

# Heard County Elementary School

## Student Handbook

Heard County Elementary School  
4647 Pearidge Road  
Franklin, GA 30217

Phone 706-675-3687  
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[es-busnote@heard.k12.ga.us](mailto:es-busnote@heard.k12.ga.us)

Kim Tisdale, Principal  
Carla Hutchins, Asst. Principal  
Jeff Anderson, Asst. Principal

***This agenda belongs to:***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

**HEARD COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM  
SCHOOL CALENDAR  
2023-2024 (178 SCHOOL DAYS)**

Preplanning 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of School	July 28, 31, August 1, 2 August 3
Labor Day Holiday Progress Reports	September 4 September 6
End 1 <sup>st</sup> Nine Weeks Student Holiday/Professional Learning Day Fall Holidays Report Cards	October 5 October 6 October 9-13 October 19
Progress Reports Thanksgiving Holidays	November 9 November 20-24
School Level Appeals (HCHS) System Level Appeals (BOE) End 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester Christmas Holidays	December 19 December 20 December 20 December 21-January 3
Student Holidays/Professional Learning Days 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester Report Cards MLK Jr. Holiday	January 4, 5 January 8 January 11 January 15
Winter Holidays/Severe Weather Make-Up Days Progress Reports	February 2, 5 February 14
End 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nine Weeks Student Holiday/Professional Learning Day Student Holiday/Severe Weather Make-Up Day Report Cards	March 14 March 15 March 18 March 26
Spring Break Progress Reports	April 1-5 April 23
Last Day of School Senior Graduation (8:00 pm) Postplanning School Level Appeals System Level Appeals Report Cards (Mailed)	May 24 May 24 May 28,29 May 28 May 29 May 30

# Welcome to Heard County Elementary School

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Parents and Students:

The faculty and staff of Heard County Elementary School would like to welcome you to our school and to the 2023-2024 school year. We want to work in partnership with parents to help your child grow and achieve at the highest possible levels, and to help them learn life lessons that will serve them well and promote success in the years to come. We ask for your support and assistance as we work towards these goals.

This handbook contains some of the rules, procedures, and expectations we use to promote a safe learning environment at HCES. I encourage both you and your child to familiarize yourselves with this information.

We look forward to working with you and your child this year.

Kim Tisdale  
Principal

Carla Hutchins  
Asst. Principal

Jeff Anderson  
Asst. Principal

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Produce Responsible Individuals and Develop Excellence

## **BELIEF STATEMENTS**

At Heard County Elementary School, we want every individual, which includes students, faculty, staff, parents, and community members, to have a positive relationship with our school.

We believe:

Every individual has a strength or talent that should be recognized and nurtured.

Every individual has something to contribute.

Every individual wants and needs to be accepted.

Every individual can progress when taught at the appropriate level.

Education is a shared responsibility.

Expectation determines performance.

Honorable behavior should be taught and expected.

Every individual deserves a safe environment.

## **SCHOOL MOTTO**

“Awesome Things Happen Here”

## PROGRAMS

**EXPLORATORY CLASSES-** Students will have Art, Music, P.E., and Technology each grading period. The state requires all students to take P.E. unless medically excused. Students should wear or bring tennis shoes when they are scheduled to have P.E. A note approved through the office is required to sit out during P.E. Alternate assignments will be given to be completed while not actively participating.

**MEDIA CENTER-** Students are encouraged to use the school media center for research on school assignments and for their own personal reading pleasure.

Students in K-2 may borrow one book from the Media Center. Students in grades 3-5 may borrow two books.

**Students are responsible for any book lost or damaged and will be required to pay the cost of the book.** In addition, students may receive an office referral for damaging library books or materials. If a lost book is found within one year, the student will receive a full refund. Students who choose not to pay for damaged or lost books will be denied book check-out privileges until the book is returned or the fine paid.

The media center is open every school day for individuals with a pass from their teacher and for groups as scheduled by the teacher. Classes do not have a regularly scheduled time to come each week, but times may be arranged by the teacher.

Specific rules, policies, and procedures related to the Media Center are discussed at the beginning of each school year and a copy provided to each student.

**EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM-** The Early Intervention Program (EIP) is designed to serve students with identified developmental deficiencies which are likely to result in problems in maintaining a level of performance consistent with expectations for their respective ages. The purpose of the Early Intervention Program is to provide additional instructional resources to help students who are performing below grade level obtain the necessary academic skills to reach grade level performance in the shortest possible time. Academic success is our top priority.

**TITLE I-** The Title I program is funded by the federal government to assist students who are at least six months behind in Reading and/or Math. It is not a Special Education Program but is specifically designed to provide extra help to students who might not otherwise be able to keep up with their work in the classroom. Heard County Elementary School uses a school-wide plan for Title I so that any resources available can be used to benefit all students. In a school-wide plan, **all** teachers are Title I teachers.

**EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAM-** Students who have been identified with special needs are served at our school through resource services, self-contained class placement, inclusion services in the regular classroom, consultative services and/or counseling. Referrals for these services, except Gifted, are channeled through the Response to Intervention (RTI) or MTSS process. The team consists of various professionals on staff who have special knowledge in each level of elementary education.

**PARENT RESOURCE CENTER-** A parent resource center is available in our front office behind the receptionist's desk. Resources, including books, games and activities, and information regarding local services are available for check out to all parents. Parents interested in checking out items should enter the school, where the receptionist will direct them to the center and assist them in checking out items. If you have any questions, you can reach out to our Parent Engagement Coordinators, Fara Coleman and Ashley Childers.

[fara.coleman@heard.k12.ga.us](mailto:fara.coleman@heard.k12.ga.us)   [ashley.childers@heard.k12.ga.us](mailto:ashley.childers@heard.k12.ga.us)

**STANDARDIZED TESTING-** Students in grades 3-5 participate in the Georgia Milestones Assessment, which is the state mandated test for grades 3-8. This test occurs in April/May of the year after Spring Break.

## STUDENT SERVICES

**CHROMEBOOKS-** Chromebooks are furnished to students free of charge. Chromebooks become the responsibility of the student when issued. Students are expected to pay for lost or damaged Chromebooks, unless Chromebook insurance is purchased. Chromebook insurance may be purchased at the school for \$20 per year.

**MEDICINE AND FIRST AID-** Students are not allowed to have any prescription or non-prescription medication in their possession while at school. **If a child has to take medication of any kind at school, the parent should bring that medication to the school in the original container and complete a medication form giving permission for administration and specific dosage instructions.** The nurse or other staff members may administer basic first aid including using topical ointments, applying bandages, checking temperatures, etc. No oral medication will be provided by the school. In case of a severe accident or health problem, the school will attempt to contact the parents and/or the Heard County Emergency Services for assistance. A copy of the accident report will be sent home as soon as possible and a copy will be filed at school.

**SNACKS-** The State Department of Education has regulations which prohibit the selling of any non-nutritional food during the school day. **Please note that school system policy states that no homemade snacks may be distributed to students. Any snacks provided to students or party items must be store-bought and still in the original sealed packaging.**

**SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM-** It is our privilege to provide good, nutritious, low cost breakfast and lunch meals to all students and staff of Heard County Schools. Nutrition is a very important part of the educational process since a hungry child cannot learn.

### **FOODS AND BEVERAGES BROUGHT INTO THE CAFETERIA DURING THE SCHOOL DAY**

USDA regulations prohibit the sale of non-nutritional foods and carbonated beverages during meal times in the cafeteria at all school levels. With this in mind and in order to encourage better nutrition and develop healthy eating habits, students or their parents are not allowed to bring foods to school from outside restaurants. Of course, lunches sent with students when they come to school in the morning in lunch boxes, or plain bags are allowed.

**MEAL ACCOUNTS:** Each cafeteria has a computer program for tracking meals and payments. All students are assigned a number that serves as their meal account number. All students in grades one through twelve must learn their account number and/or use their Clever Badges to use at the cashier station at the end of the meal line.

### **PRE-PAY FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE: We will have free breakfast throughout this school year.**

\*Pre-payment for school meals makes life easier for you and your child. You don't have to think about sending money every day and your child does not have to keep up with money every day. Prepayments also enable the meal line to move more quickly. Pre-payment may be made weekly, monthly or yearly.

\***Paying with cash-** put your payment in a sealed envelope on which you have written your child's name, lunch number, and teacher's name.

\***Paying by check-** write the child's name, lunch number, and teacher's name on the check.

\***Paying for more than one student at the same school-** Please write each student's name, each student's lunch number, their teacher's name, and the amount of money you are paying for each child on the check or envelope. Checks are to be made to the nutrition program for the school your child attends. *Other purchases from the school office or classroom must **not** be included with meal payments.*

\***EZSchoolPay.com** - You may put money on or see how much money is on your child's school nutrition account from the convenience of your home by using your computer and EZSchoolPay.com. All you need is your child's student ID number. You can get this number from your child or the school. Go to EZSchoolPay.com for instructions. You can also go to the Heard County web site, Log on to [www.heard.k12.ga.us](http://www.heard.k12.ga.us) then go to public information.

**Please check on a regular basis to be sure your student has adequate money in his/her school meal account, especially if you allow your student to use money from their account to buy extras in the school cafeteria. Meal balances positive or negative will carry over to the next school year. If you have money on your account at the end of the year and want a refund, please let the nutrition manager know before the last week of school.**

### **MEAL PRICES FOR 2023-2024**

#### **BREAKFAST**

Full price	Free per day
Reduced price	Free per day
Visitor price	\$2.00 per day

#### **LUNCH**

Full Price Elem.	\$2.50 per day	\$12.50 per week
Full Price Middle/High	\$2.75 per day	\$13.75 per week
Reduced Price	\$0.40 per day	\$2.00 per week
Visitor price	\$4.00 per day	

\*Students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch automatically qualify for free or reduced- price breakfast.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to prepay for meals on a weekly or monthly basis.

Extra milk \$0.50. Additional pricing of a-la-carte items are posted in the school cafeterias.

## FAMILY APPLICATIONS FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS

**Family applications** for free and reduced price meals are available in each school office or cafeteria and are handed out during pre-registration. **BECAUSE OF FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS, A NEW APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED FOR YOUR FAMILY EACH SCHOOL YEAR.** Even if your student(s) were determined eligible for the benefit last year, a new application must be completed for this year. ***Parents are responsible for charges incurred until a current approved free and reduced-price meal application is on file. Please complete the application as quickly as possible. (Applications may take a few days for approval).*** Applications can also be printed from the Heard County School system website at: [www.heard.k12.ga.us](http://www.heard.k12.ga.us). Click on public information and go to the bottom of the page. Completed applications may be turned in to the school that your child attends or you may submit completed applications to the Heard County Board of Education, P. O. Box 1330, 131 East Court Square, Franklin, GA 30217.

**Exception: If you receive a letter from the school nutrition office before school starts, stating that your child/children have been approved for free meals because you receive SNAP or TANF you do not have to complete a free and reduced-price meal application.**

If you have questions about completing your application, please feel free to contact the school nutrition manager at your school at the number listed below:

Heard County Elementary School Cafeteria 706-675-5963

Please feel free to call Anita Wood, School Nutrition Bookkeeper or Randall Dodson, School Nutrition Program Director if you have a question. 706-675-3320

## HEARD COUNTY SCHOOLS POLICY ON CHARGED MEALS

5/14

### MEAL CHARGES

It is the responsibility of the student to pay for the meal at the point of service unless the student is approved for free meals. In certain situations a student may need to charge a meal. Elementary and middle school students are allowed three meal charges. Students enrolled in high school and adults are not allowed to charge meals through the school food service program.

The following procedure will be implemented concerning elementary and middle school charges:

\*Every effort should be made to be discrete and not to embarrass any child who does not have money for school meals. Each school nutrition manager will be responsible for seeing that this charge regulation is enforced.

\*Each time a student charges a meal; a note will be sent home advising parents that the child owes money. The parent will be asked to send money for the charged meal as well as money to pay for meals for the rest of the week. Managers may e-mail, call or send letters to parents who owe money.

\*If the manager has not received a response from the parent, the manager will send a letter to the parent. In this letter, the parent will be notified that arrangements for payment of all charges must be made immediately. The manager may attempt to e-mail and or call the parent. A free/reduced meal application will also be sent home.

**The School Nutrition Director and or Principal may also contact parents.**

**No charges will be allowed during the last two weeks of school.**

**It is our hope that parents will not place their child in unpleasant circumstances because of meal charges.**

Non-discrimination statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992(voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The State School Food Service regulations, supported by the Heard County Board of Education, **prohibit students from bringing commercially prepared meals from restaurants, stores, or fundraisers into the school cafeteria.** Parents who visit school for meals cannot compete with the cafeteria by bringing commercially prepared food. **No glass containers are allowed in the school cafeteria. All beverages brought from home must be in a thermos bottle. Carbonated beverages may be brought in cans only if the labels are covered.**

While home-prepared meals are allowed, we urge parents to remember the importance of good nutrition in helping children to do their best in school. Lunches of candy, chips, cookies, beverages high in sugar and meats high in fat do not help children develop good eating habits. We encourage homemade meals to include fruits and vegetables, bread, cereals, lean meat, and proteins. Milk or juices contribute to a well-balanced meal. It is a benefit to all children in the school if meals brought from home are consistent with meals prepared at school. If you need help in planning homemade meals, please call the school nutritionist for assistance. **Students with special diet requirements should bring a note from their doctor.**

## SCHOOL POLICIES

**AUDIO/VIDEO TAPING AND PHOTOGRAPHS-** At different times of the year, there may be instances where your child could be photographed, audiotaped, and/or videotaped. These pictures and/or videos may be used in newspaper articles, displays around the school, newsletters, school yearbook, school website, school Facebook page, or in other print or social media. **If you do not wish your child's image to be used in this manner, you must notify the school in writing by the end of the first week of classes.**

**RELEASE OF STUDENTS-** Students will be released only to custodial parent(s) or guardian(s). Individuals other than a custodial parent or guardian must have written permission from the parent/guardian before a student will be released to them unless the individual presents a court order specifically authorizing or directing the release of custody by the school. A parent or guardian may designate those who have permission to check out the student on the school transportation card. **IMPORTANT - Please make sure that the transportation card contains updated names and phone numbers for contact.**

**SCHOOL PHONES-** Students are not permitted to use the school phones except with permission from the teacher or office personnel. Neither students nor teachers should be called during the regular school day except in cases of emergency. A message will be given to the teacher or student by office personnel.

**VISITORS AT SCHOOL-** All visitors should report to the Reception Desk immediately upon entering school property in order to sign in and obtain a visitor's badge. Failure to sign in will be considered trespassing. Please do not escort students to the room in the morning. If the student needs directions, we have staff members who can help. **NO SMOKING** is allowed by anyone on the school campus which includes sitting in your vehicle while on campus. Parents are also asked not to smoke around students or on the bus while acting as a chaperone on field trips. **Middle and high school students who have checked out of school should not be on campus unsupervised at the elementary school. This includes party days and Field/Fun Days.**

**EARLY ARRIVALS AT SCHOOL-** The school building will be opened to students from 7:10 a.m. until 2:45 p.m. No student should be in the building before 7:10 a.m. or after 2:45 p.m. unless they are accompanied by a teacher or adult or for school-sponsored events. Students who arrive at school before 7:40 a.m. should promptly report to the following designated areas and remain until dismissed:

All Pre K and K students will report to their homeroom classroom.

3rd-5th Grades will go through the line to get breakfast and then report to their homerooms.

1st and 2nd grade students will report to the cafeteria when they arrive.

**TARDY TO SCHOOL-** Homeroom begins at 7:40 a.m. and instruction begins shortly thereafter. **Students who arrive at school after 7:40 a.m. are tardy and must report to the school receptionist to obtain a tardy slip. As per school system policy, attendance referrals will be made for students who are excessively tardy, absent, or check out frequently.**

**CHECKING OUT EARLY-** Leaving school early is strongly discouraged because students miss important instruction and/or work. If a student needs to be checked out early, the person picking the child up must report to the receptionist to sign the child out and give a reason for the child leaving. Students checking out before 11:30 a.m. will be counted absent for the day. **All student early check-out should be done prior to 1:45 because of traffic at car dismissal.**

**AFTERNOON SUPERVISION FOR NON-BUS RIDERS-** **Students who do not have a note, fax or e-mail message to do otherwise will be sent home by their usual means of transportation.** All cars should have a school car-rider sign visible in the front window with the names of the students being picked up. For the safety of our students, if you do not have a car rider sign, please park and report to the reception desk to pick up students. Additional car rider signs can be obtained at the reception desk. **All car riders must be picked up by 3:10.**

**Transportation Email: Please send any transportation requests to the following email by 2:00:**

**es-busnote@heard.k12.ga.us**

**SCHOOL TRAFFIC-** Parents who bring students in the morning or pick students up in the afternoon should use the first driveway off PeaRidge Road. Please stay in your car and drive through. We will not allow students to run across the car rider lanes in the mornings as there were some close calls over the past year that made it very dangerous. Thank you for your help and understanding with this situation.

**WITHDRAWAL POLICY-** Students withdrawing from school need to notify the school records clerk as early as possible, but at least one day prior to withdrawal, so that the necessary forms and reports can be completed. All textbooks, library books, and lunchroom charges must be turned in before leaving. **Withdrawal forms will be available for release the next school day after the request is made. The parent/guardian must provide the name, address, and phone number of the next school the student will attend, as well as the student's new home address.**

**PROGRESS REPORTS AND REPORT CARDS-** Progress reports are sent to parents near the midpoint of each grading period. Parents should sign and return the progress report by the student to the homeroom teacher. Parents are encouraged to contact the teacher for a conference, if needed. Report cards are sent home every nine weeks (approximately 45 school days). For Kindergarten, students will receive a standards-based report card. In grades 1-5, grades shall be numerical and any yearly average below seventy (70) shall be considered failure.

**PROMOTION POLICY-** In order to be promoted a student must meet the following requirements:

**Kindergarten**

1. Have a teacher recommendation for promotion
2. Pass the G.K.I.D.S. assessment

Although a child passes the GKIDS and may be eligible to be promoted to first grade, the child may be retained in kindergarten if a school-based committee determines retention to be appropriate. The child's kindergarten team, teacher, and the principal, as well as any other educators appointed by the principal, will serve on this committee. Parents will be informed of the committee's decision. Documentation must be kept in the child's school records.

**Grades 1 through 5**

The student must either pass all subjects for the year or the student's teacher must recommend the student for promotion. The teacher may consider the student's score on the state-mandated or other standardized test in making a recommendation for promotion and retention, as well as the grade level benchmarks.

Exceptions may be considered at the school level by a school-level promotion/retention committee made up of the principal and all grade level teachers of the student. The school-level committee shall have the authority to make exceptions to the stated requirements for promotion if the committee, after a careful review of all factors involved, decides that an exception is warranted.

Third grade students must pass the Reading section of the state-mandated test to be promoted. Fifth grade students must pass both Reading and Math sections of the state-mandated test to be promoted.

Decisions made by school-level promotion/retention committees will stand unless appealed and overruled by the system-level promotion/retention committee appointed by the Superintendent.

The I.E.P. committee will determine promotion for Special Education students.

**PARENT CONFERENCES-** Parents are encouraged to contact teachers to schedule conferences whenever needed. Parents may call the school at any time during school hours (7:10-3:30) and leave a message (including a phone number) requesting a conference with a school secretary. At times, teachers or other school personnel may also request a parent conference to discuss academic, behavioral, emotional, or other concerns. Our parent conferences for 1st Semester will be during the weeks of October 2, 2023 and October 16, 2023. 2nd Semester conferences will be held during the week of February 26, 2024 and March 4, 2024. Pre-K will also have conferences in December and in May. Your child's teacher will provide more information prior to the conferences.

**MAKE-UP WORK-** Make-up work should be completed as soon as possible upon returning to school. If students are to be absent for more than one day, arrangements can be made to pick up assignments in the office. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the teacher for make-up work. A note signed by the parent stating the reason for the absence must be sent to school.

**ATTENDANCE-** All students are expected to attend school regularly as provided under the Compulsory School Attendance Law. This law states that a child must attend school from the ages of 6 to 16. Children who have attendance problems could cause their parents to be charged with failure to obey this law. A student must be present at least 50% of the school day in order to be counted present. As per system policy, after 5 unexcused absences per semester, the system will notify the parent/guardian of the penalty and possible consequences of such absences and that every subsequent absence will constitute a separate offense. Another letter is sent after the tenth unexcused absence. If the student has unexcused absences beyond ten, the student and family are referred to the Attendance Protocol Committee at the system level, where decisions on further actions are made, which may include a juvenile referral. Each student who is absent must bring a note explaining the absence to the homeroom teacher signed by the parent/guardian. Only five parent written excuses per semester are allowed. Parent notes must be turned in within three days of returning to school. Out-of-school suspensions are considered excused absences.

A Perfect Attendance Brag Tag may be awarded for attendance of all days of school for the year (usually 180 days). Tardies or check-outs do not affect this award unless the student misses more than 50% of the school day.

Please know that Tardies and Check-outs have a great effect on student performance. If a child misses the same class period due to tardiness or early check-outs, we typically see a decline in his/her academic performance. Please make a point in limiting tardies and early check-outs.

**RECOGNIZING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE-** Heard County Schools have two Honor Rolls. The "A" Honor Roll recognizes students who have grades in all subjects of **90 or above**. The Honor Roll recognizes students who have **no grade below 80**.



**INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO PARENTS-** Parents of children who attend Title I schools may request information regarding their children's teachers, including information on completion of state requirements for licensure and certification; emergency or provisional status; educational background, and whether paraprofessionals are serving the child, and if so, the paraprofessional's qualifications. If you are interested in obtaining this information, please contact the principal of your child's school.

## STUDENT DRESS CODE

Students should dress appropriately each day for a school environment. **Please stress to your child that some clothing is not appropriate for a school environment and may be a distraction to themselves or others.** Violations of dress code guidelines will result in students being required to change clothes or being assigned to ISS until a change of clothes is obtained. Questionable school attire not covered in these descriptions or which may be considered as disruptive will be subject to administrative discretion.

1. All students are expected to groom themselves in a neat, orderly manner in clothing appropriate for the school environment.
2. Clothes should be worn in the manner in which they were intended. Underwear is not to be visible.
3. All students will wear shoes. Flip Flops are permissible, but need to be worn in caution. It is recommended that flip flops not be worn when playing on the playground for safety reasons.
4. Shirts and Blouses:
  - a. Shirts and Blouses should be buttoned unless another shirt is worn underneath it.
  - b. Sleeveless shirts are acceptable as long as the strap over the shoulder is thick. Cold Shoulder shirts are acceptable if the strap is thick.
  - c. No see through or shirts with holes that expose skin from the chest down.
  - d. **No halter tops or strapless tops are allowed at any grade level. No midriff should be showing at any time or students will be asked to change.**
5. Pants, slacks, and leggings:
  - a. Pants and slacks should be worn at waist level at all times. No sagging pants.
  - b. **If pants or capris have holes that are above the knee, students MUST wear leggings under them.**
  - c. Leggings or jeggings are **NOT** acceptable to be worn as "pants". **You must have long shirts or skirts that come past the student's longest fingertip when the arm is held straight at the side.**
6. No clothing that advertises drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or contains inappropriate messages is allowed.
7. Caps, hats, hoods, sunglasses or other head attire may not be worn inside school buildings.
8. The following items are prohibited for grades 3-5, and should be avoided at all grades:
  - a. Net shirts, "see-through" tops, midriff tops (if the student's midriff or abdomen shows when the arms are extended parallel to the floor, it is considered a midriff top).
  - b. Spandex or skin-tight clothing.
  - c. **Shorts, dresses, or skirts that are shorter than the student's longest finger when the arm is held straight down by the student's side. If fingertips touch skin, the item is considered too short.**
  - d. No tank tops or spaghetti straps.
  - e. No spiked bracelets, chains, chained wallets, etc.
  - f. No tops with extremely low-cut necklines.
  - g. No trench coats.

## VOLUNTEER POLICY

1. If you are interested in volunteering at the school or on **field trips**, please contact the front office or your child's teacher.
2. All volunteers who will be with students other than their own child(ren), at school or on any field trips, should have a background check completed and filed with the school system annually.
3. Volunteers should not be at school unless called by a certified staff member or PTO officer.
4. Volunteers must sign in at the office and get an approved badge.
5. Volunteers are expected to adhere to the same dress code as the students in grades 3-5.
6. Substitute teachers and college interns should dress professionally in the same manner as regular faculty and staff.

## PROVISIONAL ENROLLMENT

Transfer students are enrolled provisionally for 30 days to allow time for the five required items for the permanent record to be received. Parents will be notified when records are incomplete. Unfortunately, some records may become missing, and when this occurs parents will be given 30 days to provide additional information. Students who do not have complete records will be withdrawn at the end of the 30 days.

## AWARDS:

1. All end of year/awards programs will be consolidated into one program held on the last day of school at HCES. Students who are to receive an award at the award program will be given an invitation. The program will **only** be for students (and families) who are receiving an award.
2. Brag Tag Awards for Academic Excellence will be presented to students with a yearly average of 90 or above in every subject.
3. Brag Tag Awards for Academic Achievement will be presented to students who have a yearly average below 90 in at least one subject, but have a yearly average of 80 or above in every subject.
4. Students who are ineligible for the Academic Excellence or Academic Achievement Awards with a yearly average of 90 or above in Math, Reading, Language, Spelling, Science, or Social Studies will receive a Brag Tag.
5. Brag Tag Awards will be presented to students for the Highest Overall Average in each homeroom, the Teresa Golden Congeniality Award (one per homeroom), the Denise Burson Citizenship Award (one per homeroom), Perfect Attendance, Academic Bowl Team, and Accelerated Reader Program.
6. The Lisa Alford Brag Tag Award will be given to the most outstanding fifth grade student in the resource program.
7. The Melinda Parker Outstanding Writer award will be given to the most outstanding student in writing in 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
8. The Shane Barber Outstanding Mathematician award will be given to the most outstanding student in math in 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
9. Brag Tag Awards may be presented to outstanding students in P.E., Music, Art, and Technology.
10. Brag Tag Awards will be given in grades 1-3 to a maximum of three students from each homeroom for most improvement in academic areas or behavior.
11. Pre-K and Kindergarten will determine their own awards.

## HEARD COUNTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISCIPLINE-

**EXPECTATIONS-** Students who fail to follow the basic rules set up by the classroom teacher may be subject to various consequences as determined by the teacher. The rules and consequences for each classroom will be posted and explained to students the first week of school, as well as reviewed throughout the year. Cell phones, pocket pagers, radios, tape players, electronic games and similar devices are prohibited during school hours. All cell phones should be turned off and remain put up at all times during the school day. Phones confiscated under this policy will be held until a parent or guardian can come to school to pick it up. The school is not responsible for any cell phones or electronic devices lost or stolen at school or on the bus. Only walking will be permitted in the building, to the bus, and on the walkways. **Threats against persons or property will not be tolerated and will result in severe consequences. Students will not be allowed to tease, harass, or make fun of other students.** Buying, selling, or trading merchandise is also prohibited

**UNAUTHORIZED ORGANIZATIONS-** No clubs, organizations, societies, groups or similar entities are permitted without prior approval of the principal. School sponsored clubs (excluding competitive interscholastic activities or events) are those under the sponsorship, direction and control of the school that organize and meet for common goals, objectives, and purposes. State law requires that parents have the right to withhold permission for their students to participate in any school sponsored club or organization designated by them.

**OFFICE REFERRALS-** Students who violate a teacher's discipline plan or commit other infractions which require more stringent disciplinary action will be referred to the office. Consequences will be determined by the administrator considering the age of the child, severity of the offense, and the student's previous record of misconduct for the year. Parents will be notified by phone or in writing of office referrals.

**IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS) -** ISS is an alternative form of discipline for students who have been referred for disciplinary infractions. Students are assigned to the ISS area, called the "Opportunity Room," during the school day. The amount of time that a student is assigned depends upon the student's age, the severity of the offense, and the student's previous record of misconduct. Students in the Opportunity Room are given work to complete by their teacher and/or the ISS supervisor. Students are assigned to ISS by an administrator with a discipline referral. ISS is under the supervision of Mr. Heath Horn and Mrs. Carla Hutchins, Assistant Principals. A student may be given additional time in ISS, additional writing assignments, and/or an office referral for misbehavior or refusal to cooperate in the Opportunity Room. Students assigned to ISS will have no breaks, P.E., playtime, or other privileges. A limited number of supervised restroom trips will be permitted. Lunch will be served in the Opportunity Room if a student is assigned to the ISS room during his/her normal lunch period.

**1st offense - 2 hours off ISS**  
**2nd offense - 4 hours of ISS**  
**3rd offense- 6 hours of ISS**  
**4th offense - 8 hours of ISS**  
**5th offense - 1 day of OSS**  
**\*after offense number 5 the plan starts over.**

**CORPORAL PUNISHMENT-** (taken from the GA. Code 32-835 & 32-836) In keeping with the state laws and in order to maintain proper control and discipline of students, principals and assistant principals and their designees may administer corporal punishment to students under the following conditions:

1. The corporal punishment shall not be excessive or unduly severe.
2. Corporal punishment shall not be used as the first line of punishment for misbehavior unless the student was informed that specific misbehavior could occasion its use; provided that corporal punishment may be used as a first line of punishment for those acts of misconduct which are so antisocial or disruptive in nature as to shock the conscience.
3. Corporal punishment must be administered in the presence of the principal, assistant principal, or the principal's designee and the principal, assistant principal, or a designee shall be informed beforehand in the presence of the student of the reason for the punishment.
4. The Principal or designee administering corporal punishment must provide the child's parent, upon request, a written explanation of the reason for the punishment; provided that such an explanation shall not be used as evidence in any subsequent civil action brought as a result of said corporal punishment.
5. Corporal punishment shall not be administered to a child whose parents or guardians have, upon the day the child enrolls, filed with the principal of the school a statement from a medical doctor licensed in Georgia stating that it is detrimental to the child's mental or emotional stability.

A written record of administration of corporal punishment showing the student, reason, number of pops, and witnesses shall be kept by the administration of each school. Corporal punishment may be used at Heard Elementary as punishment for repeated or severe misbehavior and as a deterrent to breaking the rules established by the teachers and administration. Corporal punishment may be used upon parent request on the first offense for disciplinary offenses. Our school discipline plan conforms to both state and local policies.

**SUSPENSION-** Out of school suspension will be used in severe cases or for repeated misbehavior. The number of offenses will accumulate throughout the year. Bus infractions do not count toward school suspension. **Extremely unruly or uncooperative students will be suspended. Severe disruptions or severe disrespect to faculty/staff members will not be tolerated from any student.** Severe disruptions or severe disrespect could include the following: foul language directed to a faculty/staff member; physical assault directed to or at a faculty/staff member or another student; extremely rude comments or disrespect to a faculty/staff member; blatant insubordination towards a faculty/staff member; pretending to use and/or sell drugs; possession of illegal weapons; possession or distribution of drugs, alcohol or tobacco; threats; any other anti-social behavior which discredits a faculty/staff or the school. Severe disruptions or severe disrespect will result in immediate suspension from the school. The number of days will depend upon the age of the student, the placement of the student, the severity of the offense, and the student's previous record of misconduct. Proper authorities will be notified if the incident warrants. Suspensions during a semester may cause the student to be ineligible for attending extra-curricular activities (including school dances). **Loss of Field Day/Fun Day time may be used as a consequence during the last weeks of school for student misbehavior, failure to turn in textbooks, or failure to turn in library books.**

## **CAFETERIA BEHAVIOR**

The monitors on duty are responsible for monitoring behavior in the cafeteria. All students are expected to clean up around their eating area and help keep the cafeteria clean. Students are permitted to talk softly using an "inside voice," except during "silent time." When the noise level becomes excessive, there will be three (3) minutes of "**SILENT TIME.**"

Possible cafeteria infractions are as follows:

- Talking during silent time
- Running in the cafeteria
- Breaking line
- Hitting, pushing, or tripping
- Harassing others
- Littering
- Not obeying cafeteria monitors

## CONSEQUENCES

1. The first and second offenses will result in assignment to the “Silent Table” for the remainder of the meal period. The student may also lose some break time, play time, or privileges as determined by the teacher.
2. The third offense will result in assignment to the “Silent Table” for the remainder of the meal period. This will also constitute a discipline infraction. Once a student receives a discipline report at step 3, the consequences become progressive as any other offense.
3. Misbehavior at the “Silent Table” will constitute a more severe school discipline infraction.
4. Major infractions of the school discipline code will be handled according to the normal school disciplinary procedures.

## BUS POLICIES

Our primary concern is the safety of all students riding our county buses. Any behavior which distracts the driver or interferes with his/her ability to concentrate on the road is unacceptable. All students on the bus are under the supervision of the bus driver. **Incidents on the bus should be reported to the driver first. Students who violate bus rules should expect disciplinary action. Failure to obey the bus driver and the bus rules may result in a student losing their privilege to ride a bus.** All disciplinary action is left to the discretion of the principal and/or assistant principals.

### Minor offenses:

1st write up: miss recess and or silent lunch

2nd write up: 2 to 4 hours in ISS

3rd write up: 3 days off the bus

4th write up: 4 days off the bus

5th write up : 5 days off the bus

6th write up : Student becomes a car rider for the remainder of the year

**Major offenses** : Fighting, cussing, disrespectful to the bus driver.

These offenses will be automatic dismissal from the bus for a minimum of 3 days.

\*At any point if a student cannot control their body, a safety harness can be considered to help support the student.

A student needing to ride a bus other than his/her usual one must have a note signed by a parent and approved by the office. A change of transportation cannot be made by phone. We will accept emails to [es-busnote@heard.k12.ga.us](mailto:es-busnote@heard.k12.ga.us) or faxed requests at 706-675-0999 prior to 1:45 p.m. The Heard County Board of Education policy concerning bus stops states that a bus will stop only on county or state-maintained roads. Remember that buses cannot stop for a conference during a route. Attempting to interfere or disrupt the operation of the school bus violates Georgia Law 20-2-1181. A parent may call the school to schedule a conference with a bus driver.

## BUS DISCIPLINE

Misbehavior on the bus may result in ISS, suspension from school, and/or loss of the privilege of riding the bus. Major offenses such as fighting, cursing, damaging property, disrespect to the driver, or failure to obey the driver after reasonable warning will not be tolerated. These offenses will result in bus suspension for an appropriate amount of time as determined by the seriousness of the offense, the age of the student, and the record of previous misconduct on the bus. **Riding the bus is a privilege which students may lose by misbehavior.** Unruly behavior shall be dealt with in accordance with Code Section 20-2-735.1 of the Code of Georgia. Missing the bus is an unexcused absence.

The State Office of School Readiness is the part of the State Department of Education that oversees the Pre-Kindergarten Program. They require that all Pre-K students be supervised at the bus stop by a visible adult in the morning and afternoon. **Bus Drivers cannot let Pre-K students off the bus when no adult is present. Any child under the age of 9 will not be let off the bus without an adult or older sibling present. Any student who must be removed from the bus during the route will result in one additional day of suspension from the bus added to the consequence determined by the administration.** Students must move a safe distance away from the bus upon exiting. **After** the bus leaves the stop, a student may check the mailbox if directed by a parent.

## **BUS SUSPENSIONS**

Students are directed to take the bus discipline form home to parents. We cannot mail these due to time constraints. The school will attempt to contact the parent via phone. Students who are suspended and attempt to board the bus will be sent back if someone appears to be home. **If the driver must transport a student who is suspended, the student will earn one additional day of suspension.**

## **POWERSCHOOL PARENT ACCESS**

PowerSchool is the comprehensive student information system used in the Heard County School System. PowerSchool has a web component which allows a parent to access a variety of information regarding their child's education. This includes the ability to:

- View current grades
- View recent attendance
- View grades history
- View attendance history
- Request email notifications of grades and attendance
- View teacher comments
- View school information and/or announcements

In order to access this information on your child, you only need Internet access and a username and password, which is issued by the school your child attends. This username and password will allow you to access information on your child and your child only. No one else can view any information on your child. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, you can obtain your username and password by contacting your child's school (see form on page 35).

## **HEARD COUNTY ELEMENTARY P.T.O.**

Heard Elementary seeks to have an active and involved Parent-Teacher Organization. Each year we want to have officers and volunteers who partner with us to provide opportunities for school-home connections and activities. If you would be willing to serve as a PTO officer in the future, please contact the principal by phone, note, or email. The PTO holds 5 regular meetings throughout the school year. These meetings will be in conjunction with a PTO family event. Each meeting begins at 6:00. We will be sending home a schedule of events at Curriculum Night.

**Please set your calendars for our Curriculum Nights. August 7th is scheduled for Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades. August 8th is scheduled for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. We will have two sessions each night. The first will run from 6:00-6:30 and the second from 6:40-7:10. We will start the night at 5:30pm in the cafeteria for the Annual Title I meeting.**

Our PTO is always seeking volunteers to help with various events throughout the year. If you would be interested in volunteering, please notify the school. Your support is appreciated.

**HCSS**  
**System**  
**Handbook**  
**2023-2024**

**ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**  
**COMPUTER/INTERNET RESOURCES**

The Heard County Board of Education recognizes the importance of making computer technology readily available for students and employees and providing access to resources on the Internet. The Internet is an electronic network of computers throughout the world enabling students and employees to access information from a wide variety of resources.

Heard County School System provides electronic devices such as computers, chromebooks, ipads, and provides services such as a computer network, and telecommunications, including the Internet for all Heard County Faculty/Staff and Students. Use of these electronic devices, computer networks, and Internet must be in support of education and research and must be consistent with the educational mission, goals, and objectives of the school system. All users must take responsibility for appropriate and lawful use of the Internet. Inappropriate use of these electronic devices, computer network, and Internet may result in school discipline, loss of the privilege of use of these electronic devices, computer networks, and Internet, and/or criminal prosecution.

Due to the nature of materials available from the Internet, the Board believes that guidelines are warranted; therefore, students and employees of the Heard County School System who utilize the school's Electronic Devices/Internet Resources as well as personal devices will abide by the Board's Acceptable Use Policy which reflects the Board of Regents Acceptable Use Policy for ENA. In order to gain access to the Electronic Devices/Internet Resources in Heard County Schools, the student and the student's parent/guardian must sign a *Internet Resources Agreement* each school year. Employees must sign an *Employee Computer/Internet Resources Agreement* each school year. No user will be granted access to the internet until a signed Internet User Agreement has been received by the school.

Although some regulations are in place to help avoid inappropriate use of the Internet, there is no complete assurance that users will not find ways to access inappropriate materials. The Board also denies responsibility for the accuracy of information gained from Internet resources. The Board makes no guarantees regarding the use of the Internet by students. Individual users must be responsible for following the rules of network etiquette and for determining the accuracy of information sent or received.

REF: Board of regents Office of Information and Instructional Technology (OIIT)  
ENA Acceptable Use Policy

Revised May, 2023

**Heard County Schools**  
**Student/Parent Internet Use Agreement**

**GENERAL GUIDELINES:**

All Heard County School's students in grades K-12 are issued a device for their educational use. It is our belief that if reasonable precautions and care are taken in the use of the device, the device should not experience physical damage. Each student and parent is asked to read this document carefully. Once completed with reviewing the document, the student and parent/guardian should sign on the last page indicating their understanding of the guidelines and procedures that will be in place for the use of the electronic devices.

**EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE:**

The use of the Heard County School's technology resources is subject to the following terms and conditions:

- The district Internet system has been established for a limited “educational purpose”. The term "educational purpose" includes classroom activities, continuing education, professional or career development, and high quality educationally enriching personal research. In compliance with federal law, the school district shall make reasonable efforts to restrict access to inappropriate materials and shall monitor the online activities, as reasonably able, of the end users in the school environment.
- The district Internet system has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. The district has the right to place reasonable restrictions on the material the student accesses or posts through the system. Students are also expected to follow the rules set forth in this agreement, the student disciplinary code, and the law, when utilizing the district Internet system.
- Students may not use the district Internet system for commercial purposes. A user may not offer, provide, or purchase products or services through the district Internet system.

## **STUDENT/PARENT RESPONSIBILITY:**

### **General Responsibilities of Students and Parents:**

- I/We understand and agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Heard County School’s Internet Use Agreement. Failure to abide by this agreement will result in disciplinary action as set out herein.
- I/We understand that the device and its accessory equipment are the property of Heard County Schools.
- I/We understand that I/we must report all device damages or the theft/loss of the device to their teacher (K-5 Students). Grade 6-8 students must report to the Media Specialist.
- I/we understand that I/we will be responsible for all repair/replacement charges associated with device damages caused through a lack of reasonable precautions. Cost will be set by repair professionals authorized to act in such capacity.
- I /We will take good care of the device and know that I/we will be issued the same device each year.
- I will never loan out the device to other individuals. Misuse of the device or electronic resources provided on the device by family, friends, or other individuals will ultimately be the responsibility of the student that the device was issued.
- I understand that my device is subject to inspection at any time without notice and remains the property of Heard County Schools.
- I/We agree to file a police report and then provide a copy to school administration in the case of theft.
- I agree to pay for the replacement of my device, charger, stylus (if applicable), or device case in the event any of these items are lost or stolen.
- I agree to return the device, charger, and the issued carrying case in good working condition as determined by the Heard County Schools Technology Department.
- I will abide by all rules and policies outlined in the Student/Parent Handbook, Heard County School Acceptable Use Internet/Technology Policy, and the Student/Parent Responsible Use Agreement while using electronic information resources.
- I/we understand that any information shared, researched, or saved on the school owned device is subject to search without notice and is not private.
- The District reserves the right to log the use of all systems and monitor file-server space utilization. Should it become necessary, files may be deleted.
- The District is not responsible for any internet or network connections interruptions, changes, or consequences arising there from, even if these arise from circumstances under the control of the District.
- The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied. Service is provided on an “as-is, as-available” basis.
- The District reserves the right to establish such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the efficient operation of the electronic information systems.

### **Device Care:**

- I/We understand that the student, with the support of the parent, is responsible for the daily care and maintenance of the device.



- I/We understand that the device will be returned at the school's discretion for upgrades and maintenance.
- I/We understand that the device must be in its approved and provided case when being transported as a reasonable precaution against damage, theft, or loss.
- Items transported in the same backpack or carrying case should be kept to a minimum to avoid placing too much pressure and weight on the device screen.
- Clean the screen with a soft, dry cloth or anti-static cloth.
- I/We will keep food and beverages away from my device since these items may cause damage to the device.
- I/We will not disassemble any part of my device or attempt any repairs.
- I will not place decorations (such as stickers) on the device nor will I write or draw on the device.
- I will not attempt to harm, modify, or destroy hardware or software, or interfere with system security.
- I will not attempt to bypass any security or setting put in place to protect our devices or network.
- Devices must never be left in a car, bus or any unsupervised area.
- Students should never carry their devices while the screen is open.

### **Digital Citizenship:**

- I will accept personal responsibility in reporting any misuse of the network to the school administration. Misuse can come in many forms, but it is commonly viewed as any material sent or received that indicates or suggests inappropriate, unethical or illegal behavior, racism, sexism, inappropriate language, bullying, or violation of other issues described below.
- I/We understand that the use of electronic information resources must be in support of education, research, and the educational mission and core values of the Heard County Schools.
- I will use electronic information resources for educational purposes only.
- I agree not to submit, publish, display, or retrieve any defamatory, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, cyber bullying/bullying, or illegal material.
- I will abide by all copyright regulations.
- I will not reveal home addresses, personal phone numbers, or network passwords of others or myself.
- I will not use the network in any way that disrupts the use of the network by others.
- I will not use the network for commercial purposes.

### **Additional Parental Responsibilities:**

- Parent's failure to execute all required Acceptable Use requirements and Student/ Parent Responsibilities within these documents will result in the student being provided a device for school use only. The student will not be allowed to take the device home and will only have access to the device during school hours.
- Parents will be responsible for monitoring the student's use of the device outside the school setting.
- Parents will be responsible for reviewing the Acceptable Use Agreement and the Student/Parent Responsibilities with their students.
- Parents are asked to monitor their student's activities on the device/Internet on a regular basis.
- Remember, parents are responsible for overseeing their student's use of the Internet while the student is at home.
- Parents are responsible to make sure the school owned devices and accessories are returned to Heard County Schools at the end of each school year. Students who graduate early, withdraw, are suspended or expelled, or terminate enrollment at Heard County Schools for any other reason must return their individual school device on the date of termination.

### **Where does my son/daughter go if technical support is needed?**

- If the problem originates while in class, the student should report all issues to his/her teacher. The teacher will then refer them to the Media Specialist.

- If the problem originates at home (grade 6-12) or when not in class, the student should report all issues to the Media Specialist. All technical or mechanical issues with the device must be reported immediately to school personnel, preferably the Teacher (K-5 students) and the Media Specialist (grade 6-12). If a student fails to report it immediately, it may result in additional damage and an increased responsibility on the student for such damages.

### **Additional Device Scenarios to Remember:**

- If a student leaves his/her device at home, he/she will be asked to call home and have a parent bring the device to the school. If this scenario is not possible, he/she may be issued a loaner device, if available, for the remainder of the school day. (Repeated violations will result in disciplinary action as set out herein.)
- If a student has his/her device confiscated for any period of time, he/she may be issued a loaner device on a day-by-day basis, but only while at school.
- If a student's device is undergoing repair, the school will issue a loaner device to the student during this period of time.
- The content saved on their device must be specific to education. The space allowed on these devices is limited and is subject to review at any time. Items deemed as unnecessary for education will be deleted following a conversation with the student. Unnecessary items include, but are not limited to media files, mp3/music, and pictures. If any material is found and considered inappropriate, not only will the material be deleted, but also disciplinary action could be taken as set out herein.
- The software originally installed on the devices must remain on them in usable condition and be easily accessible at all times. From time to time, the school may add software.
- Students are not allowed to install software on their devices other than what is installed by Heard County Schools. This includes, but is not limited to, applications such as music downloading utilities, other media downloading utilities, and games. Unless directed by a teacher for a specific purpose for a class.
- Students may be selected at random to provide their device for inspection. Students may also be selected for inspection of their device if a staff member suspects that inappropriate material resides on the device or the student has violated the Heard County Schools Internet Use Agreement.
- When devices are not in use during the school day, they should be stored in the approved carrying case or chromebook cart (grade K-5).

### **POSSIBLE INFRACTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES FOR MISUSE:**

The use of electronic information resources and the electronic device is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked or limited at any time. The school administration reserves the right to address any incidents involving the use of the electronic device on a case-by-case basis

#### **Possible infractions include but are not limited to the following;**

- Anything illegal or against local, state, or federal laws
- Viewing, storing, sharing, accepting inappropriate material
- P2P file sharing of any sort (LimeWire, BearShare, BitTorrent)
- Changing the configuration of the device, installing or removing software or hardware without consent
- Physically altering the chromeBook or attempting self-repair
- Using inappropriate material including, but not limited to, guns, weapons, inappropriate material, inappropriate language, alcohol, drugs, and gang related symbols or pictures as screensavers
- Cheating through the use of the device
- Cyber bullying or harming others through the use of the device or the school's network
- Recording (audio or video) others without their permission
- Using another person's password, login, or device without consent ("hacking")

- Vandalizing, damaging, or disabling property of the school or another individual or organization. Failing to report such incidents in a timely manner will also be considered a violation.
- Repetitive classroom or out of the classroom infractions involving the devices as established by the school administration or classroom teacher

**Possible consequences for the actions above include, but are not limited to the following:**

- Loss of use of the device completely or limited to use only during the regularly scheduled school day
- Detentions
- Suspension or Expulsion
- Reporting of the incident to local law enforcement and/or probation officer
- Parent Conference
- The school administration holds the right to issue disciplinary consequences based on school rules and/or policies.
- Some violations, as a result of misuse of the electronic device, could result in a possible fine (removing identification tags/labels, cleaning fees, lost/damage chargers, etc.).

**Chromebook Damage/Loss Coverage Fee:**

- I/We understand that I can purchase coverage for accidental damage, liquid submersion, theft, fire & flood damage, vandalism, natural disasters and power surge due to lightning.
- I/We understand that I/we will be responsible for purchasing this Chromebook Damage/Loss protection each year. The annual cost is \$20 per student.
- I/We understand that the damages must result from the perils listed above. Details of each incident must be submitted with every claim to the Media Specialist.
- I/We understand that if, in the opinion of the building administration and the Media Specialist, it is felt that the student did not exercise proper care and/or take appropriate precautions, and this behavior resulted in damage or loss/theft of the device, the cost/replacement of the repair will be the responsibility of the student/parent.
- I/We understand that in the event there are repeated “accidents” of a similar nature, the school administration and the Media Specialist may view this as a situation whereby the student did not exercise proper care and/or reasonable precautions. In the event this should be the case, the cost of the repair/replacement will become the responsibility of the student/parent.
- I/We understand that in the event my device is stolen, I/we must contact the school administration immediately, file a police report, and then supply the school administration with a copy of the police report.

**Student/Parent Internet Use Agreement**

- I/We have read and understand the Heard County School’s Internet Use Agreement.
- I/We have read and understand the expectations for taking care of the device.
- I/We have read and understand the expectations for maintaining good digital citizenship.
- I/We have read and understand that the Chromebook Damage/Loss Program will be a required purchase before devices are sent for repairs. Failure to purchase this chromebook protection will result in the Parent/Student being responsible for the cost of repairs.
- I/We have read and understand the possible violations to the agreement and consequence (although not limited to those identified).

*Please read this document carefully. When signed by you and your parent or guardian, it becomes an agreement between you and Heard County Schools. Your signature indicates that you agree to abide by the conditions and guidelines established herein. This signature page also confirms that you are aware that insurance must be purchased through the school provided agency and payment has been received in full.*

## **STUDENT AGREEMENT**

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by all of the provisions of the ***Responsible Use Agreement and Contract***.

## **PARENT AGREEMENT**

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the ***Internet Use Agreement***. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. I also accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my student's use is not in a school setting. I hereby give permission for my student to use electronic information resources. If a student user is under the age of 18 and resides in the home of a parent or is over the age of 18 but is under a legal guardianship, the parent(s) agree(s) to be responsible for all costs associated with participation and for all costs of lost or stolen equipment as indicated by the signing of the Student/Parent Internet Use Agreement and documents. I also understand that I will be responsible for any attorney fees or other related costs by Heard County Schools in the enforcement of this agreement and the Student/Parent Internet Use Agreement and as set out hereinbefore.

Revised May 20, 2023

### **FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.
- Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):
  - School officials with legitimate educational interest;
  - Other schools to which a student is transferring;
  - Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
  - Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
  - Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
  - Accrediting organizations;
  - To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
  - Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and

- o State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school. For additional information or technical assistance, you may call (202) 260-3887 (voice). Or you may contact us at the following address:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

### **PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)**

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232h; 34 CFR Part 98) applies to programs that receive funding from the U.S. Department of Education (ED). PPRA is intended to protect the rights of parents and students in two ways:

- It seeks to ensure that schools and contractors make instructional materials available for inspection by parents if those materials will be used in connection with an ED-funded survey, analysis, or evaluation in which their children participate; and
- It seeks to ensure that schools and contractors obtain written parental consent before minor students are required to participate in any ED-funded survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:
  1. Political affiliations;
  2. Mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student and his/her family;
  3. Sex behavior and attitudes;
  4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating and 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; or
  7. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

Parents or students who believe their rights under PPRA may have been violated may file a complaint with ED by writing the Family Policy Compliance Office. Complaints must contain specific allegations of fact giving reasonable cause to believe that a violation of PPRA occurred.

For additional information or technical assistance, you may call (202) 260-3887 (voice). Individuals who use TDD may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. Or you may contact us at the following address:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

### **Board Policy JB: Student Attendance Status: ADOPTED**

In responding to student attendance issues, the Heard County 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.
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.
4. The observance of religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
6. A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the U. S. armed forces or 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 will be granted up to 5 days of excused absences per school year to visit with his or her parent prior to the parent's deployment or during the parent's leave.
7. Registering to vote or voting in a public election, which shall not exceed one day.
8. Any other absence not explicitly defined in this policy but deemed to have merit based on circumstances as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee.
9. 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.

School days missed as a result of out of school suspension shall not be counted as unexcused for the purpose of determining student truancy, but shall be counted as unexcused for all other purposes.

#### *Students Counted Present*

Students shall be counted present under the following circumstances.

1. When they are serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly.
2. A foster care student who attends court proceedings relating to his or her foster care shall be counted Present and shall not be counted absent, either excused or unexcused, for any day or portion of a day missed from school.
3. When they are absent due to 4-H activities.

#### *Perfect Attendance*

Students who are present for at least one-half of the instructional day or four hours, whichever is greater, shall be counted present for perfect attendance purposes. High school students must be present at least two full blocks of instructional time to be counted present for perfect attendance purposes. 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.

#### *Grades and Absences*

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

1. Absences are justified and validated for excusable reasons.

2. Make up work for excused absences was completed satisfactorily.

### *Policies and Procedures to Reduce Unexcused Absences: Notification*

1. The school system will notify the parent, guardian 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 1st class mail or via certified mail, return receipt requested; and
2. Prior to any action to commence judicial proceedings to impose a penalty on the parent for failing to comply with compulsory attendance law, the school system will notify the parent by certified mail, return receipt requested; and
3. Each school shall provide to the parent of each student enrolled 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, the parent 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 with the local Board policy.

### *High School Attendance Policy*

Any high school student having more than 10 excused unexcused absences, as further set forth in this policy, in a class during a semester will receive no credit for that class unless a waiver is granted by the Attendance Committee. A student must be present in a class for at least sixty (60) minutes to be counted present in that class. The Attendance Committee is a standing committee composed of three (3) members appointed by the principal and chaired by an administrator. The chair shall vote only in case of a tie. The Attendance Committee shall use the following guidelines in determining whether to grant a waiver:

1. If all absences are excused, the student shall not be denied credit for the semester based on excessive absences.
2. If any absences are unexcused, the Attendance Committee shall determine whether there exist unusual conditions or extenuating circumstances relating to the student's personal life or family situation which would require that the provisions of this policy be waived. If so, the student shall not be denied credit for the semester based on excessive absences. If the student has any unexcused absences and there are no unusual conditions or extenuating circumstances relating to the student's personal life or family situation, the student shall not be allowed to receive credit for the semester, even if the student has passing grades.
3. The superintendent and/or his or her designee have the authority to enact rules to carry out this policy.

### **Board Policy JCDA: Student Code of Conduct**

It is the purpose of the Heard County Board of Education to operate each school in a manner that will provide an orderly process of education and that will provide for the welfare and safety of all students who attend the schools within the district. In accordance with that purpose, the Board of Education has adopted a policy which requires all schools to adopt codes of conduct which require students to conduct themselves at all times in order to facilitate a learning environment for themselves and other students. These standards for behavior require students to respect each other and school district employees, to obey student behavior policies adopted by the Board and to obey student behavior rules established at each school within the district.

The school's primary goal is to educate, not to punish; however, when the behavior of an individual student comes in conflict with the rights of others, corrective actions may be necessary for the benefit of that individual and the school as a whole. Accordingly, students shall be governed by policies, regulations and rules set forth in the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct is effective during the following times and in the following places:

At school or on school property at any time;

Off school grounds at any school-related activity, function or event and while traveling to and from such events;

On school buses and at school bus stops.

Also, students may be disciplined for conduct off campus which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process.

Major offenses including, but not limited to, drug and weapon offenses can lead to schools being named as an Unsafe School according to the provisions of State Board Rule 160-4-8-.16, UNSAFE SCHOOL CHOICE OPTIONS.

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. Parents are encouraged to become familiar with the Code of Conduct and to be supportive of it in their daily communication with their children and others in the community.

#### AUTHORITY OF THE PRINCIPAL

The principal is the designated leader of the school and, in concert with the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. In cases of disruptive, disorderly or dangerous conduct not covered in this Code, the principal may undertake corrective measures which he or she believes to be in the best interest of the student and the school provided any such action does not violate school board policy or procedures.

#### AUTHORITY OF THE TEACHER

The Superintendent fully supports the authority of principals and teachers in the school system to remove a student from the classroom pursuant to provisions of state law.

Each teacher shall comply with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-737 which requires the filing of a report by a teacher who has knowledge that a student has exhibited behavior that repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in his or her class or with the ability of such student's classmates to learn, where such behavior is in violation of the student code of conduct. Such report shall be filed with the principal or designee on the school day of the most recent occurrence of such behavior, shall not exceed one page, and shall describe the behavior.

The principal or designee shall, within one school day after receiving such a report from a teacher, send to the student's parents or guardian a copy of the report and information regarding how the student's parents or guardians may contact the principal or designee. The principal or designee shall notify in writing the teacher and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) of the discipline or student support services which has occurred as a result of the teacher's report within one school day from the imposition of discipline or the utilization of the support services. The principal or designee shall make a reasonable attempt to confirm that the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) has received the written notification, including information as to how the parent(s) or guardian(s) may contact the principal or designee.

#### PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

When it is necessary to impose discipline, school administrators and teachers will follow a progressive discipline process. It is the preferred policy of the board that disruptive students are placed in alternative education settings in lieu of being suspended or expelled. The degree of discipline to be imposed by each



school official will be in proportion to the severity of the behavior of a particular student and will take into account the student's discipline history, the age of the student and other relevant factors.

The Code of Conduct provides a systematic process of behavioral correction in which inappropriate behaviors are followed by consequences. Disciplinary actions are designed to teach students self-discipline and to help them substitute inappropriate behaviors with those that are consistent with the character traits from the Georgia Character Education Program.

The following disciplinary actions may be imposed for any violation of this Code of Conduct:

Warning and/or Counseling with a school administrator, counselor, or other school resource persons

Confiscation of inappropriate materials and/or devices

Behavior Contract

Loss of Privileges

Isolation or Time Out

Temporary removal from class or activity

Notification of Parents

Parent conference

Corporal punishment

Detention

Temporary placement in an Alternative Education Program

Short-term Suspension

Assignment to the Alternative Education Program

Referral to a tribunal for long-term suspension or expulsion

Suspension or expulsion from the school bus

Referral to Law Enforcement or Juvenile Court Officials: Georgia law requires that certain acts of misconduct be referred to the appropriate law enforcement officials. The school will refer any act of misconduct to law enforcement officials when school officials determine such referral to be necessary or appropriate.

Permanent expulsion from school in accordance with 20-2-751.6.

Referral to juvenile court with a request for a petition alleging delinquent behavior.

The maximum punishments for an offense include long-term suspension or expulsion, including permanent expulsion, but those punishments will be determined only by a disciplinary tribunal as outlined in the Heard County Board of Education policies unless State Law mandates that the punishment is to be determined by the board of education.

Parents or students may elect not to contest whether a student has violated the Code of Conduct or the appropriate discipline, and in such cases, an agreement may be negotiated which would include the parents or students waiving a right to a hearing before a disciplinary tribunal. Such an agreement and waiver must be approved also by the disciplinary tribunal or hearing officer in accordance with local board policy.

Before a student is suspended for ten days or less, the principal or designee will inform the student of the offense for which the student is charged and allow the student to explain his or her behavior. If the student is suspended, the student's parents or guardians will be notified if possible. School officials may involve law enforcement officials when evidence surrounding a situation necessitates their involvement or when there is a legal requirement that an incident be reported.

School officials may search a student if there is reasonable suspicion the student is in possession of an item that is illegal or against school rules. Students' vehicles brought on campus, student book bags, school lockers, desks and other school property are subject to inspection and search by school authorities at any time without further notice to students or parents. Students are required to cooperate if asked to open book bags, lockers or any vehicle brought on campus. Metal detectors and drug or weapon sniffing dogs may be utilized at school or at any school function, including activities that occur outside normal school hours or off the school campus at the discretion of administrators.

## BEHAVIOR WHICH WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The degree of discipline imposed will be in accordance with the progressive discipline process unless otherwise stated. Referral to law enforcement officials shall be made if the student is referred to the disciplinary tribunal. There are situations that warrant the administrator making referrals to law enforcement officials when there is not a referral to the disciplinary tribunal.

Possession, sale, use in any amount, distribution, or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic

drug, amphetamine, barbiturates, marijuana, drug paraphernalia or alcoholic beverage or other intoxicant

Possession, distribution, attempted sale or sale of THC products including vapes and edibles.

Possession, distribution, attempted sale or sale of substances represented as drugs or alcohol

Sale, attempted sale, distribution, or being under the influence of a prescription or over the counter drug

Possession or use of a weapon or dangerous instrument as provided for in Code Section 16-11-127.1: 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. Students who possess firearms on campus will be subject to a minimum of one calendar year suspension and will be referred to law enforcement officials. Other weapons as defined in 16-11-127.1 or by local policy are prohibited and will result in disciplinary procedures that could include referral to a disciplinary tribunal and to law enforcement.

Verbal assault, including threats of violence or bodily harm and/or sexual assault or harassment, of teachers, administrators, other school personnel, other students, or person attending school-related functions: Immediate suspension and automatic referral to disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed an assault upon a teacher or other school personnel; possible referral to a disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed an assault upon another student or a person attending a school-related function.

Physical assault or battery, including sexual battery, of other students, or persons attending school-related functions: possible referral to a disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed battery upon another student or a person attending a school-related function.

Physical violence against a teacher, school bus driver, or other school personnel:

1. Immediate suspension and automatic referral to the disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed an act of physical violence against a teacher or other school personnel: Expulsion for the remainder of the student's eligibility to attend public schools for acts of physical violence found by a tribunal to have intentionally made physical contact which causes physical harm to another unless such physical contact or physical harm was in defense of himself or herself, as provided in Code Section 16-3-21; or the

Board may authorize the student to attend alternative school for the period of the expulsion; provided, however, that if such student is in kindergarten through grade six, then the Board, upon the recommendation of the tribunal, may permit the student to re-enroll in regular programs for grades 9 through 12; and provided further that if the Board does not operate an alternative education program for grades kindergarten through grade six, then the Board may permit the student in kindergarten through grade six who commits such an act to re-enroll in the public school system. The student shall be referred to juvenile court with a request for a petition alleging delinquent behavior.

2. Possible punishments may include expulsion, long-term suspension, or short-term suspension for students found by a tribunal to have intentionally made physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another.

#### ADDITIONAL BEHAVIOR WHICH WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Disrespectful conduct, including use of vulgar or profane language, toward teachers, administrators, other school personnel, other students, or persons attending school-related functions

Any behavior based on a student's race, national origin, sex, or disability that is unwelcome, unwanted, and/or uninvited by the recipient is prohibited, including verbal or non-verbal taunting, physical contact, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature, up to and including sexual harassment as used in connection with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

Possession or use of tobacco in any form, including vapes, juuls or e-cigarettes

Hacking into the school system's computer network in an effort to gather others' personal information, by-pass restricted websites, or other unauthorized activities.

Damaging or defacing personal property, including the property of another student or any person legitimately at the school, or school property (vandalism or graffiti) during school hours or off-school hours. (Substantial damage alleged to be intentionally caused by a student on school premises could justify referral to the disciplinary tribunal\* for possible expulsion or long-term suspension. Referral to law enforcement officials shall be made if the student is referred to the disciplinary tribunal.)

Theft

Extortion or attempted extortion

Possession and/or use of fireworks or any explosive

Activating a fire alarm under false pretenses or making a bomb threat

Insubordination, disorderly conduct, disobeying school rules, regulations, or directives;

Disobeying directives given by teachers, administrators, or other school staff

Classroom and school disturbances

Violation of school dress code

Use of profane, vulgar, or obscene words or indecent exposure

Use during instructional time of cell phone or electronic communication device, except for health or other reasons approved by an administrator

Inappropriate public displays of affection

Gambling or possession of gambling devices

Moving and non-moving driving violations

Giving false information to school officials

Cheating on school assignments

Unexcused absence, chronic tardiness, skipping class, leaving campus without permission, failure to comply with compulsory attendance law. Possible consequences include beginning school detention; in-school detention; loss of privileges, such as attending extracurricular activities and events; loss of course credit; loss of driver's permit or license; or juvenile court referral. A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the U. S. armed forces or 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 will be granted up to 5 days of excused absences per school year to visit with his or her parent prior to the parent's deployment or during the parent's leave.

**Bullying:** Georgia law mandates that upon a finding 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. Any finding that a child has committed the offense of bullying shall result in a parent meeting and the development of a behavior contract. This contract should be developed with input from administrators, teachers, the parents of the child, and the child.

Inciting, advising, or counseling of others to engage in prohibited acts.

Willful and persistent violation of the student code of conduct.

**Criminal law violations/Off-campus misconduct:** A student whose conduct off campus could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process may be subject to disciplinary action, including in-school suspension, short-term suspension and referral to a disciplinary tribunal. Each local board of education is authorized to refuse to readmit or enroll any student who has been suspended or expelled for being convicted of, being adjudicated to have committed, being indicted for, or having information filed for the commission of any felony or any delinquent act under Code Section 15-11-28 which would be a felony if committed by an adult.

**Unauthorized organizations:** No clubs, organizations, societies or similar entities are permitted without prior approval of the principal. Gangs that initiate, advocate, or promote activities which threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds or which disrupt the school environment are harmful to the educational process. The use of hand signals, graffiti, or the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol, or any other attribute indicates or implies membership or affiliation with such a group, presents a clear and present danger and is prohibited. Students participating in gang activity or other unauthorized organizations will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Assault:** Any threat or attempt to physically harm another person or any act which reasonably places another person in fear of physical harm. (Example: threatening language or swinging at someone in an attempt to strike).

**Battery:** Intentionally making physical contact with another person in an insulting, offensive, or provoking manner or in a way that physically harms the other person.

**Bullying:** In accordance with Georgia law, the term "bullying" means an act which occurs 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, 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 such as term 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.

**Chronic Disciplinary Problem Student:** A student who exhibits a pattern of behavioral characteristics which interfere with the learning process of students around him or her and which are likely to recur.

**Corporal Punishment:** Physical punishment of a student by a school official in the presence of another school official.

**Detention:** A requirement that the student report to a specified school location and to a designated teacher or school official to make up work missed. Detention may require the student's attendance before school or after school. Students are given one days' warning so that arrangements for transportation can be made by the parents or guardians.

**Disciplinary Tribunal:** School officials appointed by the Board of Education to sit as fact finder and judge with respect to student disciplinary matters.

**Dress Code:** The current dress code is explained in the student handbook.

**Drug:** The term drug does not include prescriptions issued to the individual, aspirin or similar medications and/or cold medications that are taken according to product use recommendations and board policy. Caffeine pills are considered drugs.

**Expulsion:** Suspension of a student from a public school beyond the current school quarter or semester. Such action may be taken only by a disciplinary tribunal.

**Extortion:** Obtaining money or goods from another student by violence, threats, or misuse of authority.

**Fireworks:** The term "fireworks" means any combustible or explosive composition or any substance of combination of substances or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation, as well as articles containing any explosive or flammable compound and tablets and other devices containing an explosive substance.

**Gambling:** Engaging in a game or contest in which the outcome is dependent upon chance even though accompanied by some skill, and in which a participant stands to win or lose something of value.

**Sexual Harassment:** Under this Code of Conduct, sexual harassment could also be considered bullying.

**In-School Suspension:** Removal of a student from class(es) or regular school program and assignment of that student to an alternative program isolated from peers.

**Physical Violence:** Intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another: or intentionally making physical contact which causes physical harm to another.

**Suspension:** Removal of a student from the regular school program for a period not to exceed 10 days (short-term) or for a period greater than 10 days (long-term, which may be imposed only by a disciplinary tribunal). During the period of suspension, the student is excluded from all school-sponsored activities including practices, as well as competitive events, and/or activities sponsored by the school or its employees.

**Theft:** The offense of taking or misappropriating any property, of another with the intention of depriving that person of the property, regardless of the manner in which the property is taken or appropriated.

**Waiver:** A waiver is an agreement not to contest whether a student has committed an infraction of the Code of Conduct and the acceptance of consequences in lieu of a hearing before a disciplinary tribunal.

**Weapons:** 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, nun chuck, 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 a 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.

### Bus Conduct

A school bus driver represents the school authority and is responsible for the safety of passengers in the bus. The driver has supervision and authority over the passengers and must require passengers to follow rules of behavior. All school discipline rules also apply on the bus. Misbehavior on the bus may result in detention, suspension or expulsion from school, and/or loss of the privilege of riding the bus.

The principal or his/her designated person(s) has the authority to deny a student the privilege of riding a school bus based on the misconduct of the student. This action will be for a reasonable and specified period of time.

**“DON’T LOSE YOUR RIDING PRIVILEGE!” Follow These Rules**

1. The bus driver is authorized to assign seats.
2. Boys shall be seated on one side and girls on the other.
3. Students shall always sit with their backs against the back of the seat and their legs in front of the seat.

4. Students shall observe the same conduct as expected in the classroom.
5. Students shall remain seated as long as there are seats available and the bus is in motion.
6. Students must cooperate, obey, and respect the driver at all times and realize that the driver is the sole one in charge of the bus.
7. Students shall NOT:
  - a. Leave the bus between home and school, unless they have a written request from a parent or guardian and the principal's approval
  - b. Hold head, arms, or any object out of the window
  - c. Eat, drink or use tobacco
  - d. Yell, use bad language, or tussle
  - e. Throw paper on the floor, or abuse the bus in any way
  - f. Interfere with or endanger the safety of or well-being of others
  - g. Use reflective devices including laser pointers, mirrors, etc. Students shall obey any other rules stated by the driver and approved by the Superintendent.

The following specific provisions shall govern student conduct and safety on all school buses:

1. All provisions of the Student Code of Conduct apply to behavior on the school bus, including but not limited to, acts of physical violence as defined by Code Section 20-2-751.6, bullying as defined by subsection (a) of the Code Section 20-2-751.4, physical assault or battery of other persons on the school bus verbal assault of other persons on the school bus, disrespectful conduct toward the school bus driver or other persons on the school bus, and other unruly behavior;
2. A meeting of the parent or guardian of the student and appropriate school district officials must be held to form a school bus behavior contract whenever:

A student is found to have engaged in bullying; or

A student is found to have engaged in physical assault or battery of another person on the school bus.

The school bus behavior contract shall provide for age-appropriate discipline, penalties, and restrictions for student misconduct on the bus. Provisions may include, but are not limited to, assigned seating, ongoing parental involvement, and suspension from riding the bus. These provisions regarding use of a bus behavior contract are not to be construed to limit the instances when other code of conduct violations may require use of a student bus behavior contract.

3. Students shall be prohibited from using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with the school bus driver's operation of the school bus.

#### 4. STUDENT SUPPORT PROCESSES

The Board of Education provides a variety of resources that are available at every school within the district to help address student behavioral problems. The school discipline process will include appropriate consideration of support processes to help students resolve such problems. These resources include Student Support/Child Study Teams, school counselors, Behavior Intervention Plans, Behavior Management Plans, alternative education programs, peer mentoring, etc.

#### PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

This Code of Conduct is based on the expectation that parents, guardians, teachers and school administrators will work together to improve and enhance student behavior and academic performance and will communicate freely their concerns about, and actions in response to, student behavior that detracts from the learning environment. School administrators recognize that two-way communication through personal contacts are extremely valuable; therefore, they provide information to parents as well as on-going opportunities for school personnel to hear parents' concerns and comments.

Parents and students should contact the principal of the school if specific questions arise related to the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct specifies within its standards of behavior various violations of the Code which may result in a school staff member's request that a parent or guardian come to the school for a conference. Parents are encouraged to visit the schools regularly and are expected to be actively involved in the behavior support processes designed to promote positive choices and behavior.

When a student desires to withdraw/dropout from school, he/she must have the written permission of his/her parents or guardian if under the age of eighteen prior to withdrawing. Prior to accepting such permission, a school administrator will have a conference with the student and parent/legal guardian within two school days of receiving notice of the intent of the student to withdraw/dropout. The purpose of the conference is to share with the student and parent/guardian educational options available and the consequences of not earning a high school diploma.

The General Assembly of Georgia also requires that this code of conduct include language encouraging parents and guardians to inform their children on the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

Georgia law mandates that any time a teacher or principal identifies a student as a chronic disciplinary problem student, the principal shall notify by telephone call and by mail the student's parent or guardian of the disciplinary problem, invite the parent or guardian to observe the student in a classroom situation, and request at least one parent or guardian to attend a conference to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan.

Georgia law also states that before any chronic disciplinary problem student is permitted to return to school from a suspension or expulsion, the school shall request by telephone call and by mail at least one parent or guardian to schedule and attend a conference to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan.

The law allows a local board of education to petition the juvenile court to require a parent to attend a school conference. If the court finds that the parent or guardian has willfully and unreasonably failed to attend the conference requested by the principal pursuant to the laws cited above, the court may order the parent or guardian to attend such a conference, order the parent or guardian to participate in such programs or such treatment as the court deems appropriate to improve the student's behavior, or both. After notice and opportunity for hearing, the court may impose a fine, not to exceed \$500.00, on a parent or guardian who willfully disobeys an order of the court under this law.

## CELL PHONES

The Heard County School System realizes that many families feel it is important for their children to carry cell phones for a variety of reasons. However, having a cell phone at school is a privilege and any student bringing a cell phone to school must abide by the following rules. The signature of the student and parent to this handbook indicates agreement to these rules:

1. The cell phone should not be turned on at any time during the instructional day without the specific permission and approval of a school administrator.
2. Any student violating this rule will have their cell phone confiscated and it will be returned only to the parent of the student with the student not being allowed to possess a cell phone at school again for the remainder of the school year.



3. Further, the School System reserves the right to inspect any and all information contained on a cell phone which has been used in violation of these rules, including phone numbers, inappropriate pictures, voice and text messages.

Students violating these rules will be punished in accordance with the code of conduct.

## CLUBS

School sponsored clubs (excluding competitive interscholastic activities or events) are those under the sponsorship, direction and control of the school that organize and meet for common goals, objectives, and purposes. State law requires that parents have the right to withhold permission for their students to participate in any school sponsored club or organization designated by them. The following school sponsored clubs will be in operation during this school year, for which information is provided regarding the name of each club, its purpose, faculty sponsor and a description of past or planned activities. You, as the parent/guardian, have the right to withhold in writing your permission for your student's participation in any club or organization. If a club is added during the school year, you will be provided information on the club and your written permission will be required prior to your student's participation

**EACH SCHOOL MUST INSERT A LIST OF THEIR CLUBS HERE**

## **STUDENT HEALTH**

### **IMMUNIZATIONS**

Georgia Law states that all students in a public school must have completed the immunization requirements. Parents/Guardians must submit proof of immunizations on the Certificate of Immunization – FORM 3231. This is the only acceptable proof that immunization requirements have been met. If a student fails to have all immunizations before entering school or by the end of a 30-day grace period, the student will be withdrawn from school. There are requirements for students entering school in Pre-K and Kindergarten and in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The forms may be obtained from the student's healthcare provider or the local Health Department.

### **HOSPITAL HOMEBOUND SERVICES**

Hospital Homebound refers to those students who have a medically diagnosed injury or illness which is non-communicable which restricts them to their homes or hospital, and will be unable to attend school for a minimum of ten (10) consecutive school days or has a chronic health condition causing him/her to be absent for intermittent periods of time during the school year, and that he/she is able to receive and profit from home instruction. The absence must not be due to a communicable disease, expulsion, suspension, or uncomplicated cases of pregnancy. Any student employed in any capacity, or regularly participating in extracurricular activities is not eligible for Hospital Homebound services. Complete guidelines and request forms for services may be requested from the student's school H/H designee. Hospital Homebound instruction may not begin until all required forms are completed appropriately and has been received by the school designee.

### **WATER SAFETY**

Water safety courses and swimming lessons play an important role in saving lives. Courses are provided at AquaTots Swim School in Douglasville & Kennesaw, Summit YMCA in Newnan and Kedron Aquatic Center in Peachtree City.

## **STUDENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

### **Board Policy**

### **Descriptor:JCAC**

It is the policy of this school district to forbid sexual, racial and other harassment of all employees and students at all times and during all occasions while at school, in the work place or at any school event or activity. Any act of harassment of students or employees by other students or employees based upon the race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age or disability of students or employees shall result in prompt and appropriate discipline, including termination of offending employees or suspension or expulsion of students guilty of harassment.

Harassment includes, but is not necessarily limited to, conduct or speech which entails unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, taunts, threats, comments of a vulgar or demeaning nature, or demands which are intimidating or create a hostile environment for a student or employee, as well as physical contact. There may be other speech or conduct which employees or students experience as illegal harassment which should be reported also; harassment can take many forms of and it is not possible to itemize every aspect of the harassment forbidden by this policy.

If a student or employee believes he or she is being subjected to harassment forbidden by this policy, if the student or employee should promptly report the offense to the coordinator designated by the board of education. If a student or employee reports such harassment to a counselor, principal or other school system employee other than the coordinator designated by the board of education, that employee shall be responsible for notifying the appropriate coordinator immediately. It will be the duty of the coordinator to interview the complainant and determine the acts which the complainant believes constitute harassment as well as the name or names of the perpetrators and any other relevant facts by interviewing any individuals who may have knowledge of the allegations or may assist in resolving the complaint. The coordinator shall report the substance of the investigation, conclusions reached and recommendations for corrective action and discipline to the following persons:

- a. If both the perpetrator and victim are students, to the principal of the school and the parents of the students;
- b. If the victim is a student and the perpetrator an employee, to the parents of the student, the principal where the student is enrolled, the supervisor of the employee and the assistant superintendent of the school district;
- c. If the victim and perpetrator are employees, to the supervisor of the perpetrator and the assistant superintendent of the school system.

The coordinator, to the extent it is reasonably possible, shall protect the confidentiality of students and employees as well, although the discovery of the truth and the elimination of unlawful harassment shall be the overriding considerations. All records generated by the investigation shall be considered as student records protected by FERPA or as part of the personnel records of the employees dealing with performance of the employees.

The coordinator shall report to the complaint and complainant’s parents, if complainant is a student, at the conclusion of the investigation the conclusions reached and the recommendations of the coordinator. If the complainant is not satisfied with the manner in which the matter has been resolved, the complainant may appeal to the superintendent, who shall review all circumstances surrounding the allegations, conduct such further investigations as the superintendent believes appropriate and take such additional action or make recommendations as the superintendent determines is warranted. The superintendent shall inform the complainant and his/her parents, if complainant is a student, who, if dissatisfied may request this board to review further the substance of the complaint. The board will conduct a review or convene such hearings as the board believes the circumstances warrant and will resolve the matter appropriately. No reprisal shall occur as a result of reporting unlawful harassment under this policy, and any attempt to retaliate against a complainant shall be disciplined as is appropriate.

It is the duty of all employees to report harassment forbidden by this policy to the coordinator designated below promptly. It is also the duty of all supervisors of personnel to instruct their subordinates as to the varied forms or expressions of illegal harassment. The principals of all schools in this district shall insure that students and parents are informed through student handbooks and verbally that harassment is strictly forbidden, how it is to be reported and the consequences for violating this policy.

### **COMPLAINTS OF DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT**

The Heard County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or gender in employment decisions or educational programs and activities, including its athletic programs. Any student, employee, applicant for employment, parent or other individual who believes he or she has been subjected to harassment or discrimination by other students or employees of the school district based upon any of the factors listed above should promptly report the same to the principal of the school or the appropriate coordinator as listed below, who will implement the board’s discriminatory complaints or harassment procedures. Students may also report harassment or discrimination to their school counselor.

**The Title VI Coordinator is Federal Programs Director (Ms. Sheri Calhoun)**

131 E. Court Square, P.O. Box 1330, Franklin, GA 30217 706-675-3320

**The Title IX Coordinator is Federal Programs Director (Ms. Sheri Calhoun)**

131 E. Court Square, P.O. Box 1330, Franklin, GA 30240 706-675-3320

**The Section 504 and Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator is  
Special Education Director (Ms. Sheri Calhoun)**

131 E. Court Square, P.O. Box 1330, Franklin, GA 30217 706-675-3320

**The Sports Equity Coordinator (Coach Shane Lasseter)**

131 E. Court Square, P.O. Box 1330, Franklin, GA 30217 706-675-3656

Students and employees will not be subjected to retaliation for reporting such harassment or discrimination. A copy of the discriminatory complaints procedure under Heard County School District Policy GAAA/JAA (Equal Opportunity/Discriminatory Complaints) or under IDFA (Equity in Sports) is located in the school district policy manual which is available in either the school office or the central office.

### **TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS**

Parents or guardians may request information regarding their children's teachers, including information on completion of state requirements for licensure and certification; emergency or provisional status; educational background; and whether paraprofessionals are serving the child, and if so, the paraprofessional's qualifications. If you are interested in obtaining this information, please contact the principal of your child's school.

