



WEST CHATHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

Home of the Wildcats

Student Handbook

2019-2020

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to an excellent year at West Chatham Middle School. I am excited to serve as principal of a school where excellence is the standard and mediocrity is unacceptable. As a school, we believe in a positive culture, an effective instructional program, community involvement, and a comprehensive growth plan so that all students will be successful. We embody and practice the belief that learning is a privilege that is open to all students. At West Chatham, we promote a confident atmosphere by letting children know that they are important and we encourage them to be their best. Moreover, we are aware that parents play an important role in the success of their children and we greatly appreciate all parental involvement. Please read through the WCMS Student Handbook very carefully and become familiar with our expectations, guidelines, and procedures.

Sincerely,

Julian J. Childers, III
Principal, WCMS

Our Guiding Principles:

To create a culture of high expectations in which all students are provided with a variety of challenging learning opportunities that prepare them to meet or exceed standards in all areas as measured by standardized tests and enter high school with the foundation for both academic and social success.

To provide excellence in leadership and academics which leads to higher levels of learning, increased student achievement and preparation for success in high school and beyond.

Our Beliefs:

- We believe that students should be held responsible and accountable for their behavior and academic success.
- We believe that students have the right to learn and teachers have the right to teach in a safe, clean and healthy environment.
- We believe that parental support is a key component to every student's success.
- We believe that regular attendance is imperative to student achievement.
- We believe that the education of our students should be a partnership among the school, home and community.
- We believe that students learn best when they are actively engaged in the learning process and provided with a variety of learning opportunities.
- We believe that high expectations from all school personnel are necessary to achieve a world-class education.
- We believe that students should be provided with a variety of instructional opportunities in order to support different learning styles.
- We believe that each student is a unique individual with his/her own physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs.

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CONCEPT

The middle school has a unique mission that sets it apart from both the elementary and the high school. Middle school is also different from the junior high school. It recognizes the youth it serves as being neither children nor adults, but as being in a transition between the two stages. Middle school recognizes the special needs of these students and is designed to meet these needs.

The middle school emphasizes basic skills, explorations, and relationships, not specializations. During the middle school years, students begin to sort out the many interests they have developed during childhood, gradually narrowing the range to the few they will pursue in their adult lives.

Students are assigned to a team consisting of a math teacher, a language arts teacher, a science teacher and a social studies teacher. The team concept provides an opportunity for the team members to get to know each student and to plan cooperatively for the needs of all members of the group. The team concept also allows all members of the team to meet with parents because the student's progress in each class is the concern of the entire team. *Team members seek parental support in all critical decisions affecting the student's progress.*

GRADING:

Students are encouraged and expected to meet the highest academic standards. Writing is stressed across the curriculum. Grading and promotion are based on School Board Policy IHE. This policy states that middle school students must pass Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

Academic Status Reports will be available through Powerschool to keep parents informed of student progress. Parents are encouraged to register for Power School access, an online resource for monitoring their child's grades and attendance. Visit the SCCPS website or the West Chatham Middle School website for more information. Contact our Parent Facilitator with additional questions.

Report cards will be sent home every nine weeks. The report cards should be signed by the parents and the appropriate copy returned to the school. Grades are based on classwork/homework and quizzes and tests.

MAKE-UP WORK

A student who has been absent may make up missed class work, provided the student makes arrangements with his/her teachers within five (5) days upon returning to school. ***It is the student's responsibility to make these arrangements.*** All make-up work must be submitted within the deadline set by the teacher. Make-up work does not include assignments missed due to reasons other than absences. Parents are required to submit a written excuse for the absence as soon as the student returns to school.

CREDIT RECOVERY:

Students who do not earn the minimum 70 points required to pass a course for the marking period may have the opportunity to participate in Credit Recovery activities provided through afterschool tutorial and Saturday school. Students that attend the credit recovery program and demonstrate mastery of skills and concepts to the established standards will have the previously failing grade changed to at least a 70. Students must complete credit recovery work during the marking period immediately after the course failure. Grades become final and the student will not have any further opportunities for credit recovery.

EXTRA CREDIT WORK:

Extra credit work is given at the discretion of teachers, based on individual cases. ***Extra credit work is not given for students who have expended no effort during the course of a grading period.***

HOMEWORK:

Homework is an extension of classwork and should be challenging and meaningful. Homework will be used to reinforce skills taught at school, not to introduce new content. Teachers will clearly explain homework requirements, but it is the responsibility of the student to write down homework assignments in his/her agenda books. Parents should check all homework to make sure that it is complete and accurate. It is understood that the amount and type of homework may vary with individual students. Homework will be assessed by the teacher and incorporated into the student's grade. Please be reminded that homework/classwork is counted as a portion of the final grade.

SCHOOL GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

West Chatham Middle School has three full time counselors who strive to provide a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate guidance and counseling program to all students.

Our counselors help students reach their academic potential by providing the following services: classroom guidance; small/large group counseling; individual counseling; parent/teacher consultation and collaboration; and appropriate referrals. Students, teachers and/or parents may refer a child to the school counselor by completing a counseling referral form or contacting the counselor who is responsible for their child's team. The primary goal of school counselors is to help students deal with issues affecting their academic success. Because school counselors are responsible for providing services to all students, on-going individual counseling services are not available. A counselor may refer students who require in-depth counseling to outside agencies.

Our counselors maintain a busy weekly schedule that allows time for classroom guidance, group and individual counseling and scheduled meetings. We realize the importance of parental involvement and value your effort to be an active part of your child's education, so we would love to talk with you. You may schedule a conference with your child's counselor by calling 395-3659. **Unscheduled visits may result in a lengthy wait.**

COMMUNICATION PLAN:

It is our goal to include parents in every part of the educational program. Several forms of communication are used to keep parents informed about school events and the progress of their child. Parents should carefully read the student handbook, notes and letters that are sent home, view the WCMS webpage, and stay informed through WCMS' social media platforms (FaceBook, Instagram, and Twitter). Teachers also use the agenda book, REMIND, and email to communicate with parents. Parents are also encouraged to use Power School to monitor their child's progress online. West Chatham Middle School also utilizes a phone message delivery system which allows us to call all homes with a pre-recorded message about upcoming events and activities.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Parents having concerns or questions about school related matters should **first contact their child's teacher**. If after speaking with the teacher, the concern has not yet been resolved, the parents should schedule a **time to meet with the assistant principal** for their child's grade level. Finally, if the problem still has not been resolved, the parent should submit concerns **in writing and schedule a meeting with the principal**. By putting concerns in writing, the principal will be able to research the problem prior to meeting with the parent. ***Due to instructional leadership responsibilities, the principal may not be available for drop in conferences. Please contact the school office to schedule an appointment.***

PROCEDURE FOR SCHEDULING A CONFERENCE:

- Contact your child's teacher by phone, written note or email to request a conference. Teacher email addresses are published on the school's website and in PowerSchool. Conferences are scheduled during the teacher's planning time two to three days each week. Special arrangements may be made for before or after school conferences in emergency situations.
- **Instructional time is valuable and may not be interrupted.** Impromptu conferences during the school day are not permitted. This includes during homeroom time and dismissal time as teachers are required to monitor their classrooms and the hallway as students are arriving and leaving.

ATTENDANCE

Regular, punctual attendance at school is critical for the academic success of students. SCCPS Policy JBD-R states that students are expected to be in attendance at school every day. Excused absences include those due to personal illness, death of a family member, observance of a religious holiday, orders of governmental agencies, participation in school sponsored activities, medical necessities, (quarantine) or hazardous conditions. Parents are required to provide the school with a written excuse as soon as the student returns to school in order for the absence(s) to be considered excused and make-up work to be given. Written excuses must include the student's full name, dates of absence, reason for absence, parent's signature and a contact number for verifying the excuse. If a written excuse is not received, the absence will be considered unexcused.

The school will contact the homes of students that are absent from school through the use of an automated notification system. Students will be referred to the school social worker for frequent absences. Students that continue to be truant from school despite efforts made by the school to gain compliance with the attendance policy will result in the student being referred to juvenile court.

TARDINESS/EARLY RELEASE

Students entering the building after 7:40am are considered to be tardy and must be signed in by their parents to be admitted to class. Students that walk to school will sign in and their parents will be notified. Persistent tardiness will be referred to the school social worker. It is mandatory that students arrive on time and remain at school throughout the school day. If it is necessary for a student to leave school before the end of the school day, the parent or guardian must come in to the school in person and sign his/her child out. A photo ID will be required. In cases where the right to custody is in doubt, the school administration will require evidence that the person requesting the student is entitled to custody. All students must be signed out through the front office. Students are not released to anyone directly from a classroom. NOTE: No child under the age of 18 may remove a student from school early without the parent's written permission and a photo ID.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROCEDURES

- No student should be dropped off at West Chatham Middle School before 7:10am unless a detention or tutorial has been pre-arranged with a particular teacher. The school cannot be held responsible for supervising students dropped off before 7:10am.
- Upon arrival, students should report directly to homeroom. All areas will be supervised by staff members.
- All bus riders will be dismissed by bus route numbers in the afternoons. The bus route numbers are called via the intercom.
- All car riders will enter and exit the building using the front entrance of the school. Parents must wait in the parent pick-up line. Students will not be permitted to cross the line of traffic to meet their parents in the parking lot. Car riders are dismissed between 2:40pm and 2:50pm and should be picked up no later than 3:00pm.
- Walkers and bike riders are dismissed following the final bus dismissal. Walkers and bike riders are required to leave the campus immediately.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

An extracurricular activity is any school-sponsored program scheduled outside the regular class day. A student must earn eligibility to participate in any extracurricular activity. Eligibility criteria include the following:

1. A student must be promoted to the next grade level at the end of the previous school year.
2. Summer school may be used to gain eligibility status.
3. Students cannot reach their 16th birthday prior to May 1st of the current school year.
4. A student must have a physical examination completed by a physician prior to participation. The physical is good for one calendar year.
5. Students may not have an overall Unsatisfactory Conduct grade on their most recent report card. The administration has the authority to assign the overall conduct grade.
6. Student conduct and teacher recommendations are also taken into consideration.
7. Due to the commitment of time required to participate in a team sport, students are not permitted to participate in two team sports simultaneously.

STUDENT ID BADGES

The SCCPS Student Dress Code requires that students in grades 6-12 maintain and display a current school ID on a lanyard around their neck at all times while on campus, on school buses and at school sponsored events. The school will provide each student with an ID badge and lanyard at the beginning of the year at no charge. If a student loses, defaces or otherwise destroys his/her ID badge, a replacement must be purchased immediately. The replacement charge is \$5.00 for the ID badge. **Failure to be in compliance with this portion of the dress code will result in appropriate consequences ranging from lunch detention to administrative detention to in-school suspension.**

DISCIPLINE

We believe that all teachers have the right to teach and all students have the right to learn. No one has the right to interrupt this process. Students should be in an educational environment that is safe, orderly, and supportive. Students are expected to conduct themselves properly and in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct of the Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools. Parents should expect students to maintain acceptable school behavior. Cooperation and communication with parents is the key to a successful learning situation. Students will be held personally accountable for their behavior at all times when they are on any property of the Board of Education, attending school-sponsored events or activities, or riding as a passenger in any vehicle operated by the BOE or it's representatives. These standards of conduct are mandatory and will apply uniformly to all students. **Disciplinary consequences are assigned progressively, with consequences becoming more severe with each additional disciplinary referral.**

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 requires that schools maintain confidentiality of a student's educational record. Any information that pertains to a student's educational record, including grades, educational placement and discipline, will only be discussed with the parents/guardians of that student. Parents may obtain copies of their child's permanent record by submitting a written request to the counselor's clerk and showing a picture ID. Please allow 24 hours for your request to be processed. In the case of disciplinary situations, parents are not entitled to know what consequences were assigned to children other than their own.

COMPUTER AND INTERNET USAGE AT SCHOOL

Each student is provided with a unique log in and password at the beginning of each school year. It is the student's responsibility to maintain the security of this information and not share it with other students. Any student that is found to be accessing or attempting to access inappropriate and/or obscene material from the Internet will lose their Internet privileges for the remainder of the school year and be subject to disciplinary action. Students are responsible and accountable for all Internet activity that occurs under their log in and password. All students and parents sign the 'acceptable use policy' at the beginning of each school year. Any off campus internet usage that has an impact on the safe and orderly operation of West Chatham Middle School is subject to disciplinary action (See Discipline Policy JD, Rules 2 and 6).

WEST CHATHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL DISCIPLINE PLAN:

Student Responsibilities:

Students will be expected to conduct themselves in the following manner:

- be punctual and demonstrate excellent attendance;
- follow all established procedures for arrival to and dismissal from school;
- be prepared for school with all necessary materials, completed homework, and written communication (permission slips, notes sent between parents and teachers, etc.);
- conduct themselves quietly and courteously in the hallways, cafeteria, and all common areas of the building and grounds;
- follow established classroom rules, procedures, and directions; comply with established consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Students may not bring the following items to school:

- any object which might inflict harm;
- candy, gum or sunflower seeds
- toys, games, cards, radios/CD players or any other item which may be disruptive to learning;
- drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or drug paraphernalia

Cellphone Policy:

***NOTE:** Students who bring cell phones to school will be expected to *turn their phones in to their homeroom teacher* who will secure them until the end of the day. Failure to follow this procedure shall be subject to the rules outlined in the Student Handbook for Success (Code of Conduct).

***NOTE:** Any unacceptable items brought to school will be *confiscated, and a parent conference will be required in order to have the item returned*. Appropriate disciplinary consequences may be assigned.

Students will not be permitted to engage in the following activities:

- bullying (as defined in the Savannah-Chatham County Student Code of Conduct);
- using abusive or profane language, gestures, or expressions;
- touching any student or adult with harmful intent;
- horseplay (playfully pushing, shoving, thumping, etc.)
- exhibiting disrespect to any adult or student;
- disrupting the teaching/learning process;
- damaging/defacing school property.

*** In the event of changes in the Board of Education Policies and Procedures or the Student Code of Conduct, these revisions will supercede the above procedures and parents and students will be notified of the changes.**

Adult Responsibilities:

Teachers will comply with the following procedures:

- send each parent a written explanation of the school and classroom discipline plan as well as the Student Code of Conduct booklet;
- provide the principal with a written explanation of the classroom procedures and secure the principal's approval;
- handle discipline problems in a calm and reasonable manner;
- keep parents notified of their child's behavior throughout the year and work with parents to address problems in a timely manner;
- reward students for appropriate behavior and model appropriate actions for them.

Parents are expected to comply with the following:

- acknowledge all school communications;
- attend parent programs and all scheduled conferences;
- read the school and classroom discipline plan as well as the Student Code of Conduct, review it with their child, and return the signed portion;
- supply their children with needed materials;
- teach their children responsibility for their classwork, homework, lunch money, books, and supplies;
- keep the school informed of current parent phone numbers and addresses;
- ensure that their child attends school regularly and on time.

In the event that a child is referred to the principal or assistant principal, administrators will comply with these procedures:

- follow due process;
- notify the parent/guardian;
- follow the school discipline plan.

In-School Suspension

Students are assigned to the In-School Intervention Program by an administrator for serious behavioral infractions. A student's conduct grade will be affected by assignment to the On-Site Intervention Program. Students that are assigned to ISS must comply with all rules and complete all assignments. Failure to do so may result in the student being suspended for the remainder of the assigned ISS days. Students assigned to ISS are not permitted to attend and/or participate in any extracurricular activity during their time in ISS. An overall N or U in conduct will be assigned for the marking period.

SUSPENSIONS/EXPULSIONS:

Board Policy JD states: "Students may be assigned detention, suspended temporarily or expelled from school for serious or repeated violation of student behavior rules, except as controlled by state or federal laws and/or policies. The rights of students will not be abridged, and due process will be followed in all cases."

Students suspended from school are not permitted to be on campus at any time during their suspension. Students suspended from school are not permitted to attend and/or participate in any extracurricular activities during their suspension from school. An overall "U" in conduct will also be assigned.

BUS CONDUCT/DISCIPLINE

Riding a school bus is a privilege afforded to all students living more than 1.5 miles from the school who can abide by the rules. The bus driver is in charge of the bus and its passengers. Students riding on school buses are expected to follow and adhere to all rules and policies of the Student Code of Conduct. Violations will result in temporary or permanent denial of bus transportation privileges. Students are expected to behave in an orderly manner at all times while riding the bus and while waiting at the bus stop. It is not our desire to deny bus transportation; however, it is our responsibility to maintain safe and orderly transportation for all students. Many buses are equipped with video surveillance equipment. However, these bus tapes are not the only means of investigating bus disciplinary issues. The school administration will use all available information when investigating an issue and assigning appropriate consequences. Remember, riding the school bus is a privilege.

BOOKBAGS

Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools require that all bookbags, tote bags, backpacks, athletic bags, and all other similar items, which are used by students, should be clear or have a mesh that is see-through. Athletes that bring sports equipment bags to school must check those in with the coaches upon arrival at school. The book bag requirement is in effect when the student is on any Board of Education property, at any school-sponsored event or activity, riding in any vehicle operated by the Board of Education, or in any school safety zone. Bags can be either

see-through clear plastic or light-colored mesh. All mesh bags must be wide mesh, so that items inside the bags are clearly visible.

Handbags, purses, pocketbooks, and similar items must be no larger than 8 ½ x 11 inches (the size of a sheet of paper), 3-4 inches wide, and must not be large enough to contain a regular sized textbook. These items do not have to be clear or see-through if they meet the size requirement. The principal reserves the right to determine whether any item conforms to the policy.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

The purpose of our dress code is to ensure an atmosphere conducive to learning. Students must be dressed appropriately at all times. **The school administration reserves the right to determine whether any student is dressed inappropriately and to take action to correct the infraction.** Students who arrive at school inappropriately dressed will be offered one of the following options:

- To change clothes and remain at school
- To be isolated for the day
- To return home accompanied by a parent

SCCPSS Policy Statement:

As a part of our safety program, all schools in the SCCPSS began enforcement of a mandatory uniform policy. The purpose of this policy is to provide additional opportunities for school safety, to minimize disruptions, to easily identify trespassers on campuses, and to promote improvement in student behavior. School uniforms also help students to experience a greater sense of school identity and belonging and to promote academic excellence.

Procedure Statement: With the understanding that a student's behavior is influenced by the way the student is dressed and with the understanding that no student should dress in a manner that is disruptive or has an adverse effect on school activities, these mandatory uniform standards for student attire have been developed. Students are expected to dress in uniform during the school day and during school related activities.

WCMS School Uniform

The uniform for West Chatham Middle School is as follows:

- Solid khaki or navy pants, skirts, jumpers, shorts or capri pants made of standard uniform material (cotton and/or twill). Corduroy and denim fabric of any color pants are not considered to be of standard uniform material. Pants must be worn at the natural waist and have no zippers or pockets on the pant legs. Pants and shorts may not have cargo pockets.
- Solid white or navy blue polo-style collared shirts. Shirts that are too short to remain tucked in during the normal course of school activities cannot be worn.
- Shirts must be buttoned within two buttons of the top. Any undershirts worn under the uniform shirt must be solid white.
- Brown or black belts with simple buckles no larger than the student's ID badge (no advertisements or logos permitted)
- All shoes must have enclosed toes and heels and be fastened/tied properly
- Solid white or navy sweaters, vests and/or pullover sweatshirts may be worn over the uniform shirts while in the building. **Hooded sweatshirts/sweaters are not permitted.**
- All jackets that meet dress code requirements are acceptable for outdoor wear. While in the building **ALL** jackets must be **unzipped.**

WCMS Dress Code Requirements:

- Student ID badges must be worn above the waist and visibly displayed while the student is on campus and attending all school sponsored field trips. ID badges are not the personal property of the student and should not be defaced front or back in any way (writing, stickers, erasures, additional pictures, etc.) Students are issued one ID badge at no charge. Replacement ID badges must be purchased immediately if the original badge is lost, damaged or defaced.
- Students must not wear hats, caps, sweat bands or sunglasses while in the school building.
- Shorts, skirts and dresses must have a finished hem and be no shorter than 2 inches above the knee.

- Pants must be of appropriate size, worn at the natural waist and not drag the floor.
- Sweaters and sweatshirts must be of appropriate size. Collared shirt must be visible under sweatshirts and sweaters.
- Undergarments must not be visible.
- Articles of apparel, including patches on jackets, tattoos, or jewelry, must not contain alcohol, tobacco, or other drug advertisements, obscene or inappropriate words or designs.
- The wearing of gang-related styles and/or symbols (i.e. bandanas) is prohibited.
- Choke collars, chains, wallet chain or any other jewelry considered dangerous will not be permitted.

***Violations of the dress code, including ID badges, are Level I offenses in the Student Code of Conduct. Repeated Level I violations become Level II offenses.**

VISITORS TO SCHOOL

All visitors must report to the office immediately upon arrival at school. All visitors are also required to present a valid ID upon entering the school. Parents who need to confer with a teacher should contact their child's teacher to set an appointment so that the instructional day is not interrupted. Instructional time will not be interrupted for unscheduled conferences. Parents are welcome to visit and observe any class provided that their visit does not cause a disruption to the learning environment.

ILLNESS/INJURY AT SCHOOL

If a student becomes ill or is injured at school, the parent will be contacted by the nurse. A parent will be expected to pick up the child in a timely manner. It is imperative that parents provide the school with current phone numbers (home, work, and emergency numbers).

STUDENT MEDICATIONS

To obtain optimum educational development in the least restrictive environment, some students need, during the school day, doctor-prescribed medications for the treatment of chronic disabilities and illnesses. For our students' safety and pursuant to Savannah-Chatham Board of Public Education policy 1056-P, the parent or legal guardian must follow these steps before the nurse or designee can administer medication to a student:

- the medication must be brought to the school in the pharmaceutical prescription bottle and presented to the nurse by the parent or legal guardian;
- the parent or legal guardian must complete and sign the approved medical form authorizing the nurse or designee to administer the medication.
- medications must be dropped off to the nurse between 7:30am -2:30pm.

TELEPHONE USE

Students are permitted to use the school phone only for emergencies, and parents should only expect to leave telephone messages for students in emergency situations. Plans for the day, or changes in plans, should be made at home before your child leaves each day. Unless we have written documentation for a change in transportation, your child will follow his usual form of transportation. Phone calls will not be put through to the classroom during instructional time.

DROPPING ITEMS OFF FOR STUDENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Instructional time is very valuable and will not be interrupted. Any items (homework, ID badges, PE clothes, etc.) brought in during the school day will be placed in the mailbox of the student's homeroom teacher. Teachers will check their mailbox during their planning period. The front office staff will not call into the classroom and interrupt instruction to tell students that their belongings have been dropped off. Parents and students are encouraged to make sure that the student has all of his/her belongings and school work prior to leaving home in the morning.

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

A nutritious breakfast and lunch are available in the school cafeteria and students are encouraged to take advantage of these programs. Students may bring a nutritious lunch from home for consumption in the cafeteria. Parents are discouraged from bringing in fast-food meals for their children. If a parent does bring in a meal from a restaurant for their child, the student will be provided with a place in the front office to consume this food. Students will not be permitted to consume restaurant food in the cafeteria.

MEDIA CENTER

The media center and all materials are made available to all students. A current, valid school ID is required to check out materials. Students are expected to return all materials. Students are expected to return all materials by the due date and in the same condition. Fines may be imposed in the event that borrowed materials are damaged or lost. Students are not permitted to check out additional books if they have outstanding library fines.

TEXTBOOKS AND FINES

Textbooks and other reusable materials and equipment are issued free of charge; however, it is the responsibility of each student to use textbooks and equipment carefully. Abuse, damage, or loss of equipment, books, and/or other materials assigned to or used by students may result in fines to repair or replace the item.

Students are expected to pay textbooks fines. Students should report any damage when they sign for the book at the beginning of the year. According to board policy, textbook fines must be paid before another book is issued or books are issued the following year.

LOST AND FOUND

The student should mark his belongings with his full name so that coats, hats, bookbags, etc. can be returned to him if lost. The Lost and Found Box is kept in the main office. Unclaimed items will be donated to Goodwill at the end of each marking period.

STUDENT TRAFFIC

Except for regularly scheduled class changes, student traffic outside classrooms should be absolutely minimal. Students will visit the restrooms on a sufficient and regular basis and should not expect to be dismissed from class individually for that purpose. **Teachers will provide written hall passes/agenda books anytime a student leaves the classroom.** Any traffic outside of a classroom, other than for emergencies, will be considered unnecessary and unacceptable.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips to enhance the instructional program are available to students. No student will participate in a field trip without written permission from the parent or guardian. Signed field trip slips should be returned by the student on the due date. **Students should not expect to call parents to bring or fax field trip forms to school. Students must have a current, valid ID in order to participate in any field trips.** Field trip participation may be denied for conduct grades below satisfactory. Students that register for an out-of-town field trip will lose the opportunity to participate in that field trip if they violate the Code of Conduct and receive ISS or OSS for their misbehavior. Removal from an out-of-town trip may result in the loss of some or all of the trip fees being forfeited.

West Chatham Middle School 2019-2020 Student Clubs and Organizations

Please review this listing of school-sponsored student clubs/organizations. You must provide the school with written notice if you do not approve for your child to join or participate in any one of these clubs/organizations. The "Opt-Out" form is included within the Code of Conduct Book.

Name of Club or Organization	Purpose
Art Club	A place for practicing artists to hone in on their skills, develop their techniques and portfolios, as well as collaborate with other artists like themselves.
Badminton Club	A great sport for fitness and excellent for people of all ages. Find out about badminton and why you should start playing.
Band Club	Students will rehearse their playing skills with sectional rehearsals and discussion of extended playing techniques.
Black History Scholars Club	The place to learn about African American history. Students will prepare for an upcoming competition against other schools.
Book Club	The place to be if you like to read. Students will get to choose and read varied genres of books.
Board/Card Games Club	Students compete with each other using strategies, skill, and sometimes luck.
Buddy Club	Provides opportunities for students with disabilities to form friendships with students without disabilities in the school.
Classic Movies Club	The place to not only watch movies, but also to learn how to create them.
Coding Club	Learn how to design and build computer programs.
Cooking Club	Students learn how to prepare a variety of dishes, use utensils and measurements, understand recipes and basic cooking vocabulary, utilize safe cooking methods and explore what foods/recipes promote healthy living.
Dance/Drama Club	Students learn dance movements, sometimes accompanied by dialogue.
Drawing/Sketching Club	Students make rough drawings or depictions with pencils, pens, or crayon.
FBLA - Future Business Leaders of America Club	FBLA introduces middle school students to the world of leadership and business with career exploration, community service, and immersive educational programs. Students learn about free enterprise.
Fishing Club	The fishing club focuses on strategies that work out of the water. Students with learn about different species of fish and the best tackle.
Girl Scouts	The organization promotes service to others. Girls learn about the world and doing things for people other than themselves.
Golf Club	Students learn the rules of golf by playing the sport. They learn how to swing the club and how to score.
GLOSS	A mentoring club that assures that girls leave WCMS with a plan for their future while demonstrating good character and citizenship, and living a healthy lifestyle.
International Club	A fun way to learn more about different cultures, traditions, holidays, languages, and the uniqueness of people from all around the world.
Journalism/Creative Writing Club	The club will allow students to create literary masterpieces that can be shared with the school and community.

Jr. ROTC	The club allows students to explore military life, discipline, tactics and skill, leadership, and career opportunities.
Male Chorus	A place for male students to show off, let off some steam and have fun with singing.
Male Dreamers	Male dreamers is a club that teaches male students respect, integrity, honor and commitment. Students complete community service projects and attend numerous field trips in and out of Chatham county.
Model U.N.	It is an educational simulation and/or academic activity in which students can learn about diplomacy, international relations and the United Nations.
National Jr. Honor Society	The club promotes leadership skills for all students who qualify academically.
Origami Club	Students learn the traditional Japanese art or technique of folding paper into a variety of decorative or representational forms such as animals or flowers.
Random Acts of Kindness	Students promote kindness by doing fun, simple pay it forward activities in the classrooms, school and community.
Reading Quiz Bowl	The Helen Ruffin reading quiz bowl was founded in order to spark children's interest in reading and make it competitive.
School Beautification Club	The club's purpose is to identify areas in and around the school that are in need of beautification and then find ways and resources to improve it.
Sewing	Students use needles and thread to fasten or attach objects using stitches.
Stem Challenge	The club for students who have questions, ideas or projects they want to explore related to the topics of science, technology, engineering or mathematics.
Step Team	A student's entire body is used as an instrument to produce complex rhythms and sounds through a mixture of footsteps, spoken word, and hand claps.
Student Council	The club consists of students who have been elected by their peers to address issues of concern and organize student events and activities.
Quiz Bowl	Students prepare to compete against other middle schools in the academic quiz bowl. It is a quiz-based competition that tests players on a wide variety of academic subjects.