

J. F. Drake Middle School

2021-2022

Student/Parent Handbook



655 North Donahue Drive, Auburn, Alabama 36832 | 334.887.1940

Mission Statement

The mission of J.F. Drake Middle School, the unifying bridge, is to guarantee each student develops the confidence, character, and proficiency to become accomplished and responsible citizens through a system distinguished by:

- Developmentally appropriate, safe, and nurturing environments
- Innovative and engaging learning experience
- Invested and involved stakeholders
- A diverse family culture of integrity, respect, and global awareness
- Personal maturity, courage, and perseverance
- Inspired life-long learners pursuing academic excellence

Objectives

- 100% of students actively participate in meaningful relationships
- 100% of students are lifelong learners pursuing academic excellence
- 100% of students embrace and perpetuate a culture of integrity

Strategies

- We will facilitate innovative and engaging learning experiences
- We will foster relationships with all stakeholders and leverage the resources within our community
- We will cultivate safe and nurturing environments
- We will commit to a culture of lifelong learning characterized by personal and professional development

This student handbook is a guide to the rules, expectations, and procedures of J.F. Drake Middle School. It is in accordance with the goals and objectives of the ACS school board. Please review the ACS Parent Handbook in addition to the J.F. Drake Middle School handbook.

ABSENCES

Immediately following an absence, the student should present a written excuse explaining any excused absence or it will be considered unexcused. Upon returning to school from an absence, the student will be given three (3) school days to present the written excuse. If a student fails to present the written excuse within the three-day period, the absence will be deemed unexcused. Excuses should be given to the office, not to the homeroom teacher.

Students with numerous absences or unexcused absences may be contacted by the Auburn City Schools Attendance Coordinator and/or requested to participate in our Early Warning program.

To receive credit toward promotion, a student shall not have more than 10 unexcused absences per year in any class, as required by Alabama state law. Days missed during a school transfer will be included in this total.

If a student is sick and must be absent from school for 3 days or more, you may contact the teacher before 9:00 a.m. concerning pick-up of any make-up work. For absences less than 3 days, teachers will provide work when the student returns. When a student returns to school from an absence, it is the student's responsibility to make-up any required work.

Teachers are not required to provide the work unless the child is sick or the principal has approved the reason for the absence. Any special requests for absences to be excused must be made to the principal 72 hours in advance of the absence. This includes religious holidays.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL SCHEDULE

Students should not arrive on campus before 7:45 a.m. Our school day begins at 8:10 a.m. Any students arriving after that time will be counted as tardy and MUST report to the office before going to class. All students must enter the school building's assigned drop-off place.

Students should be off campus NO LATER than 3:50 p.m. every school day unless the student is participating in a school-sponsored activity supervised by a member of the Drake faculty. Please be on time to pick up your student from after-school activities. Please make plans for afternoon transportation and ensure your child understands the plan prior to the beginning of the school day.

AUDIO AND/OR VIDEO RECORDING DEVICES PROCEDURES

Recordings may not be used to capture confidential student information protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and copyrighted materials protected under federal law.

These procedures regulate the use of any device that records audio or video in the school environment, particularly the classroom. All students and visitors must adhere to the following:

1. Students may possess instructional technology devices that record audio and/or video and utilize them as instructional tools in the classroom only with the consent and under the direction of the school administration and teacher, as it pertains to the curricular unit, lesson, or assignment.
2. Except in the circumstances of an observation with prior written authorization by the principal pursuant to the district's formal classroom observation procedures, all active recordings must be disclosed prior to recording to all parties present during recording. Parents/guardians are permitted to make an audio recording of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting in accordance with this procedure, as long as the intent to record the meeting is disclosed prior to the meeting in order to allow the district the opportunity to record the meeting as well.
3. Hidden recording devices are not permissible.

4. All recording devices must be powered off when not in use.
5. Publication of recording without prior written notice to and consent from the principal is prohibited.
6. Recording of private conversations without agreement by all parties is strictly prohibited.
7. All recordings must be in compliance with state and/or federal recording and/or wiretapping laws. All copyright and intellectual property laws and restrictions apply.
8. If a meeting (including an IEP meeting) is being audio recorded, the school will not keep a written conference record of the meeting as a more detailed documentation is being developed through the use of audio recording.

CAFETERIA PROCEDURES

1. Money should be deposited upon arrival to school.
2. All students must report to and remain in the cafeteria during their assigned lunch wave.
3. Students should go to the end of the serving line upon entering the cafeteria.
4. Students must talk in a normal, inside tone of voice. Shouting or yelling will not be accepted.
5. Students should not beat or hit on the cafeteria tables/seats.
6. Students will be allowed to charge up to two lunch and breakfast meals (this does not include a la carte items). When this limit is reached, students will be given an alternate meal until charges are paid in full.
7. All cafeteria debts must be cleared by the first week of May.
8. Due to Federal guidelines, students are not allowed to have food/drink delivered to them at school from any fast food or regular restaurant.

CANDY, GUM, AND PERSONAL ITEMS

Students may not bring candy, gum, toys, or cameras to school. If items are brought to school, they may be confiscated. If problems persist, disciplinary action will be taken.

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

School loyalty and pride are displayed by keeping our building neat and clean. Students who intentionally deface or damage school equipment or property in any way will be required to clean the article and pay for damages.

CHECK-OUT PROCEDURE

The school will release a student to parents, guardians, or persons listed as emergency contacts in PowerSchool. Additionally, the person checking out a student, must have and scan a state issued driver's license or state issued ID card. Students will only be released to individuals on their emergency contact list and who possess proper identification.

Students will be called from the classroom upon the parent's arrival in the office. Students are encouraged to return to school after appointments if possible. Upon returning, students should sign-in at the office before going back to class.

Students will not be called to the office for check out until the parent is on campus. Please do not call requesting students to be called to the office prior to your arrival on campus.

Checkouts will not be permitted after 3:00 p.m.

CITIZENSHIP

Good citizenship qualities are learned first in the home. Parents/guardians are their children's first teachers. Just as the home and the school are partners, good grades and good behavior are partners. A good citizen is eager to learn, to work, and to play. A good citizen feels very good about themselves and is respected by all.

It is the policy of J.F. Drake Middle School to involve parents/guardians as often as possible in discipline problems which may arise at school. We ask that parents assist us in emphasizing to their

students the importance of good behavior. When a problem warrants an administrator's participation, the classroom teacher completes a "Discipline Referral Form" and sends the student to the office.

Students suspended must not return to the campus (or any other school campus) during the school day or attend any school activities during the period of suspension. The suspension will be explained in a letter and/or phone call to the parent/guardians.

CONFERENCES

It is our belief that parent-teacher conferences are an essential part of the student's educational program. Anytime you desire a conference with your child's team of teachers, please schedule an appointment by calling the school secretary at 887-1940. Teachers must have advance notice so that they may arrange their schedules accordingly. Please talk with your child's teacher first when a question arises. Upon entering the building, report to the school's office to receive a visitor's sticker.

For planning purposes, teachers' planning periods are as follows for 2021-2022:

A period: Tigers

D period: Cosmic Cats

B period: Pumas

E period: Panthers

C period: Leopards

Static period: Resource/PE Teachers

DANCE

1. Parents/guardians will be notified of the beginning and ending times of each dance and are responsible for transportation to and from the dance.
2. Only currently enrolled Drake students will be allowed to attend the school dances.
3. Any student that is currently under suspension, assigned in-school suspension, or does not have any discipline points will not be allowed to attend that dance.
4. All students must be off campus no later than FIFTEEN MINUTES after the conclusion of the dance.
5. The school dances are school-sponsored activities; therefore, all rules and regulations (including dress code) will apply.

DETENTION

School-wide detention is assigned by administration only. Detention is held Tuesday through Thursday from 3:30 until 4:30 p.m. Any student missing detention due to an unexcused absence may be reassigned additional detentions, as follows:

- Missed 1 detention = Reassigned 2 detentions and parent is contacted
- Missed 2 detentions = Parent conference and ISS assigned

Any students missing detention due to excused absence or suspension will be automatically reassigned. They will automatically be expected to attend the next detention date.

A written notice will not be given for make-up days. If a student has a doctor, dentist, or legal appointment already scheduled on the day he/she is assigned to detention, the student must see administration before the day of the scheduled detention for instructions.

DISCIPLINE POINTS

Students will begin each semester with a total of 100 points. Students that lose all 100 points will not attend school-sponsored functions such as fieldtrips, dances, team celebrations, Bash-N-Splash, PBIS activities, and any other event deemed appropriate by the school administration. The following is a breakdown of how points will be deducted from students for disciplinary assignments:

- **Three Silent Lunches in a 9 Week Period** - 5 points
- **Team Detention** - 10 points per assignment

- **School-wide Detention** -15 points per day
- **In-school suspension** - 60 points per placement
- **Bus suspension** - 25 points per suspension
- **Suspension (Out-of-School)** - 20 points per day
- **Alternative School Placement** - 100 points per semester

For students having a discipline infraction that spans over both semesters, i.e. suspensions and ISS, the total discipline points lost will be split between the two semesters.

DRESS CODE

Please refer to the Auburn City Schools Parent and Student Handbook for the district's policy concerning dress code.

Students in violation of the dress code will be required to change immediately. If this requires a student to checkout, the absence will be marked as unexcused. For school secondary schools, which Drake Middle School is considered for these purposes, additional consequences could include detention, In-School Suspension, or Out-of-School Suspension if violations become chronic.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

The inappropriate use of any wireless communication device or any use of other electronic communication devices is prohibited at DMS during the regular school day from the beginning (7:45 a.m.) to the end of the school day (3:30 p.m.) or beginning or ending of a school activity.

Though not an exhaustive list, the following behaviors are considered an inappropriate use of an electronic communication device:

- Talking or receiving/sending texts on a device during the regular school day.
- Use of social media or communication platforms to communicate during the regular school day.
- Taking pictures or recording video during the regular school day.
- Playing music or videos on a device during the regular school day.

If a violation occurs, the following disciplinary actions will be taken:

- **First Offense:** Confiscated device returned to parent/legal guardian the next school day after it is taken up.
- **Second Offense:** Confiscated device kept for ten (10) school days, then returned to parent/guardian.
- **Third Offense:** Confiscated device kept for remainder of the semester, then returned to parent/ guardian.

If a student has a cell phone or electronic communication device, the student must secure the item. J.F. Drake Middle School is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones or digital devices.

If an electronic device is seen or heard during the course of a school day, the student will be issued a warning and parents will be contacted.

The principal or his/her designee may approve the use of such devices during medical emergencies, natural disasters, after regular school hours, at events or under circumstances in which the use of the devices serves safety and convenience without disrupting academic or school operations. The use of electronic equipment, such as iPads, distributed by the school system for instructional purposes is allowed.

**Please refer to the ACS Parent Student Handbook for any additional information.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

The office must have on record parent/guardian telephone numbers, as well as the telephone numbers of at least two local individuals who can be contacted in case of an emergency. Please complete the "Contact Update" form in the front office as soon as possible to report any changes to student information.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Safety drills are conducted monthly in the school. Fire drills are conducted monthly and the city fire inspector checks the school regularly. If a student pulls the fire alarm falsely, he/she will be suspended.

Parents are requested not to check students out when the school is under an emergency 'warning.' Standard emergency procedures will be followed. Parents should seek safe shelter themselves. Please do not call the school during emergency warnings - the school telephone line must remain open. The school follows a normal schedule under 'watch' conditions during the day; however, after-school activities will be cancelled under a watch.

If the opening of school is questionable because of emergency conditions, please listen to the local radio stations. **Announcements will be made by 5:00 a.m. Listen for the Auburn City Schools announcement, not the Lee County School System.**

During emergencies, students who ordinarily walk home from school may be kept under supervision at school or in another appropriate shelter. Buses may be delayed. Students will be released only to persons listed in the student information system (PowerSchool) or to persons with written permission from parents.

FAST FOOD

Fast food meals and carbonated drinks for breakfast or lunch at school is a violation of federal guidelines for child nutrition. Fast food meals and carbonated drinks cannot be delivered to school by parents, outside food vendors, or delivery services.

FIELD TRIPS

A signed permission slip will be required prior to each field trip. The permission slip must be returned to school PRIOR to the field trip. Misbehavior on a field trip may result in denial of future participation in such activities.

FIGHTING

Fighting will not be tolerated. Students who participate in fights will be suspended from school for a minimum of three days and may be assigned to In-School Suspension upon their return to school.

FLOWER/BALLOON DELIVERIES

Deliveries of flowers, balloons, birthday baskets, etc., will not be accepted for students. Invitations for personal parties should not be delivered at school.

HOMEWORK/CLASSWORK

Homework is an integral part of the instructional program. It may consist of such activities as make-up work, meaningful projects, collecting materials for classroom projects, listening to or viewing suggested radio and television programs or completing unfinished work. Some purposes of homework are to stimulate independent study habits, to develop responsibility and self-direction and to reinforce school learning.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure homework assignments are submitted or ready to be checked at the time requested by the teacher.

It is not the responsibility of an individual teacher or the teaching team to provide parents and students with a list of missing assignments during or at the end of a grading period. Homework is, most often, an immediate need that reinforces a skill learned that day or prepares students for the next day's lesson. All students will abide by this policy unless it is otherwise specified.

INSURANCE

Insurance coverage is available through the school for your child and varies in the amount of coverage depending on the policy chosen. Insurance forms are distributed to students during the first week of school.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

ISS placement can only be made by administration. While assigned to the ISS program, a student will receive credit for classwork completed and turned in. More specific guidelines will be given to the student and parent/guardian once a student is placed in ISS.

IPAD USE AND GUIDELINES

Students attending Auburn City Schools are encouraged to utilize the computing capability of ACS in pursuit of their educational objectives. ACS strives to keep up-to-date equipment, software, and communications capabilities at all schools in the system. Students and their parents/guardians, in return for the privilege of using the computing resources, software, and communication infrastructure of ACS, must agree to this policy. Students and their parents agree that violation of these policies could result in the suspension of their computing privileges but will not relieve or waive the responsibility of the students to complete any work assigned by their teachers.

Disciplinary consequences for students not using DMS iPads appropriately are as follows:

- **First Offense:** Warning and parent contact
- **Second Offense:** Student serves one (1) day of silent lunch (*counts in our discipline plan*)
- **Third Offense:** Student serves two (2) days of silent lunch and participate in an administrative conference (*counts in our discipline plan*)
- **Fourth Offense:** Student serves one (1) day in after-school detention
- **Fifth Offense and Subsequent Offenses:** Student loses iPad access for the remainder of the semester

**Please review the ACS Technology Use and Guidelines in the ACS Parent and Student Handbook for additional information.

LOST & FOUND

A student's personal possessions should be labeled plainly with his/her name. This is especially important for items of clothing. Any lost and found items are kept on the team's hallway. It is important that students assume responsibility for personal belongings, textbooks, and other school property. In January and May, all unclaimed items will be dispersed to charitable organizations.

LUNCH PROGRAM

At the beginning of school, each student will be assigned an account and a PIN number. The funds in this account may be used to purchase a meal or extra items in the cafeteria. Students should put money in their account during breakfast or homeroom/Bridge. The cashiers will not accept money or lunch deposits during the student's lunch wave.

Your student's account can receive any amount of money. Each purchase will subtract that amount from the account balance. At lunch your student will enter his/her 4 or 5-digit code to access the account. Money may be added to a student's account in one of three ways:

1. By check with the student's first and last name and phone number written on the check.

2. Cash in a sealed envelope with the student's name and the amount enclosed on the outside of the envelope.
3. Visit www.myschoolbucks.com online to check accounts and pay online. This will alleviate the need for students to make morning payments.

If parents/guardians wish to eat lunch with their child, they must let the office know by 8:30 a.m., and the cost of a visitor's lunch is \$3.50.

For the 2021-2022 school year, all standard meals will be free of charge. A la cart items are additional charges. Traditionally, the prices of breakfast is \$1.50 and lunch is \$2.50. Free or reduced-priced lunch applications must be completed annually during registration and/or at any time during the school year. Applications can be accessed online at <https://www.auburnschools.org/domain/1332>. The application must be fully completed. All students who were eligible for free or reduced-price lunches last year in Auburn City Schools will continue receiving free or reduced-price lunches for a limited time until the new forms are processed. If you have any questions, please contact our school office at 334-887-1940.

MEDICATION

1. Any medication must be brought to school by a parent or guardian with the proper documentation.
2. ALL medications will be administered at the nurse's station, by the school nurse, or a parent/guardian may come and administer medication to their child.
3. Students **MAY NOT** have prescription medications OR over-the-counter medications in their possession. If a student is found to be in possession of any medication, parent contact will occur and disciplinary consequences may be assigned. The only exceptions are inhalers and Epipens, which may be carried by the student as long as the proper forms are on record in the office.
4. **ALL** medications given at school must have a signed Medication Authorization Form. A new form must be completed annually. Copies are available in the front office or in the Auburn City Schools Pupil Progression Plan and Statement of Responsibilities for School Personnel, Parents, and Students.
 - a. Over-the-Counter – parent/guardian only signature
 - b. Prescription – **parent/guardian and prescriber's signatures**
5. **ALL** medications must be in the original bottle, either a pharmacy labeled prescription bottle or an original over-the-counter bottle. Any measuring utensils should also be included if needed. Over-the-counter medication will be given as directed on the bottle, if a request is different than the directions on the medication bottle, a physician signature is needed.
6. School personnel will not administer any medication unless they have received a medication form with proper signatures and the medication has been received in an appropriately labeled container from the parent/guardian. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Please adhere to the medication guidelines. If you have questions or concerns about your student's healthcare at school, please contact the school nurse.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of the Board that no person in this district shall, on the basis of race, color, disability, creed, religion, sex, age or national origin be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination in, any education program or activity and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXCUSES

Physical education is a vital part of the school's curriculum. Students should wear clothes that allow for participation in physical activity and athletic shoes appropriate for physical activity. If your child cannot participate in PE, please submit a doctor's excuse to your child's PE teacher. Your child may be given alternative assignments during the P.E. class.

PICTURES

Parents will receive a notice announcing school pictures dates for individual pictures and team pictures so their students may dress accordingly.

PROGRESS REPORTS/REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued every nine (9) weeks with a progress report scheduled to be reviewed on the PowerSchool Parent Portal midway in the quarter (refer to the Parent and Student Handbook for dates). Students will be responsible for delivering these documents home. Report cards must be signed by the parent/guardian and returned to school. Parents/Guardians may also review their student(s) grades on the student information system (PowerSchool). Contact Central Office at 887-2100 to obtain login information.

RULES

Courtesy and good manners should be the key to a student's conduct at school. A good attitude toward teachers and fellow students will make school enjoyable for all. The policies listed in this handbook are designed to ensure safety and an effective learning environment. Anything not covered in this handbook or ACS Parent and Student Handbook will be decided on an individual basis by the school administration. The interpretation of all the policies in this handbook is reserved by the administration.

STATE TESTING

All state-mandated testing will be administered in late spring. Please refer to the DMS website for up-to-date test schedules.

STUDENT ID BADGE

Students are required to properly wear an identification badge during the school day. Damaged, altered, lost, or badges will result in a \$5.00 replacement fee. One school-issues lanyard and protective pouch will be given to each student. Replacement costs of these items is \$2.00 per item.

Disciplinary consequences will be assigned for students not having or refusing to wear their identification badge. Consequences will be assigned as follows:

- **First Offense:** Warning and temporary badge issued
- **Second Offense:** Student serves one (1) day of silent lunch (*counts in our discipline plan*)
- **Third Offense:** Student serves two (2) days of silent lunch and administrative conference (*counts in our discipline plan*)
- **Fourth Offense:** Student serves one (1) day in after-school detention
- **Fifth Offense and Subsequent Offenses:** Student serves two (2) days of after-school detention up to an ISS Placement

TARDIES

It is very important that students arrive to school and to individual classes on time. Repeated tardiness is harmful to the student's educational process and disruptive to the class.

If a student is tardy to school five times or to an individual class during a nine-week grading period, the parent/guardian may be contacted by Auburn City School's Attendance Coordinator. Other disciplinary actions may be taken by the school. The Early Warning program through the Lee County Juvenile Court will be utilized for excessive tardies and absences. Student tardies (to school and to class) will result in the following actions (Every Nine Weeks):

- 1st and 2nd tardy will be recorded, but no disciplinary action will be taken.
- 3rd tardy to class/school = 1 school detention
- 4th tardy to class/school = 2 school detentions

- 5th tardy to class/school = 3 school detentions and Parent Conference.
- 6th tardy to class/school = ISS placement
- 7th tardy to class/school = 1 day of School Suspension

OFFICE TELEPHONE

Students are allowed to use the office phone only in cases of emergency (i.e. illness). After-school plans need to be made prior to leaving home in the morning. Students are responsible for bringing their homework and class projects to school. Please do not call with messages for students.

TEXTBOOKS

Although textbooks are no longer issued to students, a class set may be utilized during instruction. Occasionally, a student may check one out. Students are expected to take good care of these textbooks. Lost books and damaged books will be paid for by the student. Charges for damages are based on the condition of the book(s) at the time of issue.

TRANSPORTATION

Students living two miles or more from the school are invited to use our school bus transportation as a means of traveling to and from school. A complete schedule of all school bus routes and stops is available in the school office. Students living within two miles of J.F. Drake School do not qualify for bus transportation. Students wishing to go to someone else's house or to go home with a friend need to provide their own transportation. Students may ride only their assigned bus. If a student would like to ride a different school bus, parents must complete the Parent/Guardian Transportation Consent Form. The student must give this form to the bus driver. It is the parent's responsibility to bring or pick up his or her student who misses the bus.

VISITORS

Visitors are welcome; however, anyone entering the school building must first come to the main office. Visitors must present a valid state/government issued I.D. when asked to do so by front office staff. If you would like to visit your child's classroom, please notify the teacher ahead of time to avoid scheduling conflicts.

A student is never to be permitted to leave the school with anyone who is not clearly identified as his/her parent/guardian or person authorized to act on behalf of his/her parent/guardian.

Drake Middle School uses the Raptor Visitor Identification system to ensure the safety and security of our campus. Visitors are required to visibly wear the visitor's pass when on campus.

WITHDRAWAL

In case of withdrawal, parents should give a minimum of 48 hours' notice for the school to properly prepare the necessary reports. Reports and records will be transferred to the respective enrolling school upon request.

IMPORTANT DATES

August 2021

First Student Day-----August 10

September 2021

Labor Day Holiday----- September 6

October 2021

End of 1st 9 Weeks ----- October 12

2nd Nine Weeks Begins----- October 13

Staff Development/Parent Conf Day----- October 18

November 2021

Veterans Day Holiday----- November 11

Thanksgiving Holiday-----November 24-26

December 2021

End of 2nd Nine Weeks-----December 17

Winter Holiday Begins-----December 21

January 2022

3rd Nine Weeks Begins-----January 6

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday ----- January 17

February 2022

President's Day ----- February 21

March 2022

Spring Break-----March 7-11

End of 3rd Nine Weeks----- March 18

4th Nine Weeks Begins----- March 21

April 2022

April Holiday (Weather/Make-Up Day)----- April 15 and 18

May 2022

Last Student Day ----- May 26

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

DMS: <https://www.auburnschools.org/drake/>

DMS Schoology: <https://acs.schoology.com>

ENVISION: <https://www.pearsonrealize.com>

PBIS Rewards: <https://www.pbisrewards.com/login/>

Parent Portal: <https://auburncs.powerschool.com/public/>

My School Bucks: www.myschoolbucks.com