

DESHLER MIDDLE SCHOOL

STUDENT GUIDELINES 2020-2021

Principal Mr. Bryan Murner
Assistant Principal .. Mr. Pat Smith

TUSCUMBIA CITY SCHOOLS

MISSION STATEMENT

In collaboration with our community and stakeholders, Tuscumbia City Schools provides every student with a safe learning environment that promotes social and academic growth. By setting high standards and high expectations, we commit to empower students to become responsible and productive citizens with the skills necessary to succeed in a global society.

VISION STATEMENT

Educating Every Student Today ... Preparing Every Student for the
Opportunities of Tomorrow

DESHLER MIDDLE SCHOOL

PHILOSOPHY

Holding to the belief that education is an instrument through which society is preserved and improved, the faculty of Deshler Middle School set as our goal the provision of a balanced program of general education that will give consideration to all areas of learning and to students of all abilities. We strive to enhance the healthy growth of young adolescents as lifelong learners, ethical and democratic citizens, and increasingly competent, self-sufficient young people who are optimistic about the future.

Our program strives to create an environment for learning which will support each child's development through moral, physical, mental, academic, emotional, social, and aesthetic channels.

The faculty and staff of Deshler Middle School adhere to the premise of the development of the total child by teaching responsibility, honesty, self-discipline, pride in a job well done, concern and respect for others, as well as building in each student a positive self-concept, cooperative spirit, and a quest for knowledge.

We believe in the importance of academic freedom which upholds the right of a teacher to teach and a learner to learn within the morals of our society.

It is our belief that our reliance upon community resources and the cooperation of parents in the adoption of our policies will result in happy, well-adjusted, and worthwhile contributing members of our democratic society.

MISSION STATEMENT

Holding to the belief that the well being of a democratic society rests on an educated citizenry, the faculty and staff of Deshler Middle School seek to provide a well-rounded education for the total child. This includes a solid basic education, as well as the development of responsibility for actions, honesty, self-discipline, pride in a job well done, concern and respect for self and others, a positive self-concept, and a cooperative spirit.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

You are hereby notified that pursuant to the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, this school does not discriminate on the basis of disability in any of the programs and services offered by the district. Qualified students with disabilities are entitled to be provided with regular or special education and related aids and services that are designed to meet individual education needs as adequately as the needs of non-handicapped persons are met. For more information contact the school, the school district office, or the person in the district responsible for coordinating the district's efforts to comply with this law. [CFR 104.7(a), 34 CFR 104.8(a), 34 CFT 104.339b)]

NON-DISCRIMINATION DISCLAIMER

It is the policy of the Tuscumbia City Board of Education to provide all students with meaningful and appropriate educational programs. No student in the Tuscumbia City School System shall be denied equal educational opportunities on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, disabilities, or national origin. All programs offered by schools within the system shall be open to all students.

CERTIFICATES OF IMMUNIZATION

All students entering K through 12 of Alabama's public or private schools are required by law to have on file an appropriate Alabama Certificate of Immunization. This documentation is necessary to ensure that our students are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. Students will be notified when certificates expire. All immunization records must be kept up to date.

PUBLIC SCHOOL PRAYER

The Tuscumbia City School System has no policy or procedures that prevent or that otherwise deny participation in constitutionally protected prayer in public schools.

PUPIL AND FAMILY RIGHTS

The Tuscumbia City School System fully complies with the requirements of the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

MILITARY AND FAMILY RIGHTS ACT

The Tuscumbia City School System will provide to military recruiters the same access to secondary school students as it provides to secondary institutions or to prospective employers. Further, the Tuscumbia School System will provide to military recruiters the student information stipulated under NCLB, section 9582, in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

The Tuscumbia City Board of Education recognizes that harmonious relations with students, parents, and employees can be maintained and improved through open, honest, and effective communication. The interest of all parties can best be served by sincere efforts of all concerned to promote understanding and cooperation. Therefore, the Tuscumbia City Board of Education has adopted grievance procedures for students, parents, legal custodians, and employees to follow as a means of examining and, hopefully, resolving problems that may occur between or among parties from time to time. A copy of our grievance procedures can be obtained from the principal of each school, the school library, guidance office, or the central office.

All grievances are handled through:

Mr. Paul Pickett
303 North Commons Street East
Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674
(256) 389-2900

The Tuscumbia City School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs or activities. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Mr. Darryl Aikerson
Federal Programs Coordinator, Title VI or Title IX

Mrs. Marsha Ricks
504 Coordinator-Special Services

303 North Commons Street East
Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674
(256) 389-2900

RESPONSE TO INSTRUCTION PLAN (RTI) AND PROBLEM SOLVING TEAMS (PST)

Response to instruction (RTI) integrates core instruction, assessment, and intervention to maximize and improve student achievement and to reduce behavior problems. The DMS Problem Solving Teams (PST) help guide general education intervention services to all students who have academic or behavior difficulties and will develop an intervention plan for those students. The PST is responsible for the day-to-day decisions which insure (1) students receive instruction and interventions matched to their identified needs, (2) appropriate progress monitoring tools are utilized to provide evidence of students' response to instruction and intervention, and (3) progress monitoring data are used to make timely instructional decisions which maximize student outcomes.

DESHLER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674

Office of the Principal

Dear Students:

On behalf of our faculty, staff, and administration, I welcome you to another great year at Deshler Middle School. I sincerely hope this school year will prove to be one of the best years of your young lives. I hope you take advantage of every opportunity to get involved in your school and help continue to make Deshler Middle School an outstanding place to learn.

The mission of Deshler Middle School is to provide a well-rounded education for the total child. This includes a solid basic education as well as the development of responsibility, honesty self-discipline, pride in a job well done, concern and respect for self and others, a positive self-concept, and a cooperative spirit.

I challenge you to set high standards for yourself and for your friends. Write several goals you want to achieve not only for this school year but also for where you want to be in two years and five years. You should set goals that will help you achieve a higher level of success toward becoming a productive member of our society.

As your principal, I want to continue the fine traditions of providing a well-rounded education for the total child. Our faculty, staff and administration are all dedicated to excellence in education and to creating an environment in which students want to be members.

I encourage you to do your part as a productive member of our student body. This school year we will continue a Positive Behavior Plan called ROAR. ROAR stands for Respect, Ownership, Attitude and Resourceful. Students will be rewarded for demonstrating these traits while at school. The staff here at Deshler Middle School wants to show students that good behavior does not go unnoticed. With the right attitude we can achieve great things both individually and collectively.

Again, welcome to Deshler Middle School! Let's have a great year!

Bryan Murner
Principal

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

The following plan is one which has been designed by the Discipline Committee and approved by the administration and staff of Deshler Middle School. Any behavior deemed unacceptable by the principal or his designee may result in stronger disciplinary measures.

General Student Behavior

1. All students must follow the directions of the staff.
2. Students should stay in their designated areas.
3. No horseplay or behavior which might harm another student.
4. Refer to the student handbook for a more detailed list of rules.
5. Gum or candy is not allowed at DMS.

Example of Specific Area Rules

Hallway

1. Every student must have a pass when in the hall during class time.
2. Lockers should be neat and locked and not shared.
3. Each student should go to his/her locker at assigned times.
4. No running in the building.

Cafeteria

1. Sit in assigned areas.
2. Help wipe down tables.

Campus

1. No littering.
2. Do NOT throw rocks or other objects.

Restrooms

1. No visiting in restrooms
2. No writing on restroom walls

SCHOOL-WIDE DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES

The following discipline consequences are available for violation of school rules.

- Teacher conference, parent conference
- Principal conference and/or principal/parent conference
- Lunch alone
- School detention hall [7:15-7:50 mornings; 3:10-3:45 afternoons] on Thursdays
- Saturday school community service [a maximum of 4 hours on Saturday beginning at 8 a.m.]
- In school suspension [on Deshler campus]
- Out-of-school suspension
- Alternative school [on Deshler campus]
- Recommended expulsion

DEFINITION OF POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR RULE VIOLATION[S]

Teacher Assigned Detention Hall/School-wide Detention Hall:

Students may be detained for academic or disciplinary purposes at the discretion of the school principal or his/her designee. If a student is to be detained after school hours [or early mornings], the student must be given notice of assigned detention a minimum of one day before the assigned detention date. This will allow the student time to notify parent or legal guardian and arrange for necessary transportation. Students shall not be required to report before school or remain after school for more than one hour daily for detention purposes. Any student who fails to attend teacher assigned detention, upon notification, will be assigned school detention by the principal or his/her designee.

School detention hall will be held in the school library on Thursdays. Morning detention will begin promptly at 7:15 a.m. and end at 7:50 a.m. Afternoon detention will begin promptly at 3:10 p.m. and end at 3:45 p.m. Students reporting late to detention will be counted not present and not allowed to remain. If a student is counted absent from school detention hall, he or she will be assigned Saturday school. Students who fail to report to an assigned detention hall four (4) times in one semester will be assigned 2 days of ISS for each detention hall absence for the remaining semester. Students will be required to have school related materials for assignments while in detention hall. Students will not be allowed to sleep, eat, or drink while serving detention hall. Students who choose morning detention will not be dismissed for breakfast. Any student in violation of these policies will be subject to dismissal from detention hall, which will result in detention hall absence and other disciplinary actions. Students assigned to school detention hall will have the option of attending either morning or afternoon detention hall; however, they will be assigned both on the same date.

SATURDAY SCHOOL-SATURDAY WORK PROGRAM

The principal or his/her designee may assign students to Saturday school. The Saturday school program is more severe than school detention but less severe than suspensions. Saturday school will be held on Saturdays at Deshler Middle School beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending no later than 12 o'clock noon. Students assigned to Saturday school will report to the right-front entrance before the 8:00 a.m. bell in order to be counted present. Situations may arise in which parents request a change in Saturday school assignment dates. This could include scheduled school functions, prior approval from the principal, or a doctor excused illness. Over-sleeping, transportation, and other excuses may not be accepted as reasons for not attending Saturday school.

During Saturday school, the principal or his/her designee may assign students to supervised activities related to the upkeep and maintenance of community or school facilities. This disciplinary action will be for a reasonable and specified period of time. Failure to participate may result in dismissal from the Saturday school program which would result in an assignment to in-school suspension for a period of two days or other disciplinary actions.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

In-school suspension is a level of discipline before out-of-school suspension. Students assigned to in-school suspension will be allowed to complete all assignments only in the ISS classroom, located on the Deshler High School campus. Students will be required to complete assignments from classroom teachers and the ISS staff. A student may be placed in in-school suspension for distracting the learning process, disrespect, disruption, defiance of school authorities, committing an obscene act, using profanity, or vulgarity, or other violations as deemed appropriate by the principal or his/her assignee. Two days will be assigned for the first offense, three days for the second offense, and five days for third offense. Five days will be considered alternative school. Continuous failure to complete classroom assignments may result in an ISS assignment. Students assigned ISS will not return to regular classes until released by the ISS staff.

SUSPENSION

A student recommended for out-of-school suspension will be told of all charges and will be given an opportunity to respond to those charges. When a student receives out-of-school suspension, the school officials will make a reasonable effort to either contact the student's parent/custodian by telephone or by a written notice delivered by either the student or the U.S. mail. The student is responsible for giving his/her parent/custodian all written communications from school. Failure to do so may result in further disciplinary action.

Immediate suspension of a student is justified when the student's presence could threaten other students or himself/herself, endanger school property, or seriously disrupt the orderly education process. Principals have the authority to contact law enforcement officials and have an uncooperative student removed from school property.

The school principal or his/her designee has the authority to suspend students from school. Students shall not be suspended more than (3) days without authorization of the superintendent or his/her designee.

Any student who has been determined eligible for special education services may receive out-of-school suspension, with all procedural safeguards being adhered to as set forth in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Alabama Code.

During the time of suspension, the students will not be allowed to participate in or attend any school function or allowed on school property for any reason without permission of the school principal.

The first and second out-of-school suspensions will be handled by the building principal. Following the third out-of-school suspension, a conference shall be required with the superintendent or his designee. Both parents or legal guardians and the student must attend the superintendent conference. A fourth out-of-school suspension or if an incident or violation is so severe that it results in the principal or his/her designee recommending expulsion of a student, the out-of-school suspension shall remain in effect until the expulsion hearing is conducted by the Board of Education.

EXPULSION

In accordance with the Alabama State Compulsory Attendance Law, the Tuscumbia Board of Education makes the final disposition of any expulsion recommendation.

A student is subject to expulsion for an act that is classified as a Class III or Class IV offense. A student may be expelled by the Board of Education for violations of school rules that are less serious in nature but are repetitiously committed. These violations include, but are not limited to, continued use of profane, obscene, and abusive language or gestures.

TARDINESS-ARRIVING LATE TO SCHOOL OR TO CLASS

Students are expected to be at school on time and in each class on time. The first bell sounds at 7:50 a.m. The tardy bell sounds at 7:55 a.m. Students not in their assigned homerooms when the 7:55 bell sounds are tardy. Students not in their assigned classrooms during the school day, ready to begin when the tardy bell sounds, may be considered tardy to class and required to obtain a tardy pass from the office before admittance to class. Cumulative tardies will be kept on a 9-week basis. Reporting to class without checking in through the office may be treated as a defiance. Once a student reaches the 4th tardy, the student will attend a Pre-Early Warning Meeting. At this time the student will receive Saturday school or 1 unexcused absence.

Consequences for tardiness during the school day

Tardy 1-3	No consequences
Tardy number 4	Assigned School Detention Hall
Tardy number 6	Assigned School Detention Hall
Tardy number 8	Assigned Saturday School
Tardy number 10	Assigned 2-days ISS

Students are responsible for knowing the number of tardy tickets they have received. That number is available from Mrs. Milligan and parents can also view through the INOW Parent Portal.

Students that continue to receive tardy tickets in excess of 10 in one 9-week grading period will have a required parents/principal conference.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES – CLASSROOM RULES – CLASSROOM DETENTION

Classroom rules and procedures will be listed and discussed with all students and will be posted in each room. Individual teachers may hold their own detention hall for students violating classroom rules. Students will be informed of the date and time of their assigned detention. Teachers will contact parents of students failing to attend a classroom detention assignment. Students will provide written documentation of the reason they missed the detention. Documentation will include: student's name, date, date detention was missed, reason detention was assigned, and the reason detention was missed. Teachers and parents will use this information to determine consequences and plans to correct the behavior.

SCHOOL HOURS

School begins at 7:55 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. There will be limited supervision before 7:30 a.m. or after 3:30 p.m. It is not advisable for students to come to school earlier than 7:30 or stay later than 3:30. The first bell to go to homeroom will be at 7:50 a.m. Once you have arrived at school, you do not have permission to leave the school grounds until the 3:00 dismissal bell.

It is very important for students to be at school each day. Each day a student misses school is a day of your education lost forever. Important things and good things happen at school. Try to be present each day and do your part to make Deshler Middle School better every day.

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND REGULATIONS

The Tuscumbia Board of Education recognizes that there is a direct correlation between good school attendance and academic achievement. The Board believes that promptness and good attendance habits will lead to positive experiences in the workplace once a student completes his/her secondary education program. In view of this belief, this policy is established as a guide for students, parents, and school personnel.

Any student enrolled in grades 6-8 who accumulates 12 absences in any course or subject on a school year will be susceptible to losing credit for their work in that course or subject.

School-sponsored or sanctioned activities (i.e. field trips, etc.) do not count as absences; however, arrangements must be made for making up work missed, as required by the classroom teacher.

A student who is suspended out of school for disciplinary reasons for any number of days will not have that number of days charged against the total number of absences allowed.

A student who has been retained or who has lost credit(s) because of noncompliance with attendance policies shall receive a notation of Noncompliance Attendance (NCA) on his/her report card and cumulative record for that term or year. The principal shall make the determination of retention or loss of credit. This request must be in writing, dated, and signed within five days of the notification of the loss of credit. Failure of parent or legal guardian and or student to request a hearing shall be sufficient basis for sustaining the loss of credit or retention.

Credit which is lost because of absences will be made up in the same manner as academic failures. A letter will be sent to parents or guardians notifying them of possible loss of credit due to excessive absences.

ABSENCES

All student absences will be designated by the principal or his designee as either excused or unexcused. The following reasons are approved by the State and City Boards of Education as constituting excused absences: illness, death in the immediate family, legal quarantine or other emergency conditions, and absences for other reasons which may be advisedly excused by the principal. Absences for other reasons which may be advisedly excused by the principal.

Planned absences may be considered excused only if prior approval has been given by the principal. These may include college visitation, family matters other than illness, or religious observances.

The day a student returns to school after being absent, he/she shall bring a written statement from his/her parent or legal guardian requesting excuse for absence. This statement must include the present date; the student's name; an explanation of the reason for the absence(s); the date(s) of the absence(s); and a signature of the parent or legal guardian. This note will be presented to a school official located in the main office area during homeroom. That information will be used to determine if the absence is excused or unexcused. When a student forgets to bring a written statement, a temporary unexcused absence will be issued. This unexcused absence may be encoded excused if a valid excuse is presented within three (3) school days of receiving the temporary unexcused absence. Parent or guardian notes for excused absences will be accepted for a maximum of twelve (12) days per school year. Any excuse above twenty will be coded unexcused unless accompanied by a physician, legal, or principal excuse.

Any student absent from school more than $\frac{1}{2}$ a school day may not participate in any school function on the date of his/her absence; however, emergency situations may be excused by the principal. Students in violation of this policy will be considered defiant towards school policies.

CHECK-INS

Any student who arrives at school after the 7:55 a.m. bell must check in through the main office. A student will be allowed to check in to school a maximum of three (3) times per nine weeks if accompanied by a parent or legal guardian without being counted tardy. Documentation of a physician's visit or legal appearance will be accepted in place of being accompanied by the parent. After three parent check-ins the student may be counted late, regardless of the excuse presented. If a student arrives after the 7:55 a.m. bell and fails to check in through the main office, he/she will be considered in violation of school policies and assigned 3 days ISS for the first offense. Other violations of this nature may result in out-of-school suspension.

MAKE-UP WORK

A student who is absent has the privilege of making up the work missed during the absence. This work (including class work, homework, test, etc.) will be made at the convenience of the teacher and in a timely manner. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the teacher for work missed and to arrange for making it up. A student will receive a grade of zero on all graded work he/she fails to make up. All incomplete (I) grades will be satisfied within 3 weeks into the next grading period.

CHECK-OUTS

Students who have a valid need to leave school before the dismissal bell must be checked out through the main office. **All students are to be signed out by a parent, legal guardian, or parent designee. This policy requires a signature at the time of checking out from the parent, legal guardian, or parent designee.** Notes will not be accepted for check-out purposes; however, official documentation of a physician's visit, legal appearance, or other principal approved situations will be accepted in place of being accompanied by the parent. Students will bring written documentation from parents as to the reason why they missed all or part of the school day.

TRUANCY

- Refer to Code of Conduct
- Notification of parent or guardian

UNAUTHORIZED ABSENCE (UA)

If a student leaves school without permission from school officials, leaves class without permission, or fails to report to his/her assigned class without permission from proper authorities, it will be classified as an unauthorized absence from class (UA). A student who is found to be UA may be assigned Saturday school or ISS or suspended from school.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Perfect attendance is defined as attendance every school day from 7:55 a.m. until 3 p.m., except when absent for school functions, and with no check-outs.

LEAVING SCHOOL

If it is necessary for a student to leave school for any reason, he/she must have a written note from the parent with a phone number where the parent can be reached. Verbal permission from a parent may be given over the phone in case of emergencies. Before a student leaves school, he/she must be signed out in the office.

BELL SCHEDULE

Breakfast at 7:30

First Bell 7:50

Tardy Bell 7:55

Homeroom 7:55 - 8:00

1st Period 8:00 - 8:55

2nd Period 8:59 - 9:54

3rd Period 9:58 - 10:53

4th Period 10:57 - 12:22

5th Period 12:26 - 1:01

6th Period 1:05 - 2:00

7th Period 2:04 - 2:59

DANGEROUS WEAPONS

Possession of any dangerous weapon on any school property during the school day or school sanctioned activity is not permitted. Students in violation of this policy will be released to the proper authorities.

VANDALISM AND PROPERTY DAMAGE

Our school buildings and equipment cost the taxpayers to construct, purchase, and maintain. For students who destroy or vandalize school property, suspension and subsequent expulsion may be necessary. If you should happen to damage something by accident, you should report it to a teacher or the office immediately.

BOOKBAGS-PURSES-P.E. BAGS

Bookbags may be used to carry books to and from school only. All bookbags, personal effects, bags, purses, etc., will be stored in student lockers during the school day. Although purses are required to be placed in lockers during the school day, students may access them when needed. Students must have written permission from a coach or principal to use P.E. bags at school.

CAFETERIA CONDUCT

Fourth period time is expanded in order to accommodate lunches. Teachers are assigned a time in which their students will be escorted to the cafeteria and a time to return to class. Students will move to and from the cafeteria in a manner which will not disrupt the learning process in other classes. Excessive noise, running, horse playing, or behavior of this nature will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. Students are expected to respect the rights of others in the cafeteria. Students who break line, throw items, or show disrespect toward others may be assigned lunch alone, detention hall, Saturday school, in-school or out-of-school suspension. Students should leave their eating area and tables clean and in order so that others will have a pleasant place to eat. Students who do not remove trash from tables and return trays to the proper place may be requested to help clean tables after school. Fast foods will not be delivered on school property during school hours. Commercially prepared food containers or wrappers are not allowed in the cafeteria. All students are expected to remain in the cafeteria during the assigned time and may leave only with permission from the teacher. No food or drinks will be taken from the cafeteria.

Breakfast is served between 7:30 – 7:50 a.m. Rules of conduct apply for both breakfast and lunch periods.

Breakfast- Reduced: \$0.30, Full Pay: \$1.00, Visitor: \$1.50, Employees: \$1.35

Lunch- Reduced: \$0.40, Full Pay: \$2.25, Visitor: \$3.50, Employee: \$3.00

CANDY, SNACKS, AND DRINKS

Students are not allowed to eat or drink in any school building except the cafeteria. Special situations may be approved by the principal which would allow food or drinks in other areas. No drinks are to be brought to school in glass containers. Students are not allowed to carry drinks or drink containers of any kind in the halls or into the classrooms. If a student is in violation, the items will be confiscated and disposed of and may result in disciplinary action.

CLUB MEETINGS

No club meeting will be held on school property without supervision of the faculty sponsor.

CHILD FIND

Child Find is a statewide program that is sponsored by the Alabama State Department of Education. Child Find is an effort by the Department of Education to locate, identify, and evaluate individuals from birth to 21 years of age with disabilities or who are suspected of having disabilities. Anyone can make a referral to Child Find via the toll free telephone number 1-800-543-3098, or by calling Tuscumbia Special Education at 256-389-2900.

CONFERENCES

When a parent conference with a teacher, principal, or guidance counselor becomes necessary, parents are to call the main office at 256-389-2920 and make arrangements for a meeting time and place. Unannounced conferences will not normally be recognized. All parents, guardians, and/or visitors are to report to the main office upon entering the school; the office staff will assist in locating the preplanned conference site.

IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT.....

First, talk to your child's teacher.

If the problem is not resolved, talk to the principal.

If the problem continues, then talk to

Darryl Aikerson, Superintendent

(256) 389-2900 ext. 9100

DRESS CODE

The policy of the Tuscumbia Board of Education, as well as the faculty and staff at Deshler Middle School, is that good grooming and personal appearance are essential elements in the teaching and learning process. Therefore, it is expected that students dress in such a manner that will ensure their health and safety and not create a disturbance to the learning process. Furthermore, individual student dress and/or personal appearance will not create a distraction or interference to the legitimate interest and welfare of the student body.

Wearing apparel, jewelry, make-up, or any other mannerisms related to style which are determined by the principal or his/her designee to be a disturbance to the educational process of the school or harmful to the safety of any student shall be prohibited.

Clothing, paraphernalia (including drawings) or devices which are judged to be related to or associated with gang affiliation or gang activity are prohibited. Chains and clothing with sharp objects or pins will not be allowed. Any body piercing which is deemed a distraction to the learning process will not be allowed.

Clothing with pictures, writing, and/or symbols promoting Satanism, death, the occult, the use of drugs, tobacco, or alcohol, of a sexual nature, intolerance, or of an obscene suggestion shall be considered a distraction to the educational process and prohibited.

- No muscle shirts, midriff tops, halter tops, crop tops, tube tops, mesh tops, or see-through tops are permitted.
- All tank tops must have straps wider than 2 inches at the shoulder.
- Shorts and dresses are to be no shorter than 5 inches above the kneecap.
- Shirts, tunics, and dresses worn with leggings are to be no shorter than 5 inches above the middle of the kneecap.
- Biker shorts, Umbros, Softe shorts, gym shorts (with or without pockets), and plain, no-pocket (draw string or elastic waistband) sweat pants are not permitted.
- Pants, shorts, or jeans with holes, tears, rips, etc. exposing skin or underwear above the knee are not permitted.
- Pajama pants are not permitted.
- Sagging pants, low-cut jeans, and midriff exposure is not permitted.
- Students are required to wear shoes or sandals at all times. Shower shoes, house shoes, water shoes, or shoes with wheels are not permitted.
- Hats, caps, bandannas, any other head coverings, or sunglasses are not to be worn in the building. These items must be stored in lockers during the school day.
- We recommend that shirts remain tucked in. If the choice is made not to tuck, the shirt must extend no more than 3 inches below the normal and usual belt position on the hipbones.

All dress codes offenders will be subject to disciplinary action.

This may involve notifying a parent for a change of clothing, detention, or any other action the principal deems necessary.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Possession, transfer, use, or sale of drugs, drug paraphernalia, intoxicating beverages, or narcotics on school grounds, in school buildings, at school sponsored activities, or on field trips is prohibited. Violators are subject to suspension and/or expulsion.

DEFACING SCHOOL PROPERTY

Any student caught defacing school property may be assigned Saturday School. This includes marking on desks, walls, in bathrooms, etc. A conference with his/her parents or legal guardians will be required. Any damage must be cleaned, repaired, or paid for by the student and/or his/her parent or legal guardian.

DANCE AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Several social opportunities are available each year for Deshler Middle School students. The same rules in effect for regular school activities will apply to dances and other school social activities. Dances will be well chaperoned by both faculty/staff and parents. Any suggestive type dancing will not be allowed and will be grounds for dismissal from the activity without refund. Students who choose not to follow school guidelines and policies may be released to their parents/guardians or local authorities. Any student suspended out-of-school more than one day will not be allowed to attend after school dances or social activities.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Student cell phones, pagers, etc. (communication devices) are allowed on campus and in school buildings as a privilege, not a right, and should be locked in hall lockers during the school day. School officials accept no responsibility for lost, damaged, and/or stolen cell phones or devices. All communication devices will be deactivated (turned off) inside all school buildings. Using cell phones (talking and/or texting) during instructional time or inside buildings may be treated as defiance and consequences assigned as defined in the Tuscumbia City Schools Code of Conduct. Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed in the gym except with special permission.

CELL PHONE CONSEQUENCES

First Offense- Warning: Device will be kept until picked up by parent.

Second Offense- Assigned School-Wide Detention: Device will be kept until picked up by parent.

Third Offense- Assigned Saturday School: Device will be kept until picked up by parent.

Fourth Offense- Assigned 2 days of ISS: Device will be kept until picked up by parent.

Evidence of a cell phone being used during instructional time (calling, texting, photographing, etc.) will result in ISS or suspension out of school.

Electronic devices of this nature are not allowed at school without special permission, and if found will be confiscated and returned to parents. These devices may be carried on field trips and sports/music trips with permission from the event sponsor. School officials assume no responsibility for these devices. Any inappropriate music lyrics will be handled subsequent to the Student Code of Conduct.

JAMARI TERRELL WILLIAMS STUDENT BULLYING PREVENTION ACT

Jamari Terrell Williams Student Bullying Prevention Act, No 2018-472. Tuscumbia City Schools (TCS) will not tolerate any form or act of bullying between any TCS student or group of TCS students against any other TCS student. Bullying is defined as a continuous pattern of intentional behavior that takes place on or off school property, or at a school-sponsored function including, but not limited to, cyberbullying or written, electronic, verbal, or physical acts that are reasonably perceived to be threatening by any characteristic of a student, or by the association of a student with an individual who has a particular characteristic, if the characteristic falls into one of the categories of personal characteristics listed below and contained in the TCBOE policy adopted by the board and implemented at each Tuscumbia City School.

- Race
- Sex
- Religion
- National origin
- Disability
- Sexual orientation

In an effort to minimize this type of behavior in the school environment, the TCBOE has adopted a process and each school has developed programs that educate faculty and students on the identification, prevention, reporting, investigation, and consequences of a confirmed bullying incident in compliance with TCS Code of Conduct. The reporting form is available through the school district's website, this handbook, or the school main office.

GRADING SYSTEM

In order to be promoted to the next grade level, students are required to pass all subjects. Any student who fails two or more subjects will be retained at grade level for the next school year. If a student receives a failing grade in one subject, he/she may attend summer school to qualify for promotion. Upon successful completion of summer school, the student will be promoted to the next appropriate grade level. If a student fails one subject and does not attend summer school, he/she may be retained in that grade for the next school year. If only one core subject is failed and the student earns a 70 or above average in each of his/her other core classes, his/her other core classes, he/she may be conditionally placed in the next grade level. The evaluation of student achievements is one of the important functions of the teacher. The accepted marking system is as follows:

A—Excellent (90-100)	C—Average (70-79)	F- Failure (59- below)
B—Good (80-89)	D—Poor (60-69)	I-Incomplete

An incomplete (I) is given to those students who have not been able to complete assignments because of illness, emergency, or by prearrangement with the teacher and the principal. An incomplete on the report card becomes an "F" three weeks from the date it is issued if the work has not been finished. Make-up work is the complete responsibility of the student.

Examinations

All Deshler Middle School Students must take all midterm and final examinations, except in a class for which an exemption is earned. As a reward for excellent achievement and consistent attendance, students who meet the following criteria will have the option of taking or exempting an exam in a particular class.

- If a student has one or less absence in a class and at least a B average, per semester, the exam may be exempted.
- If a student has three or fewer absences in a class and an A average, per semester, the exam may be exempted.
- Grades will be calculated for exemption four weeks before the end of the nine weeks of each semester.
- Any unexcused absence, OSS, or alternative school assignment during the semester will disqualify a student from any exemption opportunity.
- School functions are not counted as absences.
- A student missing more than half the class due to check-in/check-out will be counted absent from that class for daily attendance as well as exemption purposes.
- Attendance for exemptions will be counted up until the Friday before exams start.

Advanced Courses

Advanced English and advanced math are offered at Deshler Middle School in grades 6-8. In order to be eligible for these classes, a student must have teacher approval and at least a 90 average in English or math for the previous year. Student must score in a level 3 or level 4 on standardized assessments. Each of these classes are limited to 30 participants. The 30 students with the highest average who have requested the course will be enrolled in these courses. If fewer than 30 students request the classes, enrollment will be opened to students with a less than 90 average on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Spanish Exploratory Elective

A Spanish exploratory elective is offered to 7th grade students at Deshler Middle School. In order to register for this course, a student must have at least an 80 average in 6th grade English and reading.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

A counselor is available to help students adjust to and attain the maximum from their school experience. The counselor works with students in classes as well as with individual students who have needs. Students may visit with the counselor before and after school and during class when arranged with the teacher.

The purposes of the guidance program is to help each individual student achieve his/her highest growth mentally, emotionally, and socially. We try to do this in several ways:

- Helping the new students feel at home in our school with new teachers and friends in a different setting
- Individual conferences whenever a student, a teacher, or the counselor deems it necessary
- A testing program designed to help the student learn as much as possible about his capabilities
- Talking things over with any student, parent, or teacher whenever the opportunity is given to the counselor

HALL BEHAVIOR

Students should be in the halls only at the beginning and close of school and while moving from one class to another unless they have special permission or special duties that require them to be there. Students in the halls during class time must have passes. Students are asked to be courteous at all times and to keep to the right when moving the halls. Running and shouting in the halls are never permitted. Also, there will not be any touching, handholding, hugging, etc. in the hall.

HONOR ROLL AND HONOR RECOGNITION

Students who make the all "A" or "A-B" honor roll will be recognized each nine weeks. This may include ribbons, certificates, pins, and/or refreshments. This is held in cooperation with the Deshler Middle PVO. A student Recognition/Honors Day Program will take place in late May. Those who will be recognized at the Honors Program may include the following: (1) students who earn all "A's" in each subject during the first three nine weeks; (2) highest average in core subjects in each grade; (3) Special Olympics winners; (4) Duke Talent Search participants/qualifiers; (5) Spelling Bee winner; (6) Geography Bee winner; (7) highest Accelerated Readers; (8) Scholars Bowl winners beyond the school level; (9) President's Award for Educational Excellence – 8th grade; (10) other outstanding student achievements at the school level or higher as determined by the administration or faculty.

ITEMS NOT TO BRING TO SCHOOL

Magazines (unless required for class)

Gum, candy, sunflower seeds

Toys of any kind

Carbonated beverages

Electronic devices

Skates or skateboards or skate shoes

Students should never bring any item that could pose danger to another student or staff member.

(Note: If a student brings the above items to school. The items may be taken and not returned.)

MEDICATION RULES FOR STUDENTS

The medication administration procedures for the Tuscumbia City Schools have been developed to comply with the State Department of Education curriculum and state law regarding medications in the public school setting. If your student requires medication during school hours or during school-sponsored activities, medical forms are required. You may pick up the required form (***School Medication Prescriber/Parent Authorization Form***) in the school nurse's office, main office, or from the TCS website at <http://www.tuscumbia.k12.al.us>.

1. **All Prescription** medications require a **Medication Authorization** form completed and signed by your student's physician and by the parent/legal guardian. NO MEDICATION will be given without the required documentation.

2. **All Prescription** medication must be in the original pharmacy-labeled container which includes the student's name, prescriber's name, name of medication, strength, dosage, time interval, route and date of order, and discontinuation date when applicable.

3. Medication forms and special diet forms are valid only for the current school year. New forms must be completed for each school year that the medication(s) or special diet is needed.

4. For students taking daily medication, the most up-to-date medication container should be brought in each month containing the medication. Parent/guardian must count and sign-in/sign-out the medication with the school nurse or trained medication assistant each time the medication is brought in or checked out.

5. **Any Over-the-Counter medication (OTC)** must be turned in to the nurse's office or school office in a **brand new, sealed container with the package insert**. Your student's name should be written on the container. The medication authorization MUST be completed and signed by the parent/guardian for over-the-counter medication. A reason for giving the medication must be specified on the form.

6. **Over-the-counter medication (OTC):** The school nurse will determine if the over-the-counter medicine is appropriate and whether a physician signature is necessary. OTC medication must be age appropriate and follow the dosage instructions on the box, if not, a physician's authorization will be required. If your student has a condition listed under the "ask a doctor before use" section of the over-the-counter medication, a physician's signature will be required.

7. ALL MEDICATIONS (prescription and non-prescription) MUST BE TURNED IN TO THE NUSRE'S OFFICE OR MAIN OFFICE BY AN ADULT. No medication should be sent in with your student. Your student may possess certain approved medications with them ONLY if certain conditions are met. You will need to talk with your student's school nurse and/or principal for instructions on this option.

8. Any approved medication that is to be kept on a student's person must contain a pharmacy label. (Ex. inhaler canister, EpiPen container, glucagon kit, insulin, etc.). In most cases, your pharmacy will provide an extra label upon request.

9. If your student's medication changes (dosage, time, etc.) during the school year, it is the parent/legal guardian's responsibility to let the school know. With each medication change, a new medication authorization form must be completed by your student's physician and signed by the physician and parent/legal guardian. If your student's medication is stopped, you must bring in a discontinuation order from his or her physician.

10. No first dose of any medication--with exception of emergency medications-- can be given at school. If your student has a change in a medication dosage, the first dose of the change should be given at home.

11. The school cannot stock over-the-counter medications (ex: Tylenol, Benadryl, cough drops, etc.). *Refer to #5*

12. Medication must be picked up on or before the last day of school or it will be discarded. If any medication expires during the school year, it will be discarded (this includes emergency medications, such as inhalers, EpiPens, glucagon, etc.).

13. All medication rules apply to students on field trips, extended day, and all other school-sponsored events.

14. Only the school personnel who have completed the school medication curriculum training and have been authorized will be allowed to give medication(s).

15. A student should NEVER have a controlled substance medication on his or her person during school hours or school-sponsored events for any reason.

This list is not all-inclusive. These rules are in place for the protection and safety of your child. If you have any questions, please call the school-based nurse, principal, or the system-wide nurse, Lori Blackburn, RN, at 256-389-2900 ext. 9120.

HEALTH

If your student is injured or becomes seriously ill at school, we will contact you immediately. If we cannot reach you, we will use the emergency contact information provided on your child's registration card. Please remember we cannot keep a student at school if he/she has a fever, is vomiting, or has a contagious disease.

Fever – A student with a temperature of 100 or above should remain at home until he/she is fever free for a **full 24 hours** and does not require medication to keep him/her fever-free.

Vomiting and/or diarrhea – student should not attend school if he/she has had vomiting and/ or diarrhea within 12 hours prior to the start of the school day.

Rashes – unknown/undiagnosed rashes should be reviewed by your medical provider. Proof of non-contagious status may be required for school attendance.

If your student has a medical condition that requires special supplies or equipment and those supplies/equipment are not available at school, your child may be sent home until the required supplies are available at school during the school day. This is for the overall well-being of your student.

Head Lice

In a case where head lice is discovered, or there is a reasonable cause to suspect a student of head lice, the student will be inspected. If head lice contamination is confirmed during the individual inspection of students, the following procedure will be followed:

1. Any infested student will be removed from class, and the parent/guardian will be called to take the child home for treatment. Care will be taken not to embarrass the child.
2. After the infested student has been treated, the parent/guardian will bring the student to school and wait for the completion of an examination by a school official. The school official will determine whether the student is clear to remain at school.
3. Identification information such as the name of the school, children, parents, and employees will be considered confidential.
4. The process of removing lice does not require a lengthy absence. A reasonable time period for this situation will be excused per parent request.

Printed material relative to the treatment of head lice is available from the school nurse.

INFLUENZA DISEASE

What is influenza disease?

- Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by a virus.
- The virus infects the nose, throat, and lungs.
- It can cause mild to severe illnesses, hospitalization, and even death.

What are the symptoms?

- Anyone can get the flu, and it strikes suddenly and can last several days.
- Symptoms of the flu disease may include:
 - Fever or feeling feverish/chills
 - Cough
 - Sore throat
 - Runny or stuffy nose
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headaches
 - Fatigue (very tired)
 - Vomiting and diarrhea

How does influenza disease spread?

- Flu is spread by:
 - An infected person's droplets from cough, sneeze, or talk enter the mouth eye or nose
 - Touching a surface or object with flu virus on it and then touching the mouth, eyes, or nose
- An infected person can infect others one day before symptoms start and up to five to seven days after symptoms start.
- Some people, especially young children and people with weakened immune systems, might be able to infect others for an even longer time.

How do I prevent the flu?

- Get a yearly flu vaccine.
- Wash your hands properly and often.
- Cover your cough and sneeze with arm.
- Clean and sterilize surfaces.
- Stay home if you are sick.

Where can I find more information?

- Ask your doctor.
- Call the Alabama Department of Public Health, Immunization Division, at 1-800-469-4599
- Go to cdc.gov and type influenza in the search box.

INFLUENZA VACCINE

Who should get the influenza (flu) vaccine?

- The flu vaccine is recommended every year for everyone age 6 months or older.

Who should be vaccinated against influenza because they are at increased risk?

- Children 6 months of age through 5 years Adults 65 years of age or older
- Pregnant
- Residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- People who have medical conditions including the following:
 - Asthma
 - Weakened immune systems due to disease or medication (such as HIV/AIDS or cancer)
 - Chronic lung disease
 - Heart disease
 - People younger than 19 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy
 - Blood disorders (such as sickle cell disease)
 - People with extreme obesity
 - Kidney disorders
 - Liver disorders

What are the common vaccine side effects and risks?

- Flu vaccines are safe, but some side effects can occur.
- Minor problems following the flu vaccine include soreness, redness, and/or swelling from the shot, hoarseness, sore, red or itchy eyes, cough, fever, aches, headache, itching, and fatigue.
- More serious problems may include Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) in fewer than 1 or 2 cases per one million people vaccinated, children receiving multiple vaccines slightly increase in fever with seizure.
- People who should not get the flu vaccine include anyone with severe, life threatening allergies, had GBS before, or not feeling well the day of vaccination.

Where can I find more information?

- Ask your doctor.
- Ask your school nurse.
- Call the Alabama Department of Public Health, Immunization Division, at 1-800-469-4599.
- Go to cdc.gov and type influenza in the search box.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE AND VACCINE

What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is a serious illness caused by bacteria. It is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2-8 years old in the United States.

How do you catch the disease?

The bacteria that cause meningococcal disease are very common. The disease is most common in children and people with certain medical conditions that affect their immune system. College freshmen living in dormitories also have increased risk of getting the disease. The disease is spread through exchange of respiratory droplets or saliva with an infected person including kissing, coughing, sneezing, and sharing drinking glasses and eating utensils. In a few people, the bacteria overcome the body's immune system and pass through the lining of the nose and throat and into the blood stream and cause meningitis. Meningitis is a term that describes inflammation of the tissues surrounding the brain and spinal cord.

What are the symptoms if the disease?

- Fever
- Headache
- Stiff neck
- Red rash
- Drowsiness
- Nausea and vomiting

Meningococcal Vaccine: Who should get the vaccine and when?

MCV4, or the meningococcal vaccine, is recommended for all children 11-12 years of age and for unvaccinated adolescents at high school entry (15 years of age). High school seniors should also consider obtaining the vaccine prior to entering college, especially if they are planning on living in a dormitory. Please consult your physician or local health department for information.

For more information of this and other vaccine recommendations go to
www.adph.org/immunization

SPINAL SCREENINGS

Students are screened annually in grades 5-9 for spinal deformities (scoliosis, kyphosis, etc.) This is state-required screening (Code of Alabama 1975, Section 16-29-1).

Scoliosis (lateral curvature of the spine) is a common disorder. Usually between 5 and 10 percent of school children have spinal curves.

The purpose of the yearly screening is to recognize, at the earliest stages, any deviation from normal so that the need for treatment can be determined. Although most curvatures are of minor consequences, progressive spinal deformity could lead to a crippling spine deformity and lung and heart problems. Therefore, early detection and treatment is essential. When detected early, observation and/or treatment with a brace may prevent the progression of the deformity and may prevent the need for surgery. When detected late, surgery may be necessary.

If your student is under a physician's care for spinal deformity, and you would like for him or her to be exempt from the annual school screening, please send a physician's statement regarding your student's diagnosis and treatment plan to the school nurse.

Impacts of Heavy Backpacks (Act 2017-19)

Overloading school backpacks are causing an increased problem of back pain and strain for students across the nation. **Please review** <http://www.bacsupport.com> **for more information regarding this concern.**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students are required to participate in physical education unless excused by a medical doctor. When students are unable to physically participate in P.E., they may be given written assignments so that they may be given a grade. **Students who refuse to participate may be suspended in in-school suspension. LACK OF PARTICIPATION IN P.E. WILL RESULT IN A LOWER GRADE.**

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Membership in the Helen Keller Chapter of the National Junior Honor society at Deshler Middle School is open to all seventh and eighth grade students who meet the membership requirements. Students must:

- Have been in attendance at Deshler Middle School for at least one semester
- Have an overall cumulative grade point average of 90, which includes grades from the previous school year and the first semester of the current year
- Complete a student activity information sheet
- Display the qualities of leadership, service, and character
- Be approved by the Deshler Middle School Faculty Council.

Members must maintain the standards by which they were selected or be subject to probationary statuses, reprimand, or dismissal. Complete details on NJHS are available in the office and from the faculty advisor.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be sent home by the student at the end of each nine weeks. Report cards will be computer handouts with a Tuscumbia City Schools logo in the background. The report cards will be sent home in an envelope. The report card may be kept, but the envelope must be signed and returned promptly to the homeroom teacher. The first envelope will be furnished, but any lost or excessively damaged envelope must be paid for by the students at a cost of 50 cents per envelope. End of the year report cards may be picked up at the main office at DMS on May 28, 2020.

SCHOOL SAFETY/CRISIS SITUATION

The administration and faculty at Deshler Middle School are committed to providing a facility that is safe and conducive to learning. The Deshler Middle School staff will not tolerate any act of violence, threats of violence, or physical and emotional harassment. Any threat and/or threatening remark will be treated seriously, and appropriate disciplinary action will take place. Students should report any threat concerning the possibility of violence to a teacher or administrator. A school safety and crisis plan has been developed and provides the basis for action in case of any emergency situation.

In the event of any emergency situation, the Deshler Middle School administration and faculty are committed to the safety of students. The Deshler Middle School safety plan contains directions for a variety of emergency/crisis situation which could develop. Parents who come to school to pick up students or to check on their child as a result of an emergency situation should remain as calm as possible and carefully follow the directions of the administrators, faculty, and/or emergency personnel.

SEVERE WEATHER

Weather is monitored with the use of a weather alert radio and internet radar in the main office. Also, the local Emergency Management Office notifies schools of severe weather watches and warnings. Drills are held to train students on how to handle severe weather situations.

Severe weather announcements concerning school dismissal are made over local television and radio stations. In the event that severe weather, especially severe thunderstorms and/or tornados, develop during the school day, students will be moved to safe areas as determined by the local EMA officials. If parents come to the school to pick up students during severe weather events, they must check students out through the main office because of the need to account for all students. **IN THE EVENT THAT A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING OR A TORNADO WARNING HAS BEEN ISSUED, WHEN PARENTS ARRIVE AT SCHOOL, LOCAL EMA OFFICIALS RECOMMENED THAT BOTH STUDENTS AND PARENTS REMAIN IN THE SCHOOL BULDING UNTIL THE WARNING IS LIFTED.**

STUDENT PASSES

All students should report promptly to their assigned classes. Any students not in their assigned classes during class time should have a pass from the teacher. The pass should contain: date, time, students name, destination, and the signature of the teacher issuing the pass. Students will be considered truant if they are found outside their assigned classes without a proper pass. Falsifying a pass will result in ISS or other disciplinary actions.

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

All students are subject to the authority of the teachers outside the classroom, as well as in the classroom. Rules of good conduct among students must prevail at all times.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are furnished by the Tuscumbia Board of Education. Each student will accept responsibility for all textbooks assigned to them. Any lost or damaged textbooks must be replaced or repaired (as determined by the principal) by the student. The cost for replacing or repairing a textbook will be determined by the principal and will be the responsibility of the student and/or his/her parents or legal guardian. School records may be withheld due to lost or unpaid textbooks. Students should write their names on the label provided in case of loss or misplacement.

TELEPHONE

The school telephone is for school business and is not to be used by students except for emergencies. Students are not to use the phone routinely to request books, supplies, homework, etc. The phone may be used by students after 3:15 p.m. when parents fail to pick up students.

TOBACCO

All forms of tobacco, lighters, or matches on school grounds, in school buildings, at school activities, or on field trips are prohibited. Violators are subject to disciplinary actions including detention, Saturday school, in- or out -of-school suspension.

WORTHLESS CHECK POLICY

The face value of a check returned for insufficient funds (NSF) may not be absorbed as a cost by state, federal, or public local fund. The local principal or other administrator must exercise due diligence in the acceptance of checks and in the collection of NSF checks. Uncollected NSF checks may not be simply written off. The local school or affected program must take necessary actions to collect the check amount and must document these actions and procedures. The local school or affected program may refuse to accept future checks from someone who has written a NSF check.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

1. Make sure your child is at school on time and has the necessary paper, pencils, notebooks, etc., for each day's work.
2. Ask your child to develop the habit of writing assignments for each class. Some students use a special assignment sheet. Others use a small notebook. Written notes about when assignments are due will help the students remember what to work on at home.
3. Set aside a time for study every week night. If your child has no written homework, require him/her to review the class assignments or work on long-range activities such as book reports or projects.
4. Eliminate distractions during study time. Most children do better work if TVs and cell phones are off.
5. Set a time limit on homework. Students who say they are spending three to four hours doing homework need to be checked. Working efficiently should be a goal. No family wants to spend all its time on homework!
6. Children should eat well-balanced meals. (Try to cut down on the amount of sugar in the diet. Some people believe it interferes with concentration.)
7. Support your child's teacher. If you are doubting the teacher, it will be harder for your child to respond positively to what the teacher has to offer. Teachers will have different opinions about what motivates a particular child. Be sure to share what has worked for you in the past.
8. Be realistic in what you expect. Not every child can earn all As. If you have any questions about what is reasonable, contact your child's counselor or teacher.
9. Hug your child every day and spend some time talking about something other than school. Children need to know that you care about their problems and that they are important members of you family. Children who are having trouble at school need your help not punishment.

FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age certain rights with respect to school records. These rights are as follows:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days of the written request for access.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate. This request must be in writing, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. NOTE: School officials can disclose education records to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official has a legitimate education interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Tuscumbia City School district to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Tuscumbia City School district to include directory information from your child's educational records in certain school publications.

Examples include the following:

- A drama playbill
- Yearbook
- Honor roll or recognition list
- Sports activity information
- Grade level/attendance
- Major field of study

Directory information can be released without parental consent to outside organizations such as companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. Also, three directory information categories (names, addresses, and telephone listings) can be released to military recruiters upon request. If you do not want Tuscumbia City Schools to disclose directory information from your child's educational records without your prior written consent, you must notify the school in writing within ten (10) days of receipt of this handbook.

REMEMBER

All of your decisions have consequences. Make good decisions with appropriate consequences.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Tuscumbia City School System is requesting permission to use photographs taken of your child in the middle school yearbook and/or the system newspaper. Also, this page serves as documentation of parents/guardians receiving a copy of the Student Guideline/Handbook for Deshler Middle School.

Parental Release Form

I have reviewed and understand the school rules and regulations contained within the Deshler Middle School Student Guidelines/Handbook. I will, to the best of my ability, help my child to follow all procedures contained in the handbook. If I have questions or concerns, I understand I can contact the administration for help at 256-389-2920.

The Tuscumbia City School system has my permission to include photographs of my child for the school yearbook and school newspaper.

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Child's Name (please print)