

Dyer County School System
Middle School Handbook
2023 - 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This handbook is provided to supply information to you and your parents or guardians about our system; therefore, I request that both you and your parents or guardians read this booklet completely. If there are any questions about Northview Middle School or Three Oaks Middle School, please contact your principal or me.

Ms. Cheryl Mathis, Director

GENERAL CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE DYER COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Students and employees of the Dyer County School System are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is “morally and legally right.” All individuals connected with the Dyer County School System are personally responsible for behavior that is safe for themselves as well as other persons.

SCHOOL OPENING AND CLOSING TIMES

The building opens at 7:10 a.m. and closes at 3:30 p.m. Classes begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. The Dyer County School System is not responsible for the care, custody, supervision, or control of students before the opening time or after the closing time as stated above. When school days are on an abbreviated schedule, the above opening and closing times may not apply.

SCHOOL MASCOT AND COLORS

The mascot for Northview Middle and Three Oaks Middle is the CHOCTAW. Our school colors are orange and white. The color black can be used as an accent.

VISITORS

All visitors must enter the building through the front main entrance, then report immediately to the office. Each person may be required to sign the visitor's log and receive a pass.

SCHOOL CLOSING

In case of bad weather, school cancellations will be broadcast over local radio station WASL and posted on the Dyer County Schools website www.dycrcs.net, and the Dyer County App Team Reach.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Dyer County School System does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, religion, creed, age, marital status, or disability in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies. Any employee or student who feels he/she has been discriminated against on any of these bases should make the grievance known to the principal of the school. If no agreement can be obtained, then the coordinator should be contacted. The coordinator for Title VI,

Title IX, and Section 504 is Dr. Carolyn Tyler at the Dyer County School System, 159 Everett Avenue, Dyersburg, TN 38024, (731) 285-6712.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Physical Examination: There should be a complete medical examination of every child entering school for the first time. This applies to students for whom there is no health record on file.
2. Immunizations: (T.C.A. 49-6-5001) (a) The commissioner of health and environment is authorized, subject to the approval of the public health council, to designate diseases against which children are encouraged to be immunized prior to attendance at any school, nursery school, kindergarten, preschool or daycare facility of Tennessee. Currently required immunizations include DTP/TD, Polio, MMR or Measles, Rubella and Mumps.
3. Out of State Students: All out of state students transferring to Dyer County Schools must have their immunization records verified by either the Dyer County Health Department or another health provider. These students are encouraged to furnish the school either a temporary or a permanent certificate from the health provider that the student is immunized in accordance with the State of Tennessee Department of Health's criteria for children at attend public school.
4. Students transferring from non-public schools will be placed in a grade by one of two methods. (1) If the student has been tested by an approved norm-referenced test, he/she may be placed in the grade indicated by the test. (2) If the student has not been tested in this manner, he/she will be tested and placed by the school into which they are transferring.
5. A birth certificate or officially acceptable evidence of date of birth, and a social security number should be presented upon registration.
6. Transfer Students: Transfer students must provide the school with proof of residence.

DRUG ADMINISTRATION POLICY

No medication, prescription or over the counter, will be administered to students at school unless the proper form is completed and signed by both the parent/guardian and the prescribing medical provider. The forms are available in your principal's office and must be updated as medication changes.

TELEPHONE

The telephone in the school office is for business use only. Students may use the telephone only in cases of emergency. Permission must be secured from a student's teacher before a phone call is made.

CELLPHONE

Cellphones/smartwatches may not be used in the instructional setting. Cellphones must be placed in a bag, backpack, purse, locker, chrome-book bag, etc., during instructional time, which is any time during the school day except for break and lunch. Smartwatches may not be used as a cellphone during instructional time.

Earbuds are only permitted during instructional time when deemed necessary for educational instruction. Failure to follow cellphone/smartwatch guidelines will be considered insubordination and will result in disciplinary actions. Refusal to surrender the device to a staff member will be considered insubordination and will result in disciplinary actions. Reoccurring cellphone/smartwatch violations or inappropriate usage such as videos, pictures, music, etc., will result in further disciplinary actions and may result in the cellphone/smartwatch being banned from school.

TEXTBOOKS/CHROMEBOOKS

All textbooks and Chromebooks are loaned to students for their use during the school year. If any textbook or Chromebook is lost, damaged, or destroyed, the parent(s) or guardian(s) will be required to pay for the lost or damaged item before other textbooks/Chromebooks will be issued.

NEWS MEDIA

During the course of the school year, this school may release to the news media names of students on Honor Rolls, athletic teams, clubs, organizations, etc. If you wish that your child's name not be released under these or similar circumstances, please contact your child's principal.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION UNDER *Every Student Succeeds Act*

As a parent, you have a right to request information regarding the professional license of your child(s) teacher and any paraprofessional providing instructional support to your child. You may request this information from the school principal or from Mrs. Angie Stafford at 285-6712.

Parents will be notified of any schools in Dyer County which have been identified for school improvement or as not meeting adequate yearly progress. If you wish to have access to information concerning the school system's report card or other assessment information, you may contact Mrs. Angie Stafford at 285-6712 or access this information at www.tn.gov/education.

The Dyer County School System will provide appropriate programs as needed for students who are identified as Limited English Proficient or homeless.

Individual student assessment information is sent home with the student report card at the end of the year or at the beginning of the next school year.

Due to requirement of the ESSA for systems receiving federal funds, DCS will release information which includes names, addresses and phone numbers of students to all military recruiters if requested unless parents notify the high school principal in writing not to release this information. Dyer County Schools strive to provide all students with complete privacy rights. Parents have the right to inspect all of their child's records and instructional materials and may request in writing that certain personal information not be disclosed. If you have any questions, you may contact Mrs. Cheryl Mathis or Mrs. Angie Stafford at 285-6712.

PEANUT FREE SCHOOLS

All schools in the Dyer County School System are peanut free schools. The following items are not allowed at any time: peanut butter, snacks containing peanuts, products made with peanuts, or any item cooked in peanut oil.

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

The cafeteria in each middle school will serve nutritious breakfasts and lunches at economical prices. Children from families who are unable to pay full price for their meals may be eligible for free or reduced price benefits. Applications for benefits may be obtained in the cafeteria office. The information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other school nutrition program officials. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to update application information any time there is a change in any portion of it during the school year.

Students are offered various choices of foods at lunch in an effort to ensure that students receive nutritious foods that they will enjoy. They may pay for their school meals daily, weekly, or monthly. Money remaining in the student's cafeteria account at the end of the school year will be refunded to the parent/guardian or carried over to the following year. In the event that a student forgets or misplaces his/her lunch money, the student will be allowed to charge up to a maximum of five (5) days. If a student has charged the maximum of allowed and still fails to bring lunch money, he/she may be given a courtesy meal. School personnel will contact parent/guardian requesting prompt payment of the amount owed. Additional information regarding the charge procedure is available by contacting the SNP Supervisor. Charging of breakfast is not allowed.

Commercially prepared food (fast food or take out from a restaurant), brought in from outside the cafeteria, is prohibited by federal school nutrition guidelines during SNP serving times. We also do not allow outside drink containers (cups, glass bottles, or carbonated beverages) to be brought in during SNP serving times. Please adhere to these guidelines when you send your child's lunch.

Any questions or suggestions concerning the school breakfast or lunch programs may be directed to Mrs. Amy Hester, School Nutrition Supervisor for the Dyer County Schools, 159 Everett Avenue, Dyersburg, TN 38024 or at 285-6712. Email: ahester@dyerco.net

ATTENDANCE

Good school attendance and promptness to classes are extremely important matters to the Dyer County School System. Attendance is a key factor in student

achievement and therefore, students are expected to be present each day school is in session. The following policy applies to students in kindergarten through grade 12.

Absences shall be classified as either excused or unexcused as determined by the principal or his designee. Students will be allowed five **(5) excused** absences per year with a parent note. Excused absences may include, but are not limited to:

1. Personal illness
2. Death in the immediate family
3. Extreme weather conditions
4. Religious observances
5. Debilitating illness of an immediate family member
6. Circumstances which, in the judgment of the principal, create situations over which the student may have no control.

*Truancy is defined as an absence for an entire school day, a major portion of the school day, or the major portion of any class or activity during the school day for which the student is scheduled. Parent/guardian **must** send a written note explaining the absence when the student returns to school. The note must be sent to the school within 5 school days of the absence.*

Once a student reaches (3) unexcused absences, a Tier I meeting will be scheduled, and a 3-day letter will be given to the parent/guardian. An attendance contract will be initiated in efforts to improve school attendance. If a student's attendance reaches (5) unexcused absences, a Tier II meeting will be scheduled. An assessment will be conducted and a 5-day letter will be given to the parent/guardian. If a student's attendance continues to decline, and the student's unexcused absences reach 10 days, then a Tier III meeting will be scheduled. The student will be sent to Truancy Board or Juvenile Court to address the student's attendance.

*Chronic Absenteeism is defined by ESSA as missing 10% or more of a school year. When a student misses 3 days of school, excused or unexcused, a letter regarding the importance of school attendance will be sent to the parent/guardian. **All absences, excused or unexcused, count toward chronic absenteeism.***

A student with an unexcused absence may be permitted to do makeup work. It is the responsibility of the student to request and complete the assignments in the time required.

If a student has three (3) or more consecutive absences, a doctor, court, or funeral note may be required for the absences to be excused. A parent note may not be used to excuse three (3) or more consecutive absences. After five (5) parent notes, all other parent notes will be unexcused.

Students may check-in and check-out of school during regular school hours. Students will only be permitted to leave in the presence of a parent or guardian.

Students who arrive late to school must be signed- in by a parent/guardian. The accumulated tardies are recorded. Excessive tardiness will be reported to the Truancy Officer. Tardiness may also result in loss of privileges or disciplinary action.

Ten (10) consecutive unexcused absences or the total of fifteen (15) unexcused absences during any semester renders a student ineligible to retain a driver's permit or license or to obtain such if of age.

STUDENT RECORDS POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to effectuate the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) at 20 U.S.C. §1232g and 34 C.F.R. §99.1, et seq., T.C.A. §§10-7-504 and 49-1-701, et seq., to afford parents, guardians, and students who are eighteen (18) years of age or older certain rights with respect to the student's education records maintained by Dyer County Board of Education hereinafter referred to as (LEA) and the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE).

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ZONES

The Dyer County School System has established attendance zones in order to regulate enrollment at each of our schools. Students may attend one of the other schools for which they are not zoned on a space available basis if they provide their own transportation. However, at any time that the school becomes overcrowded, the child who is out of zone must return to the school for which he/she is zoned or attend another Dyer County school.

Students zoned for transportation for Holice Powell Elementary School, and Finley Elementary School will receive transportation to Three Oaks Middle School. Fifth Consolidated Elementary School will receive transportation to Three Oaks Middle School and to Northview Middle School. Students zoned for transportation for Trimble Elementary School and Newbern Elementary School will receive transportation to Northview Middle School.

Middle school students who reside in the Dyersburg City School zone and wish to attend a Dyer County middle school must attend Three Oaks Middle School. If the student attended a Dyer County elementary school for fourth and fifth grades, then the student may attend either Northview Middle School or Three Oaks Middle School.

TESTING POLICY

The state of Tennessee requires the administration of the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP)

TCAP Testing: Grades 6-8

Testing Dates: TBD

ELA and Social Studies
Math and Science

DYER COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The Dyer County School System is pleased to offer computer, network and Internet access to our students. While our intent is to make access available to further educational goals and objectives, students and employees may find ways to access other materials as well. We believe that the benefits from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any possible disadvantages. Ultimately, parents and guardians are responsible for setting and conveying standards that their children should follow on the Internet just as they do on the use of all media information sources such as television, telephones, movies, and radio.

Any violation of the Network and Internet Rules may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension and/or expulsion. When applicable, law enforcement may be involved.

Network and Internet Rules

- Never share your password
- Never tamper with the technology equipment in your school
- Obscene or offensive materials must not be accessed or transmitted
- Accessing personal e-mail is strictly prohibited
- Software is not to be installed unless authorized by the Technology Department
- Commercial or illegal use is prohibited
- Bringing Removable Media such as floppy disks, CD/DVDs, USB Flash, etc. from home is strictly prohibited unless authorized by the Technology Department
- Attempting to tamper with other people's data or to gain unauthorized access to accounts or files on the network or Internet is strictly prohibited
- Remote Access Software used to connect to devices on the Dyer County School System network is not allowed unless approved by the Technology Coordinator.
- All files, messages and network communications are subject to Dyer County School System review and archival.
- Personal information shall not be included in any network transmission
- Bypassing the Internet Content Filter using proxies or any other means is strictly prohibited and will result in immediate disciplinary action and loss of computer, network and Internet privileges
- Any action that violates Board policy or public law is prohibited.

FAMILY LIFE CURRICULUM

To comply with TCA 49-6-1301, the Dyer County School System is required to implement a program of family life instruction. This instruction is given to students in grades 5-8 in the spring of each school year. Fifth and sixth grade students will have one lesson on the topic of puberty, conducted by school nurses. Seventh and eighth grade students will have two sessions on the topic of resisting peer pressure, conducted by elementary guidance counselors. Boys and girls will be separated for instruction.

Any child may be excused from any or all of these classes if a parent or guardian submits a request in writing to the school principal. Request for exemption must be made each year.

GRADING SYSTEM

Grades will be reported using numerals. Special education grades are to be determined by the teacher who has the student the majority of the time in a given subject area. Title I grades will be given to the student's homeroom teacher. The regular teacher will be responsible for the student's grade on the report card and permanent record.

Grade Scale:

A-90-100
B-80-89
C-70-79
D-60-69
F-0-59

GRADING PERCENTAGES

The first semester average for each class is obtained by averaging the grades for the first and second nine weeks grading periods with a benchmark assessment counting 20% of the student's nine weeks' average. The second semester average is obtained by averaging the grades of the third and fourth nine weeks' periods with a benchmark assessment counting 20% of the student's nine weeks' average. The final average for each class is the average of the first and second semester averages. TCAP tests will count 10% of a student's final average.

RETENTION POLICY

A student may be retained if a final average of F occurs in any two core academic subjects. No student will be retained without the recommendation of the principal. In order to be promoted, the student must meet reasonable academic (including TCAP), attendance, and behavioral standards.

SCHOOL RULES

Middle School students, faculty and staff will operate under these principles:

Respect yourself and others.

Be responsible for your actions.

Do the right thing at all times.

Students with disabilities have the same responsibilities as students in other school programs. The student with verification of having a disability will be responsible for the policies and procedures to the extent that the disability allows.

When misconduct is a manifestation of a particular disability, alternative intervention measures will be allowed.

Middle Schools are smoke-free schools. **The use or possession of tobacco products or tobacco paraphernalia is prohibited.** Offenders may be issued a juvenile citation. Moreover, the use, possession or distribution of any vaping product or vaping paraphernalia, electronic cigarettes, synthetic compounds or substances, such as CBD products, potpourri, incense, bath salts, K2, spice, plant food, lazy cakes or similar substances that either mimic the effect of illegal drugs or are look-alike substances are also strictly prohibited.

No initiation or hazing of any form will be tolerated. Hazing by students acting alone or with others is strictly prohibited. Any organization which permits an initiation to go beyond the scope of activities planned and previously approved may be suspended by the principal. A student found guilty of hazing may receive punishment ranging from verbal reprimand to suspension and/or expulsion depending on the severity of the offense and the offender's prior record. TCA 49-2-120

It is a violation of Dyer County School Board policy for anyone to bully, intimidate, or create a hostile educational environment for a student. Bullying is defined as intentional harm-doing where a negative action is repeated over time, and there is an imbalance of power. The Dyer County Board of Education has determined that a safe, civil, and supportive environment in school is necessary for the students to learn and achieve high academic standards. In order to maintain that environment, the Dyer County Board of Education prohibits acts of harassment, bullying, cyberbullying, intimidation, or any other victimization of students, based on any actual or perceived traits or characteristics. To that end, the Dyer County Board of Education has in place policies and procedures to address incidents of bullying and harassment. This policy includes conduct taking place on school grounds, at any school-sponsored activity, on school-provided transportation, or at any official school bus-stop immediately before boarding and immediately following de-boarding. Community, including students, parents, volunteers, and visitors, are encouraged to report any act that may be a violation of this policy. TCA 49-6-4502

A substantiated charge against a student may result in corrective or disciplinary action up to and including suspension.

In order to provide a safe and orderly school environment where students can receive a good education, the Dyer County School System has developed and

adopted a four-stage outline of misbehavior and discipline as recommended by the State Department of Education. All staff is authorized to take reasonable measures to maintain appropriate student behavior. One or a combination of disciplinary options/responses may be used for each offense.

Level I: Minor misbehavior on the part of the student which disrupts an orderly classroom or operation of the school is considered Level I behavior. An individual staff member can usually handle this behavior. Level I behaviors include:

1. Gum chewing
2. Being in the hall without permission
3. Being in an unauthorized area of the building or grounds
4. Failure to do assignment or carry out directions
5. Classroom disturbances
6. Classroom tardiness
7. Possession of toys or games
8. Not staying with the class when moved as a group
9. Running in the halls, jumping and hitting overhead lighting and doorways, etc.
10. Abusive language/profanity
11. Other similar behavior

Disciplinary options/resources (administered by staff member who is supervising the student or has observed the behavior):

1. Verbal reprimand
2. Special assignment
3. Restricting activity
4. Behavioral contract
5. Discipline report
6. Counseling
7. Withdrawal of privileges
8. Time-in/time-out area
9. Strict supervised study
10. Detention
11. Assignment of a work detail
12. In school suspension
13. Other measures deemed appropriate by authorities

Level II: Frequent or serious behavior which disrupts the learning environment of the school will be considered Level II. Level II behaviors include:

1. Continuation of Level I behavior
2. Misconduct during assembly, in cafeteria, or in restrooms
3. School tardiness
4. Disruptive behavior
5. Insubordination
6. Cheating and lying
7. Other behavior of a more serious nature than Level I behavior

Disciplinary options/resources:

1. Referral to outside agency
2. In-school suspension
3. Discipline report
4. Conference with parents
5. Counseling
6. Detention before or after school
7. Suspension from school sponsored activities
8. Restricting the honors or privileges the student is otherwise due
9. Other measures deemed appropriate by authorities

Level III: These are more serious acts, some of which may be directed against persons or property, but which do not seriously affect the health or safety of others in the school. These acts might be considered criminal but most frequently could be handled by school discipline. There are some limits, however, on how serious a problem the school administrators can handle in the best interest of all students.

Level III behaviors include:

1. Continuation of Level I and/or Level II behaviors
2. Smoking/use/possession of any tobacco or vaping products, matches, or lighters (paraphernalia)
3. Cutting class
4. Fighting
5. Defacing school, student, or personal property
6. Being in unauthorized area
7. Stealing
8. Threats to others
9. Gambling
10. Truancy
11. Other behavior of a more serious nature than Level II

Disciplinary options/resources:

1. Temporary removal from class
2. Discipline report
3. In-school suspension
4. Before and after school detention
5. Temporary out-of-school suspension (1 to 3 days)
6. Long-term suspension (5 to 10 days)
7. Referral to alternative program
8. Restitution for lost, damaged, or stolen property
9. Other measures deemed appropriate by authorities

Level IV: Acts which result in violence to another person or property or which are a direct threat to the health or safety of the student or others in school. Level IV behaviors include:

1. Continuation of Level III behaviors
2. Possession of gun replicas, pellet gun, BB gun, air soft gun, or taser
3. Furnishing/selling/possession of unauthorized substances
4. Extortion
5. Bomb threat
6. Possession of stolen property
7. Assault/battery
8. Verbal abuse to a teacher or other adults
9. Vandalism
10. Gang behavior of any type
11. Possession/display of hate-group materials
12. Arson
13. Transmission by electronic device communication that implies a threat
14. Other behavior of a more serious nature than Level III behavior

Disciplinary options/resources:

1. Discipline report
2. Long-term out-of-school suspension
3. Expulsion
4. Alternative school
5. Other school action which results in appropriate placement

Alcohol Policy: A student found under the influence of, in possession of, or distributing alcohol shall be suspended from school and may appear before the school system's Discipline Hearing Authority.

Drug Policy: A student found under the influence of, in possession of, or distributing drugs and/or drug paraphernalia will be suspended from school and will appear before the school system's Discipline Hearing Authority.

Threats By Electronic Device Policy: A student who transmits by an electronic device any communication containing a credible threat to cause bodily injury or death to another student or school employee and the transmission of such threat creates actual disruptive activity at the school that requires administrative intervention will be disciplined, which may include suspension, expulsion and/or appearing before the school system's Discipline Hearing Authority. TCA 49-6-4216 (a)(2)(C).

Zero Tolerance: The following offenses are considered zero tolerance:

1. Battery on a teacher, principal, administrator, school employee or school resource officer TCA 49-6-3401(g)
2. Possession of a stimulant or narcotic drug. Unlawful possession of any drug including any controlled substance (THC) TCA 49-6-3401(g)
3. Weapons (including knives, and explosive weapons). To bring to school or to be in unauthorized possession on school property of a fire arm, as defined in 18 U.S.C.921 TCA 49-6-3401(g) and or weapons as defined in TCA 39-17-1309.

Zero tolerance offenses on school property or functions will result in expulsion for a period of one calendar year, except that the Director of Schools may modify this expulsion on a case-by-case basis.

DRESS CODE

Upon entering the doors of the school, the students, faculty, and staff become ambassadors for the school and its mission. The dress code applies to all school activities. In order to maintain a positive atmosphere, these procedures concerning dress will be followed.

1. Tank tops, muscle shirts, spaghetti straps, bibs, midriff, and fishnets will not be worn unless a proper shirt is underneath.
2. Skirts will be no shorter than "fingertip length." This length is longer than the person's fingertips when arms are extended directly down the person's side.
3. Caps, hats, or head coverings of any type can only be worn on designated days.
4. Pants with holes in them are not allowed.
5. Sagging pants will not be allowed.
6. Pajama pants and house shoes are not allowed.
7. Shirts and other apparel that promotes the use or consumption of alcohol and/or drugs or apparel that displays a suggestive or inappropriate message are not allowed.
8. The above list is not inclusive. For the orderly and efficient operation of the school, the school administration may determine other attire to be inappropriate as situations arise. If there is a question as to whether an article of clothing is appropriate for school wear, please contact the school administration prior to wearing.
9. Students who are considered to be in violation of the student dress code will be required to be in compliance immediately. In extreme cases of dress, make-up, jewelry and/or hair, etc. the student may be sent home to make corrections.

SUSPENSION

From Tennessee Code Annotated
Section 49-6-340c (4)

- A. If, at the time of the suspension, the principal or assistant principal determines that an offense has been committed which would justify a suspension for more than ten (10) days, such person may suspend a student unconditionally for a specified period of time or upon such terms and conditions as are deemed reasonable.
- B. The principal or assistant principal shall immediately give written or actual notice to the parent/guardian and the student the right to appeal the decision to suspend for more than ten (10) days. All appeals must be filed, orally or in writing, within five (5) days after receipt of the notice.

DISCIPLINARY HEARING AUTHORITY FROM DYER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD POLICY

- A. The appeal concerning this decision shall be to the Disciplinary Hearing Authority (DHA) appointed by the Board. The DHA will be composed of building principals, community members and chairman.
- B. Each hearing shall be conducted by three members of the Disciplinary Hearing Authority (DHA), one of whom must be a building principal, but not from the home school of the suspended student.
Each hearing must be held no later than ten (10) school days after the beginning of the suspension. The parents and/or student and the principal shall be notified within five (5) school days of the decision of the DHA, including notification of the right of either party within five (5) school days of receiving the decision to request in writing a review by the board of Education. Absent a timely appeal the decision of the DHA is final.
- C. The DHA may take the following disciplinary actions:
 - 1. Affirm the decision of the principal; or
 - 2. Modify or extend the decision.
- D. Based upon a review of the record the board may grant or deny the request for a hearing and may affirm the decision, modify the decision, but may not impose a more severe penalty without providing an opportunity for a board hearing.

DISCIPLINARY DUE PROCESS

The student will be notified of the facts and, if deemed necessary, also the parents: this will vary with circumstances. The parents will be notified when the student is involved in Level III and IV behaviors. The required procedures and notice will become more rigorous with serious offenses and with drastic punishment. The student will be allowed to present his/her case. The student will have the chance to tell his/her side of the story and the opportunity to prove that he/she is telling the truth. The student will be allowed to invite people who can support his/her version.

DUE PROCESS BEFORE SUSPENSION BY PRINCIPAL

The due process procedure before suspension will be as follows. The student must be told why he/she is being suspended. If the student denies guilt, school authorities must explain the evidences on which the suspension is based and hear the student's side of the story before the suspension hearing can proceed.

NOTE: At any of the levels or stages of behavior mentioned above, it is at the principal's discretion to carry a student's case of misconduct before the Dyer County Schools Disciplinary Hearing Authority. It is possible that the Disciplinary Hearing Authority's decision could result in expulsion of the student from school.

UNSAFE SCHOOL CHOICE POLICY

Under the Tennessee State Board of Education's Unsafe School Choice Policy, any public school student who is a victim of a violent crime as defined under Tennessee Code Annotated 40-38-111(g), or the attempt to commit one of these offenses as defined under Tennessee Code Annotated 39-12-101, shall be provided an opportunity to transfer to another grade-level appropriate school within the district.

Additional information regarding this option may be obtained by contacting the central office at 285-6712.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE POLICY

Any principal, or his/her designee, having reasonable suspicion may search any student, place or thing on school property or in the actual constructive possession of any student during any organized school activity off campus, including buses, vehicles of students or visitors (*Notice shall be posted in the school parking lot that vehicles parked on school property by students or visitors are subject to search for drugs, drug paraphernalia or dangerous weapons*), and containers or packages if he/she receives information which would cause reasonable belief that the search will lead to the discovery of:

1. Evidence of any violation of law;
2. Evidence of any violation of school rules or regulations or proper standards of student or faculty conduct;
3. Any object or substance which, because of its presence, presents an immediate danger of harm or illness to any person.

A student using a locker that is the property of the school does not have the right of privacy in that locker or its contents. All lockers or other storage areas provided for student use on school premises remain the property of the school system and are provided for the use of students are subject to inspection, access for maintenance and search. *Notice shall be posted in each school that lockers and other storage areas are school property and are subject to search.*

A student may be subject to physical search, or a student's pocket, purse or other container may be required to be emptied because of the results of a locker search, or because of information received from a teacher, staff member or other student if such action is reasonable to the principal. All of the following reasonableness shall be met:

1. A particular student is suspected to have violated policy.
2. The search could be expected to yield evidence of the violation of school policy or disclosure of a dangerous weapon or drug.
3. The primary purpose of the search is not to collect evidence for criminal prosecution.
4. The search is in pursuit of legitimate interests of the school in maintaining order, discipline, safety, supervision and education of students; and
5. The search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student, as well as the nature of the infraction alleged to have been committed.

NOTE: If the principal reasonably believes that illegal drugs or alcohol may be present on school premises, the principal may request the assistance of law enforcement officials in the search for the drugs or alcohol, including a request by the principal for the utilization of a drug dog.

SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

This school uses surveillance cameras to assist in monitoring student activity in hallways, building exits, the cafeteria, the parking lot, and possibly other areas that do not invade a child's privacy. Cameras are also used on school buses. Due to child privacy laws, only Dyer County School employees are allowed to view these tapes.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

The system does not guarantee transportation for students who reside within the limited transportation zones. Parents of students who reside outside of the limited transportation zone of the middle school, but within the limited transportation zone of an elementary school have primary responsibility for the transportation of their student to and from the collection point at the elementary school. The system may provide transportation for students living within limited transportation zones if they reside on an existing route and if space is available. Outside the limited transportation zones, students residing within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of established bus routes must provide their own transportation to the pick up point on the main route. Parents of system transported students are solely responsible for their student's care, custody, supervision and control until the student boards the bus. On return from school, parents assume these same responsibilities once their student steps off the bus.

Students transported by the system are required to follow the Bus Rules which are set forth later in this publication. Parents should review the Bus Rules in detail with their students. System transportation is a privilege, which may be revoked upon failure to obey and comply with the Bus Rules. The school discipline code is applicable to all students transported by the system.

Parents of students not transported by the system are solely responsible for the student's transportation, care, custody, supervision and control until the student enters the school. Parents assume these same responsibilities once the student exits the school.

Students who ride bicycles or drive motor vehicles to school must leave them parked in designated areas until the end of the school day. Permission must be obtained from the principal or the principal's designee, to use said transportation before the end of the school day.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY CONCERNS

To report unsafe driving of a Dyer County School Bus, please contact Mr. Allen Cook, Director of Transportation, at (731) 285-5852 or acook@dyercs.net. Please have the following information for the report: bus number, location of the incident, time of the incident, name and contact information of the person making the report.

BUS RULES

1. The arrival time of the school bus will be stabilized as much as possible after the first week of school, but may still vary to some degree due to weather, traffic conditions, or other circumstances. Parents are responsible for having children at the bus stop on time. Buses cannot wait beyond their regular schedules for those who are tardy.
2. Parents are responsible for their child's care, custody, supervision, and control until the child boards the bus. Parents retain the obligation to ensure their child is safe until the bus arrives and until the child is on board the bus. On return from school, parents resume these same responsibilities once the child steps off the bus. Parents are responsible for monitoring officially designated radio station WASL and the Dyer County Schools website for announcements concerning postponements or changes in bus schedules or school closings.
3. Students should arrive at the bus stop approximately five minutes before the bus is scheduled to be there. Students shall wait in a quiet and orderly manner. Students shall wait on the sidewalk or off the roadway and not on private property. Parents are responsible for their children's behavior while they are at the bus stop. If a bus does not arrive for its scheduled pick-up of a student, the parents of that student are responsible for their child's care, custody, supervision, and control until the child has actually boarded the bus.
4. Students are assigned to one bus, and bus drivers may assign seats to individual students when necessary. Generally, students are only allowed to ride only the bus to which they are assigned. Students may ride a different bus only with a note or phone call from a parent or guardian which is approved by the principal or his/her designee.
5. Students will be transported directly from designated bus stop to school to designated bus stop except when special arrangements have been made and approved by the principal or his/her designee as in Rule No. 4. Students shall

board and exit their assigned buses only at their designated pickup and destination points.

6. Students shall not eat or drink on the bus. Students shall not bring any food or beverage onto the bus unless it is contained in a lunch box or bag. Glass bottles are not permitted.
7. No animals, reptiles, etc. may be brought on the bus for any reason.
8. The bus driver is in charge of the students and the bus. Students must promptly and respectfully obey any reasonable request or instruction from the bus driver. Continuous audio/video monitoring may be occurring.
9. Students shall sit in their seats upon boarding the bus and will remain seated until they exit the bus. Standing is allowed only when entering and exiting the bus. Students shall not change seats or move from one seat to another. Aisle ways must be kept clear.
10. Students shall not extend their heads or arms out of bus windows. The driver will determine whether bus windows are to be raised or lowered.
11. Students must follow and obey the instructions of the driver when entering and exiting the bus. Students shall enter and exit the bus only with the permission of the driver. Students shall walk at least twelve feet in front of the stopped bus and carefully look in every direction for approaching traffic or other hazards before attempting to cross the roadway. Parents shall be responsible for their child's care, custody, supervision, and control after they have exited the bus.
12. Any damage done to the bus must be reported at once to the driver. Pencils, magic markers, and pointed objects will be kept in notebooks. Parents and students will be held financially responsible for holes in seats, marks on walls, or any other damage done.
13. Possession of tobacco products shall not be permitted on the bus.
14. Illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages, and any other unauthorized substances shall not be permitted on the bus.
15. Students shall not bring with them on the bus any object which could be considered a weapon.
16. Possession or use of a laser pointer shall not be permitted on the bus.
17. Helium filled balloons or flowers in glass containers (vases) shall not be allowed on the bus.
18. Parents are responsible for having proper adult supervision at the home when students are returning home after school. Failure to comply with this requirement once will result in a warning. The second failure to have someone home for the student may result in bus privileges being revoked.
19. Students will no longer be allowed to have "on" any paging/communication device (i.e. cell phone, iPod) which could distract a driver while operating a school bus. If the school which the student attends allows such devices, the student may carry them on the bus as long as the device is turned off and not in operation. Any infraction of this rule may result in confiscation by the driver and turning the device (i.e. cell phone, iPod) over to the principal or his/her designee.

20. The bus becomes an extension of the classroom when the bus comes to a complete stop at the designated location, all rules apply to the bus stop.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Dyer County School System does not carry accident insurance on students; however, student accident insurance will be made available for families to purchase on a voluntary basis. Coverage will be secondary to other insurance plans that families might have and will be scheduled or limited in order to keep the premium at an affordable rate. All students participating in athletics, cheerleading, and band will be required to purchase this insurance with the following exception: if the school is given proof that the student already has full insurance coverage that will apply to possible injuries received in an athletic or other school sponsored event.

ATHLETIC GUIDELINES

Northview and Three Oaks Middle Schools are members of the Tennessee Middle School Athletic Association and will adhere to all bylaws, rules and guidelines of the Association.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN

In May 1989, a management plan was approved by the Dyer County Board of Education and the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration. The Management Plan indicated the non-friable asbestos containing materials are present in several buildings of the Dyer County School System and the manner in which the material will be handled.

The Management Plan is available in the office of each school for viewing between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Management Plan will be updated every six months with progress reports being submitted to the state annually.

Any questions concerning the Management Plan should be directed to the Maintenance Director, Mr. Jimmie Martin, Dyer County Schools, at (731) 286-6328.

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CONTACT INFORMATION

Parents seeking information concerning child advocacy may contact the State Department of Education by calling 615-741-5158 or visiting <https://www.tn.gov/education/> . You may also wish to contact your local school or local Board of Education.

In addition to the state and local resources available to parents and children, there are many agencies and organizations that offer support, information, training, and help in advocating for persons with disabilities in Tennessee. A few of these organizations are listed below:

The ARC of Tennessee is on the Internet at <https://www.thearctn.org>
545 Mainstream Drive, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37228-1213
Phone: 615-248-5878 Toll-free: 1-800-835-7077
Fax: 615-248-5879

Support and Training for Exceptional Parents (STEP) is on the Internet at <https://www.tnstep.org/>
2157 Madison Avenue, Ste. 204 Toll-free: 1-800-280-STEP
Memphis, TN 38104 Fax: (423)636-8217
Email: information@tnstep.org

Disability Law and Advocacy is on the Internet at <https://www.disabilityrightstn.org>
1407 Union Avenue, Suite 1015
Memphis, TN 38104
Phone: 901-458-6013 Toll-free: 1-800-342-1660
Fax: 901-249-2933

Tennessee Voices for Children is on the Internet at <https://tnvoices.org>
500 Professional Park Dr.
Goodlettsville, TN 37072
Toll-free: 1-800-670-9882

These are but a few of the organizations available to help with information, training, and advocacy.

For a more extensive list, visit the TN Disability Pathfinder – Disability Pathfinder Database:
<https://vkc.vumc.org/vkc/pathfinder/aboutus/>
110 Magnolia Circle Toll-free: 1-800-640-4636
Nashville, TN 37203

This information is provided as a service to individuals seeking additional avenues for help and information. The Department of Education does not intend this as an endorsement or recommendation for any individual, organization, or service represented on this page.

DYER COUNTY STUDENT SERVICES

Title I – Title I services are available at several Dyer County School. Students may receive Title I services which include supplemental instruction in Reading and Math.

Migrant Education – Students who are certified as migrant may receive all the same Title I services as other students.

Homeless – Dyer County School System offers comparable services to students identified as homeless.

English as a Second Language – Dyer County School System offers comparable services to students identified as ESL.

Family Resource Center – Two Family Resource Center directors serve as a liaison for students and their families to other agencies and resources in the county.

Voluntary Preschool Classes – Dyer County has at least one VPK classroom at each elementary school. It serves children who are 4 years old by August 15.

Coordinated School Health Services - Throughout the school year we will be providing our annual health screenings to the students in the Dyer County Educational System. We routinely screen students in Pre-K, K, 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, and one grade in high school as required by state law. We also screen students for evaluation purposes or any student referred by a teacher. We will be screening for the following throughout this school year: Vision, Hearing, Blood Pressure, and Height/Weight (BMI). If a referral is needed, the parent/guardian will receive notification in the form of a letter. Please feel free to contact your school nurse or the Office of Coordinated School Health at (731) 285-6712 if you have any questions.

**DYER COUNTY SCHOOLS
2023– 2024 CALENDAR**

Aug. 1	First Day of School- Early Dismissal- 11:00 a.m.
Sept. 4	Labor Day – No School
Sept. 8	Fair Day – No School
Sept. 12	Parent- Teacher Conference 3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.(Progress Reports)
Oct. 2-6	Fall Break
Oct. 17	Report Cards
Nov. 9	Progress Reports
Nov. 20-24	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 15	Early Dismissal – 11:00 a.m.
Dec. 18-Jan. 2	Winter Break
Jan. 3	Classes Resume
Jan. 9	Report Cards
Jan. 15	MLK Holiday – No School
Feb. 6	Parent/Teacher Conference 3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.(Progress Reports)
Feb. 19	Presidents’ Day Holiday – No School
March 18-22	Spring Break
March 29	Good Friday Holiday- No School
April 2	Report Cards
April 25	Progress Reports
May 17	DCHS Graduation
May 22	Last Day of School – Early Dismissal at 11:00 a.m.

DYER COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Mrs. Cheryl Mathis, Director
159 Everett Avenue
Dyersburg, TN 38024
(731) 285-6712

Northview Middle
820 Williams Street
Newbern, TN 38059
(731)-627-3713

Lynn Garner-Principal

Lori Evans-Assistant Principal

Three Oaks Middle
3200 Upper Finley Road
Dyersburg, TN 38024
(731)-285-3100

Matt Stafford-Principal

Beth Pope-Assistant Principal

Tennessee Department of Education

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint), (AD-3027) found online at: <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint>, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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