Reporting Requirement

It is the policy of the Board of Education that the Superintendent shall fully support the authority of principals and teachers to remove a student from the classroom pursuant to Georgia law as cited in §20-2-738 and § 20-2-751.5(d).

A teacher shall have the authority, consistent with board policy, to manage his or her classroom, discipline students, and refer a student to the principals or his designee to maintain discipline in the classroom. Any teacher who has knowledge that a student has exhibited behavior which violates the student code of conduct and repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in his/her class or with the ability of each student's classmates to learn shall file a report of such behavior with the principal or his designee. The principal and teacher shall thereafter follow the procedures set forth in Georgia law, specifically O.C.G.A. § § 20-2-737-738.

The Superintendent and/or his designee shall ensure that procedures are disseminated as necessary for implementation of this policy and applicable state laws.

STUDENT RECORDS – Board Policy JR

It is the policy of the Board of Education the School District shall comply with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Student Data Privacy, Accessibility, and Transparency Act of Georgia (the Act), and the Pupil Protection Rights Amendment (PPRA). The Board has developed and adopted student privacy policies in consultation with parents in accordance with federal law. Additionally, parents will be directly notified of these policies at least annually via the Student/Parent Handbook issued to students at the beginning of the school year or at the student's time of enrollment.

The Superintendent shall implement procedures whereby every principal is directed to develop a means to notify, on an annual basis, eligible students and parents, including non-English-speaking parents, of their rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and the Pupil Protection Rights Amendment, either through a student handbook distributed to each student in the school or by any means that are reasonably likely to inform them of their rights.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

Confidentiality of student records shall be preserved while access is provided to parents, eligible students (those over eighteen years of age or enrolled in post-secondary educational institutions), professional educators with legitimate educational interests, and those federal or state officials whose access is authorized in connection with an audit or evaluation of federal or state supported education programs or for the enforcement or compliance with

federal legal requirements related to those programs. The Superintendent shall direct the publication of procedures through which parents or eligible students may request the correction of errors in student records.

Without the exception of directory information as defined below, personally identifiable information will not be released by the school district from an education record without prior written consent of the parent or eligible student, except to the extent authorized by the FERPA and its implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R.§

The Board of Education designates the following information as "directory information." Unless a parent or eligible student makes a timely request to the principal of the school where the student is enrolled that such information not be designated directory information on the individual student, such information will not be considered confidential and may be disclosed upon request.

a) Student's name, address and telephone number;
b) Student's date and place of birth;
c) Dates of attendance at schools within the school district;
d) Honors and awards received during the time enrolled in the district's schools;
e) Grade level.

Student records shall be provided to schools within or outside the school district upon request of the school where a student is

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

Definition of Terms Used in PPRA

"Instructional Material" –Instructional material that is provided to a student, regardless of format, including printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as material accessible through the Internet). The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

"Invasive Physical Examination" – Any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts, or any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion, or injection into the body, but does not include a hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening.

"Personal Information" – Individually identifiable information including: (1) a student or parent's first and last name; (2) home address; (3) telephone number; or (4) social security number.

Requirements

No student shall be required to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent; or
8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program), without prior written consent of the parent or eligible student.

A parent of the student may, upon request, inspect any survey created by a third party containing one or more of the items listed as (1) through (8) above before the survey is administered or distributed by a school to a student and may choose to opt the student out of participation in the survey. The Superintendent shall develop procedures for: (1) granting a request by a parent for reasonable access to such survey within a reasonable period of time after the request is received, and (2) making arrangements to protect student privacy in the event of the administration of distribution of a survey to a student containing one or more of the items listed as (1) through (8). The requirements of PPRA do not apply to a survey administered to a student in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

A parent of a student may, upon request, inspect any instructional material used as part of the education curriculum for the student. The Superintendent shall develop procedures for granting a request by a parent for reasonable access to instructional material within a reasonable period of time after the request is received.

Parents shall be notified prior to the administration of physical examinations or screenings that the school may administer to students. This notice shall offer the parent the opportunity to opt the student out of any

non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is (1) required as a condition of attendance; (2) administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and (3) not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, or of other students.
The parent of a student shall be notified prior to the commencement of activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information (or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose). Such notice shall offer the parent the opportunity to inspect, upon request, any instrument used in the collection of such information before the instrument is administered or distributed to a student and to opt the student out of such activities. The Superintendent shall develop procedures that: (1) make arrangements to protect student privacy in the event of such collection, disclosure, or use, and (2) grant a request by a parent for reasonable access to such instrument within a reasonable period of time after the request is received.

BULLYING – Board Policy JCDAG

The Board of Education believes that all students can learn better in a safe school environment. Behavior that infringes on the safety of students will not be tolerated. Bullying, as the term is defined in Georgia law, of a student by another student is strictly prohibited. Such prohibition shall be included in the Student Code of Conduct for all schools within the school system.

Bullying is defined as follows: An act which occurs on school property, on school vehicles, at school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities, or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system, that is:

1. Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so;
2. Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or
3. Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that:
    a. Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1;
    b. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
    c. Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
    d. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

The term applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system. The term also applies to acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic communication, whether or not electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic communication (1) is directed specifically at students or school personnel, (2) is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and (3) creates a reasonable fear of harm to the students' or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose. Electronic communication includes, but is not limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system.

Procedures may be developed at each school encouraging a teacher or other school employee, student, parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a student, either anonymously or in the person's name, at the person's option, to report or otherwise provide information on bullying activity. Any teacher or other school employee who, in the exercise of his or her personal judgment and discretion, believes he or she has reliable information that would lead a reasonable person to suspect that someone is a target of bullying is encouraged to immediately report it to the school principal. Any report will be appropriately investigated by the administration based on the nature of the complaint in a timely manner to determine whether bullying has occurred, whether there

are other procedures related to illegal harassment or discrimination that should be implemented and what other steps should be taken. Any report of retaliation for reporting bullying will also be investigated and addressed as called for in this policy and in accordance with school procedures.

Acts of bullying shall be punished by a range of consequences through the progressive discipline process, as stated in the Code of Conduct. However, upon a finding by the disciplinary hearing officer, panel or tribunal that a student in grades 6-12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, the student shall be assigned to an alternative school.

Upon a finding by a school administrator that a student has committed an act of bullying or is a victim of bullying, the administrator or designee shall notify the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of the student by telephone call or through written notice, which may be done electronically.

Students and parents will be notified of the prohibition against bullying and the penalties for violating the prohibition by posting information at each school and by including such information in the student/parent handbooks.

BUS CONDUCT (Grades K-5)– Regulation JCDAD-R(1)

The transportation of students is an important function in our school system. Every precaution must be taken to see that students are transported safely. The same behavior is expected on the school bus as is expected in the classroom. The Code of Conduct and Discipline Procedures that apply for the school, also apply while students are being transported by any vehicle provided for the transportation of students. In addition, it is important that students abide by the bus discipline policies as outlined herein.

Fighting on the bus and abusive language or profanity toward the bus driver may result in a minimum of 5 days suspension from the bus. A student whose behavior warrants that the bus return to the school may be suspended from riding the bus for a minimum of 20 days.

Bus drivers will report specific disciplinary problems to the principal or assistant principal in writing on the Bus Discipline Referral Form. After the principal administers the proper disciplinary action, a copy of the Bus Discipline Referral Form will be forwarded to the parent, the bus driver, and the Transportation Director that day or the following school day. This form will indicate the action taken by the principal. The principal will maintain a file of the Bus Discipline Referral Form.

If a student is found to have engaged in bullying or in physical assault or battery of another person on the school bus, a meeting involving the parent/guardian and appropriate school district officials shall be held to develop a school bus behavior contract. This contract shall provide for progressive age-appropriate discipline, penalties, and restrictions for student misconduct on the bus. Contract provisions may include but shall not be limited to assigned seating, ongoing parental involvement, and suspension from riding the bus.

It shall be the responsibility of all principals to abide by the following Administrative Procedure for enforcing bus discipline:
FIRST REFERRAL: The principal shall take proper disciplinary action, which may include suspension from riding the bus, based on the nature or severity of the offense.
SECOND REFERRAL: The principal shall take proper disciplinary action, which may include suspension from riding the bus for at least 5 school days.
THIRD REFERRAL: The principal shall take proper disciplinary action, which may include suspension from riding the bus for at least 10 school days.
FOURTH REFERRAL: The principal shall take proper disciplinary action, which may include suspension from riding the bus for at least 20 school days.
FIFTH REFERRAL: The principal shall take proper disciplinary action, which may include suspension from riding the bus for at least 60 school days.

STUDENTS WHO ARE SUSPENDED FROM THE BUS ARE SUSPENDED FROM ALL BUSES. UNSERVED SUSPENSION WILL CARRY OVER TO THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.

Bus Safety Rules

1. Students will follow the directions of the driver.
2. Students should be at the bus stop five minutes before the bus arrives, waiting in a safe place, clear of traffic and 12 feet from where the bus stops.
3. Students will wait in an orderly line and avoid playing.
4. Students will cross the roadway in front of the bus after the bus has stopped, they have looked at the driver for a hand signal, and they have looked in both directions for traffic, left, right, left.
5. Students will signal the driver with a waving motion if something is dropped and wait for the driver to give a signal before picking up object.
6. Students will go directly to an available or assigned seat when entering the bus. Keep aisles and exits clear.
7. Students will remain properly seated, back against the back of the seat, bottom against bottom of the seat, and keep hands to themselves.
8. Students will not eat, drink, chew gum, or bring tobacco, alcohol or drugs on the bus.
9. Students will not bring animals, glass objects, nuisance items, hazardous materials, or weapons onto the bus. Students may bring objects that can be held on their laps.
10. Students will refrain from using loud voices, profanity and/or obscene gestures, and will respect the rights and safety of others.
11. Students will not extend head, arms, or objects out of the bus windows.
12. Students will be totally silent at railroad crossings.
13. Students will stay seated until time to get off the bus. The open bus door is the signal to get up from the bus seat.
14. Students must provide a Bus Pass, signed by a school official, giving permission and an address to ride a different bus or get on or off the bus at a different bus stop location.
15. Students will help keep their bus clean and in good, safe condition.

Other Bus Safety Considerations

1. The driver should not move the bus if students are standing forward of the standee line (forward of the two front seats) or in the step well.
2. Students riding a different bus or disembarking at an approved stop other than their assigned stop must have a completed bus pass signed by the school.
3. Clothing that can get caught in the handrail or door is not permitted; this includes items which dangle from book bags or clothing.

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES BY STUDENTS (POLICY JCDAF):

The Dawson County Board of Education recognizes that electronic media, including the Internet, instructional software, and cloud-based applications and resources provide access to a wide variety of instructional resources. All Dawson County Schools have Bring Your Own Technology and/or District-Provided 1:1 environments to support instructional programs and to be used for instructional purposes.

Use of electronic communication devices and other electronic media during the regular school day must be in support of, and consistent with the vision, mission, and goals established by the Dawson County Board of Education. All users of the Dawson County School District's networks and/or devices, services, and applications must maintain strict compliance with all applicable ethical legal rules and regulations regarding access and usage. All users of DCSS technology resources and facilities must agree to and sign the terms of the Dawson County School District's Internet Acceptable Use Agreement and Responsible Use Guidelines. Inappropriate use is subject to local school disciplinary action, up to and including a disciplinary tribunal hearing, or disciplinary action in accordance with the DCSS Student Code of Conduct.

The superintendent may establish additional guidelines for use of electronic devices/resources.

Responsible Use Guidelines for Dawson County Schools

I. Purpose

The mission of Dawson County Schools (DCS) is to prepare students to compete globally. The system provides ongoing student instruction that develops graduated digital citizenship for using technology as a tool to achieve this mission and inspire students to contribute and excel. Information and Communication Technology is an integral part of DCS' curriculum across subjects and grades in developmentally appropriate ways.

II. General Procedures

a. Students may bring personal electronic devices to school at their own risk and are responsible for the safety and security of any personal electronic device brought to school. The district assumes no liability for loss, theft, damage, nor liability for any unauthorized use of an electronic device. If a device is confiscated under this policy, no responsibility for the safety or security of the device is guaranteed.
b. Students shall use district provided electronic devices for educational purposes only. District provided electronic devices are required to be in a protective case at all times. Students are expected to care for district provided electronic devices. Students who leave their district provided electronic device at home are still responsible for completing their daily course work. Students who repeatedly leave their device at home may be subject to disciplinary action. The principal has the authority to develop additional guidelines for student usage.
c. Students may not employ the photographic, videographic, audio recording or reproduction capacity of any electronic device for the purposes of photographing, video capture, recording or reproduction of the same of any student or staff person without the express consent of the staff person, or under the supervision of a teacher or administrator. This section applies at all times while on school premises including school buses or at school sponsored events, regardless of the location.
d. Under no circumstances may personal electronic devices or district provided electronic devices be used in locker rooms, restrooms or rooms designated for changing clothing, regardless of location.

III. Standards for Responsible Use

a. Students who are permitted to use personal electronic devices or district provided devices during instructional time shall exhibit respect for the educational environment by:
    a. Following classroom teacher instructions for use;
    b. Using devices only as they do not distract from the educational process or disturb other students;
    c. Respecting copyright rights of others; and
    d. Refraining from using devices to cheat or assisting others to cheat.
b. Use of personal electronic devices or district provided devices on school buses shall not interfere with the safe operation of the bus, or the safety of students or driver.
c. At public events where allowed, students may use personal electronic devices or district provided devices to photograph, videograph, or record the audience. Events that do not involve copyrighted materials may be recorded.
d. Students will respect the privacy of others and will not post or upload pictures or recordings taken of others to the internet nor email pictures or recordings to others without the express advance permission of the persons in the photograph or recording.
e. Use of personal electronic devices or district provided devices is also subject to applicable law and other district policies regarding copyright, bullying, cheating, harassment, plagiarism, acceptable use of the internet and district email. If a violation occurs which involves more than one district policy, consequences for each policy may apply.

IV. Consequences for Violations

a. Failure to keep a device powered off or appropriately secured.
    a. At the first infraction, the staff person shall require the student to secure the device and turn it off. The staff member may require the student not to respond to a call. The student will be reminded as to the consequences for failure to keep the device powered off and appropriately secured.
    b. At a second infraction, the staff person shall confiscate the device and turn it in

to the school office, where the student may retrieve it after the close of classes for the day. The staff member may require the student not to respond to a call.

c. At a third infraction, the staff person shall confiscate the device, notify the parent or guardian, and turn it into the school office where the parent or guardian may retrieve the device. The staff member may require the student no to respond to a call. At a third infraction, the student will forfeit the privilege to possess or use a personal electronic device at school.

b. Inappropriate use of a device.

1. At the first infraction, the staff person shall confiscate the device, turn it into the office, inform the parent or guardian of the infraction, and reeducate the student on appropriate use. The student may be subject to other disciplinary actions based on the circumstances of the infraction.
2. At the second infraction, the student will forfeit the right to possess or use a personal educational device at school without the express permission of the principal or administrator. The student may be subject to other disciplinary actions based on the circumstances of the infraction.
3. If any infraction is a violation of law, school authorities will notify the appropriate law enforcement agency.

V. Responsibility

a. These regulations/guidelines shall be reviewed on an annual basis to assure that use of personal electronic devices or district provided devices remains consistent with providing an appropriate educational environment for all students.
b. Classroom teachers are responsible for guiding appropriate use of student personal electronic devices or district provided devices while students are under their supervision. Teachers shall not require the use of personal electronic devices or district provided devices for purposes of learning or completion of class requirements. Teachers are responsible for reporting inappropriate use.
c. Students are responsible for the appropriate use of any device brought to school. Students are responsible for reporting inappropriate use to their teachers, administrators or other school staff.
d. Parents are responsible for working with school principals to identify those situations where exceptions to this regulation are necessary to secure the health or safety of their children, and to participate in creating a plan for appropriate use under their family circumstances within the educational environment. Parents are responsible to reinforce the appropriate use of personal electronic devices or district provided devices by their children.
e. The Principal is responsible for communicating this regulation to all school staff, and to all students.

I understand that using digital devices, whether personal or school owned, and the DCS network is a privilege, and when I use them according to the Responsible Use Guidelines, Use of Electronic Devices Policy, and Internet Acceptable Use Policy, I will keep that privilege.

All members of Dawson County Schools' community agree to follow the Dawson County Schools Code of Conduct, school rules and commit to the following responsible use guidelines.

I agree to:

- Use digital devices, networks and software in school for educational purposes and activities.
- Keep my personal information (including home/mobile phone number, mailing address, and user password) and that of others private.
- Show respect for myself and others when using technology including social media.
- Give acknowledgement to others for their ideas and work.
- Report inappropriate use of technology immediately.

The Responsible Use Guidelines, Use of Electronic Device Policy, and Internet Acceptable Use Policy will be reviewed each school year together with students and teachers and will provide a framework for teaching and learning around topics such as Internet safety, digital citizenship and ethical use of technology. * Adapted/modified from Forsyth County Schools Responsible Use Procedures.

Parents who do not wish for their child to use the Internet must request and complete an Internet Restriction Request Form from the principal. Once completed, the form will be kept on file at the school and alternate assignments will be provided whenever Internet use is an integral part of the unit. Although an alternate assignment will be given, the assignment cannot approximate the actual use of the Internet. Students who lack Internet skills will be at a competitive disadvantage when entering many professions in the future.

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE (POLICY IFBG)

I. Summary

Dawson County Schools provides electronic resources to students and employees for the purpose of supporting the school system and its educational mission. This policy establishes the boundaries of "acceptable use" of these limited electronic resources, including computers, networks, e-mail and other electronic information and services. Authorized users of these electronic resources assume personal responsibility for their appropriate use and agree to comply with this policy, other related school policies including the Student Code of Conduct, and state and federal laws and regulations. While our sole intent is to make Internet access available as another means to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. We strongly believe that the benefits of the Internet and the wealth of information that is accessible, exceeds any disadvantages.

II. Purpose

A. Dawson County Schools' technology resources are provided to students, faculty, and staff in order to support the school system and its educational mission. These resources include networking, computer hardware and software, connection to the internet, e-mail, telephone equipment, voice mail and other services. The Policy on Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources applies to all authorized users of the school system's network or equipment.

B. Electronic resources provided by the system are limited. When demand for these resources exceeds available capacity, priorities for their use will be established and enforced. Authorized faculty and staff may set and change the priorities for these resources. The highest priority for use of system-wide electronic resources will include uses that support the educational and business mission of the school system, purchased services and online testing.

III. Acceptable Use:

The purpose of the Dawson County School's provision of access to the Internet is to support research and education in and among the system's academic institutions by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of your account must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of Dawson County School System. Transmission of any materials in violation of any U.S. or state organization is prohibited. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or materials protected by trade secrets. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is prohibited.

IV. Responsible Use

Students

a. As outlined in board policy on student rights and responsibilities, copies of which are available in school offices, students shall not send, create, post or access material that is:

- obscene
- pornographic
- child pornography
- harmful to minors
- trespassing in another's folders, work or files
- a violation of copyright laws
- abusive, harassing, or insulting
- damaging to another person's reputation
- threatening or demeaning to another person
- illegal
- inappropriate for educational purposes
- unauthorized downloading of music or streaming radio

b. Students shall not use school resources to engage in "hacking" or attempts to otherwise compromise system security to bypass filters, run unapproved programs, to gain access to unauthorized material or applications, using any form of DOS/Terminal commands or unauthorized scripting or written programs.
c. Students shall only use electronic resources and electronic communications for school-related purposes. Use of these resources should always be at the direction and with the supervision of the teacher.
d. Students shall not disclose personal information, such as name, school, address, and telephone number outside of the school network.
Any violation of school policy and rules may result in loss of school-provided access to the Internet. Additional disciplinary action may be determined in keeping with existing procedures and practices regarding inappropriate language or behavior. When and where applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.

Staff
a. Staff shall not send, create, post or access material that is:
- obscene
- pornographic
- child pornography
- harmful to minors
- abusive
- damaging to another person's reputation
- threatening or demeaning to another person
- illegal
- inappropriate for educational purposes
- unauthorized downloads of music streaming or streaming radio

b. Staff shall not use school resources to engage in "hacking" or attempts to otherwise compromise system security.
c. E-mail accounts are provided to employees for educational purposes. School email should not be used to advertise or solicit business for private entities.
d. All staff members should obtain permission from the building administrator before sending any messages to an entire school staff. Only designated individuals are permitted to send email to the entire school system staff.
e. Staff will provide students with age-appropriate instruction regarding safe and appropriate behavior on social networking sites, chat rooms, and other Internet services, behaviors that may constitute cyber bullying, and how to respond when subjected to cyberbullying.

Any violation of school policy may result in loss of system access to the Internet. Additional disciplinary action may be determined in keeping with existing procedures and practices. When and where applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.

V. Privacy Expectations

The school system's network resources are the property of the school system. There is no guarantee of privacy associated with the use of school technology resources. These resources include networking, computer hardware and software, connection to the internet, e-mail, telephone equipment, voice mail and other services. Do not reveal the personal email address or phone numbers of yourself or any other person.

VI. E-mail Archival

E-mail is not archived for faculty and staff.

VII. Personal Electronic Devices

Personal electronic devices can provide educational value when used for educational purposes, including content delivery and to enhance the learning process. Staff and students are allowed to use personal devices on the school network in a responsible and legal manner, subject to this acceptable use policy, in order to achieve educational objectives. Students' personal devices are to be used at the discretion of the classroom teacher and building administrators. The use of personal electronic devices is a privilege, and students may be denied access at any time.

Staff and students who bring their personal devices to school are responsible for servicing those devices. The district will not maintain, service, repair or be held responsible for any personal electronic devices brought to school by staff or students.

VIII. Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA) Compliance

It is the policy of Dawson County Schools to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via the Internet; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; (d) monitor the online activities of students and instruct them about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber bullying awareness and response; and (e) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

IX. Access to Inappropriate Material

To the extent practical technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") will be used to block or filter Internet access to inappropriate information.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornographic, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

X. Inappropriate Network Usage

To the extent practical steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Dawson County Schools online computer network when using the Internet. Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

XI. Supervision and Monitoring

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Dawson County Schools staff to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

XII. Security

Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem within the network, you must notify a system administrator. Do not use another individual's account or password. Attempts to access the system as any other user may result in cancellation of user privileges. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are utilizing the system responsibly.

XIII. Vandalism

Vandalism may result in cancellation of privileges and/or criminal prosecution. This definition includes, but is not limited to, contamination, deletion or reconfiguration of data or degradation of system performance in any way.

WEAPONS – Board Policy JCDAE

It is the policy of the Dawson County Board of Education that a student shall not possess, use, handle or transmit any object that reasonably can be considered a weapon on property or in a building owned or leased by a school district, at a school function, or on a bus or other transportation provided by the school district. Weapons may include, but are not limited to:

1. Any handgun, firearm, rifle, shotgun or similar weapon; any explosive compound or incendiary device; or, any other dangerous weapon as defined in O.C.G.A. §16-11-121, including a rocket launcher, bazooka, recoilless rifle, mortar, or hand grenade.
2. Any hazardous object, including any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nunchuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any

instrument of like kind, any nonlethal air gun, and any stun gun or taser. Such term shall not include any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher.

Students who possess any weapon described in paragraph 1 in violation of this policy will be subject to a minimum of one calendar year expulsion. The Superintendent shall have the authority either before or after the student is referred for a tribunal hearing to reduce the mandated one year expulsion under circumstances where the one year expulsion appears excessive to the superintendent. The tribunal shall also have the authority to modify such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis in determining the appropriate punishment. Finally, in any tribunal decision appealed to the board of education, the board may reduce the mandated punishment but shall consider whether the superintendent and/or tribunal considered a reduction and any rationale in denying such a reduction.

Students who possess other weapons or hazardous objects as described in paragraph 2 will be subject to discipline as specified in the student code of conduct.

Reporting Requirements

Any employee who has reasonable cause to believe that a student possesses a weapon as defined in paragraph 1, is involved in an assault using as weapon as defined in paragraph 2, or is involved in a second offense with a weapon on campus must report such violations to the principal or assistant principal of the school. If the principal has reasonable cause to believe that such report is valid, he/she must immediately make an oral report to the Superintendent and to the appropriate law enforcement authority and district attorney.

The student's parents or guardian will be notified immediately of his/her child's involvement in any activity involving weapons.

Students will be given a copy of the Code of Conduct, which includes a statement of prohibited conduct with regard to weapons and possible disciplinary actions.

Request for Hearing under Section 504

Any student or parent or guardian ("grievant") may request an impartial hearing due to the school system's actions or inactions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement under Section 504. Requests for an impartial hearing must be in writing to the school system's Section 504 Coordinator; however, a grievant's failure to request a hearing in writing does not alleviate the school system's obligation to provide an impartial hearing if the grievant orally requests an impartial hearing through the school system's Section 504 Coordinator. The school system's Section 504 Coordinator will assist the grievant in completing the written Request for Hearing. The Section 504 Coordinator may be contacted through the school system's central office. Copies of the 504 Procedural Safeguards and Notice of Rights of Students and Parents Under Section 504 may be found at the system website or may be picked up at the central office or at any of the school offices.

GIFTED STUDENT PROGRAMS

Gifted Notification

The Dawson County School System follows the state-mandated gifted rule (160-4-2-.38) in providing services to those students who are identified as gifted. State guidelines require that parents/guardians of all public school students being considered to receive gifted education services be informed of the referral procedures and eligibility criteria, the notice of initial consideration for gifted education services, evaluation guidelines, types of services provided and instructional methods, continuation criteria, probationary status, and termination of services.

The Dawson County Board of Education recognizes the need to provide gifted education services for students who have the potential for exceptional academic achievement in grades K-12. A gifted student meets the eligibility criteria as identified in rule 160-4-2-.38 and as defined in the GaDOE Resource Manual for Gifted Education Services.

Teachers, counselors, administrators, parents or guardians, peers, self, or other individuals with knowledge of the student's abilities may refer a student for consideration for gifted educational services.

The Georgia Board of Education has set two standards of eligibility:

- A student may qualify by meeting a mental ability composite score plus an achievement test requirement, or
- A student may qualify by meeting 3 of the 4 criteria: mental ability, achievement, creativity, and motivation.

Any student who has met the state eligibility criteria for gifted education services in another Georgia public school system shall be considered eligible to receive gifted education services by the Dawson County School System upon the system's receipt of an eligibility report. A student transferring from a Georgia public school system to a Dawson County School must meet the criteria for continuation of gifted services established by the Dawson County Board of Education. Dawson County Schools shall not recognize gifted eligibility established in another state.

Written consent for testing shall be obtained from parents or guardians of students being considered for gifted education services. Parents or guardians also must provide written consent before students determined to be eligible for gifted education services can receive these services. Parents of gifted eligible students will be notified in writing of the types of services that will be provided, the academic standards to be met, how students will be evaluated, and program continuation criteria annually. Additionally, parents will be notified if their gifted child begins to have difficulties that could result in a probationary period or possibly termination of services. At any point in this process, parents or guardians may schedule a conference to discuss eligibility requirements and service options.

For additional information, please call your child's school or Dr. Nathan Hand, the system's 6-12 Director of Student Support, at (706) 265-3246, extension 1041 or email at nathan.hand@dawson.k12.ga.us.

Dawson County Schools
28 Main Street
Dawsonville, GA 30534
(706) 265-3246
FAX (706) 265-1226
www.dawsoncountyschools.org

Dr. Damon Gibbs
Superintendent

Board Members:
Karen Armstrong
Doris Cook
Nathan Ingram
Roger Slaton
Elaine Wilson

Dawson County Schools

Black's Mill Elementary
Principal: Mrs. Cindy Kinney
(706) 216 – 3300 Ext. 1210
ckinney@dawson.k12.ga.us

Kilough Elementary School
Principal: Mrs. Teresa Conowal
(706) 216 – 8595 Ext. 2010
tconowal@dawson.k12.ga.us

Riverview Elementary School
Principal: Mr. Adam Maroney
(706) 216 – 5812 Ext. 1910
adam.maroney@dawson.k12.ga.us

Robinson Elementary School
Principal: Mrs. Page Arnette
(706) 265 – 6544 Ext. 1110
parnette@dawson.k12.ga.us

Dawson County Middle School
Principal: Dr. Randi Sagona
(706) 216 – 4849 Ext. 1310
rsagona@dawson.k12.ga.us

Dawson County Junior High School
Principal: Mr. Brody Hughes
(706) 216 – 5801 Ext. 1810
bhughes@dawson.k12.ga.us

Dawson County High School or
HighTower Academy
Principal: Mrs. Michael Negley
(706) 265 – 6555 Ext. 1410
michael.negley@dawson.k12.ga.us

Dawson County Schools
Asst. Supt. Human Resources &
Operations: Mr. Hershel Bennett
(706) 265 – 3246 Ext. 1021
hbennett@dawson.k12.ga.us

2020 – 2021 School Year

Educators in the Dawson County School System take pride in the educational opportunities they provide your children. The staff is committed to seeking continually to improve instruction and all components of the school's educational process.

It is hoped that as a parent you will become involved in our improvement efforts as we continue to set high expectations and to monitor student achievement. You are encouraged to get to know your child's teacher and the class routines and expectations.

In compliance with the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended through P.L. 114-95, enacted December 10, 2015, the Dawson County School District would like to inform you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s) and paraprofessionals. We are proud of the professional credentials of Dawson County's teaching staff and are prepared to furnish to you upon request the professional qualifications of any of your child's teachers. The information you may obtain includes the following:

Whether the student's teacher…

- has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which the State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
- is teaching in the field of discipline of certification of the teacher.

Further, you may know the qualifications of any paraprofessional who provides services to your child.

To request any of the above information, please contact Hershel Bennett, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources & Operations, at hbennett@dawson.k12.ga.us or at (706) 265-3246, extension 1021. You may also contact your child's principal at the number or email shown on the left. We hope that this year will be a productive one for your child.

Sincerely,

Janice Darnell

Dr. Janice Darnell
Executive Director of Instructional Support & Student Services

1:1 IPAD STUDENT AGREEMENT

Access and Support:

This Agreement is entered into between the Board of Education of Dawson County School System (hereafter "DCSS"), the student, and the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of the Student.

DCSS will provide each student an iPad, which the student is to use as a positive learning tool in coordination with the DCSS curriculum. Although this Agreement authorizes the student's use of the iPad for the year, the iPad is the property of the DCSS and must be returned upon the DCSS's request, when the student withdraws, or on the last day of attendance for the current school year.

DCSS will also provide and manage a G Suite for Education account for your child. G Suite for Education Core Services are a set of education productivity tools from Google including Gmail, Calendar, Docs, Classroom, and more used by tens of millions of students and teachers around the world. At Dawson County, students will have access to G Suite for Education Additional Services including YouTube, Google Earth, and Google Photos. Students will use their G Suite accounts and access to additional services to complete assignments, communicate with their teachers, and learn 21st century digital citizenship skills.
To receive an iPad to use, the student and his or her parent/guardian must sign and submit to the DCSS this 1:1 iPad Student Use Agreement and the Acceptable Use Policy Agreement (AUP) outlined in Board Policy IFBG and successfully complete the Digital Citizenship course at his or her school.

In using the iPad, the student is subject to and must comply with DCSS Policies, JCDAG (harassment/ bullying), JCDAF (acceptable use of electronic device) and IFBG (Internet Acceptable Use) and their associated administrative procedures or regulations. A violation of any of these policies could result in loss of network privileges, loss of right to use the iPad, or appropriate discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Students may not:

a. Disrupt the educational process of the school district through non-educational use of the iPad;
b. Endanger the health or safety of themselves or anyone else through the use of the iPad;
c. Invade the rights and privacy of others at school through the use of the iPad;
d. Engage in illegal or prohibited conduct of any kind through the use of the iPad; or
e. Violate the conditions and rules as outlined in Board Policy JCDAG (Harassment & Bullying) and Board Policy JCDAF (acceptable use of electronic devices).

Students must keep the iPad in good and working condition. In addition to following the manufacturer's maintenance requirements, students should:

a. Use only a clean, soft cloth to clean the iPad's screen. No cleansers of any type should be used;
b. Insert and remove cords and cables carefully to prevent damage to connectors;
c. Not write or draw on the device or apply any stickers or labels that are not the property of the District;
d. Handle the device carefully and ensure others do the same;
e. Not leave the iPad in places of extreme temperature, humidity, or limited ventilation (e.g., in a car) for an extended period of time;
f. Secure the iPad when it is out of their sight. The iPad should not be left in an unlocked locker, a desk, or other location where someone else might take it;
g. Use a protective carrying case with the device, if one was provided.

Unless otherwise instructed, the iPad is intended for use at school every day. If students are permitted to use the iPad at home, they are responsible for bringing it to school every day, fully charged.

Only legally licensed software, apps, media, or other data is permitted on the 1:1 device. Students will not download software, apps, media, or other data (including songs, photos, or videos) without a DCSS employee's prior approval. Students will not replace the manufacturer's operating system with custom software (i.e., "jailbreak" the iPad), or remove or modify the DCSS installed iPad configuration.

The iPads are District property; therefore, the District may examine the iPads and search their contents at any time for any reason. Neither students nor parents/guardians have any right to privacy of any data saved on the iPad or in a cloud based account to which the iPad connects. The school administration may involve law enforcement if the iPad is thought to have been used for an illegal purpose.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for their child's use of the iPad, including any intentional damage to or loss of the iPad. In the event that a student's iPad is intentionally damaged the DCSS may assess the parent(s)/guardian(s) a charge to cover the cost of the repair. In the event that a student's iPad was lost or stolen the DCSS may assess the parent(s)/guardian(s) a charge to cover the cost of the replacement. If the theft/loss occurs on school property, administrators will follow current procedures and will notify parents. If the theft/ loss occurs off school property, the parent/guardian must contact local law enforcement, complete a police report and notify school staff within 24 hours. The decision to assess a charge, as well as the amount of any charge, is at the sole discretion of the DCSS, but will not be greater than the full replacement value of the iPad.

If a problem arises with the functionality of a student's device, the student must notify his or her classroom and/or home based teacher of the problem within 24 hours or on the next school day. Under no circumstances may the student or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) attempt to fix or allow anyone but DCSS staff to attempt to fix suspected hardware faults or the iPad's operating system. Do not take the device to any repair shop; the student should report the issue to his/her classroom/homebased teacher, who will report it to the DCSS's technology department.

If a student fails to return the iPad and any assigned accessories as directed, the DCSS may, in addition to seeking reimbursement from the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), file a theft report with local law enforcement authorities.

Although the DCSS employs Internet filters and monitors students' Internet activity at school, it cannot and does not filter or monitor students' Internet access at home or off school grounds. By signing the student handbook receipt form, parents/guardians understand and acknowledge this and agree that their child's use of the Internet on the iPad at home or off of school grounds is at the discretion of, and should be monitored by, the parent(s)/guardian(s). Some sites accessible via the Internet may contain material that is illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or offensive to some people. Parents/guardians assume complete responsibility for Internet access beyond the network provided by the DCSS. When using the iPad outside the DCSS, students are bound by the same policies, procedures, and guidelines as in school.

Data saved to the iPad is not maintained by the DCSS as public records or as student records. In the event this data needs to be maintained by the DCSS for any reason, the DCSS will take affirmative steps to preserve it.

By signing the student handbook receipt form, you acknowledge that you have read, understand, and agree to follow all responsibilities outlined in this Agreement and agree to be bound by this Agreement. You also agree that the device was delivered in good working order and acknowledge that it must be returned to the DCSS in good working order. By signing this Agreement, you waive any and all claims you (and your heirs, successors, and assigns) may have against DCSS, its Board of Education, and its individual Board members, employees, and agents relating to, connected with, or arising from the use of the iPad or from this Agreement.

To the fullest extent allowed by law, you agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless DCSS, its Board of Education, and its individual Board members, employees, and agents, from any and all claims, damages, losses, causes of action, and the like relating to, connected with, or arising from the use of the iPad or from this Agreement.

Use of iPads on the DCSS network is a privilege that supports school appropriate learning. The smooth operation and maintenance of the computer network and equipment relies on users adhering to established guidelines. Therefore, by signing the student handbook receipt form, users acknowledge that they have read the 1:1 iPad Student Use Agreement and understand the DCSS's expectations and the student's responsibilities.

By signing the student handbook receipt form, students and parent(s)/guardian(s) agree to abide by the restrictions outlined in the 1:1 iPad Student Use Agreement. The student's parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for monitoring their child's Internet access on the iPad beyond the DCSS network.

By signing the student handbook receipt form, I hereby give my permission to my child to utilize the DCSS 1:1 provided Mobile Device and for DCSS to create/maintain a G Suite for Education Account.

STUDENT/PARENT CONCUSSION AWARENESS

DANGERS OF CONCUSSION

Concussions at all levels of sports have received a great deal of attention and a state law has been passed to address this issue. Adolescent athletes are particularly vulnerable to the effects of concussion. Once considered little more than a minor "ding" to the head, it is now understood that a concussion has the potential to result in death, or changes in brain function (either short-term or long-term). A concussion is a brain injury that results in a temporary disruption of normal brain function. A concussion occurs when the brain is violently rocked back and forth or twisted inside the skull as a result of a blow to the head or body. Continued participation in any sport following a concussion can lead to worsening concussion symptoms, as well as increased risk for further injury to the brain, and even death.

Player and parental education in this area is crucial – that is the reason for this document. Refer to it regularly. This form must be signed by a parent or guardian of each student who wishes to participate in GHSA athletics. One copy needs to be returned to the school, and one retained at home.

COMMON SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CONCUSSION

- Headache, dizziness, poor balance, moves clumsily, reduced energy level/tiredness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Blurred vision, sensitivity to light and sounds
- Fogginess of memory, difficulty concentrating, slowed thought processes, confused about surroundings or game assignments
- Unexplained changes in behavior and personality
- Loss of consciousness (NOTE: This does not occur in all concussion episodes.)

BY-LAW 2.68: GHSA CONCUSSION POLICY: In accordance with Georgia law and national playing rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations, any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest and shall not return to play until an appropriate health care professional has determined that no concussion has occurred. (NOTE: An appropriate health care professional may include, licensed physician (MD/DO) or another licensed individual under the supervision of a licensed physician, such as a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or certified athletic trainer who has received training in concussion evaluation and management.

a. No athlete is allowed to return to a game or a practice on the same day that a concussion (a) has been diagnosed, OR (b) cannot be ruled out.

a. Any athlete diagnosed with a concussion shall be cleared medically by an appropriate health care professional prior to resuming participation in any future practice or contest. The formulation of a gradual return to play protocol shall be a part of the medical clearance.

b. It is mandatory that every coach in each GHSA sport participate in a free, online course on concussion management prepared by the NFHS and available at www.nfhslearn.com at least every two years – beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.

Each school will be responsible for monitoring the participation of its coaches in the concussion management course, and shall keep a record of those who participate.

SCHOOL CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS POLICY

According to Code Section 20-7-705 and 20-2-751.5, parents are provided information pertaining to the clubs and organizations offered through the schools. If you would prefer that your child not participate in one of the following clubs, please complete the Opt-Out statement on the Code of Conduct signature page.

Robinson Elementary

Club or Organization Name: 4-H
Sponsor's Name: Fourth and Fifth Grade Staff and Samantha Graves
Mission or Purpose: To assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self- directive, productive, and contributing members of society.

Club or Organization Name: Production Club
Sponsor's Name: Rebecca Madsen
Mission or Purpose: To provide a service to the school for communication via student-led, student written, and student-produced daily video broadcasts.

Club or Organization Name: Marathon Club
Sponsor's Name: Logan Allen and Xarissa Bolz
Mission or Purpose: To promote lifelong physical fitness and personal enjoyment of physical fitness by running together.

Club or Organization Name: 5th Grade Chorus
Sponsor's Name: Jennifer Wright
Mission or Purpose: To develop their voices and get experience with performing.

Club or Organization Name: RES Helen Rufflin Reading Bowl
Sponsor's Name: Rebecca Madsen & Amy Swafford
Mission or Purpose: To expose fourth and fifth grade students to different types of literature and encourage reading through competition.
Club or Organization Name: Yearbook
Sponsor's Name: Brittany Gaddis and Valerie Roth
Mission or Purpose: To work together as a team to develop necessary skills needed to plan, develop and produce the RES yearbook.

Club or Organization Name: Student Leadership Team
Sponsor's Name: Michelle Richardson
Mission or Purpose: To foster leadership skills and assist in work to improve our school.

Club or Organization Name: Art
Sponsor's Name: Brittany Croft
Mission or Purpose: To introduce higher level art skills to students.

Club or Organization Name: Robotics Club
Sponsor's Name: Rebecca Madsen
Mission or Purpose: To awaken STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Science) interest in students, in a fun, interactive and team- building environment using Robotics. Students learn problem-solving skills, reasoning, and critical thinking through hands-on activities.

Club or Organization Name: Math Team
Sponsor's Name: Tiffany Turner
Mission or Purpose: To encourage 3rd-5th graders to use creativity, critical thinking, mathematics knowledge, problem solving.

Club or Organization Name: Club Invention
Sponsor's Name: Lydia Burnett
Mission or Purpose: 1st-5th grade students work in teams to creatively brainstorm on ways to solve everyday challenges and enhance their understanding of essential STEM concepts.

Riverview Elementary

Club or Organization Name: Yearbook Team
Sponsor's Name: Tasha Hamil
Mission or Purpose: To learn skills necessary for and accept responsibilities needed to produce the Riverview Elementary School Yearbook.

Club or Organization Name: Morning Broadcast Club
Sponsor's Name: Carmen Cunningham
Mission or Purpose: To provide a service to the school for communication via student-written, and student-produced daily video broadcast.

Club or Organization Name: 4-H Club
Sponsor's Name: Samantha Graves, Fifth Grade Staff
Mission or Purpose: To assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self- directive, productive, and contributing members of society.

Club or Organization Name: Marathon Club
Sponsor's Name: Clint Freeland
Mission or Purpose: To promote lifelong physical fitness and personal enjoyment of physical fitness by running together.

Club or Organization Name: Riverview Elementary School Chorus
Sponsor's Name: Hannah Lumme
Mission or Purpose: To provide students an opportunity to pursue an advanced study in music and to equip students with basic choral music skills.

Club or Organization Name: Riverview Elementary Art Club
Sponsor's Name: John Lundy
Mission or Purpose: To promote a greater appreciation for the visual arts by developing life skills through the study and production of art.

Club or Organization Name: Safety Patrol
Sponsor's Name: Becky Wilson
Mission or Purpose: To promote safety, to model SPARK behavior throughout the school and to provide leadership opportunities for fourth and fifth- grade students at Riverview Elementary School.

Kilough Elementary

Club or Organization Name: Student Council
Sponsor's Name: Kristi Bearden
Mission or Purpose: Opportunities to serve as an advisory board, make decisions, recommendations, assist in working to improve our school.

Club or Organization Name: 4-H Club
Sponsor's Name: Fifth Grade Staff
Mission or Purpose: To acquiring knowledge, develop life skills, form attitudes to become self-directed, productive members of society.

Club or Organization Name: Reading Bowl Club
Sponsor's Name: Carolyn Wright and Kristi Bearden
Mission or Purpose: To compete in a statewide reading competition while building self-esteem and developing team spirit.

Club or Organization Name: Marathon Club
Sponsor's Name: Patrick Muenchen, Nicole Purdy
Mission or Purpose: To promote lifelong physical fitness and personal enjoyment of physical fitness by running together.

Club or Organization Name: Kilough Coaches
Sponsor's Name: Sandra Tankersley
Mission or Purpose: To develop student leadership in coaching through goal setting, team building, video production, and communication skills.

Club or Organization Name: Chorus for Grades 3-5
Sponsor's Name: Jessie Tomes
Mission or Purpose: To provide students an opportunity for an advanced study in music and to equip students with basic choral music skills.

Club or Organization Name: WKES
Sponsor's Name: Patty Adams
Mission or Purpose: Communication service led via student-led, student-written, and student-produced daily video broadcast.

Club or Organization Name: Math Team
Sponsor's Name: Hillary Mullinax
Mission or Purpose: To provide students an opportunity to compete in math competitions while building self-esteem and developing team spirit.

Club or Organization Name: Safety Patrol
Sponsor's Name: Patrick Muenchen
Mission or Purpose: 5th grade students serve as hall monitors, keepers of the flags, and greeters within the building.

Black's Mill Elementary

Club or Organization Name: Student Council
Sponsor's Name: Various Staff
Mission or Purpose: To foster leadership development through community and school projects.

Club or Organization Name: Beehive Bees
Sponsor's Name: Karen Morgan
Mission or Purpose: To serve as an advisory group to help make decisions, promote reading, and assist in the daily work of school media center.

Club or Organization Name: 4-H
Sponsor's Name: 4th and 5th Grade Staff
Mission or Purpose: To acquire knowledge, develop life skills, form attitudes to become self-directed, productive members of society.

Club or Organization Name: WBME Broadcast Team
Sponsor's Name: Allison Lundy and Karen Morgan
Mission or Purpose: Communication service that is led via student-led, student-written, and student-produced daily

video broadcast.

Club or Organization Name: Yearbook Team
Sponsor's Name: Various Staff
Mission or Purpose: To learn skills necessary for and accept responsibilities needed to produce the Black's Mill Elementary School Yearbook.

Club or Organization Name: Safety Patrol
Sponsor's Name: 5th Grade Staff
Mission or Purpose: Students serve as hall monitors, keepers of the flags, and door holders.

Club or Organization Name: Marathon Club
Sponsor's Name: Jonathan Tinsley and Angela Howell
Mission or Purpose: To promote lifelong physical fitness and personal enjoyment of physical fitness by running together.

Club or Organization Name: Robotics Club
Sponsor's Name: Kaylee Lusk
Mission or Purpose: Students learn problem-solving skills, reasoning, and critical thinking through hands on activities. The robotics program builds students' confidence in Math and Science while helping them to explore their creativity in exciting new ways.

Club or Organization Name: Chorus
Sponsor's Name: Julia Morang
Mission or Purpose: To provide students an opportunity to pursue an advanced study in music and to equip students with basic choral music skills.

Club or Organization Name: Art Club
Sponsor's Name: Kelly Shippey
Mission or Purpose: To provide students an opportunity to pursue an advanced study in art.

Club or Organization Name: Reading Team
Sponsor's Name: Various Staff
Mission or Purpose: To provide students an opportunity to compete in reading competitions while building self-esteem and developing team spirit.

Club or Organization Name: Drama Team
Sponsor's Name: Jordan LeFevre and Rebecca Johnsen
Mission or Purpose: To provide students an opportunity to work as a team to perform for our school and community.

Club or Organization Name: Chess Club
Sponsor's Name: Jamie Powell
Mission or Purpose: To provide students an opportunity to work as a team on something they are interested in. This team will help build self- esteem and develop team spirit.

Club or Organization Name: Ukulele Club
Sponsor's Name: Jamie Powell
Mission or Purpose: To provide students an opportunity to work on something in which they are interested. This club will help build self-esteem and develop team spirit.