Renaissance Middle School

Student Handbook 2023-2024



Dr. Ava Williams, Principal

#operateinexcellence

7155 Hall Road Fairburn, Georgia 30213 470-254-4330 470-254-4338 (fax)

www.fultonschools.org/schools/renaissancemiddle

It is the policy of Fulton County School System not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability in any employment practice, educational program or any program, activity or service. If you wish to make a complaint or request accommodation or modification in any program, activity or service, contact the Compliance Coordinator, 6201 Powers Ferry Road NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30339, or phone 470-254-3600

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

PRINCIPALS & ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Dr. Ava Williams Principal

6th Grade Assistant Principal Ms. Priscilla Branch 7th Grade Assistant Principal Ms. Nicole Browder Dr. Valencia Bradshaw 8th Grade Assistant Principal Ms. Sajata Brown 6th Grade Dean of Students 7th Grade Dean of Students Ms. Jacqueline Souffrant Mr. Cuevas Dargan 8th Grade Dean of Students

SUPPORT STAFF

 6^{th} Grade School Counselor - AVID Ms. Benqueshya Milligan

7th Grade School Counselor – SSS School Champion Mr. Ronnie Andrews

Dr. Maria Bazile 8th Grade School Counselor – PBIS Coach

CLERICAL STAFF

Ms. Maurinda Allen Principal's Secretary - Bookkeeper

Mrs. Janaye Axam Professional Assistant Ms. Tashai Snell Professional Assistant

Ms. Shawanda Davis Registrar Ms. Pamela Edwards Data Clerk

QUICK FACTS

School Hours: 8:55 a.m.-4:05 p.m.

School Phone: 470-254-4330 * School Fax: 470-254-4338 * Transportation: 470-254-6060

Fulton County Website: www.fultonschools.org

RMS Website: www.fultonschools.org/schools/renaissancemiddle

Concern	1st Contact	2 nd Contact	3 rd Contact
Curriculum	Teacher	Grade Level AP	Curriculum AP
Discipline	Teacher	AA/Grade Level AP	Principal
Volunteering	Parent Liaison	Front Office Staff	Grade Level AP
Bus	Bus Driver	Transportation South Dept.	Grade Level Dean
Cafeteria	Cafeteria Manager	Fulton County Nutrition	Principal
Records/Info. Updates	Registrar	Grade Level Counselor	Student Information AP
Medical	Clinic Nurse Assistant	Cluster Nurse	Grade Level AP
Homework	Teacher	Counselor	Grade Level AP
Transportation Changes	Front Office PA	Grade Level Dean	Transportation South Supervisor
Classroom Concerns	Teacher	Grade Counselor	Grade Level Dean
Athletics/Intramurals	Athletic Coach	Athletic Director	Grade Level Dean
Extended Learning	Teacher	Grade Level Dean	Grade Level AP
Standardized Testing	Teacher	Testing Coordinator AP	Principal
Attendance	Teacher	Grade Level Counselor	Grade Level Dean
Grades	Teacher	Grade Level Counselor	Grade Level Dean
Textbooks	Teacher	Textbook Coordinator	Grade Level Dean
Devices	Device Coordinator	Grade Level Dean	Grade Level AP



2023-2024 School Calendar

4 Independence Day 31 Pre-Planning

Instructional Days – 0
Teacher Contract Days - 1

(Approved 11/17/2022)

New Year's Day
Teacher Workday

First Day of Second Semester 5 M.L. King Jr. Holiday

15 M.L. King Jr. Holid 16 Professional Development

Instructional Days – 19 Teacher Contract Days - 21

JANUARY 2024									
s	М	Т	W	Th	F	S			
	1		3	4	5	6			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
14	15		17	18	19	20			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
28	29	30	31						

AUGUST 2023									
s	М	Т	W	Th	F	s			
						5			
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
27	28	29	30	31					

1-2 Professional Development 3-4 Pre-Planning

Pre-Planning
First Day of School

Instructional Days – 19 Teacher Contract Days - 23

19	Presidents' Day
20	Professional
	Development

FEBRUARY 2024									
s	М	Т	W	Th	F	S			
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
18	19		21	22	23	24			
25	26	27	28	29					

SEPTEMBER 2023									
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30			

Labor Day

5 Teacher Workday 6 Professional

Professional Development

Instructional Days – 18 Teacher Contract Days - 20

11	Teacher Workday
12	Professional
	Development

Instructional Days – 19 Teacher Contract Days - 21

MARCH 2024									
s	М	Т	W	Th	F	S			
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10			13	14	15	16			
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31									

OCTOBER 2023									
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
29	30	31							

9 Columbus Day 10 Teacher Workday

11

Professional Development

Instructional Days – 19 Teacher Contract Days - 21

1-5	Spring Break

Instructional Days – 17 Teacher Contract Days - 17

APRIL 2024									
s	М	Т	W	Th	F	s			
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NOVEMBER 2023									
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
26	27	28	29	30					

7 Election/Remote Day 20 - 24 Thanksgiving Holidays

Instructional Days – 17 Teacher Contract Days - 17

23	Last Day of School
23	Last Day of School
24	Post Planning
27	Memorial Day

Instructional Days – 17 Teacher Contract Days - 18

MAY 2024						
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DECEMBER 2023						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

15 Last Day of First Semester 18-29 Winter Break

Instructional Days – 11 Teacher Contract Days - 11 Preplanning/Post-Planning/Teacher Workday (no students)
Holiday (schools closed)
Professional Development Day (students off)

First/Last Day of Semester Remote Work/Learning Day (Election)

The proposed 2023-2024 School Calendar includes a total of 175 instructional days for students: 84 days for First Semester and 91 days for Second Semester.

Please note: All state-wide election days will be remote learning days for students unless otherwise indicated above.

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Renaissance Middle School

BLOCK	6 TH GRADE	7 TH GRADE	8 TH GRADE		
Homeroom	Enrichment (30)	Enrichment (30)	Enrichment (30)		
	8:55-9:25am	8:55-9:25am	8:55-9:25am		
Transition	5 min				
1	Content (50)	Content (60)	Connections (60)		
	9:30-10:20am	9:30-10:30am	9:30-10:30am		
Transition		5 min			
2	Content (125)	Content (130)	Content (60)		
	10:25am- 12:30pm	10:35-12:45pm	10:35-11:35am		
	<u>Lunch</u>	<u>Lunch</u>			
	Group1-10:40-11:10	Group1- 11:50-12:15			
	Group2-11:15-11:45	Group2- 12:20-12:45			
Transition	5 min				
3	Content (50)	Content (60)	Content (130)		
	12:30-1:20pm	12:50-1:50pm	11:40-1:50pm		
			<u>Lunch</u>		
			Group1- 12:45-1:15		
			Group2- 1:20-1:50pm		
Transition		5 min			
4	Content (50)	Connections (60)	Content (60)		
	1:25-2:15pm	1:55-2:55pm	1:55-2:55pm		
Transition	5 min				
5	Content (50)	Content (65)	Content (65)		
	2:20-3:10pm	3:00-4:05pm	3:00-4:05pm		
Transition	5 min				
6	Connections (50)				
	3:15- 4:05pm				
	1.2.2 F.2.2				

Middle School Testing Dates for 2023-2024

August 14th - September 1st	iReady Diagnostic for ELA and Math (B)*	Grades 6 - 8
November 27th - December 15th	iReady Diagnostic for ELA and Math (M)*	Grades 6 - 8
September 25th - September 29th	Measures of Academic Progress(MAP) (Math)	Grade 7 only
October 2nd – October 6th	Measures of Academic Progress(MAP) (ELA)	
January 17th – February 23rd	ACCESS for ELLs *	Grades 6 - 8
April 29 - May 3rd	Georgia Milestones* End of Grade (EOG)	Grades 6 - 8
	Georgia Milestones*End of Course (EOC)	Grades 6 - 8

iReady Diagnostic for ELA and Math (B)*- the beginning of the school year iReady Diagnostic for ELA and Math (M)*- the middle of the school year

ACCESS for ELLs – administered to all English Learners.

Georgia Milestones Assessment System - Schools must follow the subject-specific schedule provided. Individual subjects are scheduled within the window.

Renaissance Middle School

Mission Statement:

Renaissance Middle School guarantees an exceptional academic and social environment for all students.

Our Vision:

Renaissance Middle School empowers all students to Be Responsible, Respectful and Ready.

Academic Policies

Middle school students in grades 6, 7 and 8 must have a passing grade in language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, reading/world language and one of the following: a combination of grades in the connections segment or the physical education/health connections segment. A passing semester grade in the connections or physical education/health segment is accomplished by earning an average of 70 or above when averaging the combination of three nine-week grades during the semester. Any student who receives an average for both semesters of 69 and below shall fail the subject for the year.

If a student participates in grade recovery opportunities offered during the school year or the summer school session, the student may be able to make up a failing grade earned during the course of the school year in an appropriate subject.

Assignment Completion

Class work and homework completion is an important part of academic growth in middle school. Students are expected to remain on-task during class in order to accomplish their learning goals. Students will be given homework in most classes on a regular basis so that they may practice, review and/or prepare for future lessons on an independent basis. Timely, successful completion of both class work and homework is a part of each student's evaluation process. Homework assignments may be overnight or long term. It is important that students complete this work independently so teachers can obtain an accurate assessment of understanding. If parents have any questions regarding homework, they should contact his/her scholar's teachers immediately.

Teams of teachers meet on a regular basis in order to ensure that the amount of homework assigned is reasonable. <u>It is the student's responsibility to complete and turn in homework/classwork as assigned</u>. Failure to complete assignments will negatively affect a child's grade.

Grading System

Grading Scale

90 and above	\mathbf{A}
80-89	В
70-79	C
0-69	F

No grade is required on a progress report or report card if the student has been enrolled in the school <u>fewer than 20 school days</u> of the grading period and/or there have been no grades received from the previous school for that time period. Students coming from another school system or private school are given the grade the sending school indicates. The final grade is determined by combining the transfer grade and the grades earned in the Fulton County school.

Middle school students will receive a progress report every 4 ½ weeks and a semester report card at the end of 18 weeks.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is inexcusable conduct and will be dealt with according to the Fulton County School System Code of Conduct. A failing grade will be given for the assignment, the teacher will contact the parent, and a record of the incident will be placed in the student's disciplinary file. Repeated offenses will be referred to the administration for disciplinary action.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is an act of academic dishonesty. A failing grade will be given for the assignment, the teacher will contact the parent(s), and a record of the incident will be placed in the student's disciplinary file. Renaissance Middle School will define plagiarism as a student taking credit for work that is not his/her own work or idea.

Conduct Evaluations

Students receive a conduct grade as well as a grade for the work done in every class. These grades are determined by the teacher(s) of each class.

Students who are selected for participation in special trips, for awards, or to represent Renaissance Middle School in special events or competitions must have conduct evaluations which indicate that they are responsible students.

Activities/Clubs

Renaissance offers a wide range of clubs and activities for students. These are offered before and/or after school. A full listing of these clubs and activities will be available and opportunities will be provided for students to enroll shortly after the beginning of the school year.

Some of the activities/clubs offered at Renaissance MS are:

Cheer Cats, GEM Girls, Girls on the Run, Gaming Club, Jr. Beta Club, Girl Scouts, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Student Governance Association (SGA), Debate Club, PTSA, and Technology Student Association (TSA), Band, and Chorus

After-school Dances or Sporting Events/Activities

All after-school functions are chaperoned by school personnel. If the activity is a fundraiser for a club or cause, an admission fee will be charged. Concessions will be available for purchase at many after-school functions. Students are expected to abide by all school rules whenever they are in the building or attending any school function. The following rules for dances or sporting/evening activities are in effect at Renaissance Middle School:

Dances

- 1. Dances are open only to students currently enrolled at Renaissance Middle School.
- 2. Students should arrive at the beginning of the dance/activity. Students leaving the building before the conclusion of the dance/activity must have written permission from and be signed out by a parent or legal guardian.
- 3. Once students leave, they may not re-enter the building. Dances are restricted to the gymnasium and/or cafeteria (and adjoining restroom facilities).
- 4. Students are to comply with the school dress code unless another type of costume or dress has been designated for the occasion.
- 5. Running, horseplay, and roughhousing are prohibited.
- 6. Students must make arrangements to have parents or designees pick them up promptly at the conclusion of the dance/activity. Those who fail to comply with this may be restricted from participation in future after-school activities.
- 7. Students absent or suspended from school (in or out) on the day of a dance/activity will not be permitted to attend the function.
- 8. Discipline and behavior policies of the school and school system are in effect at all after-school functions.
- 9. Participation in after school activities is under the discrepancy of the administrative team.

Sporting Event/Evening Activities

Some of the school sport offered at Renaissance MS are:

Soccer, Rugby, Volleyball, Gymnastics, Basketball, and Track and Field

- 1. Students are to comply with the school dress code unless another type of costume or dress has been designated for the occasion.
- 2. Running, horseplay, and roughhousing are prohibited.
- 3. Students absent or suspended from school (in or out) on the day of the event will not be permitted to attend the function.
- 4. Discipline and behavior policies of the school and school system are in effect at all after-school functions.
- 5. Participation in after school activities is under the discrepancy of the administrative team.
- 6. Students attending any sport event must leave the school campus at the conclusion of the school day, and return with a parent/guardian.
- 7. The parent/guardian must remain on campus with the student for the duration of the sporting event. Those who fail to comply may be restricted from participation in future sporting events and after-school activities.
- 8. At the conclusion of the event, the student must immediately leave campus with his/her parent/guardian.

Discipline and behavior policies of the school and school system are in effect at all after-school functions.

Arrival

School begins at 8:55 a.m.. The building will open for students at 8:25 a.m. Staff supervision of students begins at 8:25 a.m. Students may not arrive prior to this time. Students who arrive prior to 8:25 a.m. must be assigned to the tutorial program or intramurals. No students are allowed to wait outside of the building prior to 8:25 a.m. unsupervised. If the student is not participating in tutoring or intramurals, the parent/guardian must remain with the student until 8:25 a.m. Students who arrive on campus prior to 8:25 AM more than three times, will be referred to the school social worker.

Students who arrive after 8:55 a.m. will be marked tardy. <u>Students who are tardy more than three times</u> per month will be referred to the school social worker.

Departure

The school day ends at 4:05 PM. All students must be picked up from school by 4:35 PM. Staff supervision for car/van riders ends at 4:35 PM. Students who remain on campus after 4:35 PM must be part of a school-sponsored athletic or tutorial program or afterschool club/activity. No students are allowed to remain on campus after 4:35 PM unsupervised. **Students who remain on campus after 4:35 PM more than three times will be referred to the school social worker.**

Arrival/Departure

Per Uber and Lyft rider policies, their services are not available to any person(s) who are under the age of 18. Any individual who is not of legal age must have an authorized adult with a valid account in the vehicle. It is also stated that Uber and Lyft accounts cannot be shared or be utilized by third parties. Therefore, in keeping with the policies of these organizations, students will not be authorized to leave school grounds with a Lyft or Uber driver if their authorized parent/guardian is not present during the transport. If your student needs to be dropped off or picked up by anyone other than their parent/guardian, the person must be authorized in our student information system and must provide a valid photo I.D. for verification to front office staff.

Attendance/Absences

School hours for students are 8:55 a.m. – 4:05 p.m. Students who are not in their classroom by 8:55 a.m. are considered tardy and must get a tardy slip from the office. Students who check in after 12:15 p.m. are considered absent for the day. When your child arrives after 8:55 a.m., parents must park their car in the visitor's parking space and accompany their child into the building, sign in at the front office, and get a tardy slip from the secretary.

Students may only be checked out by individuals that are documented in the school's student information system. Designated individuals are required to provide a valid photo I.D. when checking students out. Students being checked out will be called to the office only after the identification process has been completed. Students may not be dismissed with their parents directly from the classroom. If you need to check out a student at the end of the day, we ask that you do so before 3:15 p.m. After 3:15 p.m., the office cannot call classrooms for students to be checked out. Students who are checked out of school more than 5 times without a doctor's note/medical excuse will be referred to the school's social worker.

Students are required to provide a written excuse from their parents/legal guardians when absent. Excessive absences and/or tardies will be referred to the administration and social worker for follow-up. Students who check in after 12:15 p.m. or leave before 12:15 p.m. are considered absent for the day. Parents, please notify the clinic and your child's teacher if your child has a contagious disease or an extended illness. The Georgia Board of Education lawfully excuses students for the following reasons: personal illness, death in the

immediate family, and special recognized holidays observed by his/her faith. Students with contagious diseases or illnesses should be kept at home.

Behavior Expectations

At Renaissance Middle School, the learning environment must be established and maintained by the entire Renaissance family: students, faculty, parents, and community members.

We expect all Renaissance family members to follow the **3 R's**: Be **Respectful**, Be **Responsible** and Be **Ready**.

Be Respectful

- Do not let your words or actions interfere with the learning environment.
- Do not use profanity.
- Respect yourself, adults, and peers.
- NO BULLYING! (Fulton County Board of Education Student Policy JD, Rule 6, Section 3)- Bullying: "A student shall not willfully attempt or threaten to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so or shall not intentionally exhibit a display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm on school property, at school-sponsored events, or while using school technology resources. (Except as otherwise required by law, any student in grades six through twelve who commits the offense of bullying for the third time during a school year shall be assigned to an alternative school program in addition to any other disciplinary action deemed appropriate)."
- Respect school and personal property.

Be Responsible

- Come to school on time every day.
- Complete all assignments in a timely manner.
- Use your school issued device for academic purposes only.
- Accept the responsibility and consequence for your actions.
- Dress appropriately. Follow the dress code.
- Display appropriate behavior at all times.

Be Ready

- Be on time to class.
- Come to class with a positive attitude.
- Complete and submit all assignments.
- Come prepared with school supplies (binder, paper, laptop, writing utensil) each day.
- Charge your school issued device at home every night.

Dress Code

The Renaissance Middle School Dress Code Policy is aligned with the Fulton County Dress Code Policy (Fulton County Board of Education Procedures JD, Rule 12) and includes:

The school administration reserves the right to determine whether the student's attire is within the limits of decency and modesty, and it interferes with or distracts from the learning environment or the operation of school. (Policy 6.310)

- 1. Clothing must fit correctly. Pants, shorts, and skirts must be worn at the waist. Girls' shorts, skirts, dresses, and skorts must reach to the student's middle fingertip when standing up straight and arms are hanging down at their side.
- 2. Sagging pants will not be permitted. Undergarments must be covered by another appropriate article of clothing at all times.
- 3. Halters, see-through blouses or pants, low cut blouses, sun dresses, blouses made to show the bare midriff (stomach), tank tops/spaghetti straps, or muscle shirts will not be permitted. **Shoulders and underarms must be covered at all times.**
- 4. Pants with holes, rips, tears, or frayed edges in the front of the pants are **ONLY** acceptable when worn with leggings underneath them. Pants with holes, rips, tears or frayed edges in the back of the pants are **NOT** permitted to be worn to Renaissance Middle School **at all**.
- 5. T-shirts and pants must be in good taste (no suggestive wording or illustrations or advertisements for items which are illegal for middle school students- i.e., alcohol and tobacco products, weapons, violence or of such a nature to cause disruption in the school).
- 6. Pajamas, blankets, pillows, and bedroom shoes are not permitted.
- 7. Work out attire, including yoga pants, leggings or jeggings are not allowed without a top which covers the rear and it may not be see-through
- 8. Ski masks, hats, curlers, bonnets, hoodies, head scarves, combs, hair picks, bandannas, sweat bands, sunglasses, chains, and gloves may not be worn during school hours.
- 9. Head apparel, except for religious or medical purposes, shall not be worn inside the school building.
- 10. *Shoes must be worn at all times*. Flip-flops, open toe shoes/slides, or house shoes are not permitted for safety reasons.
- 11. Clothing should not be worn backwards or inside out.
- 12. Heavy/oversized jackets are not permitted to be worn in the classroom; however, sweaters and light-weight jackets are permitted *without the hoodie*.

*Parents of those students who have violated the school's dress code will be contacted. It is the parent's responsibility to provide a change of clothing for the student. Students in violation of the dress code will be placed in In-School-Suspension (ISS) and remain there until their parent has provided them with school appropriate clothing.

Changes to the Fulton County Student Code of Conduct

Here are a few things you MUST know

Fulton County Electronic Devices Policy

Fulton County Board of Education Student Policy JD, Rule 1:

A student shall not use, display, or turn on a cellular telephone or other personal electronic communication device on school property, except for middle and high school students who may use such devices on school grounds before or after the regular school day. All cellular phones must be <u>turned off and kept in student lockers</u>. No such devices may be used at any time on school system operated vehicles, or during an emergency drill or evacuation. <u>Students who are found with such devices in the "on" position, in use, or displayed except as permitted above, shall have the device confiscated by the school administrator.</u> The school will not accept responsibility for lost or damaged cell phones.

18f.II Prohibited Use of Personal Communication Devices (PCD)

During School Day, in grades 6 through 12, the use of PCDs is not allowed during instructional time and will only be allowed when explicitly instructed to do so by a teacher or other school staff member. *This is a Tier III offense*.

Possession of Personal Communication Devices (PCD) (e.g., cell phones, tablets, recording devices) by a student at school during school hours is a privilege that will be forfeited if a student fails to abide by the Student Code of Conduct.

The Fulton County School System takes seriously its responsibility to educate its students in a safe drug-free school where they are free from fear of harm or intimidation by a few. Therefore, weapons, drugs and gang activity will not be tolerated in Fulton County Schools. Students who violate Board of Education rules or State laws related to these offenses will be suspended or expelled from school. <u>Violators will also be reported to the police and may be charged with a felony and arrested</u>. These rules apply to all students: at school or school-sponsored activities including field trips, and on buses, athletic fields, stadiums, parking lots, official school bus stops, and any other sites used for school-sponsored activities.

Renaissance Conduct Rules and Regulations

- 1. Students shall not be absent from class or required school functions without permission of a teacher, principal, or other school official. Students shall not enter off-limits areas (including teachers' lounge and workroom).
- 2. Students may not leave the school grounds during the instructional day for any reason unless accompanied by an appropriate adult. Students who do leave must be signed out through the office. Students shall not be absent from school without parental permission.
- 3. Students shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to school or private property. Students shall not alter or attempt to alter school or private property. Students shall not steal or attempt to steal, or possess or distribute school or private property without appropriate authorization. Failure to attempt to return found personal or school property shall be considered theft. Students will be expected to make restitution for damaged or stolen property.
- 4. Students shall not alter school forms/documents or forge signatures on papers, forms or documents.

- 5. Students shall not disrupt or obstruct any activity of the school or school officials through actions such as, but not limited to giving false information or issuing a false fire alarm.
- 6. Gambling in any form is prohibited (flipping quarters, rolling dice, betting etc.)
- 7. Profanity, obscene gestures, and obscene acts are prohibited. Inappropriate materials are not allowed.
- 8. Fighting and generally disruptive behaviors including making harmful/deadly threats (regardless of intent) are prohibited on the campus, on the bus, en route to and from school, and at school-sponsored activities.
- 9. A student shall not carry, possess, or have under his/her control an explosive compound, weapon of any variety, or look-like object which takes on the appearance of a weapon, including but not to limited to starter pistols, water guns, and toy pistols. This rule is in effect on school property, at school functions and en route to and from school or school-sponsored activities. Criminal charges will be filed against any student found in possession of a weapon, tool, or instrument that is included in the state's definition of prohibited weapons (O.C.G.A. 16-11-127.1).
- 10. Harassment in any form (written, verbal, or physical) of any nature (sexual, racial, religious, etc.) is prohibited. Students shall not engage in intimidation or extortion.
- 11. Students shall not possess, sell, and attempt to sell, use, or transmit any substance under the pretense that it is alcohol, drug, any psychoactive substance or drug paraphernalia of any kind. This policy is in effect on school grounds, during school sponsored activities and while en route to and from school.
- 12. Students shall not possess, sell, attempt to sell, use, or transmit tobacco in any form or tobacco related products such as rolling papers, matches, or lighters. This policy is in effect on school grounds, during school sponsored activities, and while utilizing transportation provided by the Fulton County Board of Education.
- 13. There will be no inappropriate displays of affection or inappropriate touching. This includes, but is not limited to hugging, kissing, or sexual misconduct.
- 14. All students shall dress appropriately so as not to disrupt or interfere with the educational program or the orderly operation of the school. Renaissance Middle School will implement FCBOE policy for students who are inappropriately dressed.
- 15. Students may not sell or distribute products of any kind on the school campus or on school transportation unless authorized by the principal or it is a school-sponsored event/fundraiser (examples are gum/candy, chips, drinks, etc.).
 2d.II Possess/Distribute Items (nondrug) Possess or distribute items, without appropriate school/school system authorization. (e.g., selling/distributing food, bodily fluids, computer technology, personal items, and other non-drug related items) (Severity of consequences may increase based upon the value of property at issue or if the goods are determined to be stolen). An exchange of money for goods and/or services is not required
- 16. Students are not permitted to "visit" another campus without permission.

- 17. High School and Elementary School students are not permitted to visit the campus of Renaissance Middle School without prior permission from the school administration.
- 18. Students shall comply with school rules and the directions and commands of all authorized school personnel.
- 19. Special rules or standards of conduct will be set up for extended fieldwork and special events. Parents will always be notified of these rules and regulations.
- 20. Students who are suspended in or out-of-school are suspended from all school activities during the date(s) of the suspension.
- 21. Students may not bring computer software to be used on school computers without prior approval of school administration.
- 22. Fulton County policies and procedures will be followed in all disciplinary cases.
- 23. Students shall not engage in any behaviors that may be associated with gangs or similar organizations.
- 24. Students are to refrain from bringing any glass drinking containers to school.
- 25. Students are expected to behave in an appropriate and courteous manner when in the common areas of the school, i.e., hallways, cafeteria. When inappropriate behavior occurs, students will be assigned a consequence and parents may be notified. Listed below are examples of inappropriate behaviors:
 - Shouting, running and general "horseplay"
 - Showing disrespect to a staff member: inappropriate response when addressed by any adult in the building, which is to include ignoring, disrespectful tone, or profanity.
 - Being in an undesignated area: time periods include before, during, and after school.
 - Behaving inappropriately during an assembly
 - Going to a locker at the wrong time
 - Displaying physical or verbal abuse to another student
 - Using inappropriate language (profanity and vulgarity)
 - Loitering/visiting others at or near lockers
 - Blocking the middle of hallways
 - Displaying public affection

Code of Conduct

Renaissance Middle School supports the State Superintendent in efforts to reduce school violence. It is our belief that good discipline is one of the cornerstones of a good education, and to ensure good discipline a cohesive and cooperative relationship must exist between the home and school. The policies we have developed provide close communication with parents at the onset of discipline problems. We feel that together we can experience success in relationships at home and school.

Certain forms of misconduct or disobedience of classroom, school, or bus rules and Board policy by a student makes it necessary for disciplinary action to be taken. This misbehavior may occur at school, on the way to or from school, or at school-sponsored activities. Students are expected to follow all rules of

conduct passed by the Fulton County Board of Education as well as all local school conduct policies. Each student will be issued a copy of the Guidelines for Students Behavior, published by the office of the Director of Student Discipline. Parents and students are expected to review all information relating to discipline.

Parties

Individual student birthdays are not permitted to be celebrated at school. Students are not permitted to bring cupcakes, treats, goodie bags or cakes. Teachers are not permitted to celebrate birthdays/holidays/special occasions in the class with a party or snack.

Book Bags

The safety and security of our students is our #1 priority. As a result, all students will be required to carry clear bookbags and purchase a locker to keep their belongings in during the day. Rolling book bags or large handbags are not permitted at Renaissance Middle School. The clear book bag should be a standard size and should easily fit in a locker. All student purses, larger than a sheet of notebook paper, must be clear as well. The school will not assume responsibility for lost or stolen student book bags, purses or personal items.

Bus Conduct

Misconduct on any Fulton County Schools bus will not be tolerated and may result in a loss of your privilege to ride the school bus in the future. Students shall not throw any item inside, around, or out of a school bus whether or not the bus is in motion. Students may be charged with a higher-level infraction if throwing items inside or out of a bus while in motion. If any item thrown or set in motion by a student makes contact with another individual or their property, then additional rule violations may apply.

All students are expected to follow the rules and procedures as outlined in the Fulton County Code of Conduct and Discipline Handbook. Consequences include, but are not limited to:

- Warning/Parent Notification
- Bus suspension short-term or permanent
- Additional consequences determined by Fulton County Discipline Cycle

Cafeteria

School Breakfast & Lunch Meal Prices SY23-24

School meals offer all 5 food groups at an incredibly wallet-friendly price. Prices cover food and operational expenses to prepare the food. The meal price includes 1 entrée, 1 fruit side, up to 2 vegetable sides, and 1 milk choice.

Breakfa	st	Lunch		
Student	\$1.25	Student	\$2.70	
Reduced Price	\$0.30	Reduced Price	\$0.40	
All Adults	\$2.75	All Adults	\$4.75	
Milk	\$0.75	Milk	\$0.75	

^{*}Students may purchase extra milk for \$0.75.

Free & Reduced Meal Applications SY23-24

The Free & Reduced Meal Benefits Program is a part of the National Child Nutrition Program. This program makes Free or Reduced priced meals available to qualifying households. Qualifications are based on the gross income of all household members and the number of people living in the house. A **new** application must be completed every school year. If there is an interruption in benefits or the household does not reapply, the household is responsible for payment of meals until the Free and Reduced Application is approved. Free & Reduced Meal Applications are available in the cafeteria and anytime online beginning July 24, 2023. Visit www.fulton.schoollunchapp.com to begin the online application process. Also, if you want to prepay student meals, please visit https://www.mypaymentsplus.com/welcome. There is a 4.29% transaction fee for using MyPaymentsPlus.

The school cafeteria offers breakfast and lunch each day. Several nutritional lunch choices are available daily. Students may choose the regular hot food lunch or a luncheon salad. Lunch can be prepaid for in the cafeteria in the morning during breakfast.

Parents are welcome to eat lunch with their child at the regular scheduled lunchtime; however, parents must provide the school with a 24 hr.notice requesting to eat lunch with their child. Additionally, students are only allowed to eat lunch with parents/guardians listed in Infinite Campus. Students are not allowed to eat fast foods in the lunchroom. Students are not allowed to order or receive food deliveries from Uber Eats, Grubhub or any other outside delivery food services. Any outside food delivered to the school will be discarded.

Cafeteria Conduct

- 1. Students should enter the cafeteria in an orderly fashion and either proceed to a serving line or go directly to their designated table.
- 2. Students must get all food, drinks, and other items as they go through the line.
- 3. After being seated, students may not get up unless given permission to do so by the staff members on duty or the Administrator.
- 4. Students should use good manners and speak in a moderate volume.
- 5. Students will be dismissed by the Administrator. Students will check their area to see that it is clean before taking trash and trays to the trash cans. Students will line up in the designated area and wait quietly for the teacher.
- 6. Soft drinks and candy are not allowed in the cafeteria for any reason.
- 7. Students bringing their lunch must house lunch items in a bag/container.
- 8. Due to food allergies, sharing food is not permitted.
- 9. Staff members on duty and Administrators will enforce cafeteria conduct rules.

Change of Address/Phone Number

Please inform the school of any changes in names, addresses, phone numbers, or parental status during the school year. Please contact the front office to complete address changes. Changes cannot be done via telephone. It is a parent's responsibility to notify the school of any information changes. If mail is returned and an updated address has not been provided, the school will not assume responsibility for the parent not receiving the information. Additionally, a residency verification notice will be issued to the parent and adherence is required as outlined in FCS school board policy.

It is critical that telephone numbers are updated throughout the year in order to maintain accurate and consistent communication. <u>If the school is not able to locate a parent due to inaccurate address</u> and/or phone number, a referral will be made to the school's social worker.

Clinic/ Medication/ Emergencies

The clinic is staffed daily by a clinic worker. First Aid will be administered in the clinic as needed. Parents should complete clinic information at Open House and should notify the school of any changes during the school year. This information is used during emergency situations.

Internal medication (prescription or over the counter) may not be given without the necessary forms on file in the clinic. Prescription medication requires that the prescribing physician sign the form; over-the-counter medication requires that a parent sign the form. Medication should be clearly labeled and sent to the clinic, where it will be administered under the direct supervision of school employees. Students may **NOT** carry medication while at school unless it is an inhaler. Students who have asthma may carry his or her inhaler with the appropriate documentation from the doctor.

Communication

Open communication and mutual support are key elements in the education of middle school students. We are always seeking to expand and improve this aspect of our school.

Every effort is made to ensure good communication between the home and the school. Agenda Books, email, and telephone will be the primary source of parent communication with teachers. Parents should expect a response from a telephone message, voicemail or email within 24 hours.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are a vital part of communication. The student's homeroom teacher will contact parents at some point during the first nine weeks to arrange a time to talk on an individual basis about the student. If you would like to have a conference with any staff member, please contact the teacher or school counselor for the grade level to schedule the conference.

We ask that parents not come and talk to a teacher without prior notification. All parents should check in at the office before going to any classrooms. This is important for security reasons and to allow as few disruptions as possible to the students' learning process. This includes all portable classrooms.

Parents who wish to contact teachers should call the office and leave a number where they may be reached. Parent calls will be returned within 24 hours whenever possible. Teachers **cannot** be called from class to receive phone calls.

4.5 Weeks Progress Report will be available on Infinite Campus for parents to review within one week after grades are posted (see district grading calendar). It is important for parents to have an Infinite Campus account so that they may review this information in a timely manner online.

Infinite Campus allows parents to access pertinent information about their child's attendance, grades, homework assignments, schedules, and much more. All you need to gain access to the information is to download that app from the Apple App Store or Play Store. You may also go to our school's web page and obtain access to the Infinite Campus link at www.fultonschools.org/schools/renaissance or Fulton Counties home page to link to the site.

School Messenger may be used by staff members to leave messages with parents via voicemail. School Messenger will send an error delivery message back to the staff member if a disconnected number is reached. If this occurs, parents will be required to complete a change of address form to update contact information.

There are two key groups which work to provide communication networks for the school, and we encourage all parents to become involved actively with these organizations:

Parent Teacher Student Association

The PTSA serves as a vital link and support system for the activities of the school. Many parents volunteer hours, financial resources, and expertise in a variety of ways through this organization. We encourage all our parents to join the PTSA and become involved through their volunteer program with the school.

School Governance Council

The purpose of the School Governance Council is to provide parents, school staff, and community members with a leadership role in the management of the school. The School Governance Council is a governing body that is representative of the community and the school, but operates under the control and management of the Board of Education. The Council is responsible for making decisions regarding the strategic direction of the school including:

- a.) Approve the school strategic plan and updates
- b.) Approve the annual budget and annual resource allocations
- c.) Manage the Request for Flexibility process
- d.) Participate in hiring the principal (in the case of a vacancy)
- e.) Provide annual feedback on principal performance.

Counseling and Guidance

The counseling and guidance program is designed to help students understand themselves as individuals who have personal worth, potential, and unique abilities but who also share social responsibilities. It is developmental in nature and attempts to provide a continuous sequence of activities to foster growth in the areas of personal development including interpersonal skills, decision-making skills, citizenship skills, study skills, self-management, self-concept, and communication skills. Counseling and guidance programs are proactive and preventive, seeking to meet needs and to avert crisis situations. Counselors offer individual and group counseling, career education, school entry and exit information, test interpretation services, and work permits.

Guidance Counselors are available for conferences concerning issues at home or at school. They are also available to review test scores and student placement. Please call the counseling office to schedule an appointment with the counselors. Appointments are scheduled by the Registrar according to the student's grade level.

6th Grade: Ms. Milligan 7th Grade: Mr. Andrews 8th Grade: Dr. Bazile

Deliveries for Students to School

Flowers, balloons and other distracting items will not be delivered to students during school hours. Such items create a disruption during the school day and will remain secured in the school office until the end of the day.

Early Check Outs

Students may not be checked out of school after 3:15 p.m. School dismissal will begin at 4:05 p.m.

Emergency School Closings

Once a decision has been made by the central office to close school due to inclement weather, local TV and radio stations will broadcast this information. Please avoid calling the school. Each Fulton County school has detailed disaster plans and evacuation plans that are reviewed and updated each year. In the event of these plans being used, the media will notify parents.

Entrance Requirements

In order to attend Renaissance Middle School students must live within the designated attendance zone or possess a hardship letter from the central office of the school system. It is the policy of the Fulton County School System that no student shall be enrolled who is currently under terms of suspension or expulsion from another public school system. The Fulton County School District will not enroll a student currently under the terms of a suspension or expulsion from a private school if the conduct for which the student was suspended or expelled would have justified a similar suspension or expulsion by the Fulton School District. Students entering a Fulton County school for the first time must have the following:

- copy of birth certificate
- proof of residence
- copy of Social Security Card or a form of objection
- last year's report card showing grade placement
- eye, ear, and dental screening on a proper Georgia form (if first time in Georgia public schools)
- immunization on a proper Georgia form

Students entering the sixth grade must have at least one additional dose of MMR for a total of two MMR vaccines administered on or after the child's first birthday and at least thirty days apart. As of August 2001, sixth grade students will be required to have **two** chicken pox vaccinations or proof of immunity. For more information, please refer to http://www.health.state.ga.us/programs/immunization

Children entering seventh grade (who were born on or after January 1, 2002) and for students who are considered "new entrants" in grades 8-12 will be required to have Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) and MCV (meningococcal conjugate) vaccines prior to entering school. A "new entrant" means any child entering a Georgia school for the first time or entering after having been absent for more than 12 months or one school year.

Withdrawal Process

The enrolling parent/guardian must fill out the Request for Withdrawal form. Parent can fill a form out at the front office or request one to be sent electronically by the Registrar, Ms. S. Davis (daviss7@fultonschools.org).

A copy of the parent/guardian ID must accompany the form.

Before a student can be withdrawn, their school issued device must be turned in.

Withdrawals will be processed within 24-48 hours.

Exemptions from Physical Education

All students are expected to participate in physical education classes. If a medical excuse is provided by a student's physician, physical education teachers will modify or adapt the class requirements based on the recommendations of the physician. This will allow students with medical difficulties or disabilities to succeed.

Field Trip Experiences

A field trip is a valuable part of the middle school educational process and may be taken at various times throughout the school year. Signed official permission slips must be returned to the school at least one day prior to the day of the trip. **Telephone permission will not be accepted**. Students who receive a discipline referral as denoted on the field trip form will forfeit their opportunity to attend the trip.

Health Education Requirement

The Fulton County Schools will offer human sexuality education and AIDS education units in the required health courses taught in grades 6, 7, and 8. Our school system believes that all students should have access to factually accurate and appropriate information about these topics. Students who are armed with the facts are better able to make good, healthy decisions. We also believe that abstinence from sexual activity is best for school-aged children. All instruction in this unit is prefaced by this belief.

Your child will be required to take a nine-week health education course in each grade. At least two weeks prior to the sex education unit of this course, a letter will be sent home to you informing you of your right to remove your minor child from this unit. Please sign and return the form if you **do not** want your child to participate in the sex education unit. All materials used in the course are available for your review by contacting your child's health teacher (470-254-4330) to make an appointment.

Insurance

Student insurance may be purchased in the fall through the school office. The three types of insurance which may be purchased are: 24-hour coverage, school time coverage, and dental coverage. Further information may be obtained from the school office. Renaissance Middle School does not carry insurance to cover accidental injuries of students. Parents are urged to consider student insurance.

Internet / Network

Renaissance Middle School's purpose in providing access to the Internet is to support research and education by providing access to unique resources. The use of this access must be in support of educational research and consistent with the educational objectives of Fulton County Schools. Sending or receiving of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in cancellation of the privilege. The administration will deem what is inappropriate use.

Students are expected to:

- 1. Use computers, software, or network devices in a manner that will not damage equipment.
- 2. Obey the rules of copyright.
- 3. Download software only with written permission from the Technology Specialist.
- 4. Respect others by not posting personal communications in a public forum without the author's prior consent.
- 5. Use the network for school related activities only.
- 6. Help control the spreading of computer viruses.
- 7. Use appropriate language.
- 8. Avoid offensive or inflammatory speech.
- 9. Be aware that giving out personal information on the Internet can be dangerous.
- 10. Avoid searches for, view, and/or distribution of inappropriate materials.
- 11. Avoid subscribing to or completing applications for purchasing items over the Internet.
- 12. Use the network or Internet for educational use. Advertising items for sale is not appropriate use of the school network.
- 13. Avoid logging onto, posting, viewing and/or sharing information to social media sites during school hours.

Lockers

Students may rent lockers for the safekeeping of books and personal property. Only school assigned locks may be put on lockers. It is the responsibility of the student to guard his/her combination and to see that his/her locker is secure. Lockers remain the property of the school and are subject to periodic inspections by school personnel at any time during the year. School authorities, for any reason, may conduct periodic general inspections of lockers at any time without notice, without student/parent consent, and without a search warrant. Students will be assigned times to go to their lockers daily. Any student who goes to his/her locker at an unscheduled time without permission will lose locker privileges.

Students may pay locker fee at the following price:

Hall Locker \$20.00 for the year and PE locker is included.

Fees must be paid online through OSP. Checks/Cash will not be accepted.

Lost or Damaged Instructional Materials

Students are responsible for the care and protection of school issued electronic devices, textbooks, library books, musical instruments, and other instructional materials assigned to them or checked out by them. Written notice will be sent to parents/guardians when a student needs to make restitution for lost or damaged books or materials.

School Issued Electronic Device

Parents and students must sign and return the Device User Agreement before a device can be issued to a student. A new user agreement must be signed each school year. Students must also complete the digital citizenship curriculum that the school requires. Devices will be returned to the school at the end of the school year. The use of devices provided by Fulton County Schools is not transferable to anyone and terminates when a student is no longer enrolled at the issuing school. Students who transfer, withdraw, are expelled, or terminate enrollment at the school for any reason must return their device on the date of withdrawal/termination. Failure to return the device will result in parents/guardians being responsible for paying up to the full replacement cost of the device and any accessories. Report cards, transcripts, diplomas or certificates of progress may also be withheld until restitution is made. A formal police report will also be filed with the Fulton County School Police officer.

Textbooks

All basic texts are loaned to students for their use during the school year. These books are the property of the Fulton County Board of Education. Textbooks are expected to be kept clean and handled carefully. It is the responsibility of the student to keep up with and to protect all books. Failure to return books at the end of the school year will result in the collection of a lost or damaged book fee. Report cards, transcripts, and other records may be held until the book is returned or the fee has been paid.

Lost & Found Items

The school makes every effort to help students safeguard their valuables. However, the ultimate responsibility for this lies with the student. Name labels should be placed on personal articles and clothing. All lost articles will be placed in the lost and found. Students should not bring large amounts of money to school. All valuables should be left in locked lockers, particularly during P.E. and after school sports. The school is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen articles. Unclaimed items will be donated to Goodwill at the end of each month. Clothing marked with a student's name will be returned to the owner.

Media Center

All students are expected to use the media center, which provides students with instructional materials and resources that support the curriculum. There are also a variety of materials available for recreational reading. Several procedures are in place to ensure the effective use of the media center:

- Students may check out two books at a time. Books are always due in two weeks (exception: school holiday). Books may be renewed on or before the due date.
- There will be a fine of five cents per day for each book that is overdue. (The count of days will exclude days school is not in session).
- Overdue books and fine notices are printed once bi-monthly.
- Students may not check out additional books until they have cleared their overdue books and/ or outstanding fines.
- Students are responsible for returning books in good condition and will be charged for books damaged beyond normal use.
- Students' records and end of the year report cards will be held until any/all damaged/lost book obligations have been settled.

Parent Liaison

Ms. Diantha Parker is the Renaissance Middle School Parent Liaison. She is available to provide support and resources to parents daily. Additionally, Ms. Parker maintains the Parent Resource Room. Parents are encouraged to utilize the Parent Resource Room to check out materials to use at home to support your child's education.

Parent Visitation to the Classroom

Fulton County Schools values parents as partners in education. Parent and community support and assistance are vital in all facets of the school program. Parent and community members are especially welcome to observe students in the academic setting through special activities and events taking place in the schools. Instructional programs are further showcased through musical and dramatic presentations, art displays, and academic bowls. Parents may also participate directly in the instructional program through volunteer work, field work experiences, school advisory committees, and individual teacher/parent conferences.

Parents of currently enrolled students or prospective students may wish to set up individual classroom or school visitations. The following guidelines shall be observed relevant to parent visitations:

- 1. Make the request to the grade level assistant principal at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the proposed visit.
- 2. State the purpose of the visit.
- 3. Sign in at the office and be escorted to the classroom.
- 4. Stay no longer than one class period.
- 5. Refrain from engaging the attention of teachers or students through conversation or other means.
- 6. Return to the office for a brief conference at the end of the visit if necessary.
- 7. Classroom visitations may not occur during a schedule assessment/test.

Unauthorized persons will not be allowed in the building without administrative permission. Students may not bring other students to visit in classrooms. This regulation is for the protection of all students and to preserve the instructional program. Classroom interruptions can be detrimental to the learning process. (Fulton County Board of Education Procedure KM)

Parent Volunteers

Parents are invited to volunteer in the school. Some of the volunteer positions include hall monitors, lunch monitors, classroom volunteers, office volunteers. The parent coordinator organizes the parent volunteer program. Any parent wishing to volunteer must first, contact the parent coordinator and complete the Fulton County Volunteer Program.

Physical Education

The gym is a multi-purpose facility, which is used for physical education classes, assemblies, and pep rallies. Dressing rooms where students change their clothes before participating in P.E. are also located in the gym.

Some things to remember while in the gym and dressing room area are:

- Gum, candy, and drinks are not allowed.
- Do not climb on bleachers when they are closed.
- Always wear sneakers on the gym floor.
- Appropriate language should always be used.
- Middle school students must dress to participate in Physical Education

Teacher Removal of Students Procedure (TROS)

Based on Georgia Law O.C.G.A. § 20-2-738 (2015) a teacher may remove from class a student who repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to conduct instructional activities, or when the students pose an immediate threat to the safety of the student's classmates or the teacher.

Transportation

Transportation is provided for all students living more than a mile and a half from school and/or students living in areas designated by the county transportation department as hazardous.

Students should recognize that riding the bus is a privilege contingent upon proper and courteous conduct. Students are expected to follow the instructions of the driver and the local school. Any student failing to do so may be denied the privilege of riding the bus. The length of time of suspension from the bus is left to the discretion of the administrative staff.

Students may not ride buses other than the one to which they are assigned, and they must get on and off the bus at their assigned designated stop. For a short-term emergency, the parent may write a note requesting a change in bus assignment or drop off location. Requests for change must be submitted to the front office no later than 12:00 PM. The note must state the purpose for the change (i.e., riding bus #123 due to childcare issue), duration, and contain a working telephone number for the parent/guardian to be contacted. If the parent cannot be reached before the end of the school day the request for change will not be granted. Approved requests must be signed by the Grade Level Administrator. The note will then be returned to the student, and they will give it to the bus driver when boarding the school bus. A change in bus assignment will be made only for emergency child-care purposes. No request will be approved for social, athletic, or educational activities or projects. If other long-term arrangements are necessary, parents must receive permission from the Transportation Department, 470-254-6060.

Students who arrive by car should be **dropped off in front of the school** no earlier than 8:25 a.m. In the afternoon, students must be **picked up in front of the building no later than 4:35 p.m.** Parent cooperation with this arrangement promotes student safety and more efficient traffic flow. If a student remains on campus past 4:35 PM three or more times, the student will be referred to the school's social worker for residency verification. Additionally, if the student was granted a hardship, the student will be referred to the Student Placement Office.

Bicycle riders may park their bikes in the designated bike rack in front of the building. (Bikes should be locked during the day. The school cannot accept responsibility for students' bikes.) **Skateboards, roller skates, roller blades, hoverboards, and all-terrain vehicles are prohibited at all times.** Students must have written permission from a parent to ride a bike to and from school.

Students are not permitted to walk to or from school without written parent permission. If a child has permission from a parent to be a walker, (this includes walking to Langston Hughes HS for activities), written permission must be provided to the front office.