



The STEM Academy @ Bartlett Student Handbook 2020-2021

stem.sccpss.com

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Welcome

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The STEM Academy @ Bartlett opened its doors to students in August 2013. We serve students in grades 6 through 8. Our students are taught by educators committed to a high standard of excellence. Students at STEM have a state of the art facility that includes a gymnasium, a cafetorium, media center, networked computers in each classroom, and specially equipped classrooms for music, art, robotics/engineering, and design.

I request your assistance and cooperation in offering students the support they deserve. Our goal is to establish a strong home/school connection working together for all of our students. Volunteers, mentors, and guest speakers will be a valuable resource as part of our family. Our staff looks forward to working together with you as we ignite and inspire passion for learning.

Please read this student handbook and discuss it with your child. It is important for you and your child to be familiar with the school's policies and procedures. **Please note that some elements of this handbook are applicable to in-person instruction. Additionally, there are elements included that are specific to the e-Learning (virtual learning) format.**

We strive to provide a quality education for all students in a safe, happy and orderly environment. We share the vision of all Savannah-Chatham Public Schools: From school to the world: All students prepared for productive futures.

Please contact me to schedule an appointment or share your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jimmie Cave
Principal

Registration

New students to SCCPSS should bring: (1) Proof of residence (rent receipt, water, or electrical bill), (2) Certificate of Immunization, (3) EED Certificate (Eye, Ear, and Dental Certificate), (4) Certified Birth certificate or passport, and (5) Guardianship papers if the student lives with anyone other than the parent or parents.

Manners (excerpts from Emily Post's Guide to Manners for Kids)

Most of your day in school is spent in the classroom. Your teacher, the other students, and you are like a cross between a job and a family. One way to get others to respect you is to show respect for them.

There are eight important manners for the classroom that help make it a respectful place for everyone:

1. Make an effort to greet everyone with, at least, a "Good morning" and a smile. Adding a comment such as "How was your game last night?" or "Mrs. Bass, that chapter we read last night was hard!" makes others feel included and lets them know you are a friendly person.

2. Call teachers and any other adults in the classroom by the name and title they prefer. Some teachers prefer to be called by their first names, but unless they specifically ask you to do that, call them by their correct name and title (e.g., Mr. Smith, Dr. Stewart, etc.)

3. Call your friends by the names they prefer. Nicknames may seem fun, but sometimes they can be very hurtful.

4. Follow classroom guidelines for getting up, walking around, leaving to go to the restroom. Each classroom may be different. The important thing is to respect the rules set up for the room you are in.

5. Sit up at your desk or table just the way you do at mealtime. Lying all over your desk or table as if you're bored or tired is both rude and disrespectful. If you are that tired in class, plan to get more sleep at night. If you are that bored, ask your teacher how you can be more involved.

6. Keep the area around your desk neat.

7. Chip in to help keep shared spaces neat and picked up – the sink, the reading area, the computer stations, the bulletin boards. Every part of the classroom is yours to share and keep clean.

8. Greet others who come into your room. Show respect by using the greeting that is normal in your school.

The STEM Academy will be using Love Your People's declaration as our school-wide expectations. More information is included later in this handbook.

School Hours

Refer to our district website @ www.sccpss.com. No adult supervision is provided before or after school unless your child is attending scheduled tutorials. (The 2020-2021 instructional school hours are 7:40-2:40).

Arrival

The student arrival window is from 7:10 - 7:40 am. Students may not arrive before 7:10 am. Students eating breakfast should report directly to the cafeteria. All other arriving students should report directly to 1st period. **Car riders and walkers/bike riders are to use the front entrance for arrival. Any students arriving after 7:40 am must have a parent sign them in at the front office and will be marked tardy.**

Dismissal

Student dismissal begins at 2:40 pm. Students are not to leave their class until dismissal has been called. Walkers/bike riders are to use the front entrance only and use the Montgomery Crossroad crosswalk for dismissal. Parent drop-off and pick-up is at the front of the school. Students must be picked up on campus by 3:10 pm. Students who are picked up past 3:10 pm may be referred to administration and/ or school social worker. Parents exiting back on Montgomery Cross Road to turn right should exit right. Parents needing to turn left onto Montgomery Cross Road should exit behind the school and exit on Edgewater unless otherwise directed by school personnel.

Early Dismissal

If it is necessary for a child to leave school before the end of the school day, his/her parent or guardian with whom he/she resides must send a written request or arrive in person for the child and make the request in the main office. The person picking up the student **MUST REPORT TO THE OFFICE** and be prepared to show identification. No students will be released early unless the office staff calls for them. In cases of doubt, the principal may require evidence that the person picking the child up is entitled to custody. Please be prepared to show identification. **Students will not be released after 2 pm without express permission from Administration.**

Transportation

“There and back again...” Sometimes, just getting to school can be a challenge. Some students have a long walk. Others ride a bus for as much as an hour each way. Some students pack into a car with other students, toddlers, and babies. Some students ride their bike, balancing lunch, books, or school projects as they go. No matter how students get to school, there are some key manners that will make getting there and home again fun and safe for everyone.

Walking or Biking to School

Here are some tips for students that like to walk or ride their bike to school:

- *Cross at corners* or in crosswalks. If there is a crossing guard or walk light, remember to wait for your signal to cross safely.
- *Follow directions* from the crossing guard. *Don't try to walk and text* or walk and talk on your

smartphone.

- *NEVER accept a ride with a stranger for any reason.*
- Wear your helmet!
- If you are riding with a friend, ride single file.
- Use the sidewalk.
- The roads may be especially crowded around school where buses and cars are arriving to drop off students, so *WATCH OUT!*

Riding the Bus

Students must exhibit satisfactory behavior on the bus and at the bus stop. Students who fail to behave on the bus may have their privilege of riding the bus suspended for a period of time. If a student is suspended from the bus, it becomes the responsibility of the parent to provide transportation during the suspension.

Bus transportation prohibits students from going to destinations other than their regular assigned stop. If a parent wishes for a student to get off at an alternate stop, a written note **with a contact number** must be provided to the school office explaining the reason for the change.

School bus drivers have a tremendous responsibility. Bus transportation is provided for students living one and a half miles or more from our school. Some bus drivers drive as many as seventy-two children to and from school every day. Safety is the number one thing on their mind. But they know the bus is also a space where students spend anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour every day. The atmosphere on the bus has a major impact on how students feel for the rest of their day so that is also on their mind.

Students share in this tremendous responsibility. How students behave affects both the safety and atmosphere on the bus. Please remember to be polite and remember the bus driver's instructions. Remember to get on and off the bus quickly. Cars are required to stop for a school bus with lights flashing. If students are walking slowly down the aisle, cars are tempted to pass the bus which can be very dangerous. The bus driver is trying to keep on schedule. When students follow the rules, everyone is safer. When students are friendly and polite, the whole atmosphere becomes more pleasant. There are some clear "Always" and "Nevers" associated with bus riding.

Students' negative actions on the bus could have discipline consequences at school. Any actions at the bus stop and on the bus are considered school campus jurisdiction.

ALWAYS:

- Wait for the bus driver's signal before crossing the road getting on or off the bus.
- Have your things organized so you can quickly get on or off.
- Keep your voice low. A lot of noise can be very distracting for the driver.
- Buckle up on buses where seat belts are available.

NEVER:

- Fight – especially on the bus.
- Throw things.
- Distract the driver.
- Stand or move about while the bus is moving.

Attendance

Truant: Any child subject to compulsory attendance who during the school calendar year has more than ten (10) days of unexcused absences is considered truant.

All students enrolled should be in attendance each day. Only certain instances qualify as an excused absence (family illness, personal illness, death of a family member, religious holidays for the student's recognized faith, service as a page in the General Assembly of Georgia, or orders of governmental agencies.) Per board policy, "Students in grades K-8 who accumulate more than seven (15) absences (excused or unexcused) in a year, and are passing the affected subjects/classes may request an attendance waiver. The request that waivers be granted for academic credit or promotion must include appropriate required documentation to the site based attendance committee. This committee may grant or deny the waiver, after review of the application and documentation.

Problems relating to pupil absenteeism that cannot be handled on the individual school level are to be referred to the school social worker. Students who arrive late must obtain a tardy slip from the main office before going to class. Students are encouraged to arrive on time each day in order to avoid missing valuable instructional time.

Please be aware that frequent early check-outs (before 2:00 pm) could be considered absence from instruction and referred to the school social worker.

Documentation for excused absences: Any student absence that is to be classified as excused minimally requires a signed note of explanation from a parent or guardian for documentation. Only five days of absence per school year will be excused with a handwritten/typed signed note from a parent/guardian. School officials may require additional documentation/proof at any time for the purpose of validating that an absence is an excused absence. Any absence beyond five days for the year requires the submission of a physician's or hospital statement, court subpoena, order of a governmental agency, or a funeral notice/obituary to be deemed an excused absence.

Breakfast Program

Free Breakfast is available for all STEM Academy students. Students eating breakfast must do so BEFORE going to class in the morning. **After breakfast**, all students must go DIRECTLY TO THEIR 1ST PERIOD CLASS.

Lunch Program

A well-balanced lunch is served in the lunchroom each school day. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to eat a well-balanced meal. Students are urged to bring money on Monday to buy lunch for the week; however, cash will be accepted on a daily basis (Sorry, no personal checks). Milk will be sold on a daily basis. You can also pre-pay for your child's lunch at www.mylunchmoney.com. Please visit our website (stem.sccpss.com) for more information. Free or reduced meals are available for those who qualify. Lunch assistance forms should be completed and returned promptly within the first week of school or enrollment. Parents will be notified of lunch program status as soon as possible upon receipt of application.

ALWAYS:

- Say “Please,” “Thank You,” and “Excuse Me” to the staff serving food in the lunch line, the adults supervising you, and the students sitting at your table.
- Pick up after yourself. Clean up any spills, pick up paper wrappers, napkins, etc. Empty your tray in trash cans.
- Make way for the next group coming in. Be courteous and orderly; save your socializing for the appropriate time.

NEVER:

- Chew with your mouth open. That’s just as gross in the cafeteria as it is anywhere else.
- Talk with your mouth full. No one can understand you and you could choke.
- Throw your food, play with it, or blow bubbles and slurp your drink.
- Burp out loud or make other rude noises.
- There are some special manners that help keep school lunchtimes as civil as possible. If everyone follows these guidelines, lunch can still be an opportunity to socialize with friends as you eat a quick lunch. If students ignore these guidelines, the lunchroom becomes a disaster zone, the school then imposes rigid rules, and lunch becomes a simple refueling stop with no opportunity to talk to friends.

SIX STEPS TO LUNCHROOM ETIQUETTE:

1. Do follow the directions of the adults in charge at all times, even if they are not seated at your table.
2. Don’t push, shove, or engage in rough play of any kind in the lunch lines.
3. Do hold your food tray with two hands, and don’t touch other people’s trays or food.
4. Don’t ask for someone else’s food. And don’t offer your food to others.
5. Don’t make comments about other people’s meals or eating styles. Just because a classmate follows a special diet or brings lunch from home while others buy theirs is no excuse for teasing or rude remarks.
6. Don’t exclude others if you have an empty seat next to you.

Medication

School board policy states that medication will be administered only after parents have brought the prescribed medicine to the school nurse’s office in the original container and completed the required medical forms. The parent’s signature on these forms authorizes school officials to administer the medication according to the specifications written on the form. No medication will be given without this information and authorization, and **no medication should be brought to school by the student**. No students should self administer medication. It is the responsibility of the student to go to the nurse for their prescribed medication at the appropriate time.

Emergencies

Be sure that the school has the name and phone number of someone who can be reached in the event of an emergency. Even though every effort is made to avoid accidents, they do happen. We must have someone to contact when immediate action is needed. It is the parent's responsibility to keep the school informed regarding whom to contact. If this contact information should change, please notify the school office immediately. If you have an unlisted number, it will be used only for emergencies and will never be given to anyone else. If you do not have a phone, provide us with an alternate contact who can give you the message immediately. We need at least two phone numbers on file in case no one answers the first call. If there are several numbers where we may call please send them. Again, be certain to notify us if any phone numbers change (please contact our Information Specialist to update information).

School Materials

Reusable materials and equipment are issued to students free of charge; however, it is the responsibility of each student to use these materials carefully. Abuse, damage, or loss of school materials and other school property assigned to students may result in fines to repair or replace items according to board policy #0991. Parents and students can find a complete school supply list at The STEM Academy website on the left hand navigation bar.

Instructional Framework

The mission of The STEM Academy @ Bartlett is to provide students with a rigorous, relevant curriculum of academic study that will advance their knowledge in the areas of science, technology, and other branches of scholarship, while empowering them to become college and career-ready and prepared to work in the 21st Century as they develop the skills to think critically, collaborate, create, and communicate with peers and teachers.

Our approach to education is not for students to sit, take notes, then take a test as accustomed in the past. STEM Academy students are encouraged to be problem solvers, risk takers, critical thinkers and innovators by taking positions on real world problems, designing solutions and presenting their findings to peers and community members. Students are immersed in the use of technology to enhance their learning experience and collaborate with peers and teachers. By working through a combination of learning strategies they discover the nature of a problem, understand the variables involved and gain a perspective viewpoint of those affected.

The STEM Academy uses problem-based inquiry as an instructional framework. Students engage the curriculum by utilizing concepts learned in their classes to solve real-world problems. This integrated approach provides a platform for relevant learning experiences for our students. With a curriculum at The STEM Academy designed around the National Academy of Engineering's Grand Challenges, students analyze, research, design and create solutions to Earth's greatest problems.

Homework

Please discuss with your son or daughter about their daily use of class time. Students are expected to finish their work during class time. If their work is not completed in class, it is expected to be finished as homework. Teachers establish their own individual requirements for homework as supported by BOE policy. Homework is intended to practice skills already taught and to give students the opportunity to work on projects or to locate information. The amount of work assigned may vary among teachers or grade levels.

Parents should share the responsibility with the teacher for seeing that students complete homework assignments. When parents do not understand assignments or when they have questions about the value, length or absence of homework, they should contact the school for a conference with their child's teacher.

e-Learning Classroom Expectations

Although we normally use technology for learning at STEM, learning completely online is still quite an adjustment - for your classmates and your teachers! We are all working together to make this the most successful learning experience it can be.

Teachers will be hosting virtual class meetings using ZOOM. In order to create the best environment possible, we have to establish some norms or virtual classroom rules. Please review those norms below:

*Easy instructions for using ZOOM: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7xXZxRDFUU>

1. **Be aware of teacher expectations for each session; be prepared.**
 - i. Always check your courses in It's Learning for any specific instructions.
 - ii. Join a session a few minutes early to test your audio and video connections.
2. **Take turns speaking or sharing.**
 - a. As the ZOOM classroom host, your teacher can provide individuals or the entire class access to the following features:
 - i. Raise your hand
 - ii. Clap
 - iii. Give a thumbs up/thumbs down
 - iv. Chat
 - v. Mute or unmute
 - vi. Answer yes/no

In order to use these features, click on the "participants" icon.

For the purpose of a particular learning experience, your teacher may establish rules about the features listed above. Be sure you're listening in order to hear them!

3. **Be respectful of everyone in the session.**
 - a. Be fully and appropriately dressed (no chest, belly, or behind exposed; no inappropriate words or images). This is for guys and girls.
 - b. As you would in a normal classroom, listen respectfully and wait your turn to speak.
4. **Be sure your background is as quiet and appropriate as possible.**
 - a. We know you may have family around. :) Just do the best you can.
 - b. Try to find an area where your backdrop is simple.
 - c. Remain on mute if you're not speaking.

You may be asked to leave or face consequences if your conduct does not conform with these expected norms.

e-Learning Bell Schedule

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-8:45	1st period	1st period	Independent Learning Day: Finish assignments and submit as needed, instructional focus for remediation and enrichment; participate in personalized support to attain mastery of the content and skills of the course, SCCPSS lunch distribution, etc.	1st period	1st period
8:50-9:35	2nd period	2nd period		2nd period	2nd period
9:35-9:45	Brain Break	Brain Break		Brain Break	Brain Break
9:45-10:30	3rd period	3rd period		3rd period	3rd period
10:35-11:20	4th period	4th period		4th period	4th period
11:20-12:00	Lunch & Brain Break	Lunch & Brain Break		Lunch & Brain Break	Lunch & Brain Break
12:00-12:45	5th period	5th period		5th period	5th period
12:50-1:35	6th period	6th period		6th period	6th period
1:40-2:25	7th period	7th period		7th period	7th period
2:25-3:00	Tutorial	Tutorial		Tutorial	

e-Learning Bell Schedule (Advisement/Club Day)

Friday		
Advisement Day	Time	Club Day
Advisement	8:00-8:50	Clubs/IF
1st period	8:55-9:30	1st period
2nd period	9:35-10:10	2nd period
Brain Break	10:10-10:20	Brain Break
3rd period	10:25-11:00	3rd period
4th period	11:05-11:40	4th period
Lunch & Brain Break	11:45-12:25	Lunch & Brain Break
5th period	12:30-1:05	5th period
6th period	1:10-1:45	6th period
7th period	1:50-2:25	7th period

Progress Reports (Report Cards)

The school year is divided into four nine-week periods. Academic status reports go out every two weeks and report cards go home every nine weeks. Teachers will have grades updated by Monday at 3:00 PM prior to progress report days. Students are responsible for returning a signed cover letter to their grade level homeroom teacher and teachers may have students sign an acknowledgement form in class as well.

Parents are highly encouraged to have access to PowerSchool Parent Access Portal. As the parent, you will be able to view your student's grades posted by his or her teacher online. Parents can request an access account via the SCCPSS website at <https://spwww.sccpss.com/dad/sis/Pages/Parent-Access.aspx>. Click the button to request a Parent Access Account. Data submitted through the request must match what is in file in order to receive an account. Web report cards are not accessible through the PowerSchool app. Parents must access report cards through the actual PowerSchool website only.

Conferences

Conferences with your child's teachers may be arranged by sending a written request (email is preferred). Teachers cannot conference with parents during instructional time. An administrator will participate in the conference if the teacher and/or parent request; however, parents are urged to discuss any concerns with the teacher before involving the school administrators. A student's overall grade for each nine-week marking period will be determined by several factors including teacher-made tests and activities, objective tests, projects, class participation, and homework.

The faculty and administration at The STEM Academy need parent cooperation and participation in order to provide a successful education. We will be happy to work with parents and respond to your concerns in order to accomplish your child's academic goals.

Late and Missing Assignment Policy

The following late and missing assignment policy has been compiled and recorded in an attempt to streamline and unify The STEM Academy @ Bartlett under one cohesive system, in accordance with Board Policy IHA-R(1). The rationalization behind the specifics of this policy keep our academically talented students in mind while reinforcing the importance of completing work and submitting on time as guided practice and formative assessment.

Work that is not submitted will result in a 0%.

Late is defined as any work turned in after 11:59 pm on the designated due date. Students will have **3 days** after the zero is entered into the gradebook to make up the assignment however; no more than **two** assignments per class can be made up during the quarter for a maximum possible grade of 80%.

NOTE: Failure to complete and submit the missing assignment will result in a zero being issued.

If a student is absent (sick, field trip, etc.) it is his/her responsibility to ask the teacher for work that was missed when he/she returns to school after the absence. The student will have five days to make up the assignment(s) without penalty. After these five days have passed the work is considered late.

Re-Do Opportunities for **assessments** (tests, quizzes, and projects) are allowed and encouraged. It is the **student's responsibility** to request and advocate for an opportunity to re-do an assessment. Students will need to attend a re-teach session (lunch & learn, tutorial, etc.) prior to the assessment re-do opportunity.

A maximum re-do score is 80%.

*Please refer to your teachers' class syllabi for more information regarding the re-do policy for assessments.

Testing

According to board policy, "Group and individual testing programs will be used to serve the needs of the instructional program." Parents are encouraged to schedule appointments with the teacher, counselor, or principal to discuss the testing program for Savannah-Chatham Public Schools and The STEM Academy. Test results will be interpreted upon request from the parents.

Field Trips

Field trips are a part of the regular education program. During the school year classes may make several visits to businesses, factories, and community facilities. Transportation is provided by the Savannah-Chatham Board of Education. Field trips are supervised by teachers, paraprofessionals, and volunteer parents. Parents are given advanced information about field trips outlining the purpose of the trip, date, and place to be visited. Parents must sign a permission form before students will be allowed to leave campus. At no time may any student take part in a field trip without signed permission from their parent. Since all Field Trips are educational, all students are invited to attend field trips. However, if a student has displayed inappropriate behavior that has led to a Discipline Referral, parents will be asked to attend the field trip in order to ensure student safety.

Clubs and Advisement

Students will participate in both clubs and advisement during the school day. Clubs and advisement will rotate on a bi-weekly basis. Students will have an advisor assigned to them and this person will be consistent for the three years at The STEM Academy. Advisement sessions will include: lessons of love, community building, grade goal setting, progress reports, parent communication via email related to not turning in work, and other needs as the students and advisors see them.

Parent/School Activities

PTSA

All parents are invited to join and participate in PTA. Executive Board meetings and monthly meetings are scheduled to inform parents and determine goals. We look forward to your participation and contribution to our PTA. We are all in this together! (Annual Membership fees are \$5 per parent/grandparent/guardian.)

Parent Volunteers

Parents are encouraged to become involved in the school programs. The time and talent contributed by volunteers can provide a more effective learning experience for students and a closer school-community relationship. If you would like to become involved in the school volunteer program, contact the school office.

Student Behavior – “Common Expectations”

Our expectations are your expectations – the best behavior a child can exhibit should be seen by all, in

any place, at any time. School work happens in the classroom. School social life happens outside the classroom – in the halls, before and after school and during the weekend. While this may feel like unstructured time, there are guidelines that help keep this school’s social life civil. School rules about bullying, fighting, noise, and fair play give structure to this time. Good manners help make this time positive. The STEM Academy is proud to hold students to exceptionally high expectations for good manners and good behavior throughout all school activities (bus rides, field trips, lunch, and classroom participation) that they are held to at home, at athletic events, and any other community setting.

Effective instruction requires engaged and thoughtful behavior; the presence of a friendly, helpful and caring, yet business-like atmosphere. Discipline is an important part of every student’s education. It is a shared responsibility between students, parents, teachers, and administrators. Discipline and respect are necessary in order to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment in which every child is provided the opportunity to reach for excellence.

There are many adults in schools besides the teachers and principal. Because they are not responsible for giving grades, some students ignore them. It takes secretaries, custodians, paraprofessionals, nurses, media specialists, clerks, and cafeteria workers to make a school work. It is just as important to be polite to them as to the teacher and principal. You can’t turn manners on and off. So the next time you pass a custodian or lunchroom worker, show the same respect you would give your teacher. Being polite is for everyone!

The following behaviors (*from Love Your People*) are listed as guidelines for students and are reminders from earlier sections about using good manners in all aspects of your daily school life:

1. Contribute
2. Be Kind
3. Be Patient
4. Be Honest
5. Encourage People
6. Apologize & Forgive
7. Thank People

LYP Quarterly Rewards

The STEM Academy looks to celebrate students for their hard work in the classroom and outstanding behavior as they interact with peers and staff. Part of this recognition includes participation in reward activities that occur each nine weeks. By receiving no more than a yellow ticket for behavior and having passing grades in all classes for the quarter in which the reward is held; students earn the opportunity to partake in the following reward activities:

Quarter 1: Game Day **Quarter 2:** Dodgeball **Quarter 3:** Kickball **Quarter 4:** Carnival

In order to encourage good citizenship, school-based policies have been set up for rewarding good behavior and discouraging unacceptable behavior. These guidelines include a “ticket” system with negative consequences for students who do not follow the school rules, and rewards for those who follow the rules and exhibit excellent behavior. The ticket system is a communication tool designed to help students recognize and change negative behaviors prior to receiving discipline referrals. The ticket system throughout our school is as follows:

Step One: Formal Warning

Step Two: Yellow Ticket - Team will send home the ticket and make contact made with parents.

Step Three: Orange Ticket - Team will send home ticket, make contact made with parents, and schedule an appointment with the counselor to discuss ways to avoid negative behavior.

Step Four: Red Ticket - Team will send home the ticket, schedule a parent conference and a team detention.

Step Five: Discipline Referral

We ask for your full support and cooperation in making this a successful program. We are excited by our partnership with you, as we work together to maintain your high expectations for behavior while your children are with us.

Using or Threatening to Use a Deadly Weapon and Bomb/Terroristic Threat

Any student who uses, or threatens to use a deadly weapon, including, but not limited to, a firearm or knife, which may cause bodily harm or death, shall be subject to permanent expulsion. A student threatening to “shoot up the school”, whether he or she says it is a joke or not, is making a terroristic threat. Students participating in or making a bomb or **terroristic threat** shall be subject to permanent expulsion. Terroristic threats made via social media or electronically will result in similar consequence as a threat made verbally. Student conduct off school grounds that has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order or discipline in schools, or maintaining the safety and welfare of the students and staff, or off-campus conduct which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony and when the student's continued presence at school becomes a potential danger to persons or property at the school, shall be subject to Board of Education discipline policies.

Equipment Use

Students are expected to store any personal sports equipment in a designated teacher's room. Students should not carry sports equipment around the school during the day. Students may not borrow the Physical Education department's sports equipment for personal use.

Technology Use and iPads

Even though technology use is a large part of our culture, there are still many times when it's just not a good idea to use devices. Technology can only be used during class time at the discretion of the teacher. Additionally, technology is not allowed to be used during class transition, lunch, and brain break.. Violations of technology use are considered Inappropriate Use of Technology and subject to our Ticket System. Please see Technology-iPad Acceptable Use & Procedures Agreement Form Sample for more detailed policies. This sample form is located at the end of the handbook.

The STEM Academy Behavior Matrix

Expectations	Cafeteria	Classroom	Hallway	Dismissal Areas	Media Center	Bathroom
LYP- Live the 8.	<p>Be Kind Be considerate of people's space and food.</p> <p>Be Patient Wait calmly in line.</p> <p>Thank People Be grateful for the cafeteria staff.</p> <p>Contribute Keep the cafeteria clean.</p> <p>Have a tech-free lunch.</p>	<p>Contribute Be actively engaged in learning activities.</p> <p>Be supportive of a positive learning environment.</p> <p>Be prepared for class.</p> <p>Listen to the guidance from your teacher.</p> <p>Be honest Be truthful with your words and in your work.</p> <p>Be respectful with your honest conversations.</p> <p>Be Patient Be understanding of other's learning process and your own.</p> <p>Be proactive when asking for help. (ask three then me)</p> <p>Encourage People Celebrate your own success and the success of others.</p> <p>Be supportive when others are struggling.</p> <p>Apologize & Forgive Acknowledge when you make mistakes. Forgive others and yourself when mistakes are made.</p> <p>Thank People Thank all members of the classroom community</p> <p>Be Kind Be considerate of people's space and belongings.</p>	<p>Be kind Be considerate of people's space.</p> <p>Be patient Wait calmly to enter and exit classrooms.</p> <p>Apologize & Forgive Say excuse me and apologize to others.</p> <p>Encourage Model LYP behavior.</p> <p>Smile and give kind words.</p> <p>Contribute Get to class on time, every time.</p>	<p>Be Kind Be considerate of people's space.</p> <p>Be Patient Wait calmly for your ride.</p> <p>Thank People Be grateful for a great day and those helping you get home.</p> <p>Contribute Do your part to get home safely.</p>	<p>Be Kind Be considerate of people's space and belongings.</p> <p>Be respectful of others working.</p> <p>Be Patient Wait calmly for help or a computer station.</p> <p>Thank People Be grateful for media center staff.</p> <p>Contribute Use the technology and resources for educational purposes only.</p>	<p>Be Kind Be considerate of people's space.</p> <p>Contribute Contribute to a clean environment.</p>

How The Ticket System Works

A student may receive a yellow ticket when they consistently exhibit inappropriate behavior. At the time the ticket is issued, the parent will be contacted to discuss the problem. If behavior does not improve, the next ticket issued will be an orange ticket. Please review the information listed in the narrative section of the tickets for more information. The next step will be a red ticket. (This ticket would result in a detention.) The next step would be a discipline referral to an administrator. Any Level 2 Offense or Level 3 offense, as listed in the SCCPSS Student Code of Conduct, will result in a Discipline Referral and circumvent the ticket system. Once a student receives a discipline referral to an administrator, they will be placed in Tier 2 of the Rtl process to gather data about their behavior and implement appropriate interventions. For more information on the Rtl Process, please refer to the SCCPSS Student Code of Conduct. The ticket process receives a “fresh start” after student data supports consistent behavior that meets The STEM Academy standards. Tickets reset at the beginning of each quarter.

Student Uniforms

Solid navy or khaki (as specified by each school uniform committee) shorts, skirts, skorts, jumpers, capri pants, or pants/slacks (no knit pants, leggings, jogging, joggers, or cargo pants; no zippers or pockets on pant legs). Skirts, skorts, and jumpers with the black watch tartan plaid pattern are also allowed. Uniforms must be worn and belted at the natural waist and made of standard uniform material (cotton and/or twill). No denim jeans or denim skirts, etc. Shorts, skirts, and jumpers must be fingertip-length or longer.

Solid white, dark hunter green or navy blue tops. Tops may be polo-style shirts, collared blouses or turtlenecks. They may have the school insignia, if one is available, but no other ornamentation is permitted. All shirts must be tucked.

All shoes must be enclosed and fastened/tied properly. Slides, flip flops, and Crocs are **not allowed** at any time.

Solid white or solid navy socks or tights.

Solid colored sweaters (color appropriate to the school), vests or sweatshirts may be worn over uniform shirts. **Hoodies are not allowed at any time.** Jackets must have a zipper and be worn open at school.

No hats, caps, or sunglasses may be worn in the building. Coats and jackets must be worn open in the building.

Extreme hair color/style that causes a disruption, or interferes with the learning environment will not be allowed.

We have a Uniform Closet available for exceptional circumstances when the uniform policy is broken by something out of the student's control.

Dress Down Days

Occasionally there will be non-uniform or dress down days for students. All dress down days will be communicated to students and parents in advance. Communication will include the reason for the dress down, the associated cost for the dress down, and dress down guidelines.

Please adhere to the school policy for dress down. Short athletic/running shorts, tank/halter tops, and ripped/torn jeans/pants are not allowed. Skirts, dresses, and shorts must be fingertip-length or longer. Leggings must be worn under the appropriate length jumper, skirt, or dress. Leggings are not to be worn as outerwear or pant bottoms.

All shoes must be enclosed and fastened/tied properly. Slides, flip flops, and Crocs are **not allowed** at any time.

General Information

Asbestos In School

The 1986 Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires annual notification of any asbestos-containing building materials (ACM) within the school system. Under certain conditions, asbestos fibers could cause a health problem. Therefore, in order to minimize any hazard, an Asbestos Management Plan has been developed for each school. Each facility has an Asbestos Management Plan available, which identifies the location of ACM in the facility, available for public viewing during regular hours of operation. If you have any questions, please call Maintenance and Operations at 395-5563.

Telephone

The school telephone is for school use only. We do not call students to the telephone. Messages cannot be delivered except in the event of an emergency. We place high value on the instructional process and do not want to interrupt unless absolutely necessary. Teachers typically cannot talk to parents during the instructional day, but will respond to messages and emails within 48 hours.

Student Safety

All precautions should be taken to insure your child's safety during school hours and when your child is coming to or going home from school. Students should be aware of and have programmed into their devices an ICE contact (In Case of Emergency). Students should be reminded frequently that they must never accept rides from strangers.

For added safety and security, students must go directly to school each morning and directly home in the afternoon. Additionally, students should not arrive on campus unless it is 30 minutes before the instructional day begins. Staff are not available for supervision before that time. Students should also be picked up promptly upon dismissal. **Students not picked up on time for dismissal are subject to being escorted home by Campus Police.**

Documents To Be Signed

When students bring documents home to be signed, sign your name and return them immediately. Your signature is not an indication that you approve of the papers, but means that you have seen them. If you require additional information, please contact your child's teacher or the school.

STEM Library Learning Commons (media center)

The mission of the STEM Media Center is to provide students with the resources, desire and skills to become enthusiastic, lifelong, proficient learners. The media center is open and accessible by staff, students, and parents from 6:30am to 3:10pm. The media center may be temporarily closed during testing for a very limited time and the media center staff will communicate those dates and times. The services that are provided through the media center are as follows: teacher laminating, student printing, student computers, makerspace, student lunchtime services, resource lessons, morning news show, technology assistance and checkout of resources. Each school year every student and new teacher will be required to attend an orientation lesson for the media center. Books are available for checkout at a rate of two at a time and can be kept for two weeks. A student may place one book at a time on hold.

Board Policies & Procedures

Board of Education policies are under constant review and updating due to changes in State and Federal laws and Local Board directives. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct for the most current Policies and Procedures or visit www.sccpss.com.

Eligibility And Admittance

All students receiving special education, IEP, and gifted services must go through a screening process before entering the various programs. The request for screening may be made by the parent or the teacher. This process is a lengthy one; therefore, early identification is desirable.

SLD

Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) is a program which provides special help for those students who have been diagnosed as having difficulty in learning to write, read, discriminate sounds or work with numbers. These students often have average and above average intelligence but due to a learning problem are not doing well in one or more of the academic areas. Special materials are available within the school and additional resources are provided by the school system.

EBD

The Emotional Behavior Disorders Program provides help for students who have problems functioning full-time in a classroom. The amount of time spent in BD class is determined by the extent of the behavior disorder.

Speech

Students who have problems in speech may receive the assistance of a speech therapist for short periods of time each week. The particular type of speech problem is identified and the therapist plans activities to help correct the difficulty.

Gifted

The Gifted Program is a program designed to meet the educational needs of identified gifted students. This program is designed to nurture the unique abilities of these students. In the middle school setting, students are served through their core classes by gifted endorsed teachers.

The Savannah-Chatham County Board of Public Education does not discriminate in educational programs, activities, or employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. For further information or to file a complaint, contact:

Title IX Coordinator 208 Bull Street Savannah, GA 31401 (912) 395-5552
Section 504 Coordinator/ ADA Coordinator 208 Bull Street Savannah, GA 31401 (912) 395-5877

Sample

The STEM Academy @ Bartlett
Yellow Ticket

Student Name: _____ Date: _____ Time of Incident: _____

Marking Period 1 2 3 4

Level 1 Offenses (according to SCCPSS Code of Conduct)

- _____ 1. Bringing nuisance and non-related items on school property
- _____ 2. Cheating or copying the work of another student
- _____ 3. Classroom disruption
- _____ 4. Dress Code violation
- _____ 5. Minor damage of school property or property of others
- _____ 6. Misbehavior on school bus
- _____ 7. Refusal to follow directions (including turning in work)
- _____ 8. Rude and disrespectful behavior toward anyone, including name calling (isolated incidents)
- _____ 9. Inappropriate use of technology
- _____ 10. Tardy to class

Context and Description of

Problem: _____

According to our school behavior matrix, please indicate the area in the school where the incident occurred:

_____ Cafeteria _____ Classroom _____ Dismissal Area _____ Brain Break

_____ Hallway _____ Bathroom _____ Media Center _____ Digital Etiquette

Perceived Student Motivation: _____

Student Signature: _____

Teacher Signature: _____

This is your child's Yellow Ticket this semester.

This ticket requires a parent/teacher contact regarding your child's behavior. (phone, email, conference, etc.)

Parent Signature: _____ Revised 5/09/16

Please return this signed copy on the next school day. Please remember and reinforce with your child that repeated misbehavior could jeopardize their enrollment at The STEM Academy. Please contact our Administration with any questions.

Love Your People Trait that needs improvement: (Circle One)

Contribute Be Kind Be Patient Be Honest Encourage Apologize & Forgive Thank People

Sample

The STEM Academy @ Bartlett
Orange Ticket

Student Name: _____ Date: _____ Time of Incident: _____

Marking Period 1 2 3 4

Level 1 Offenses (according to SCCPSS Code of Conduct)

- _____ 1. Bringing nuisance and non-related items on school property
- _____ 2. Cheating or copying the work of another student
- _____ 3. Classroom disruption
- _____ 4. Dress Code violation
- _____ 5. Minor damage of school property or property of others
- _____ 6. Misbehavior on school bus
- _____ 7. Refusal to follow directions (including turning in work)
- _____ 8. Rude and disrespectful behavior toward anyone, including name calling (isolated incidents)
- _____ 9. Inappropriate use of technology
- _____ 10. Tardy to class

Context and Description of Problem: _____

According to our school behavior matrix, please indicate the area in the school where the incident occurred:

_____ Cafeteria _____ Classroom _____ Dismissal Area _____ Brain Break

_____ Hallway _____ Bathroom _____ Media Center _____ Digital Etiquette

Perceived Student Motivation: _____

Student Signature: _____

Teacher Signature: _____

This is your child's Orange Ticket this semester.
This ticket requires a parent/teacher contact regarding your child's behavior. (phone, email, conference, etc.)

Parent Signature: _____ Revised 5/09/16
Please return this signed copy on the next school day. Please remember and reinforce with your child that repeated misbehavior could jeopardize their enrollment at The STEM Academy. Please contact our Administration with any questions.

Love Your People Trait that needs improvement: (Circle One)

Contribute Be Kind Be Patient Be Honest Encourage Apologize & Forgive Thank People

Sample

The STEM Academy @ Bartlett
Red Ticket

Student Name: _____ Date: _____ Time of Incident: _____

Marking Period 1 2 3 4

Level 1 Offenses (according to SCCPSS Code of Conduct)

- _____ 1. Bringing nuisance and non-related items on school property
- _____ 2. Cheating or copying the work of another student
- _____ 3. Classroom disruption
- _____ 4. Dress Code violation
- _____ 5. Minor damage of school property or property of others
- _____ 6. Misbehavior on school bus
- _____ 7. Refusal to follow directions (including turning in work)
- _____ 8. Rude and disrespectful behavior toward anyone, including name calling (isolated incidents)
- _____ 9. Inappropriate use of technology
- _____ 10. Tardy to class

Context and Description of Problem: _____

According to our school behavior matrix, please indicate the area in the school where the incident occurred:

_____ Cafeteria _____ Classroom _____ Dismissal Area _____ Brain Break

_____ Hallway _____ Bathroom _____ Media Center _____ Digital Etiquette

Perceived Student Motivation: _____

Student Signature: _____

Teacher Signature: _____

Administrator Signature: _____

Per school policy, the consequence of a Red Ticket is detention. If your child does not attend the scheduled detention, he/she will be immediately referred to administration. If you have any questions, please contact the school at 395-3500. This ticket results in an "N" for conduct grade and requires a Parent Conference. If your child receives a Discipline Referral, he/she will receive "U" for this marking period's conduct grade. Any Red Ticket issued also makes the student ineligible for Honor Roll. A Red Ticket could also result in additional consequences carried through the next marking period (denial of Athletics, Band, etc.)

Parent Signature: _____

Please return this signed copy on the next school day. Repeated misbehavior could jeopardize their enrollment at The STEM Academy - to be discussed in Parent Conference.

Required Conference Date & Time: _____ (revised 5/09/16)

Love Your People Trait that needs improvement: (Circle One)

Contribute Be Kind Be Patient Be Honest Encourage Apologize & Forgive Thank People

Sample



Technology-iPad Acceptable Use & Procedures Agreement

Savannah Chatham Public School System
The STEM Academy

I understand that all STEM Academy students and their parents must sign this agreement before the student can be issued an iPad for take-home privileges, use computers or equipment in school or bring their own device for academic use. **All STEM students are required to have a school-issued device.** By signing this, I agree to follow all provisions of the SCCPSS Technology Policy and the SCCPSS Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and the Student Discipline Policy, all available on the SCCPSS website.

I agree that:

- I will only use the iPad or other device for work that my teacher assigns.
- I will only search the internet or use streaming audio/video when and where assigned.
- I understand that this technology is a learning tool and that any adult may take my device if I am not using it for school purposes.
- **I will provide a charger and case that offers heavy-duty protection and cushioning. The iPad will remain in the case at all times. Any time an adult sees an iPad out of a case, the device will be held in the media center until a case is obtained.**
- **I will bring my iPad to school every day with a full charge. Failure to bring my iPad to school for three consecutive days will result in disciplinary action. The iPad is school property and is not to be kept at home for an extended period of time.**
- I will handle the iPad or other school equipment with care and carry it carefully.
- I will maintain a positive attitude and appreciate my opportunity to use my device for learning.
- I agree to follow all copyright laws and to avoid plagiarism.
- I understand that I am not to give my school iPad to another student. If any damage occurs by allowing another student to take possession of it I realize my parents and I are still responsible for the damages.
- I understand that there are disciplinary consequences that will result from misuse or abuse of my device. Examples would include deleting school installed software and settings, cyber bullying, damaging computers, systems or networks, or accessing inappropriate materials.
- **I understand that if there is loss or damage to a school issued technology device that we are responsible for contacting the Media Center and/or Campus Police ASAP and paying for repair/replacement of damaged equipment. Failure to pay iPad fine will result in action by Campus Police and/or holding of records.**
- **All insurance claims and repairs must be done through the school.**
- **I understand that it is a requirement to purchase insurance and students will not receive their school device until a copy of the insurance receipt is received by the media center. If I choose the monthly payment plan and my payment is declined any month, then I know I will be subject to repair fees since non-payment results in loss of coverage.**

Student Name:	Homeroom:
Student Signature:	

Parent Name:	
Parent Signature:	Date:



I have read the STEM Academy Student Handbook and acknowledge the rules and regulations written. I acknowledge failure to comply with these school rules may jeopardize my place at The STEM Academy @ Bartlett.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____

Date: _____

Please sign and return to your homeroom teacher.