



**PIKE COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL
2024-2025 PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK**

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PCMS Facebook Page:
[Pike County Middle School](#)



Please note:

Students are required to follow the policies outlined in both the student handbook and the Pike County School Code of Conduct Parent Manual. This handbook and any policies contained herein are subject to change. Any changes made to this handbook after print will be available in the link under the principal's signature within the weekly Principal's Communication.

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OFFICE CONTACTS

Name	Title	Email
Michael Teti	Principal	tetim@pike.k12.ga.us
Melissa Bedford	Assistant Principal (8 th ; 7 th A-L)	bedform@pike.k12.ga.us
Nathan Wilson	Assistant Principal (6 th ; 7 th M-Z)	wilsonn@pike.k12.ga.us
Jacob Boone	Athletic Director	bookej@pike.k12.ga.us
Mariah Banks	Graduation Coach/Math Coach	banksm@pike.k12.ga.us
Kim Coursey	Counselor (last name A-L)	coursek@pike.k12.ga.us
Marci Daniel	Counselor (last name M-Z)	danielm@pike.k12.ga.us
Ethan Cromer	Media Specialist	cromere@pike.k12.ga.us
Heather Marchman	Registrar	marchmh@pike.k12.ga.us
Amy Veal	Nurse	veala@pike.k12.ga.us
Mandy Stinchcomb	Bookkeeper/Office Manager	dukem@pike.k12.ga.us
Margaret Ann Brannon	Attendance Clerk	brannom@pike.k12.ga.us
Sky Slagle	Receptionist/Transportation	gunters@pike.k12.ga.us
Jodi Ansalve	Aramark Food Services Director	ansalvej@pike.k12.ga.us

ACADEMIC PLACEMENT/SCHEDULING

Students are heterogeneously grouped on grade level teams. If there is an issue or concern with academic team placement, please use the following guidelines:

1. Parent should schedule a meeting with the student, teacher, and counselor to discuss issues and possible solutions.
2. If the issue is not resolved, parents can request a meeting with an Assistant Principal to discuss concerns and placement changes.
3. If the issue is not resolved, parents should submit in writing to the principal to request a change in schedule, listing reasons for the request.
4. The principal will make the final decision about any changes to the student schedule.

Connection Class Scheduling

Connection classes at Pike County Middle School are designed to provide students with a variety of experiences to explore interests and create well rounded students. With the exception of yearlong connections classes (band and chorus), students will rotate through a variety of nine-week connection classes in grades 6-8. Connection classes will not be changed without sufficient reasoning or rationale as determined by counselor or administrator.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Part of character development is understanding the importance of honesty in all situations. Any attempt to obtain credit for work done by another is unacceptable at Pike County Middle School. The use of artificial intelligence platforms (unless outlined as a part of the assignment) to create or complete assignments is prohibited and will receive the same consequence as cheating/academic dishonesty. Cheating includes cheating on tests, copying work of others, copying word-for-word from books, magazines, encyclopedias, technology media, or other acts of plagiarism, including distribution of any assessment material (i.e., failing to cite proper documentation or authorship, using someone else's term paper, using electronic devices/internet/other people to translate foreign languages), or other similar activities. The following outline will delineate the consequences:

1st offense:

1. 1 day ISS
2. Work redone/alternate assignment
3. Parent will be notified.

2nd offense:

1. 2 days ISS
2. Work redone/alternate assignment
3. Parent will be notified

ATHLETICS

PCMS Athletics operates according to the PCMS Athletic Handbook. Once a team is set, a mandatory parent meeting will be held with coaches and the athletic director. The Athletic Handbook, team rules, and other pertinent information will be reviewed at this meeting. The handbook is available upon request through Jacob Booke, bookej@pike.k12.ga.us.

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade students may participate in Boys and Girls Basketball, Wrestling, Soccer, Cheerleading, Dance, Girls Softball, Boys Baseball, Boys and Girls Swimming, Boys and Girls Cross Country, and Boys and Girls Track. Football is only open to 7th and 8th grade students. 8th Grade students may participate in the JV programs available at Pike County High School.

All forms in the PCMS Participation and Athletic/Activities Handbook Packet must be completely filled out and returned to the front office of PCMS prior to the beginning of any athletic event. Students who wish to participate in athletics must not have any outstanding school debt. Student-athletes must be academically eligible to participate in any athletic activity/event. PCMS students who do not pass 3 of 4 core content classes, and 3 of 4 elective/connection courses during the semester immediately preceding participation will not meet academic eligibility.

ATTENDANCE

One of the most important factors determining success in school is attendance. Being consistently present and on time will pay dividends in the course of a school career. In addition, regular school attendance helps the student develop an acceptance of responsibility, creates self-discipline, and promotes character development. The following policies exist for all classes at Pike County Middle School, beginning promptly at 8:00 a.m. Students must be counted present for the day to participate in after school activities including athletic events. Exceptions to this rule may be made at the discretion of the principal. Any questions or concerns regarding attendance should be directed to the attendance clerk. Parents should monitor PowerSchool for student attendance records. Please communicate any questions or discrepancies in a timely manner.

Absences: Absences from school are classified as excused or unexcused. Absences are considered excused under the state law and State Board of Education policies to include illness, medical/dental/eye examination, death in immediate family, religious holiday, instances in which attendance could be hazardous as determined by Pike County Public School System, service as a Page in the legislature, a parent deploying to/returning from military duty, or a court order.

Board Policy JB: Student Attendance: The parent or guardian shall provide a signed and dated explanation of the student's absence within five school days of the student's return to school. The student's record shall reflect an unexcused absence if a note is not submitted within the five school day allowance. Notes excusing student absences will be accepted from parents/guardians/healthcare professionals or other governmental agencies (DDS, DFCS, etc.). Absences will be excused with the parent/guardian note for up to five (5) days per semester. Absences may only be considered excused if they align with the state approved

school absences listed in Board Policy JB Section B. Parents/Guardians of students with five (5) unexcused absences in a semester will be required to attend an attendance conference with the school.

Parents/Guardians of students with (7) unexcused absences in a semester will have a complaint filed with the school social worker. Parents/Guardians of students with (10) ten unexcused absences in a semester will be referred to the Child/Family in Need of Service committee.

Pre-arranged Absences: For a pre-arranged trip to be approved, the parent or legal guardian must submit a written request describing the educational nature of the absence to the principal prior to the absence. Requests should be made at least three weeks prior to the planned trip. Pre-arranged absences are applicable only to trips that are considered educational in nature. The principal will review the request to determine if the absence falls under the guidelines for a pre-arranged absence. The principal's decision on the absence will be the final decision.

It is the responsibility of the student to inform the teacher(s) of these dates prior to the absence. Teachers are not required to prepare assignments in advance for students who are anticipating days of absence. The student will be permitted to make up any assignments missed. Students will be given 2 days for each day missed to complete make-up assignments.

Attendance Flow Chart as of 6/10/24

Attendance Protocol for Unexcused Absences:

- Each Day Absent
 - An automated call will notify parent of absence.
 - Attendance is documented in Power School.
- After 3 Days Unexcused Absences
 - Truancy warning letter emailed (through BrightArrow system) from the attendance office.
 - Documentation is placed in student's attendance records.
- After 5 Days Unexcused Absences
 - Second truancy letter emailed (through BrightArrow system) from the attendance office.
 - Student attendance committee meeting held with parents.
 - Documentation is placed in student's attendance records.
- After 7 Days Unexcused Absences
 - Student is referred to the school social worker/CHINS.
 - Complaint filed with DJJ.
 - Parent conference/home visit by school social worker.
- After 10 Days Unexcused Absences
 - Contact will be made by the School System Social Worker.
 - Legal action may be initiated against parent/guardian.
 - Violation of the State Compulsory Attendance Laws (Georgia Code Section 20-2-690.2) shall result in a report being made to the local court of jurisdiction by the School System Social Worker.

Student Check-In/Tardies/Unexcused Early Check-out: Promptness to school and each class is very important. Students not in class by 8:00 a.m. must check in at the office to receive a late pass. Medical and dental appointments are excused. All other check-ins/check-outs will be considered unexcused and may result in discipline consequences for tardiness.

Attendance Protocol for Unexcused Tardies/Unexcused Early Check-outs:

- After 10 Days Tardy
 - Warning letter emailed (through BrightArrow system) from attendance office.
 - Documentation is placed in student's attendance records.
- After 15 Days Tardy
 - Second warning letter emailed (through BrightArrow system) from the attendance office.
 - Student attendance committee meeting held with parent.
 - Documentation is placed in student's attendance records.
- After 20 Days Tardy
 - Student is referred to the School System Social Worker.
 - Contact will be made by the School System Social Worker.

Student Check-Out: Anyone picking up a student must report to the office, provide picture ID, and sign the student out before he/she is released. Only those individuals listed on the Student Medical Information Sheet will be allowed to check a student out of school. State policy mandates that a student shall be physically present in school for one-half of the school day in order to be counted present for the day.

- **Students who arrive before 11:30 will be counted present for the day.**
- **Students who arrive after 11:30 will be counted absent for the day.**
- **Students who check out before 11:30 will be counted absent for the day.**

Students must be sent home by the school nurse to be checked out with an excused sickness.

Students must be present for the day to participate in school activities. Please note that student attendance is an important part of our school's ability to meet the attendance indicator in the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI), our current accountability system. Your child will be counted absent for each class period missed.

If someone other than a parent is to pick up a student, a parent note should state that fact. A daytime telephone number for the parent should be listed on the note for verification. Once a student arrives at school, he/she is NOT to leave campus for any reason without permission from the principal or assistant principal. If a student leaves the building or campus without permission during the day, he/she is considered truant from school.

A student who checks out of school then returns to school without a written excuse will be considered "unexcused" regardless of the reason for the absence.

Student Early Check-Out Notice: The Pike County Middle School instructional day ends at 3:05. When a student leaves before the end of the day, instruction is missed. To prevent continued loss of instruction in the class/classes, a student's schedule may be changed for excessive early check-outs for unexcused reasons. If documentation is provided that the student's early checkout is an acceptable reason to miss school as described in the handbook section entitled **Absences**, the excused early check-out will not count toward receiving a schedule change.

Make-Up Work:

- Students are allowed two school days to make up work for each day absent (ex: 5 days missed = 10 days for all assignments to be completed). All work not turned in within the specified time allowed may receive a grade of zero.

- It is the student’s responsibility to initiate contact with the teacher to schedule make-up tests/quizzes. Tests, quizzes, or other class assignments should be made up before/after school at teachers’ discretion.
- It is the student's responsibility to obtain, complete, and turn in make-up assignments to the teacher.
- If a student is absent for three or more days, a parent may contact the school and request that assignments and/or books be gathered for the student. Please allow at least 48 hours for assignments to be gathered and ready for pickup.

AWARDS

The following awards will be recognized at the end of the year awards program. Specific questions regarding awards should be directed to Heather Marchman, Registrar (marchmh@pike.k12.ga.us). PCMS faculty understands that awards are very important to both parents and students. We encourage parents to utilize PowerSchool regularly, and to communicate grade concerns with their child and/or the child’s teacher in a timely manner. Only students receiving an award will be recognized at the awards program. An invitation to the awards ceremony will be sent home with honorees.

*The cut-off date for awards will be determined by the administration and communicated to families by the fourth quarter. Please Note: The grade cut-off date is typically 4 weeks prior to the awards day.

- “A” Honor Roll: “A” year-end average in the four academic courses and “A” in every connection course taken throughout the year.
- “A/B” Honor Roll: “A/B” year-end average in the four academic courses and “A/B” in every connection course taken throughout the year. A student must have at least one A (year-end average) in a core academic to qualify for this award.
- Georgia Milestones Distinguished Learners (if scores are back from the state in time)
- Lamp of Knowledge: Awarded to 8th graders who have received A Honor Roll all 3 years of middle school
- Excellence in Academics: Teacher-chosen award for the top-performing student in their subject area
- Excellence in Connections: Teacher-chosen award for the top-performing student in their subject area
- Literacy Days: RESA Winners in Reading, Ready Writing, and Poetry
- Math Competition: Griffin RESA Middle School Competition Participants
- Hope Squad: Member of our school-based, peer-to-peer suicide prevention program
- Student Advisory: Member of the Principal's Advisory Team
- Flag Team: Student leaders who maintain proper presentation of flags
- Principal's Award: Highest GPA per grade level
- Citizenship Award

Awards may be added or removed at the discretion of the building administrator.

CARE OF OUR BUILDING AND RESOURCES

Every student should take pride in our school building and campus to help keep it clean and attractive. Only drinks with a sealable, screw top lid will be allowed in the building. Students are expected to pick up all paper and litter from the classroom floors and cafeteria before exiting. The hallways and outside areas are also to be kept free of all litter and paper.

Students marking on or damaging school equipment or property in any way may be required to clean the article or pay for damage and will face disciplinary consequences. The Board Policy specifically provides that parents and students are responsible for damage to school property or materials loaned to the student. Not only should students refrain from doing anything that damages school property, but students should also help protect the school by discouraging and/or reporting such activity by other students.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones are not to be seen or used during school hours without teacher or administrator permission, and only to be used for instructional purposes. Students may possess cell phones on school property as long as they are powered off and out of sight during the school day. Teachers have the discretion to expect cell phones be left in the classroom in a visible, safe location (i.e, teacher desk) when students leave the classroom during the instructional period (i.e. restroom, errands, etc.). Using or manipulating smart watches as a communication tool is the same as cell phone usage and will receive consequences accordingly. Please refrain from contacting your child on their personal device and expecting a response during the school day.

Cell phone violations will result in a discipline referral, with consequences starting with up to two days of in-school suspension. Videoing or taking pictures is not allowed during the school day. Electronics must meet the guidelines stated in the Pike County Schools Code of Conduct. The administration strongly encourages students to leave these items at home, as the school will not assume the responsibility for their loss, theft, or damage. The administration will not spend time conducting searches for lost phones.

DISCIPLINE

Pike County Middle School will use the discipline procedures outlined in the Pike County Schools Handbook and Code of Conduct. It is necessary that teachers, parents, and students understand, accept, and support the discipline policies of our school. PCMS believes in, encourages, and enforces age-appropriate discipline policies for all students. This District Code of Conduct applies while on campus, at designated bus stops, while riding any Pike County school bus, and while participating in field trips or other school sponsored activities. Misconduct will not be tolerated at PCMS. Any student who violates discipline policies listed herein are not only disrupting their education, but also the educational environment of others and should expect consequences because of this choice.

Students are responsible for following the directions of all staff members including the principal, assistant principals, counselors, teachers, secretaries, paraprofessionals, custodians, bus drivers, substitutes, and any other authorized adult employee of the school system.

Teachers may utilize the following consequences for behavior/disruptions to the school day as part of their classroom management strategies:

- Silent Lunch
- After school detention
- Loss of privileges/team privileges
- Other consequences approved by administration

Vaping

The use of vapes and electronic vaping devices has grown exponentially among children and teens. At PCMS, we take the use, distribution, and possession of these devices seriously and want to educate students accordingly. Please see the Pike County Schools Code of Conduct for the vaping protocols. Administrators who have reasonable suspicion that a student possesses a vaping device may initiate a search of both the student and their belongings in accordance with Pike County Schools Code of Conduct.

Bus Conduct

For detailed information, please refer to the District Code of Conduct.

Students have the privilege of using the transportation services of the Pike County School System. Rigid standards of discipline must always be maintained to satisfy safety requirements. Whenever a driver must

direct his/her attention away from the road, dangers exist. Foremost in our minds is the safety of each passenger.

Students may only ride the school bus to which they are assigned. At times, it may be necessary for athletics or teams to ride a specified bus to another location after school. Only that bus may be boarded for that purpose. If an emergency arises which makes it necessary for a student to ride a different bus, the parent must send a written request along with a copy of a valid picture ID no later than 2:00 p.m. to the school receptionist.

We are unable to unload a bus for student check-out once they have loaded the bus for dismissal.

Late to Class Policy: The classroom teacher will assign the appropriate consequence when a student is late to class. A student is considered late if he/she is not in a seat in the classroom with the necessary materials out and ready to begin work when class begins. It is the responsibility of the student to make up any missed work. If tardiness to class becomes a pattern of behavior, the student will be referred to administration for discipline.

DRESS CODE

PCMS will enforce the 6-12 dress code as outlined in the Pike County Schools Handbook and Code of Conduct. Students shall dress in a manner that is reasonable and not distracting to other students and teachers. The dress of students must be in good taste and appropriate for school activities.

School principals and assistant principals have final authority in all judgments related to dress. The Superintendent or school Principals are responsible for implementing this policy and may disseminate additional regulations, procedures, or directives as necessary to enforce the policy.

EMERGENCY/CRISIS DRILLS

The importance of following instructions from staff during an emergency/crisis drill cannot be emphasized enough. Any time the alarm sounds, leave the building under the guidance of your teacher. Walk quietly and quickly. We will engage in various crisis drills throughout the school year. Students should listen to their teachers and follow directions. Failure to follow expected emergency drill protocols may result in a discipline referral.

FEES/SCHOOL PAYMENTS

Various fees and payments are made to the school throughout the year i.e., locker rental, lost/damaged books, fundraising, athletics, etc. Fees may be paid with cash/check. Checks should be made payable to Pike County Middle School. Please note that all returned checks will be subject to a \$25 charge. Returned checks and non-payments may result in actions being taken with the magistrate court for recovery of funds. Privileges such as participating in extracurricular school functions (ex: athletics, dances) will be denied to students with outstanding debt.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are a privilege for our students. Permission slips will be sent home with students for a parent/legal guardian signature. No student will be allowed to participate in a trip unless a permission slip is signed and returned to school by the date specified by the teacher. A current Student Medical Information Sheet, which includes the signed Emergency Medical Transportation, must be on file for a student to participate in a field trip. Students who cannot contribute to the expense of the field trip will not be denied participation. Only Pike County School employees may chaperone field trips. Students will not be available for check-outs from field trips.

Field trips are an extension of the school, and all school rules apply. Students must follow school rules and dress code guidelines to be able to participate in field trips. The following will prevent field trip privileges:

- Disciplinary problems establishing a pattern of misbehavior
- Inappropriate dress on the day of the field trip
- Failure to return permission and/or medical release forms by the due date

The final determination of a student’s eligibility to attend a field trip will be decided by the principal.

FOOD/DRINKS

Food may not be delivered to students during the school day by food delivery establishments/services, including but not limited to Uber Eats, DoorDash, Grubhub, etc. Restaurant/delivery cups/cans are not allowed in classrooms. All beverages must be in a cup with a screw top lid. Classrooms will not be interrupted to inform students of lunch deliveries. Please communicate with your child before school if a lunch is going to be dropped off in the front office. Your child will be allowed to come to the front office at his/her lunchtime to pick up his/her lunch. Thank you for your help as we work to minimize classroom disruptions.

GRADES AND REPORT CARDS

Individual class syllabi will outline grading categories and practices. Parents are encouraged to check grades in PowerSchool weekly and communicate any concerns/missing work directly with the teacher. A zero in the gradebook reflects a missing assignment. Students are encouraged to communicate with their teacher a plan to make up any missing work in a timely manner. **It is vital that the work missing is completed within the current unit of study. Teachers are not required to accept missing work beyond the end of a unit. Due to longer instructional units in ELA classes, ELA teachers will include their missing work policy on their class syllabus.**

At Pike County Schools, we embrace the reality that in the 21st century, student success will ultimately depend less on what they know, and more on what they can do. Performance tasks are utilized as a unique assessment tool that combines standards-based content knowledge with the Core Competencies outlined in Pike’s Portrait of a Graduate. Many of our courses utilize performance tasks (including cornerstone and capstone tasks) as a final exam.

Report cards are issued every nine weeks. Questions about grades should be directed to the teacher within two weeks of grade entry into PowerSchool. Teachers use numeric grades, with the following scale given for comparison:

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
Below 70	F

HALL PASSES

Students in the hallways must have a hall pass except during class changes. Passes may be issued by any teacher, but students **MUST** have a pass to go to the library, restroom, clinic, office, and anywhere else during class. Students will be allowed to go to their locker during class changes at the teacher’s discretion. Refusing to follow this expectation may result in the loss of freedom and privileges. **Teachers have the discretion to expect cell phones to be left in the classroom in a visible, safe location (i.e, teacher desk) when students ask to leave the classroom during the instructional period.**

HALLWAY TRAFFIC

We all must observe hallway courtesy for students to move safely and quickly about the building. Please observe the following rules of common courtesy in the halls.

- Keep hallways open by walking on the right.
- WALK - do not run, push, shove, yell, or play in the hall.
- Do not block hallways by standing in groups to socialize.
- Do not block access to other lockers.
- Talk quietly - be considerate of others.

HORSEPLAY

Horseplay is disruptive and can often lead to serious discipline and/or injuries. The expectation is that you keep your hands to yourself and respect others' space and belongings. Horseplay inevitably escalates to leveled offenses such as inappropriate physical contact or fighting.

LOCKERS

Students may rent a locker with a combination lock for \$10/year. Assigned gym class lockers and locks will be used while in PE – provided by the PE teacher. Students should not tell their combination to ANYONE. This is for their protection. **Students should NOT BRING LARGE SUMS OF MONEY OR OTHER VALUABLES TO SCHOOL!** Students should not share lockers. The locker combination is a personal possession, and care should be taken to prevent anyone from learning that combination. Students are responsible for the safety and security of their combination, personal property, and school materials. Lockers are the property of the Pike County School System and are subject to inspection by authorized school personnel. School officials have a legal right and obligation to assure enforcement of all school policies. The courts have reaffirmed that administrators have the legal authority to search a student, their locker, and other personal belongings if there is a reason to believe that any school policy or law is being violated.

LOST AND FOUND

Students should be responsible for their personal property. Be sure names are on all clothing - especially P.E. clothes. Do not leave personal articles unattended. We suggest you leave valuables at home, especially jewelry. In the event you lose articles of clothing or lunchboxes, check in the cafeteria. Books, glasses, jewelry items, etc., that are found are located in the front office. Lost and found items are periodically donated to local charity. Announcements are made reminding students to check lost and found.

LUNCHROOM

Students are encouraged to deposit money into their meal accounts, whereby a draft of the account may be made daily as meals are purchased. Deposits may be made online at www.myschoolaccount.com or by cash or check at each school. Negative Balance Notifications are sent out to parents/guardians for balances greater than \$10.00.

Students' behavior in the lunchroom should be based on respect for self, others, and our facility/resources. Students may not break in line and must remain in the line to get their food. Students will sit at their assigned tables only. Students should leave their table and area clean. Walking around to socialize is not permitted.

MEDIA CENTER

The administration, library staff, and faculty want the Media Center to be a vital part of your educational development. The PCMS Media Center offers print and electronic resources to support and enrich the

middle school curriculum. Students are encouraged to do research and to prepare class assignments in the Media Center. Students are encouraged to ask the Media Specialist for assistance.

The following items about the library should be helpful:

1. The Media Center will be open daily for use during school hours, including the lunch period and before the regular school day as communicated. If it is necessary to limit library use to a special class, group, or program, this will be posted on the door.
2. You are expected to enter and exit quietly. You are expected to sign in at the circulation desk when you enter and sign out when you leave.
3. To come to the Media Center during any class period, homeroom, or lunch, you must have a pass. You are also responsible for returning the pass to your teacher before the end of the period.
4. Most library materials may be borrowed for two weeks and then renewed as needed. Exceptions are reference books, reserved books, current periodicals, and e-readers.
5. Students will be charged an overdue fine of 10 cents per item per day for overdue books. The maximum overdue fine is \$6.00 per book. Students who lose or damage a book must pay the replacement cost of the book plus overdue fines. Overdue fines and fees for lost/damaged books will be paid directly to the library.
6. Students should ask permission before printing from computers. The cost is 25 cents per page for black and white and 50 cents per page for color.
7. You are expected to be self-disciplined and use your time in the library to read or do research.
8. No food, drinks, or chewing gum is permitted in the Media Center.
9. All internet access is governed by the Pike County Board of Education policy. Students and parents/legal guardians must agree to comply with all PCBOE regulations. (See Internet Acceptable Use Policy on PCBOE webpage). You must agree not to use the internet for personal e-mail, chat rooms, games, or to view inappropriate web sites, etc. In short, you are only to use the internet to retrieve appropriate information for class assignments.

NURSE/HEALTHCARE CLINIC

The clinic provides an area to care for sick or injured students and faculty. A child should not be sent to school with diarrhea, vomiting, and/or elevated temperature 100 degrees or higher. Your child should be free of fever for 24 hours without any type of fever reducing medication before returning to school. To visit the clinic, students should first get a note/pass from his/her teacher. If classes are changing, the student should check in with the teacher of the next class to get a pass. The student should then check in with the nurse. Students will stay in the clinic or front office if they are waiting for a parent.

Head Lice

Students found to be infected with head lice or nits at school will be sent home by the school nurse or by an administrator. Parents are expected to treat the child's hair with an appropriate solution to remove the dead lice and/or nits. Parents must present a statement from a medical doctor or the local health department verifying that the child is free of lice and nits before the child will be permitted to return to school. Two weeks after a child's return to school, the nurse will do a routine reexamination to ensure that the student continues to be free from lice and/or nits.

Medicine Policy

No medication can be administered at school without a proper Pike County Board of Education authorization form signed by the student's parent for over-the-counter medications or signed by the physician for prescription medications. Prescription medications must be in the original container with a pharmacy label

showing the student's and doctor's name and appropriate directions for administering the medication. Non-prescription drugs, including Tylenol, aspirin, cold remedies, eye drops, and any other over-the-counter medications must also be in the original container and furnished by the parent. While at school, students are not allowed to take any medication by themselves or to have any medication on their person (other than an inhaler for which a doctor's order indicating the student can have it with him/her must be on file). If a doctor or parent requests a student carry an EpiPen on their person, proper forms and training will be done through the school nurse. If it is necessary for a student to have medication at school, a parent must bring the medication and leave it with the clinic or office personnel. Students are not allowed to bring medication to school.

OFFICE PHONE USE

Students will not be called out of class to accept phone calls or return phone calls from parents/guardians. The front office staff will only relay messages of transportation changes/emergencies to students.

The use of the front office phone is discouraged for things other than emergencies. Students asking to use the front office phone will be expected to have a pass from their teacher and will present to the office personnel their reason for use. Students who do need the phone will be expected to know the number of the person they are calling. Acceptable reasons for office phone use are to make transportation changes warranted by school athletics/club changes. Permission to use the office phone will be left up to the office staff/administrators.

ORGANIZATIONS AND CLUBS

Pike County Middle School is proud to offer a variety of student clubs and organizations. We encourage all students to discover new interests and be a part of the school community.

PARENT/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT POLICY

- Purpose – Because parent and community member involvement is an asset for our students, we encourage input and involvement from our stakeholders.
- Communication – Please make sure you are receiving the weekly principal's message through email. If you are not, please contact our registrar, Heather Marchman at marchmh@pike.k12.ga.us to ensure we have the correct email address on file.
Parent, teacher, and school communication is encouraged. Pike County Middle School may use automated phone calls or emails, the school website, the school Facebook® page, Bright Arrow, and Remind® to provide information about school activities, policies, and procedures. Parent/Teacher meetings may be scheduled at the request of either party.
- Parent Participation – Parents are encouraged to attend conferences, extracurricular events, parent information meetings, and local Board of Education meetings.

PARENT CONCERNS

We understand that concerns arise, and we want parents to feel welcome to communicate with staff. We ask that concerns are addressed at the appropriate level before they escalate. Often, a simple conversation leads to a common understanding or resolution. Please follow the steps below when addressing concerns:

- Contact the teacher to request a call or meeting. Please allow teachers 24 hours to respond.
- If, after contacting the teacher, concerns continue, parents may request a meeting with the counselor and/or assistant principal.
- If after meeting with the counselor and AP, concerns continue, parents may request a meeting with the PCMS principal.

We can best address parent/student needs when meetings with school personnel are arranged in advance.

PARENTAL RIGHTS

By federal law, if parents are legally separated or divorced, each parent listed on the child's birth certificate has equal rights to access the child's records UNLESS there is a court order that prohibits such access by terminating said parent's parental rights. Unless the school has a copy of a court order on file indicating otherwise, either parent listed on the child's birth certificate may check the child out of school as well as view their records with proper identification.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Items outlined in the Code of Conduct (ex: pornographic material, weapons, vapes, drugs, alcohol, or any other item that is dangerous or disruptive to the learning environment).
- Electronic games/toys/communication devices are not to be used during school hours. Electronics must meet the guidelines stated in the Pike County Schools Code of Conduct. The school day begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends when school is dismissed for the day at 3:05pm. Repeat offenders may have their devices confiscated and returned to a parent/legal guardian. The administration strongly encourages students to leave these items at home, as the school will not assume responsibility for their loss, theft, or damage.
- Other items that could cause a danger to students or which are disruptive in nature include, but are not limited to, firecrackers, stink bombs, matches, lighters, laser pointers, hot sauce, glitter, buck lure, permanent markers, superglue/nail glue, rubber bands, e-cigarettes or any other items that are used to simulate smoking/tobacco use.
- Clothing that contains messages that disrupt the learning environment.
- Items intended for sale are not allowed.
- Glass bottles or containers (all drink bottles must have screw-on cap). **No Energy Drinks!**
- Toys including spinners, wireless speakers, skateboards, and any items of value not required for school.
- Blankets, flags of any kind.
- Heelys or comparable footwear.

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION (PDA)

Public displays of affection during the school day are not allowed. PDA includes, but is not limited to, holding hands, hugging, and kissing. PDA falls under the District Code of Conduct Section 1 offenses, inappropriate physical contact between students.

RESTROOMS

Students are encouraged to use the hallway restrooms during times designated by teachers. The Commons restroom, located at the cafeteria, is used during lunchtime and by hall pass only. Per the District Code of Conduct, stalls are limited to one person at a time. Multiple students in a restroom stall is an automatic office referral. **Teachers have the discretion to expect cell phones be left in the classroom in a visible, safe location (i.e, teacher desk) when students ask to leave the classroom during the instructional period.**

SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES

School counselors and the graduation coach work as team members with school staff, parents, and the community to create a caring, supportive climate and atmosphere whereby students can achieve academic success. The goal of our school counselors and graduation coach is to help students focus on academic achievement, personal/social development, and career planning so they achieve success in school and are prepared to lead fulfilling lives as responsible members of society.

Services provided by the Pike County Middle School Counseling Department include the following: individual counseling, group counseling, parent consultation, academic advisement, classroom guidance, crisis intervention, career development and guidance, mediation, conflict resolution, student support services team consultation, parent and family education, assessment results and interpretation, community outreach and transition planning. Students may come to the Counseling Department with a teacher's permission. If the counselor is unable to see the student at that time, they may leave their name and a brief message, and the counselor will see them as soon as possible. However, in an emergency, the first available counselor will see the student. A teacher or administrator may also refer a student to a counselor if they feel that the student will benefit from counseling interventions or if they are aware of personal/social issues that need to be addressed. Parents/legal guardians may call and request that a counselor meet with their child, as well.

SCHOOL DETECTION AND DETERRENCE PROGRAM

This program reduces the presence of drugs, alcoholic beverages, abused medications, and weapons on school grounds. Random and unannounced visits, using highly trained detection canines, are escorted/observed by school personnel. Normal inspections include lockers, gym areas, common areas, vehicles, unoccupied restrooms, vacated classrooms, and perimeters of school property.

SCHOOL HOURS

The school hours for Pike County Middle School are 8:00 a.m. - 3:05 p.m. NO STUDENT SHOULD ARRIVE BEFORE 7:30 a.m. It is unsafe for students to be here unsupervised, and we cannot assume responsibility for safety before that time. Students should enter the building through the gym lobby doors adjacent to the bus lanes or the front doors located at the main entrance. Students will then report to the gym until dismissal to first period at 7:55. Students wishing to eat breakfast should do so in the cafeteria.

Unless participating in an afterschool activity, all STUDENTS MUST BE PICKED UP BY 3:20 P.M.

A student participating in any after-school event/activity must be picked up no later than 15 minutes after the scheduled end of the event/activity. A student who is picked up late from two after-school events/activities will not be allowed to stay for any more events during the school year.

STUDENT DROP-OFF and PICK-UP PROCEDURES

Morning Drop-Off

Drivers may choose to enter the school campus through the Main Entrance or the Bus Entrance after 7:30 a.m. Drivers should pull forward toward the end of the sidewalk and students **MUST** exit at the curb adjacent to the school building. After 7:50, all drop-offs will be at the front entrance. **After 8:00, a parent must enter the building with their child to check them in.**

Vehicles entering the Main Entrance should use both entrance lanes and merge into one lane at the front of the building. Drivers should pull forward so that multiple vehicles are curbside, and students can exit the vehicles safely. Vehicles **MUST NOT** enter the parking lot unless the driver parks in a designated space and escorts the student(s) across the drop-off lane using one of the two designated crosswalks. Visitors to the school must check in at the front office located just inside the main entrance front doors.

Vehicles entering the Bus Entrance must yield to bus traffic at all times. Drivers should pull forward so that multiple vehicles are curbside, and students can exit the vehicle safely.

Afternoon Pick-Up

Students will be dismissed for pick-up around 3:05 when all buses are in place. Vehicle drivers may choose to enter the school campus for student pick-up through the Main Entrance or the Bus Entrance. It is essential for drivers and students to communicate which entrance will be used in the afternoon so the student will report to the proper area.

Vehicles entering the Main Entrance should use both lanes and merge into one lane at the front of the building. Drivers should pull forward so that multiple vehicles are curbside, and students can enter the vehicles safely. Vehicles **MUST NOT** enter the parking lot unless the driver parks in a designated space and escorts the student(s) from the building sidewalk across oncoming traffic using one of the two designated crosswalks.

Vehicles entering the campus at the bus entrance must yield to bus traffic at all times. Drivers should form a single lane of traffic behind the first stop line allowing buses to pass and align curbside for student loading. When buses exit the lanes adjacent to the building, drivers should pull forward maintaining a single lane so that multiple vehicles are curbside, and students can enter the vehicles safely. Vehicles **MUST NOT** enter the parking lot until all bus and car rider traffic has left.

STUDENT PHOTOGRAPH DISCLAIMER

During every school year, there are many opportunities for students to have pictures and/or information about themselves in the following publications. These publications include but are not limited to the following:

- newspapers
- newsletters
- yearbook
- clubs
- PTO programs
- School social media
- Pike Portraits
- Student of the month

This information is for the purpose of recognition for awards, honors, and/or achievements (honor roll, merit roll, student of the month, contests winners, etc.) they may have received. The Pike County Journal-Reporter occasionally comes into the school to ask students a question and to take their pictures for publication in the newspaper. On rare occasions, a television news crew may be on campus and may photograph and/or interview students to show on television that evening. Under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), parents have a right to deny the publication of such information about their children. **If you would like to opt out of having your child's photograph published, you must submit written notice to the school registrar (marchmh@pike.k12.ga.us) within 30 days of the start of school or at the time of enrollment. This must be completed annually.**

STUDENT SAFETY

Students are expected to treat all people – other students, staff, and visitors, as well as themselves – with respect at all times. We have an expectation at Pike County Middle School that we will “Be Our Best Self.”

Students should report acts of aggression, hatefulness, or bullying to an adult immediately. There are

several avenues for these reports to be made:

1. Verbally tell the first staff member or administrator that you see about the incident you have witnessed or heard about.
2. Come to the counseling office and make a written report.
3. Utilize the P3 Campus app/website to make an anonymous report. P3 Campus is an anonymous tip-reporting solution designed specifically for the educational community. P3 Campus is a vital tool in keeping our school and students safe. School community members can report about a wide range of concerns, from mental health issues to threats of violence through our P3 Campus mobile app or through any web browser at P3Campus.com. This technology gives administrators and school resource officers an intuitive interface to manage and share tips in real time.

Students should also report to a staff member any person that they see who looks suspicious. As a community, we don't want to live in fear, but we do encourage all members to trust their gut feelings and instincts and report when something is concerning.

TRANSPORTATION

In the interest of our students' safety and well-being, we will not accept transportation changes via telephone. All transportation changes **must be in writing** bearing the signature of the student's parent/guardian and a phone number for verification. If you e-mail or fax the changes, they **must be in writing** bearing the signature of the student's parent/guardian, a copy of your driver's license and a phone number. Due to time constraints, no transportation change requests will be accepted after 2:00 p.m. **DO NOT RELY ON VOICEMAIL FOR TRANSPORTATION ISSUES.** Our transportation department does not allow distractions such as balloons, and/or oversized or breakable items to be taken on the school bus.

TEXTBOOKS

Each student will be issued system-owned books. Lost or damaged books must be paid for by the student. Students are responsible for the books they are issued.

VISITORS

All visitors to the building must enter the main entrance and sign-in at the front office to receive a visitor's badge. All visitors will be escorted by school personnel to designated areas. Any person seen in the building without proper identification or in an area not specifically approved upon signing in will be asked to leave the building immediately. Parent/legal guardians may observe their child's class, if desired. Requests should be made in writing to the school principal, and the principal will schedule a visit at an agreed upon time. Parents who would like to eat lunch with their child may do so at a designated table in the cafeteria. Parents are only permitted to eat and interact with their child.

VOLUNTEERS/VISITORS

[Pike County School District Volunteer/Visitor Requirement Guidelines](#)

If you would like to volunteer, please complete a volunteer application found on the Pike County District Website [Volunteer - Pike County Schools](#). This is an online document that will be sent directly to the Central Office and the Background Check process will begin upon completion.

Once you have completed your application, go to the district website, click on ACTIONS, then click on VOLUNTEER and complete the MANDATED REPORTER TRAINING. Turn in your completed certification to Janna Brannon in Human Resources at Central Office, BrannoJ@pike.k12.ga.us. Please be advised that it may take a couple of weeks to process your application.