

Hornsby Middle School

***Making the Good **GREAT!**
EVERY Student, EVERYDAY!***

2022-2023 PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK



320 Kentucky Avenue
Augusta, GA 30901
706-823-6960

Stacey R. King, Principal

Sheri Calhoun, Assistant Principal

Author Mitchell, Assistant Principal

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“Our mission is to educate students to become highly competitive in a global society.”

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“Our mission is to educate students to become highly competitive in a global society



Mission:

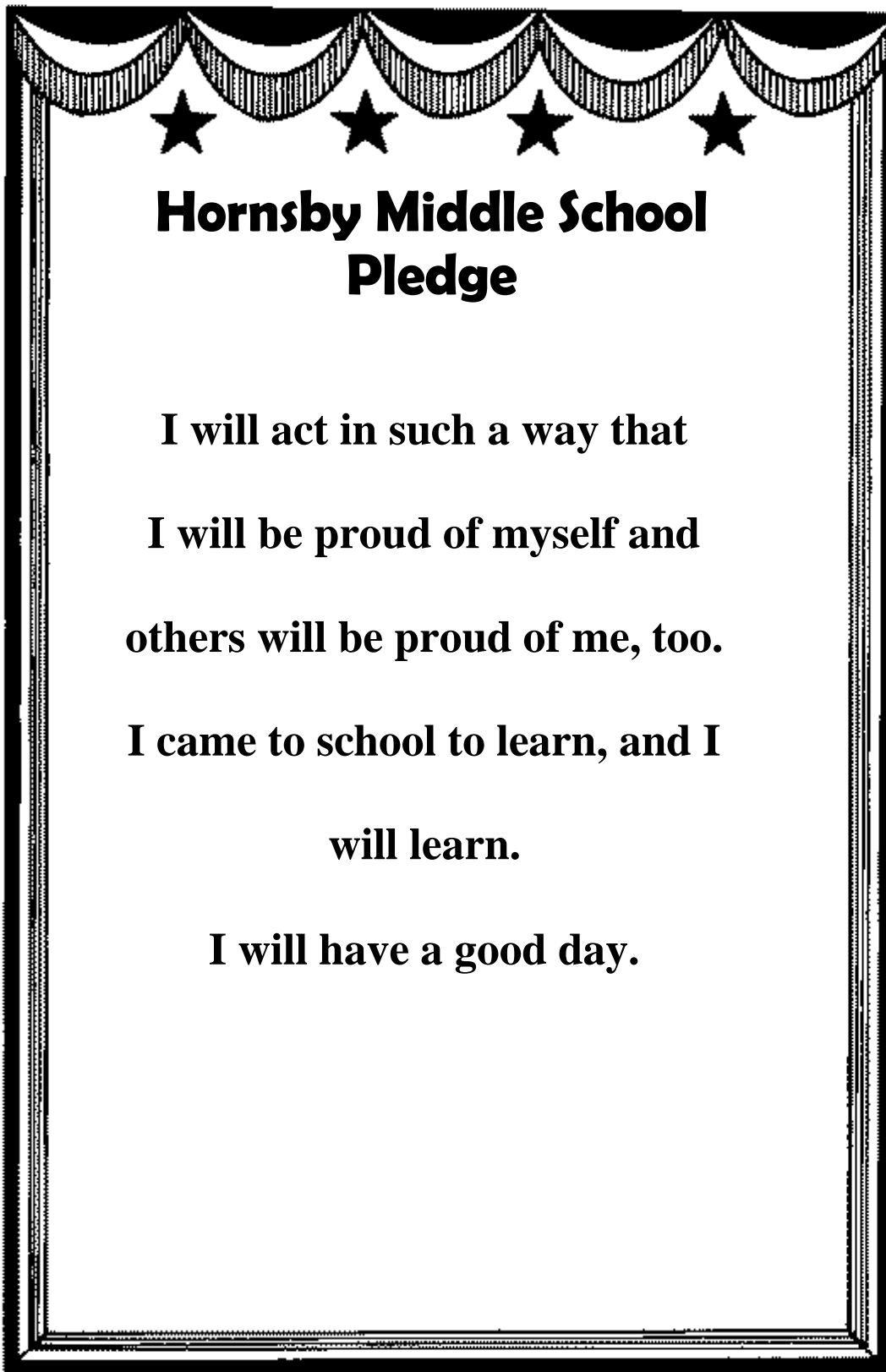
Our mission is to educate students to become highly competitive in a global society.

Vision:

Our Mission is to Develop and to Educate Students who are Empowered with 21st Century Skills, and who are Motivated to become Lifelong Learners; Equipped for Future Success!

Motto:

Making the Good, Great!
Every Student! Every Day!



**Hornsby Middle School
Pledge**

I will act in such a way that

**I will be proud of myself and
others will be proud of me, too.**

**I came to school to learn, and I
will learn.**

I will have a good day.



Hornsby Middle School
Song

**Hornsby Middle is our school
and we know it is the best so we
work hard to keep it that way.
We do all our work!
We never shirk!
And when our work is over we
play!
Think of all the schools that are
here in Augusta
And we know when our thoughts
are done,
We are proud to say in every way
that our school is number one!**



The Hornsby Middle Way

At Hornsby Middle, we will L.E.A.R.N.

L.-Listen to instructions

E.-Enter AND Exit Prepared

A.-Always try your best!

R.-Respect others

N.- N o EXCUSES!

D.E.A.R. Time is held from 9:15 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Upon entering the school, students will report to the outside of their homeroom (observing special awareness of 6 feet). At these times students are required to drop everything and read silently. The hallways at Hornsby Middle are no talking zones. Students are expected to transition throughout the building without talking.

W.S. HORNSBY



P.R.I.D.E. Matrix



WE HAVE JAGUAR P.R.I.D.E.



WE ARE ...	CLASSROOM	HALLWAYS / TRANSITIONS	BATHROOMS	SCHOOL BUS	DISMISSAL
PREPARED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bring all needed materials ✓ Be on time ✓ Homework Ready ✓ Use Facial Protective Covering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Be ready to move ✓ Take ALL items with you to next class ✓ Use Facial Protective Covering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Go before you leave home ✓ Use Facial Protective Covering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Be on Time ✓ Know where to sit ✓ Use Facial Protective Covering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pack-up belongings ✓ Clean up your area in classroom ✓ Use Facial Protective Covering
RESPECTFUL & RESPONSIBLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Follow Directions ✓ Keep hands to yourself ✓ Follow the "Golden Rule" ✓ Use Hand Sanitizer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Keep it right and keep it tight ✓ Pants Up ✓ Use Hand Sanitizer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Honor Privacy ✓ Clean up after yourself/flush ✓ Wash Hands thoroughly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Follow <u>ALL</u> rules set by Bus Driver ✓ Stay in Your Seat ✓ Use Hand Sanitizer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Follow Hallway Protocol ✓ Leave classroom only when your bus is called
INDEPENDENT THINKERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Believe in Yourself ✓ Be a Leader ✓ Build Healthy Relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Hallway = Hall Pass ✓ Go straight to Your destination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Report inappropriate behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Keep hands to yourself ✓ Be kind when others are not 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Go <u>straight</u> to bus area / exit building
DETERMINED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Come to school everyday ✓ Complete ALL assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Show P.R.I.D.E. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Single file 2. Right side 3. Respectful tone and volume 4. Practice Social Distancing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Show P.R.I.D.E. & just do right! ✓ Spatial Awareness ✓ Practice Good Hygiene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Stay Cool ✓ Stay Calm ✓ Stay Safe ✓ Practice Social Distancing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ When others do wrong – You do Right! ✓ Practice Social Distancing
ENGAGED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Be an Active Listener ✓ Ask appropriate questions ✓ Be Aware of your Surroundings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Listen and follow directions ✓ Eyes on the adult ✓ Spatial Awareness ✓ Be Aware of your Surroundings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Follow All Rules – keep Restroom clean! ✓ Be Aware of your Surroundings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Listen to your Bus Driver ✓ Watch for Cars – Be Safe! ✓ Be Aware of your Surroundings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Listen for your Bus # to be called ✓ Practice Social Distancing ✓ Be Aware of your Surroundings

W.S. HORNSBY



What does it mean to be a W.S. Hornsby Middle School JAGUAR?

Just Believe in Yourself

Accept Responsibility for your Actions

Generate Goals for Success

Utilize Time Wisely

Achieve Academic Excellence

Respect Yourself and Others

Stay Focused



COVID-19 Coronavirus Information

The Richmond County School System works daily to ensure the health and well-being of our students and staff by developing, implementing and delivering school health services throughout the year. Occasionally, extraordinary efforts are required to meet particular challenges, such as the recent concerns about coronavirus (COVID-19).

We are currently following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH), the Georgia Department of Education, and other local, state, and federal agencies. This page has been established to provide resources and communications from the system to our community.

Daily Symptom Screening Checklist

For the health and safety of all our students and staff in the face to face learning environment, we ask that all students and staff members complete the following symptom checklist daily before reporting to school or work:

- Fever of or greater than 100.4 degrees
- New cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- New Loss of Taste or Smell
- Sore throat
- Muscle or Body Aches
- Congestion or Runny Nose
- Headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you or your child experiences any of these symptoms, is awaiting coronavirus test results or has been directed to self-isolate, please do not report to school. If you have questions or experience symptoms, please notify your school immediately.

If you or your child experiences any COVID symptoms, is awaiting coronavirus test results, or has been directed to self-isolate, please do not report to school. If you have questions or experience symptoms, please notify your school immediately.

Richmond County Board of Health

<https://ecphd.com/countries/richmond-count-health-department/>

4/7 Public Health Emergency Line

1-866-PUB-HLTH (1-866-782-4584)



HORNSBY 6-8 SCHOOL

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR AT A GLANCE

This Parent-Student Handbook has been prepared to provide essential information to the students that attend Hornsby Middle School and to their parents. Please take time to review the contents with **Your Child**.

WELCOME

Hornsby Middle School welcomes all of our parents and students. We will provide an opportunity for all students to obtain a solid foundation for future learning. We encourage all parents to become actively involved as parent volunteers and through daily activities with their children.

We Are Here To Serve You!

Please feel free to contact us on any problem or concern. Listed below are the phone numbers to the school and county offices.

Hornsby Middle School
706-823-6960

Richmond County Board of Education
706-826-1000

Curriculum Dept.
706-826-1102

Psychological Services
706-826-1131

Special Education
706-826-1132

School Food Services
706-826-1122

Transportation
706-796-4777

Visiting Teacher Services
706-826-1139

Hornsby Middle School Hours: 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

School Opens	9:00 a.m.
Breakfast	9:00 a.m.
Announcements	9:30 a.m.
Classes begin	9:20 a.m. promptly

TARDINESS

Students are expected to arrive to school on time each day. Students reporting to school after 9:20 a.m. will be marked tardy. The tardy policy will be fully enforced. Parents are to bring students to the front office and sign them in when arriving to school late. Please refer to the **Uniform Code of Student and Discipline Handbook**.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance in school is essential for a quality education. We encourage students to be present each day. Daily attendance will help students feel more closely associated with their classmates and will dramatically improve their educational progress. The time missed from class results in loss of valuable educational experiences. Students should make 100% attendance their goal for this year. We want students in school every day. A student must be present at least half of the day to receive credit for the day.

Absences

State law requires that students between the ages of five (5) and sixteen (16) attend school except for the specific reasons listed. In case of an absence from school, students must bring a written excuse from a parent or guardian stating



the reason for the absence. This excuse must be given to the teacher on the day the student returns to school. After 5 parent excuses during the year, doctor's excuses are required.

State law recognizes the following reasons as legal absences:

1. Personal illness
2. Family death and funeral
3. Medical or dental appointments that cannot be scheduled outside school hours.
4. Attendance of non-school activities or functions authorized by the superintendent or her designee.
5. Special and recognized religious holidays observed by the student's faith.
6. Mandate or order of government agency.
7. Extreme circumstances that cannot be resolved outside school hours; parent or guardian must request and receive approval from the principal or his designated representative.

The Richmond County School System requires that a telephone call be made to absent students. **The teacher or other school personnel will make a telephone call to the home of each student who is absent.** If a student is out more than a day or two, or there are problems which need to be investigated, the visiting social worker will also contact the home.

Any absence not covered in #'s 1-7 shall be declared unexcused. It is the policy of the Richmond County Board of Education that no unexcused absences are allowed. If parents keep their child out for other reasons, such absence shall be deemed unlawful and therefore unexcused. Class work missed due to an unexcused absence cannot be made up.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students/parents are responsible for making arrangements, within one week after returning to school, to complete make-up work. For extended

illnesses, additional time will be allowed to make up all work missed during excused absences.

AWARDS

Honor Certificates End-of-Year Programs

A - average of academic grades; excluding Conduct

AB - average of academic grades; excluding Conduct

B - average of academic grades; excluding Conduct.

Academic Scholar Award (not average) - A's in every subject for each 9 weeks, excluding conduct. (*Trophy*)

Distinguished Scholar - A in each subject including conduct all year. (*Trophy*)

Principal's Award-Highest Overall Average for each Grade. 1 Boy and 1 Girl. (*Trophy*)

Attendance Awards

1. Perfect Attendance (6th - 8th) for the current school year.
2. For 8th graders only: **Perfect Attendance** for Hornsby 6 thru 8th Grades. (*Trophy*)
3. For 8th graders only: Recognition for having attended Hornsby 6-8 Grades.

Awards may be earned in various areas of the school curriculum. Hornsby Middle wants each student to achieve at his/her highest level and to receive recognition for efforts. Honor programs celebrating students' accomplishments throughout the year will be held near the end of the school year. **PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THESE ASSEMBLIES AND TO CONGRATULATE STUDENTS!** The time it takes will make a world of difference in the life of your child.

ASSEMBLIES

Students, accompanied by their teachers, will move quietly to and from assemblies and remain together as a class while practicing social distancing. When applicable, polite applause is to be encouraged. **Booing, stomping of the feet, whistling, popping gum, etc. will not be tolerated.**



BUS REGULATIONS

School bus transportation is a privilege that may be withdrawn for inappropriate behavior. A student is to ride the bus to which he/she has been assigned. Students must board and get off at their regular bus stop every day. Any emergency request to ride a different bus must be requested in writing by the parent/guardian and submitted to the office so that verification of the request may be made during the day before dismissal that afternoon. **Requests will not be honored if students wait until dismissal time to bring requests to the office for approval by the principal or assistant principal.** Students will be allowed off the bus only at assigned bus stops, home, and locations requested in writing by parent/guardian. The bus driver is in complete charge of the bus and its occupants at all times. Students riding the bus must comply with the requests of the driver.

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

We are all proud of our campus!! Students are expected to be good citizens and help keep the campus and building free of litter. Students are expected to wipe their feet on the mats before entering the building and to keep their hands and feet off the walls. In addition to disciplinary action, students and parents will be held financially responsible for damage to any school property.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If a student should move during the year, the parent/guardian should report the change of address and phone number to the office. **IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE SCHOOL HAVE A CURRENT DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER SO THAT PARENTS CAN BE NOTIFIED IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.**

PARTIES

The RCBOE allows only two parties per year: the last day before Christmas break and the last day of school. Parties begin at 3:00 p.m.

CLINIC/MEDICATION/NURSE

The school clinic is staffed by a part-time nurse. The purpose of the clinic is to care for students who become ill or receive injuries at school. Legal concerns have required some changes in the operation of the clinic and the dispensing of medications, so please read the following guidelines carefully.

A standard consent form must be completed for any medication including nonprescription medicines that will be dispensed at school. The school cannot give medicine from directions over the telephone. Written permission from parents will be accepted only on the first day of medicating. Students will be required to return a completed consent form before any more medicine will be dispensed at school.

A standard consent form including instructions for dispensing the medication will be required.

Medicines must be in the original container when brought to the clinic. No medicines can be kept in plastic bags or containers. Bring only the exact amount to be dispensed at school. **Students are not allowed to have any type of medication, prescription or nonprescription, in their possession while at school. Board policy forbids dispensing of any medicine, aspirin, etc. without written permission from a parent/guardian or doctor.**

In compliance with county policy, *inhalers* must be kept in the clinic. Medications that have to be



taken three (3) times a day should **NOT** be brought to school **UNLESS** specific times are prescribed. Those medications can be taken before school, after school, and at bedtime.

A student with a temperature over 100 degrees will not be allowed to stay at school. A parent will be asked to make arrangements to pick up their child as soon as possible.

Parents will be notified when students are too ill to remain at school. **PLEASE BE SURE THAT THE OFFICE HAS AN EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER LISTED FOR YOU.**

COMMUNICATION DEVICES/ ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones and electronic devices are not allowed in school. If confiscated, the device may be held in the school vault for up to 30 days.

DISCIPLINE

Goals for Hornsby Middle School's Discipline Plan are:

1. Increase instructional time in the classroom.
2. Develop positive student attitudes by giving them choices about behavior.
3. Place responsibility for student behavior on the student, parent, and teacher.
4. Strengthen school and parent communication.

Teachers must have order. Cooperation and good behavior from students are absolutely necessary for an effective school program. Parents and teachers must present a unified position of high expectations. Having an atmosphere that is conducive to a desirable learning situation is necessary if we are to relate to our students. Our policy will be firm, consistent, and persistent, but positive and fair. Working together we will convey to students our mutual respect and support. Please refer to Richmond County's Code for Student Conduct and Discipline handbook.

Each grade level will have a 7-step protocol. When the 7 steps are exhausted, there will be an Office Referral.

STUDENT ONLINE NOTATION ANALYSIS RECORD (S.O.N.A.R.) REFERRAL

Minor discipline issues are addressed by the classroom teacher. Any student who does not adhere to classroom and/or school-wide rituals and routines may receive a "**DING**" or **S.O.N.A.R.** Referral. This Referral is submitted to the Administrative Team and the student may be assigned various consequences from the teacher and/or Administration. Chronic Behaviors may result in an Office Referral.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS (P.B.I.S.)

W.S. Hornsby Middle strives to be a positive place for its students. W.S. Hornsby is a P.B.I.S. school. Our goal is to promote a safe, engaging, school environment where students are encouraged, uplifted, and celebrated. Teachers teach the expectations for their individual classrooms - explicitly demonstrating what the behaviors look like, giving students opportunities to practice, and giving the rationale behind the expectation. Students are given positive recognition when they demonstrate expected behaviors.

Student Positive Behaviors are identified and posted throughout the school in the "*WE HAVE JAGUAR PRIDE*" P.B.I.S. Behavior Expectations Matrix. Student Positive Behaviors are encouraged and celebrated daily in the classroom; weekly as well as quarterly school-wide. Students who are in compliance with classroom and school-wide rituals and routines or meet academic goals are rewarded in their class daily; also they can earn "**JAG BUCKS**", access to periodic "**JAG SWAG**" Celebrations; and School-Wide Mega-Celebrations (once per Term).

Teachers will help students who demonstrate difficulties with the school-wide expectations by conferencing with them and re-teaching expected behaviors. "Student Conference Forms" document that a conference took place.



FIRE ALARMS

Any student pulling a fire alarm or activating a fire extinguisher without cause will receive an automatic ten (10) days suspension.

Authority of the Principal

The principal is the designated leader of the school and, in consortium with the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. In case of discipline violations, not covered by the prescribed disposition in this handbook, the principal may enact corrective measures which he/she feels are in the best interest of the school and student involved.

DRESS CODE

Shorts and skirts must come to within 2½ inches of the students' knees (the "dollar bill test"). Belt buckles cannot be excessively large. Pants are to be worn at the waist and are not to be excessively baggy.

Students are expected to dress in an appropriate manner while attending school and school-related functions. They should maintain an appearance which is not extreme or disruptive to teachers or students, and which does not threaten the safety of anyone. No obscene or inappropriate slogans or writing will be allowed on any piece of clothing. Calls to parents to bring a change of clothes or, for excessive violations, a discipline referral will result.

Garments with holes are not allowed to be worn at school. In addition, **girls are not allowed to wear leggings to school. The only exception is when they are worn under other clothing. Dresses must adhere to the "dollar bill" rule.**

The principal or any other duly authorized school official shall determine whether any particular mode of dress or grooming is extreme, disruptive, or threatens the safety of anyone.

FIELD TRIPS

All participants **MUST** complete the proper release form as prepared by the board attorney. Unless otherwise stipulated, all policies and procedures in this manual also apply to students

who are participating in a Hornsby Middle School sponsored field trip. Attire is a black Hornsby T-Shirt and jeans with no holes. No phone calls, verbal approval or handwritten notes not on official forms will be accepted.

GRADES

Richmond County Schools operate on a nine-weeks reporting system. Additionally, a mid-nine weeks progress report will be sent home. The grading system below is used on report cards, cumulative folders, or any other student records.

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	75-79
D	70-74
F	Below 70

HOMEWORK POLICY

In grades 6 thru 8, homework will be assigned consistently Monday-Thursday and at the teacher's discretion for the weekend.

Regular homework is defined as an assignment which can be completed in one evening.

Students should be accountable for homework in three ways.

1. It should be completed on time.
2. It should be neatly and completed in the manner assigned by the teacher.
3. It should be made up if the student is absent.

The student must accept responsibility for asking for missed assignments and for completing the assignments promptly.

Teachers will assign homework that is directly related to the unit under study or a part of a course objective (i.e., daily news notes for social studies or a composition to gain writing skills in a language arts class). Grammar and spelling will be checked. Reading assignments may be checked by class discussion or by periodically giving pop quizzes.



How should homework be graded?

At the elementary level and middle school levels, the following guidelines will be used in grading homework:

- a. Routine homework will be assigned a letter grade or numerical grade. Teachers will develop a system for weighing routine homework such as assigning at the beginning of the nine weeks 100 points to each student for each subject. For each assignment not completed, 5 points are deducted. The grade at the end of the nine weeks may count as one test grade for each subject.
- b. Students may be allowed to check or recheck his/her own homework as it is being discussed and make necessary corrections so that it may be used as a study reference when appropriate.
- c. Book reports, special assignments, and other detailed or more involved projects will be graded by the teacher. The teacher will allow a few students to report to the class so that students can learn from each other. The grade will reflect the extent of the assignment.

Children will improve their study habits by observing the following:

1. Be sure you understand each assignment.
2. Form the habit of using a certain time and place of study.
3. Study conditions should include good lighting, ventilation, and quietness.
4. Have necessary materials at hand.
5. Try to develop the skill of working independently.
6. Spend enough, but not too much time on each subject.

7. Place completed homework in your book bag, and return it the next day or when it is due.
8. Be responsible. Copy all assignments into your agenda. Listen to your teacher so that you can communicate to your parent the topics, pages and skills covered in class. Know what topics, pages, chapters, etc. will be covered on tests.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

The guidance counselor is available to students throughout the school day to help develop their educational, social, career, and personal strengths.

Guidance is a preventive measure that teaches students coping and decision-making skills. Guidance counselors can also intervene in areas where the students are experiencing difficulties. Teachers will give clear, concise and concrete instructions for any assignment. Written instructions will be put on the board at the elementary level. Teachers in the lower elementary grades may prepare a homework sheet.

Classroom Guidance

Counselors work in the classrooms to promote and foster positive learning experiences with classroom discussions on study and test taking skills, self-concept development, interpersonal relationships, and career information.

ILLNESSES/INJURIES

If a student becomes too ill to remain in class, he/she will be sent to the clinic. Students should not stay in the restroom when they are ill or injured. Parents will be notified when students are too ill to remain at school or have received an injury requiring medical attention. Minor injuries will be treated in the clinic. Parents will be notified at the discretion of the nurse or office staff.



IN-SCHOOL SUPPORT (I.S.S.)

Students in grades 6 thru 8 can be assigned to I.S.S. by an administrator (only) if they become disruptive or disrespectful at school. Students assigned to I.S.S. will be issued a S.O.N.A.R. Referral slip outlining the day, time, and reason for being assigned to I.S.S. Parents will be notified by the teacher, I.S.S. Instructor or an administrator.

LOST AND FOUND

Students are urged to check with the front office for lost items. Our students are very good about turning in lost items. It is a good idea to clearly mark items with your child's name so they can be returned without delay. All unclaimed items are taken to the Salvation Army at the end of each semester or prior to each holiday.

LUNCH

During the 2022-2023 school year, lunch to all students in the Richmond County School is free of charge. Until further notice, free lunch will be served to all students in the Richmond County School System.

Breakfast will be served from 9:00 – 9:20 a.m. All breakfasts are served at no cost to students.

HOMEBOUND SERVICES

Students who must be out under a doctor's care for 10 or more days may qualify for the Richmond County Board of Education Homebound Program. Contact the Guidance Counselor if necessary.

MEDIA CENTER

Hornsby Middle is fortunate to have one of the finest school media centers in this area. The media center is open every day of the school year (9:20 a.m. - 4:05 p.m.). Students may use the media center for studying, research, AR and book check-out anytime during the day. The media

The media specialist and classroom teachers work together to teach media skills, provide independent learning activities, and enrich the instructional programs through the use of computers and related technologies. In addition, students participate in the book fairs held in the media center.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

In compliance with Georgia law all teachers at public schools conduct a moment of reflection that lasts 60 seconds at the beginning of each school day. According to the policy, this moment of quiet reflection is not intended to be a religious observance or exercise. It is an opportunity for reflecting on the anticipated activities of the day. The moment of reflection began at the start of the 1994-95 school term.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Conferences may be requested by parents, teachers, counselors, and/or administrators. If a conference is needed, please complete a parent conference cards located outside of the front office near the Fish aquarium. Conferences may be scheduled during the teachers' planning periods. There will be no conferences on Thursday afternoons due to Professional Development and staff meetings. **Teachers will not be available for unscheduled conferences.**

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES ON EARLY RELEASE DAYS

Scheduled fall and spring conferences are a must for parents to understand their child's school performance. Please make every effort to attend. These conferences have been a tremendous asset over the past few years.

If for any reason you wish to confer at other times with a teacher, please feel free to send a note or call the school (706-823-6960) and arrange an appointment. Teachers are not free to confer with parents while students are under their supervision. We try diligently to honor every

request for a conference at a time suitable for both
parent and teacher.

14



Please avoid “dropping by” the classroom before or after school without an appointment. Teachers need this time to spend with students, for planning of instruction and related meetings. Our teachers want to meet with you when there are concerns, but the best way to have a productive meeting is to schedule a time when the teacher’s attention is not divided. When you need to talk with a teacher, please call the office and leave a message. The teacher will return your call as soon as possible. However, this may be at the end of the day or even the following day, depending upon other commitments he/she may have.

Tips for Parent/Teacher Conferences

- Be positive as you discuss your child with the teacher
- Feel free to express any concerns you may have.
- Feel free to ask any questions you may have.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The PTO supplements all facets of the school program and contributes financially to the betterment of the school programs. It is most important that **ALL** parents/guardians become members of the PTO.

PTO OBJECTIVES

1. To promote the welfare of children and youth in the home, school, community, and place of worship.
2. To raise the standards of home life.
3. To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
4. To bring into closer relation the home and the school, so that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.

5. To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

Membership Dues \$5.00 per person

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports are sent home each nine weeks. The mid-nine weeks progress report is designed to give parents/guardians general feedback on the progress of students at the midway point during the grading period. Graded samples of students’ work will be sent home each week. The work should be signed and returned. Check with the teacher if you need to keep the work for study purposes.

PROMOTION POLICY

At registration, parents will receive a copy of the current promotion policy. Please review carefully your child's promotion requirements. You should monitor your child's progress throughout the year.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued at the end of each nine weeks. This report is an evaluation of the progress the child is making in our school. The Progress Report is only one form of communicating student progress to the parent. If a parent would like a more comprehensive profile of the child’s growth and/or needs, please contact the school for an appointment for a conference. Notes or comments may be placed in the report card envelope by the parent and returned to school by the child. The parent will keep the report card and return the signed report card jacket to the child’s teacher the next school day.



RULES AND REGULATIONS

While students are expected to follow all rules and regulations in the Richmond County Student Code of Conduct and Discipline Handbook, we have highlighted only a few in this handbook.

GANG POLICY

Gang behavior will not be tolerated at W.S. Hornsby Middle School. Any student involved in gang activities, e.g.-wearing gang clothing, recruitment, etc. will be referred to the Principal for disciplinary actions. Parents will be notified.

SCHOOL CLOSING DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

Inclement weather conditions may cause the school to be closed. School closings are determined by the Richmond County central office staff and not by the local school. Announcements of closings will be broadcast via local news media. The basic premise to observe is that school is open or will remain open unless a closing is announced by the news media.

RTI Meetings

The purpose of the RTI meetings is to provide a vehicle through which students, parents, teachers, and educators work cooperatively toward developing appropriate interventions for students experiencing problems in school. Students can be referred by teachers, parents, or administrators. Please contact the Guidance Counselor or the child's teacher for more information if your child is experiencing difficulty in school.

SUPPLIES

Classroom supplies will include textbooks, paper, pencil, pen, and any other items necessary to carry on the instructional program within a particular classroom. **Supplies must be brought to class every day. Teachers will send home a list of needed items at the beginning of the school year.**

TEXTBOOKS

All textbooks are the property of the Richmond County School System and are issued to students free of charge. Books should be covered to help reduce wear and tear. Students are responsible for all books assigned to them and will be expected to pay for lost or damaged books including those reported as "stolen." Teachers will periodically check books to monitor lost or damaged books. Faculty and staff will not be held responsible for books left anywhere. Georgia Law (O.C.G.A. 20-2-1013) requires:

1. All textbooks, library books or media materials purchased by local units of administration with State Quality Basic Education Program funds or any other means of acquisition shall remain the property of the local unit purchasing or acquiring them.
2. Each local unit of administration shall establish such policies as it deems necessary for the care and protection of its textbooks, library books, or media materials.
3. Such policies may include any of the following sanctions against a pupil who refuses to pay for lost or damaged textbooks, library books, or media materials at replacement costs:
 - a. Refusal to issue any additional textbooks, library books, or media materials until restitution is made; or
 - b. Withholding grades, cards, diplomas, or certificates of progress until restitution is made.



4. No local unit of administration shall require any pupil or parent to purchase any textbook, library book, or media material, except in cases where the pupil damages, loses, or defaces such item through willful intent or neglect.

TRANSFER/WITHDRAWALS

Teachers need at least a **24-hour notice** when students are being withdrawn from school in order to get the withdrawal forms ready to take to the new school. These forms contain clearance information from the media, lunchroom, teacher and administration. It also contains the student's attendance and grade averages for the current school term. This process takes time to compile and teachers cannot be asked to stop teaching to get the information ready. If students owe for textbooks (damaged or not returned) or media materials, withdrawal forms will not be released until the missing items are returned or paid for.

Students cannot register in their new schools without a withdrawal form.

VISITORS

All visitors must check in at the office, show identification and receive a visitor's pass prior to moving about the building. For the safety of our students, this policy must be enforced. Visitors who do not check in at the office will be considered trespassing and subject to arrest. Please do not stop to visit with a teacher, class, or child without receiving authorization at the office. This includes all school areas, both in and out of the building, and refers to all parents and visitors. Your cooperation in this matter will help us ensure the safety of the children and cause fewer disruptions of school routine.

If parents come to school at the close of the school day to pick up a child, they should not wait outside the child's classroom. According to county policy, students checked out before dismissal will be counted tardy.

Parents of all walkers and car riders are asked to meet their children outside, in front of the building. Parents of car riders are not to park in the bus and van riders' area. Thank you very much for your cooperation and understanding.

Students will not be released for early dismissal after 3:45 p.m. as this causes disruption and interferes with teachers preparing the entire class for dismissal.

The preceding information is not exhaustive and at the discretion of the principal may be altered as necessary to insure the efficient, effective and safe operation of the school.

VOLUNTEERS

Parent involvement is an important aspect at Hornsby Middle School. The faculty and staff would appreciate you volunteering your services for the coming school year. If you can spare the time, we can help you put it to good use helping teachers and children. The training will help you with your own child(ren). Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator to attend scheduled required workshops.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

W.S. Hornsby Middle School plans for the safety of our students.

1. Car riders are asked to arrive to campus no earlier than 9:00 a.m. and to be dropped off in front of the school building at the end of the driveway close to the bus loading zone. For safety concerns, parents of car riders are asked not to unload their child(ren) in the bus loading area. At dismissal, car riders are asked to exit the school building through the front lobby and stand and wait quietly for their rides. Car riders are asked to adhere to the directives of the school personnel will awaiting transportation.



2. Walkers are asked to arrive at campus no earlier than 9:00 a.m. and move to the side of the building where students unload from the bus. Please adhere to social distancing and protective facial covering policies. At dismissal, walkers are asked to exit the school building through the front lobby and exit the campus quickly and quietly.
3. Bus Riders are asked to remain inside their classroom until they are released to move to their bus. Students will walk down the halls on the right side to the designated bus loading zone. Students are asked to exit the building quickly and board their bus and obey all rules for riding the bus including adhering to all social distancing and protective facial covering policies.
4. Parents are asked to adhere to school speed limits around the school for the safety of our students.

SEVERE WEATHER/ EMERGENCY DRILLS PRACTICE

Thinking and planning ahead can significantly reduce dangers concerning severe weather incidences. Students at W.S. Hornsby Middle are exposed to monthly drills that prepares them to react quickly and appropriately in the event of an emergency. Students are to take these drills seriously in the event that an actual emergency arises.

GIFTED PROGRAM

Richmond County provides for all qualifying system students in grades K—12 who exhibit superior performance, advanced learning needs and demonstrate higher level motivation creativity. The identification processes uses multiple criteria as mandated by the Georgia Board of Education. For further information you may contact W.S. Hornsby Middle School at 706-823-6960 or the Gifted Program Consultant at 706-731-8787.

TITLE IV NOTICE OF NON- DISCRIMINATION FOR STUDENTS

The Richmond County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities for students. The following person has been designated to investigate any complaint communicated to the Board of Education alleging non-compliance of non-discrimination policies regarding student activities.

Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services
County Board of Education of Richmond County
864 Broad Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901
Telephone: (706) 826-1010