

# Dawson County School System

## Student Code of Conduct & Discipline Procedures School Year 2023 – 2024



[www.dawsoncountyschools.org](http://www.dawsoncountyschools.org)

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## School Board Policies Relative to Student Behavior & Safe Schools

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### District Authority

The Dawson County Board of Education establishes policies to govern the behavior of the Board, its employees, and students. District policies are available for public review at the Board of Education office and on the district web page (Click [HERE](#)).

It is the purpose of the Dawson County Board of Education to operate the school system in a manner that will provide an orderly process of education and that will provide for the welfare and safety of all students, staff, and visitors who attend its schools. Students are required to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that facilitates a positive and safe learning environment for themselves and other students. These standards for behavior require students to respect each other and school district employees, to obey student behavior policies adopted by the Board and to obey student behavior rules established at each school in the district. Major offenses including, but not limited to, drug and weapon offenses can lead to schools being named as an Unsafe School according to provisions of State Board of Education Rule 160-4-8-.16 Unsafe School Choice Option.

Each school's primary goal is to educate, not to punish; however, when the behavior of an individual student comes in conflict with the rights of others, corrective actions may be necessary for the benefit of that individual and the school as a whole. Accordingly, students shall be governed by the policies, regulations, and rules set forth in this Code of Conduct and Discipline Procedures. Student conduct is further governed by the rules contained in each school's Student Handbook.

The Code of Conduct shall be made available electronically to each student at the start of the school year and/or upon enrollment. Printed copies will be made available upon request. Translated copies will be made available to the greatest possible extent. A parent or guardian will be required to sign a statement acknowledging receipt of the Code of Conduct. Additionally, the Code of Conduct will be available in each school and classroom.

The Code of Conduct is enforceable during the following times and locations:

- Directly on the way to/from school, at bus stops, on school buses or other vehicles provided for student transportation by the school district
- At school or on school property at any time
- Off school grounds at any school or school-related activity, function, or event, and while traveling to and from such events

In addition, students may be disciplined for any off-campus, which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony or its juvenile equivalent, and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process.

Questions about the Code should be addressed to the school administration. Parents and guardians are encouraged to review the Code with their children and to support its enforcement throughout the community. The Code of Conduct covers all grade levels. Some areas are not relevant for certain age groups.

### **Authority of the Principal**

The principal is the leader of the school and, in concert with the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. Principals are granted authority to enforce this Code of Conduct. In cases of disruptive, disorderly, or dangerous conduct that may not be covered in this Code, the principal is authorized to undertake corrective measures, which he or she believes to be in the best interest of the students and the school. This is provided that such action does not violate law, a school board policy, or procedure.

### **Teacher Authority**

Each teacher is authorized by law to remove from his or her class a student who repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in the class or with the ability of other students to learn. This would include incidents where a student's behavior is in violation of the student Code of Conduct and the teacher has previously filed a report with the principal or if the teacher determines that such behavior poses an immediate threat to the safety of that student or to other persons. The superintendent and principal fully support the authority of every teacher to remove a student from the classroom under the conditions and procedures outlined in Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §20-2-738).

### **Parental Involvement**

This Code of Conduct is based on the expectation that parents, guardians, teachers, and school administrators will work together to improve and enhance student behavior and academic performance and will communicate freely their concerns about, and actions in response to, student behavior that detracts from the learning environment. School administrators recognize that two-way communication through personal contact is extremely valuable. Therefore, each school's administrative staff will provide information to parents and guardians about on-going opportunities to communicate with school personnel.

Parents, guardians, and students are invited to participate in the Code of Conduct revision process by making suggestions for improving the Code through the School and/or District Governance Council. Questions about the Code should be addressed with the principal or an assistant principal. The Code of Conduct specifies, within its standards of behavior, various violations that may result in a school staff member's request for a parent or guardian to come to the school for a conference. Parents and guardians are encouraged to visit the schools regularly and are expected to be actively involved in the behavior support processes that are designed to promote positive choices and behavior. The Dawson County Board of Education, along with O.C.G.A §20-2-735, encourages parents and guardians to inform their children of the consequences, including potential criminal penalties or underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

### **Chronically Disruptive**

Georgia law, O.C.G.A. §20-2-765, mandates that any time a teacher or principal identifies a student as a chronic disciplinary problem student, the principal shall notify by telephone call and by mail to the student's parent or guardian of the disciplinary problem; invite the parent or guardian to observe the student in a classroom situation; and request at least one parent or guardian to attend a conference to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan.

Georgia law, O.C.G.A. §20-2-766, states that before any chronic disciplinary problem student is permitted to return to school following a suspension or expulsion, the school shall request by telephone call and by mail at least one parent or guardian to schedule and attend a conference for the purpose of devising a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan.

The law authorizes the Board of Education to petition the juvenile court to require a parent or guardian to attend a school conference. If the court finds that the parent or guardian has willfully and unreasonably failed to attend a conference requested by the principal pursuant to the laws cited above, the court may order the parent or guardian to attend such a conference; order the parent or guardian to participate in such programs or such treatment as the court deems appropriate to improve the student's behavior; or both. After notice and opportunity for hearing, the court may impose a fine not to exceed \$500 on a parent or guardian who willfully disobeys an order of the court under this law.

### **School Investigations**

Please note, a parent does not have to be informed of a school investigation when interviewing a student. The State Board of Education has rejected the student's claim that parental notice was required before he/she gave any statement to administrators. *M.S. v Clarke Co Board of Education*, Case No. 2002-25; *A.C. v Henry Co Board of Education*, 2002-26. ("Although parents feel they should be notified so they can be involved in the investigation, or take disciplinary action themselves, or to provide counsel to their children, due process does not require such notice.")

## **Search**

If there is reason to believe that a student is in possession of an item that violates the law or school rules, school officials may search that student and his/her personal property. Student vehicles brought on campus, student book bags, school lockers, school desks, and other school or personal property are subject to inspection and search by school authorities at any time and without further notice to students or parents/guardians. Given those conditions, students are required to cooperate if asked to open book bags, totes/purses, lockers, or any vehicle brought on campus. Students may be charged with insubordination up to Level 3 for failure to submit to a search. In addition, school administrators are further authorized to use metal detectors and drug/weapon sniffing dogs at school or at any school function or event.

In reference to cell phone searches that are in a school setting, when the initial encounter with the student is based upon reasonable suspicion, the subsequent search of the phone will also be valid and requires no additional justification as long as it is reasonably related to the need of the educator to turn up evidence of the extent to which the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school.

## **Transfer of Discipline Records**

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The Dawson County School District will facilitate the transfer of discipline records to any public or private school in which a student is enrolled or seeks, intends, or is instructed to enroll on a full-time or part-time basis in the school.

## **Due Process**

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### **Process Overview**

Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to infringe on any right provided to students pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

Due Process requires, in connection with a suspension of 10 days or more, that the student be given oral or written notice of the charges against them. If the student denies the charges, he/she is given an explanation of the evidence the authorities have and an opportunity to present his/her version. Generally, notice and hearing should precede the student's removal from school, since the hearing may almost immediately follow the misconduct, but if prior notice and hearing are not feasible, as where the student's presence endangers persons or property or threatens disruption of the academic process, thus justifying immediate removal from school, the necessary notice and hearing should follow as soon as practicable.

## **Progressive Discipline Procedures**

To the extent appropriate to the situation, school administrators and teachers will follow a progressive discipline process. The degree of discipline to be imposed by each school official should be in proportion to the severity of the behavior, while taking into consideration the totality of the situation, including the student's age, discipline history, and other relevant factors.

The Code of Conduct provides a systematic process of behavioral correction in which inappropriate behaviors are followed by consequences. Disciplinary actions are designed to maintain an appropriate learning environment, encourage self-discipline, and to help students substitute behaviors that are consistent with the character traits referenced in state board rule 160-4-2-.33.

When a student's violation of the student Code of Conduct, which repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in his or her class, or with the ability of such student's classmates to learn within one school day of the most recent occurrence of such behavior, the teacher may file a report with the principal or principal's designee. The report shall not exceed one page and shall describe the behavior. The principal, or principal's designee, shall, within one day of receiving such report, send to the student's parents or guardians a copy of the report, and information regarding how the principal or principal's designee may be contacted.

The principal or the principal's designee shall send written notification to the teacher and to the student's parents or guardians of the student support services being utilized or the disciplinary action taken within one school day and shall make a reasonable attempt to confirm receipt of such written notification by the student's parents or guardians. Written notification shall include information regarding how student's parents or guardians may contact the principal or principal's designee.

The following range of disciplinary actions may be imposed for violations of this Code of Conduct:

- Warning and/or counseling with a school administrator or school counselor
- Loss of privileges
- Time out
- Temporary or permanent removal from class, activity, event, or recess
- Notification of parent/guardian
- Conference with parent/guardian
- Detention
- In-School Suspension
- Saturday school



- Suspension or expulsion from the school bus
- Temporary placement in an alternative education program
- Short-term/Out-of-School Suspension (10 days or less)
- Referral to a tribunal hearing for long-term suspension or expulsion (more than 10 days)
- Referral to law enforcement, district attorney, or juvenile court officials. (Georgia law mandates that certain acts of misconduct be referred to law enforcement, the district attorney, or other public officials. School officials may also report other acts of misconduct as deemed appropriate.)

The maximum punishment that can be imposed by a disciplinary tribunal is permanent expulsion from the school district. However, as in State Board Rule 160-4-8-.15, it is the preferred policy of the board that disruptive students be placed in alternative education settings in lieu of being suspended or expelled.

In the event of a disciplinary tribunal hearing, a parent, guardian, or student may choose not to contest whether the student has violated the Code of Conduct or the appropriate discipline, and in such cases, an agreement may be reached, which would include the parent, guardian, or student waiving a right to a hearing before a disciplinary tribunal. Such an agreement and waiver must be approved by a disciplinary tribunal or hearing officer in accordance with local board policy.

Before a student is suspended 10 days or less, the principal or designee will inform the student of the offense for which he/she is charged and allow the student to explain his/her behavior. If the student is suspended, the student's parent/guardian will be notified, if possible. School officials may involve law enforcement officials when evidence indicates that a law may have been violated or when there is a legal requirement to report the incident.

### **Multi-Tiered System of Supports/Student Support Processes**

The Dawson County Board of Education provides a multi-tiered support framework for identifying and addressing the academic and behavioral needs of students. The school discipline process will include appropriate consideration of available behavioral support processes to help students resolve such problems. Strategies that may be considered include the following:

- A. Referral to...
  - School Counselor
  - School Social Worker
  - School Nurse
  - Student Support Team
  - Mentoring Program
  - Threat Assessment Team

- Individual Education Plan Team
- B. Participation in...
  - Peer Mentoring
  - Peer Tutoring
  - Peer Mediation
  - Conflict Resolution
  - Anti-Bullying Program
  - Behavior Specific Support Group or Course
- C. Development and Implementation of an Individualized Chronic Disciplinary and Behavioral Correction Plan

## Appeal Process

If a parent believes that his/her child received discipline from an administrator and they are not satisfied with the consequences, the appeal process for a student's discipline is as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Contact the school administrator that dealt with the student situation. This is typically the Assistant Principal or the Principal.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Contact the Office of Student Support.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Contact the Office of the School Superintendent.

## Important Terms

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The terms used in this Code of Conduct are not intended to be limited to the definition of the same terms as they may be used in criminal and other laws of this state.

**Absence – Excused:** Any absence from school or class CAUSED BY personal illness; serious illness or death in the immediate family; order of a governmental agency or court of law; celebration of a religious holiday; condition that renders attendance impossible or hazardous to health or safety; registration to vote or voting, not to exceed one day; and service as a page of the General Assembly.

**Absence – Unexcused:** Any absence from school NOT CAUSED BY personal illness; serious illness or death in the immediate family; order of a governmental agency or court of law; celebration of a religious holiday; conditions that renders attendance impossible or hazardous to health or safety; registration to vote or voting, not to exceed one day; and service as a page of the General Assembly.

**Assault:** Any verbal or physical threat to the well-being, safety, or dignity of a person, to include any threat or attempt to physically harm another person that reasonably places another person in fear of physical harm. (Example: Threatening language or attempt to strike someone)

**Battery:** Intentionally causing physical harm or visible bodily harm to another. (Examples: Blackened eyes, swollen lips or other body parts, substantial bruises to body parts)

**Detention:** Assignment of a student to a specified school location and to a designated teacher or school official as a disciplinary consequence or to make up work missed. Detention may require the student's attendance before school or after school, on Saturday, or a student holiday. Notice of the detention assignment will be given to the student no later than the day before the assignment to provide the student's parent or guardian an opportunity to make arrangement for transportation.

**Expulsion:** Suspension of a student from a public school beyond the current semester.

**Fireworks:** The term "fireworks" means any combustible or explosive composition or any substance or combination of substances or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible, audible, or malodorous effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation, as well as articles containing any explosive or flammable compound and/or tablets or other devices containing an explosive substance.

**Gambling:** Engaging in a game or contest in which the outcome is dependent upon chance, even if accompanied by some skill, and in which a participant stands to win or lose something of value.

**Gang Member:** A person who is part of an association of three or more people who form an allegiance for a common purpose and engages, individually or collectively, in illegal behavior.

**Gang Related Activity:** Any act or exhibition, individual or collective, which communicates gang allegiance or affiliation; and/or would be a criminal act if committed by an adult and is deemed gang related by the principal. Gang related activity includes but is not limited to hand sign flashing; wearing of clothing articles in a certain way or color scheme typical of that worn by known gang members; jewelry, tattoos, graffiti on personal items; vandalism of public or private property; and acts of intimidation, threat, fighting and other forms of violence.

**Georgia Compulsory Attendance:** O.C.G.A. §20.2.690.1. Mandatory education for children between ages six and 16 (a) Mandatory attendance in a public school, private school, or home school program shall be required for children between their sixth and sixteenth birthdays. Such mandatory attendance shall not be required where the child has successfully completed all

requirements for a high school diploma. For additional requirements under O.C.G.A. §20-2-690.1, please see local school attendance administrators.

**Instigating Rule Violations:** A student shall not advise, counsel, urge, encourage, incite, cause or attempt to cause any other person to engage in a prohibited act or violate the school's student handbook, this Code of Conduct, or any Dawson County Board of Education policy.

**In-School Suspension (ISS):** Temporary removal of a student from the regular classroom(s) **FOR AT LEAST HALF A SCHOOL DAY**. The student remains under the direct supervision of school personnel. Direct supervision means school personnel are physically in the same location as students under their supervision. During the period of suspension, the student is excluded from all school-sponsored activities regardless of location. Suspension days end at midnight.

**Out-Of-School Suspension (OSS):** Removal of a student from the regular school program for a period not to exceed 10 days (short-term) or for a period greater than 10 days (long-term, which may be imposed only by a disciplinary tribunal). During the period of suspension, the student is excluded from all school campuses and all school-sponsored activities regardless of location. This includes practices and events. Suspension days end at midnight.

**Physical Violence:** (1) Intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another; or (2) intentionally making physical contact, which causes physical harm to another unless such physical contacts or harms were in defense of himself or herself, as provided by Georgia Law Ref. O.C.G.A. §16-3-21, 20-2-751.6.

**Private Property:** The Dawson County School District and its schools will not be held accountable for lost or stolen private property, and will not investigate thefts of personal property to the extent that the investigation substantially interferes with the educational mission of the school. Personal items brought to school will be at the owner's risk.

**Sexual Conduct and Criminal Penalties:** The General Assembly of Georgia requires that this Code of Conduct include language encouraging parents and guardians to inform their children of the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

**Sexual Harassment:** Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other unwelcome verbal, written, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, which also includes repeated remarks of a demeaning nature, demeaning jokes, stories, or actions. O.C.G.A. §20-2-735 encourages parents and guardians to inform their children of the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

**Threats of Violence:** The Dawson County School District will not tolerate threats of violence toward persons or property, whether the threat is made in seriousness or in jest. Any comment, statement, threat, situation, or condition that indicates the possibility of becoming a life-threatening situation is a serious matter and will be investigated and dealt with accordingly.

**Tribunal:** A due process disciplinary hearing before a three-person tribunal to hear charges made against a student in any grade K-12 who is alleged to have violated the Code of Conduct. Disciplinary tribunal hearings are held following any instance of an alleged violation of the student Code of Conduct if the principal recommends a suspension or expulsion of a student longer than 10 days or following an alleged assault or battery upon any school system employee, if that employee requests a hearing. The objective of the hearing is to determine if the student did or did not violate the Code of Conduct, and if so, to determine appropriate disciplinary action.

**Tribunal Waiver Agreement:** An agreement not to contest whether a student has committed an infraction of the Code of Conduct and the acceptance of consequences in lieu of an actual hearing before a disciplinary tribunal. If the tribunal accepts the agreement as its decision, the agreement becomes a disciplinary order of the school system.

**Truant:** Any student subject to the state compulsory attendance law, who during the school calendar year accumulates more than 5 days of unexcused absences. School days missed as a result of an out-of-school suspension shall not count as unexcused days for the purpose of determining student truancy. Note: Cases of truancy and excessive excused absenteeism will be handled in accordance with the protocol that was developed by the county-wide Student Attendance Protocol Committee.

**Violation of Responsible Use Guidelines:**

Violation of the Responsible Use Guidelines for computer hardware, software, network and Internet access, to include any unauthorized entry into a computer network secured site. The act of entering or attempting to enter a computer network secured site (hacking) is a very serious offense that warrants a very serious consequence that may include permanent expulsion from the school system and confiscation of technology being used inappropriately if an incident occurs. Access is a privilege, not a right, and all students are expected to treat this learning tool with respect.

**Weapons:** Any object that is or may be used to inflict bodily injury or to place another in fear for personal safety or well-being. Weapons may include but are not limited to:

1. Any handgun, firearm, rifle, shotgun or similar weapon; any explosive compound or incendiary device; or any other dangerous weapon as defined in O.C.G.A. §16-11-121, including a rocket launcher, bazooka, recoilless rifle, mortar, or hand grenade.
2. Any hazardous object, as stated in O.C.G.A. §20-2-751, which includes “any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade or two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any instrument of like kind, any nonlethal air gun, and any stun gun or taser as defined in subsection (a) of Code section 16-11-106. Such term shall not include any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher.”

Students who possess any weapon in section 1 in violation of this policy will be subject to a minimum of a one calendar year expulsion. The superintendent shall have the authority to, either before or after the student is referred for a tribunal hearing, reduce the mandated one-year expulsion under circumstances where the one-year expulsion appears excessive to the superintendent. The tribunal shall also have the authority to modify such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis in determining the appropriate consequences. Finally, in any tribunal decision appealed to the Board of Education, the Board may reduce the mandated consequences, but shall consider whether the superintendent and/or tribunal considered a reduction and any rationale in denying such a reduction.

Students who possess other weapons or hazardous objects as described in section 2 will be subject to discipline as specified in the school Code of Conduct.

No handcuffs are allowed on campus, or other school property, other than those held by law enforcement.

## School Related Georgia Laws

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### **Bullying**

Conduct such as habitually cruel behavior meant to intimidate or hurt another person physically or emotionally, which may be construed as bullying is prohibited in all grade levels. Board policy JCDAg states that upon a finding by the disciplinary hearing officer, panel, or tribunal that a student in grades 6 – 12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, the student shall be assigned to an alternative education program. Bullying typically includes a desire to hurt, hurtful action, power imbalance, an unjust use of power, an evident enjoyment by the aggressor, sense of being oppressed on the part of the victim, and repetition.

**Legal Definition O.C.G.A. §20-2-751.4:** “As used in this Code section, the term ‘bullying’ means an act that is:

- 1) Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so;
- 2) Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or
- 3) Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that:
  - a) Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1;
  - b) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student’s education;
  - c) Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
  - d) Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school term.

The term applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system. The term also applies to acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic communication, whether or not such electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic communication (1) is directed specifically at students or school personnel, (2) is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and (3) creates a reasonable fear of harm to the students’ or school personnel’s person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose. For purposes of this Code Section, electronic communication includes but is not limited to any transfer of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system.”

## **Compulsory Attendance**

O.C.G.A. §20-2-690.1 requires any person in this state who has control of a child between the ages of 6 and 16 to enroll and send that child to school, including public, private, and home schooling. If a parent, guardian or other person who has control or charge of the child *causes* the child's absence, then that person, and not the child, is in violation of this statute. Such a violation is a misdemeanor and carries a penalty of up to \$100 fine and up to 30 days in jail for each violation. The law specifies that *each day's absence* constitutes a separate offense. Violators will be prosecuted.

For the purposes of this notice, the term "parent" includes any adult who has charge and control over the child, including a biological, adoptive, foster, stepparent, guardian, or any other person who has primary responsibility for the child's welfare. In this regard, two parents residing in the same household with the child are equally responsible for the child's attendance at school. Older children share the responsibility for their school attendance with supervising adults and are subject to adjudication in Dawson County Juvenile Court as an unruly child for violation of this statute. A complaint will be filed in the Juvenile Court of Dawson County against a child aged 10 to 15 who is habitually and without justification truant from school. For the purposes of determining the pursuit of court complaints, truancy is defined as five or more days of unexcused absence from school. Please note that parents may themselves choose to file truancy complaints prior to any complaint made by the school system. If a student is 16 or older, any complaints regarding truancy must be filed by the parents.

A child may be placed on probation for truancy by the Juvenile Court Judge upon admission or determination of guilt (adjudication) to a truancy charge. This probation may last for up to two years and may include specific conditions, including, but not limited to, a curfew, community service, participation in a truancy reduction program or counseling, and/or monetary fines. The District Attorney and/or the Department of Juvenile Justice may also request a protective order to ensure that the parent(s) actively assist in the child's compliance with conditions of probation, including attendance in school. Further unexcused absences from school by the youth may result in immediate sanction by the Department of Juvenile Justice, including a possible violation of probation, which may result in more severe penalties, up to and including detention.

If you have any questions regarding the information included in this document, please contact the Principal of your child's school or the School Social Worker.

## **Disrupting Public School**

It shall be unlawful for any person to disrupt or interfere with the operation of any public school, public school bus, or public-school bus stop as designated by local school boards of education. Any person violating this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. Ref. O.C.G.A. §20-2-1181



## **Driver's License**

Effective July 1, 2015, schools will certify that a student is enrolled in and not under expulsion from a public or private school to be eligible for a driver's license or learner's permit. The Certificate of Enrollment form will replace the Certificate of Attendance and the Certificate of Eligibility for Restoration of Driving Privileges forms.

## **Drug Use**

"It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture, distribute, dispense, or possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance or marijuana in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any real property owned by or leased to any public or private elementary school, secondary school, or school board used for elementary or secondary education. Any person who violates or conspires to violate...this Code section shall be guilty of a felony..." ( O.C.G.A. §16-13-32.4)

## **Loitering in School Safety Zone**

It is unlawful for any person to remain upon the premises or within the school safety zone of any public school when that person does not have a legitimate need or cause to be present. The principal has the authority to exercise control over the buildings and grounds to prohibit any person who does not have a legitimate need or cause to be present thereon from loitering on the premises. The principal shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agency to prohibit loitering. If a person refuses to remove himself from the premises if requested to do so by the principal or designee, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. (O.C.G.A. §20-2-1180)

## **Non-Student Conduct on School Premises and Buses**

"Any parent, guardian, or person other than a student at the public school in question who has been advised that minor children are present and who continues to upbraid, insult or abuse any public school teacher, public school administrator, or public school bus driver in the presence and hearing of a pupil while on the premises of any public school or public school bus may be ordered by any of the above-designated personnel to leave the school premises or school bus, and upon failure to do so such person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof ,shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500." (O.C.G.A. §20-2-1182)

## **Required Reporting**

Any teacher or other person employed at any public or private elementary or secondary school who has reasonable cause to believe that a student at that school has committed upon school property or at any school function any act prohibited by law relative to aggravated assault if a firearm is involved; aggravated battery; sexual offenses; carrying deadly weapons at public gatherings; carrying a weapon on school property, at school functions or in a school safety zone; or

possession and other activities regarding marijuana and controlled substances, shall immediately report the act and the name of the student to the principal or his/her designee. Any principal who receives a report or has knowledge of any acts prohibited by these laws and has reasonable cause to believe the validity of the act(s) shall immediately notify the appropriate school system superintendent and law enforcement if a student possesses a firearm, incendiary device, or other dangerous weapon; or if the student is involved in an assault using a hazardous object. (O.C.G.A. §20-2-1184)

### **Weapon Possession**

Possession of deadly weapons on school property is punishable by law. "...it shall be unlawful for any person to carry or to possess or have under such person's control while within a school safety zone or at a school building, school function, or school property or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the school any weapon or explosive compound...Any person who violates this subsection shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000, by imprisonment for not less than two nor more than ten years, or both...As used in this code section..." "Weapon means and includes any pistol, revolver, or any weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind, or any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, metal knucks, blackjack, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, churiken, or fighting chain, or any disc. Of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any weapon of like kind, and any stun gun or taser..." (O.C.G.A. §16-11-127.1)

## School Buses

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### **Message to Parents and Students**

Riding the school bus is a privilege granted to students as a service of the Dawson County School System. To help us protect them, students are expected to follow the rules set forth in the Code of Conduct and this special School Bus Code of Conduct while walking to/from the school bus stop, waiting at the school bus stop, and riding on the school bus. Students are expected to be safe, orderly, and respectful at all times. Failures to act accordingly may result in suspension or expulsion from the bus. Concerns or issues pertaining to transportation service should be addressed according to the district's operational procedures found on the website.

### **Driver Authority**

The school bus driver is authorized to give directions, assign seats, and to prohibit any item from the bus that may threaten the safety or welfare of any person. The driver's actions are subject to review by the Director of Transportation.

Should a violation of the Code of Conduct occur on the bus, the bus driver will report the specific problem(s) in writing to the principal or principal's designee. Within one day of receipt of the discipline report, the administrator will investigate the problem and issue consequences, if appropriate. A copy of the referral form will be forwarded to the parent, the bus driver, and the Transportation Department.

### **Violations and Possible Consequences**

Violations of the Code of Conduct may include consequences such as assigned seating, parental conferencing, a behavior contract, and suspension from riding the bus for an extended period of time. Students who are suspended from the bus are suspended from all buses. Any unserved suspension days will carry over into the next school year.

## State Reportable Discipline Incidents

Incident	Definition	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<b>Alcohol (01)</b>	Violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transposition, distribution, possession (actual or attempted), use, or under the influence of beverages or substances represented as alcohol	Unintentional possession of alcohol	Under the influence of alcohol without possession	Violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transposition, distribution, possession (actual or attempted), use, or under the influence of beverages or substances represented as alcohol.
<b>Arson (02)</b>	Unlawful and intentional damage or attempted damage to any real or personal property by fire or incendiary devices (NOTE: Possession of fireworks or incendiary devices must be reported as <i>Possession of Unapproved Items</i> . USE of such items should be reported as Arson.)	N/A	Attempt to commit arson or use of matches, lighters or incendiary devices at school; includes but not limited to the use of fireworks	Intentional damage as a result of arson-related activity or the use of an incendiary device
<b>Battery (03)</b>	Intentional touching or striking of another person to intentionally cause bodily harm (Note: The difference between battery & fighting is that fighting involves mutual participation.)	Intentional physical attack with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in no bodily injuries	Intentional physical attack with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in mild or moderate bodily injuries	Intentional physical attack with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in severe injuries or any physical attack on school personnel
<b>Breaking &amp; Entering – Burglary (04)</b>	Unlawful or unauthorized forceful entry into a school building or vehicle (with or without intent to commit theft)	N/A	N/A	See definition column

<b>Incident</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>
<b>Computer Trespass (05)</b>	Use of a school computer for anything other than instructional purposes or unauthorized use of a computer or computer network with the intention of deleting, obstructing, interrupting, altering, damaging, or in any way causing the malfunction of the computer, network, program(s), or data	N/A	Unauthorized use of school computer for anything other than instructional purposes	Unauthorized use of a computer or computer network with the intention of deleting, obstructing, interrupting, altering, damaging, obtaining confidential information or in any way causing the malfunction of the computer, network, program(s), or data; includes disclosure of a number, code, password, or other means of access to school computers or the school system computer network without proper authorization
<b>Disorderly Conduct (06)</b>	Any act that substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of a school function, substantially disrupts the orderly learning environment, or poses a threat to the health, safety, and/or welfare of students, staff or others (includes disruptive behavior on school buses) Inciting, advising, or counseling others to engage in prohibited acts	Creating or contributing to a moderate disturbance that substantially disrupts the normal operation of the school environment but does not pose a threat to the health or safety of others	Creating or contributing to a severe disturbance that substantially disrupts the normal operation of the school environment but does not pose a threat to the health or safety of others; may represent a repeat action	Creating or contributing to a severe disturbance that substantially disrupts the school environment or poses a threat to the health and safety of others (May be used for chronically disruptive)
<b>Inciting</b>				
<b>Drugs, Except Alcohol and Tobacco (07)</b>	Unlawful use, cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, or importation of any illegal or controlled drug or narcotic substance, or equipment or devices used for preparing or using drugs or narcotics; or any medication prescribed to a student or purchased over-the-counter and not brought to the office upon arrival to school	Unintentional possession of prescribed or over-the-counter medication. Does not include the possession of narcotics or any illegal drugs	Any medication prescribed to a student or purchased over-the-counter and not brought to the office upon arrival to school	Unlawful use, cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance, or equipment or devices used for preparing or using drugs or narcotics. CBD products containing cannabidiol, with or without THC.

<b>Incident</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>
<b>Fighting (08)</b>	Mutual participation in a fight involving physical violence where there is no one main offender and intent to harm (NOTE: Students who plead self-defense are responsible for proving they fought in self-defense.)	A physical confrontation between two or more students with the intent to harm resulting in no bodily injuries	A physical confrontation between two or more students with the intent to harm resulting in mild or moderate bodily injuries (Ex. Mild or moderate injuries including, but not limited to scratches, bloody noses, bruises, black eyes, and other marks on the body)	A physical confrontation between two or more students with the intent to harm resulting in severe bodily injuries (Ex. Repeated physical confrontations resulting in severe injuries that require medical attention)
<b>Homicide (09)</b>	Killing of one human being by another	N/A	N/A	Killing of a human being
<b>Kidnapping (10)</b>	The unlawful and forceful abduction, transportation, and/or detention of a person against his/her will	N/A	N/A	See definition column
<b>Larceny/Theft (11)</b>	The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity (e.g., school) without threat, violence or bodily harm (NOTE: Theft <\$25 is not state reportable.)	The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity that does not belong to the student with a value between \$25 and \$100	The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity that does not belong to the student with a value between \$100 and \$250	The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity that does not belong to the student with a value exceeding \$250
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft (12)</b>	Theft or attempted theft of any motor vehicle	N/A	N/A	See definition column
<b>Robbery (13)</b>	The taking of, or attempting to take, anything of value that is owned by another person or organization under confrontational circumstances by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear	N/A	Robbery without the use of a weapon	Robbery with the use of a weapon

Incident	Definition	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<b>Sexual Battery (14)</b>	Intentionally making physical contact with the intimate parts of the body of another person without the consent of that person	N/A	N/A	See definition column
<b>Sexual Harassment (15)</b>	Non-physical and unwelcome sexual advances, lewd gestures or verbal conduct or communication of a sexual nature; requests for sexual favors; gender-based harassment that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or work environment	Comments that perpetuate gender stereotypes or suggestive jokes that are not directed towards specific individuals	Comments that perpetuate gender stereotypes, suggestive jokes or lewd gestures that are directed towards specific individuals or group of individuals	Physical or non-physical sexual advances; requests for sexual favors Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on sexual harassment $\geq 3$ times during the same school year
<b>Sex Offenses (16)</b>	Unlawful sexual behavior, sexual contact without force or threat of force, or possession of sexually explicit images; can be consensual	Inappropriate sexually-based physical contact including but not limited to public groping, inappropriate bodily contact, or any other sexual contact not covered in levels 2 or 3	Inappropriate sexually-based behavior including but not limited to sexting, lewd behavior, possession of pornographic materials; simulated sex acts	Engaging in sexual activities on school grounds or during school activities
<b>Threat/Intimidation (17) Assault</b>	Any threat through written or verbal language or act which creates a fear of harm and/or conveys a serious expression of intent to harm or violence without displaying a weapon and without subjecting the victim to actual physical attack The use or threatened use of force or violence to coerce or intimidate	N/A	Physical, verbal, or electronic threat which creates fear of harm without displaying a weapon or subjecting victims to physical attack	School-wide physical, verbal or electronic threat, which creates fear of harm without displaying a weapon or subjecting victims to physical attack

<b>Incident</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>
<b>Tobacco (18)</b>	Possession, use, distribution, or sale of tobacco products on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, and on transportation to and from school	Unintentional possession of tobacco products	Use of or knowledgeable possession of tobacco products	Distribution and/or selling of tobacco products
<b>Trespassing (19)</b>	Entering or remaining on a public, school campus or school board facility without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose for entry	N/A	See definition column	See definition + Refusing to leave school grounds after a request from school personnel has been made
<b>Vandalism (20)</b>	The willful and/or malicious act committed during or after school hours that marks, destroys, damages, alters, or defaces school, public, or private property without consent	N/A	Participating in the minor destruction, damage or defacement of school property or private property without permission	Participating in the willful/malicious destruction, damage or defacement of school property or private property without permission
<b>Weapons – Knife (22)</b>	The possession, use, or intention to use any type of knife	Unintentional possession of a knife or knife-like item without intent to harm or intimidate	Intentional possession of a knife or knife-like item without intent to harm or intimidate	Intentional possession, use or intention to use a knife or knife-like item with the intent to harm or intimidate
<b>Weapons – Other (23)</b>	The possession, use, or intention to use any instrument or object that is used or intended to be used in a manner that may inflict bodily harm (does not include knives or firearms)	N/A	Unintentional possession of a weapon, other than a knife or firearm, or simile of a weapon that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm	Intentional possession and/or use of any weapon, other than a knife or firearm, in a manner that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm



Incident	Definition	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<p><b>Other Incident for a State-Reported Discipline Action (24)</b></p> <p><b>Off-Campus</b></p>	<p>Any other discipline incident for which a student is administered a consequence of detention, in-school or out-of-school suspension, expelled, suspended for riding the bus, assigned to an alternative school, referred to a court or juvenile system authorities, or removed from class at the teacher request (pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-738)</p> <p>Off-campus behavior which could result in criminal charges with a felony and makes continued presence at school a potential danger to persons, property at school, or disrupts the educational process</p>	See definition column	Used for students who display a pattern of violating local school policies not listed among the state incident types	N/A
<p><b>Weapons – Handgun (25)</b></p>	<p>Possession of a firearm that has a short stock and is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand; and any combination of parts from which a firearm described above can be assembled (pursuant to Gun-Free Schools Act-Public Law 107-110, Section 4141) (NOTE: Does not apply to toy, cap, bb, or pellet guns)</p>	N/A	N/A	Intentional or unintentional possession or use of a handgun in a manner that could produce bodily harm or fear

Incident	Definition	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<p><b>Weapons – Rifle/Shotgun (26)</b></p>	<p>The term <i>rifle</i> means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of an explosive to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger. The term <i>shotgun</i> a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of an explosive to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shot or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger. (pursuant to Gun-Free Schools Act-Public Law 107-110, Section 4141)</p>	N/A	N/A	<p>Intentional or unintentional possession or use of a rifle or shotgun in a manner that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm</p>
<p><b>Serious Bodily Injury (27)</b></p>	<p>The term <i>serious bodily injury</i> means bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, protracted and obvious disfigurement; or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.</p>	N/A	N/A	<p>Infliction of <i>bodily harm</i> that dismembers, disfigures, causes permanent loss of a limb or function of an organ and causes substantial risk of death</p>

Incident	Definition	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<p><b>Other Firearms (28)</b></p>	<p>Firearms other than handguns, rifles, or shotguns as defined in 18 USC 921. Includes any weapon (including starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of any explosive; the frame or receiver of any weapon described above; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device, which includes any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas (i.e. bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge more than 4 ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge or more than ¼ ounce, mine, or similar device); any weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of any explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than ½ inch in diameter; any combination or parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described above, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>See definition column</p>
<p><b>Bullying (29)</b></p>	<p>Behavior, which may include written, verbal, physical acts, or through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology occurring on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive so as to have the effect of substantially interfering with the education of students, threatening the educational environment, or causing substantial physical harm or visible bodily harm</p>	<p>First Offense of bullying as defined in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.4</p>	<p>Second Offense of bullying as defined in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.4</p>	<p>Repeated acts as defined in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.4, occurring on school property or school possession that is a willful attempt or threat to inflict injury, or apparent means to do so, any display of force that puts victim at fear of harm, any written, verbal or physical act that threatens, harasses, or intimidates; causes another person physical harm; interferes with the education of students; so severe and pervasive intimidated or threatens educational environment</p>

<b>Incident</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>
<b>Other – Attendance Related (30)</b>	Repeated or excessive unexcused absences or tardiness; including failure to report to class, skipping class, leaving school without authorization, or failure to comply with disciplinary sanctions	See definition column	N/A	N/A
<b>Other – Dress Code Violation (31)</b>	Violation of school dress code that includes standards for appropriate school attire	Non-invasive and non-suggestive clothing, jewelry, book bags or other articles of personal appearance	Invasive or suggestive clothing, jewelry, book bags or other articles of personal appearance	Violation of school dress code $\geq$ 3 times during the same school year
<b>Academic Dishonesty (32)</b>	Receiving or providing unauthorized assistance on classroom projects, assignments or exams	Intentional receiving or providing of unauthorized assistance on classroom projects, assessments, and assignments	Intentional plagiarism or cheating on a minor classroom assignment or project	Intentional plagiarism or cheating on a major exam, statewide assessment or project or the falsification of school records (including forgery)
<b>Other – Student Incivility (33)</b>	Insubordination or disrespect to staff members or other students or persons attending schoolwide functions; includes but is not limited to refusal to follow school staff members instructions, use of vulgar or inappropriate language, and misrepresentation of the truth	Failure to comply with instructions or the inadvertent use of inappropriate language	Blatant insubordination or the use of inappropriate language directed towards school staff or peers; intentional misrepresentation of the truth	Blatant and repeated insubordination or intentional misrepresentation of the truth
<b>False Reporting</b>	Falsifying, omitting, or erroneously reporting information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teachers, administrator, or other school employee toward a student. Such false reporting may be punishable by law.			

<b>Incident</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>
<b>Other – Possession of Unapproved Items (34)</b>	The use or possession of any unauthorized item disruptive to the school environment	The possession of any unauthorized item (Does not include fireworks, matches, toy weapons, or other items that can be construed as dangerous)	The use of any unauthorized item (i.e. toys, mobile devices, or gadgets) (Does not include fireworks, matches, toy weapons, or other items that can be construed as dangerous)	The use or possession of unauthorized items including but not limited to toy guns or other items that can be construed as dangerous or harmful to the learning environment (Includes the possession of matches, lighters, incendiary devices or fireworks). May be used for repeated offenses of possession of unapproved items
<b>Gang-Related (35)</b>	Any group of three or more students with a common name or common identifying signs, symbols, tattoos, graffiti, or attire which engage in criminal gang activity (O.C.G.A. § 16-15-3)	N/A	Wearing or possessing gang-related apparel; communicating either verbally or non-verbally to convey membership or affiliation with a gang	The solicitation of others for gang-membership, the defacing of school or personal property with gang-related symbols or slogans, threatening or intimidating on behalf of a gang, the requirement or payment for protection or insurance through a gang. May be used for repeated offenses related to gang activity.
<b>Repeated Offenses (36)</b>  <b>Chronically Disruptive</b> O.C.G.A. § 20-2-765,766	A collection of offenses not previously assigned a state reportable action that occurs on a single or across multiple school days that leads to a state reportable disciplinary action. A pattern of intentionally, willfully, persistently, violating the Code of Conduct or exhibiting behaviors, which interfere with the learning process of other students and which are likely to recur.	Collection of minor incidents (Note: Follow procedures as outlined in § 20-2-765,766)	Collection of moderate incidents (Note: Follow procedures as outlined in § 20-2-765,766)	Collection of severe incidents (Note: Follow procedures as outlined in § 20-2-765,766)

<b>Incident</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>
<b>Other Non-Disciplinary Incident (40)</b>	Physical Restraint (NOTE: This incident is typically used when a student is physically restrained by an adult.)	See definition column	See definition column	See definition column
<b>Electronic Smoking Device (42)</b>	Any device used to deliver nicotine or any other substance intended for human consumption that may be used by a person to simulate smoking through inhalation of vapor or aerosol from the device Such devices include those manufactured, distributed, marketed or sold as an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, electronic hookah, vape pen, electronic nicotine delivery system or any cartridge or other component of the device	Unintentional possession of an electronic smoking device	Use or knowledgeable possession of an electronic smoking device	The distribution and/or selling of electronic smoking devices. A repeat of offenses $\geq$ 3 times during the same school year.
<b>Violence Against a Teacher (44)</b>	Intentional physical attack against a teacher with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in severe injuries or any physical attack against a teacher (NOTE: Violence against other school personnel should be reported as Battery (03)-Level 3.)	N/A	N/A	See definition column

## Clubs & Organizations

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### Black's Mill Elementary School

**Club or Organization Name:** Student Council

**Sponsor's Name:** Stephanie Danuser

**Mission or Purpose:** To foster leadership development through community and school projects.

**Club or Organization Name:** 4-H

**Sponsor's Name:** 4th and 5th Grade Staff

**Mission or Purpose:** To acquire knowledge, develop life skills, form attitudes to become self-directed, productive members of society.

**Club or Organization Name:** WBME Broadcast Team

**Sponsor's Name:** Allison Lundy

**Mission or Purpose:** Communication service that is led via student-led, student-written, and student-produced daily video broadcast.

**Club or Organization Name:** Safety Patrol

**Sponsor's Name:** 5th Grade Staff

**Mission or Purpose:** Students serve as hall monitors, keepers of the flags, and door holders.

**Club or Organization Name:** Bears on the Move

**Sponsor's Name:** Jenny Disharoon and Melanie Tatum

**Mission or Purpose:** To promote lifelong physical fitness and personal enjoyment of physical fitness by running together.

**Club or Organization Name:** Robotics Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Various Staff

**Mission or Purpose:** Students learn problem-solving skills, reasoning, and critical thinking through hands on activities. The robotics program builds students' confidence in Math and Science while helping them to explore their creativity in exciting new ways.

**Club or Organization Name:** Chorus Music Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Julia Morang

**Mission or Purpose:** To provide students an opportunity to pursue an advanced study in music and to equip students with basic choral, and music skills.

**Club or Organization Name:** Art Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Kelly Shippey

**Mission or Purpose:** To provide students an opportunity to pursue an advanced study in art.

**Club or Organization Name:** Reading Team

**Sponsor's Name:** Allison Lundy and Jessie Venem

**Mission or Purpose:** To provide students an opportunity to compete in reading competitions while building self-esteem and developing team spirit.

**Club or Organization Name:** Drama Team - Little Tiger Theatre Company

**Sponsor's Name:** Rebecca Johnsen

**Mission or Purpose:** To provide students an opportunity to work as a team to perform for our school and community.

**Club or Organization Name:** Chess Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Jamie Powell

**Mission or Purpose:** To provide students an opportunity to work as a team on something they are interested in. This team will help build self-esteem and develop team spirit.

**Club or Organization Name:** Ukulele Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Jamie Powell

**Mission or Purpose:** To provide students an opportunity to work on something in which they are interested. This club will help build self-esteem and develop team spirit.

**Club or Organization Name:** Club Invention

**Sponsor's Name:** Alexis Phillips

**Mission or Purpose:** Students work in teams to creatively brainstorm on ways to solve everyday challenges and enhance their understanding of essential STEM concepts.

**Club or Organization Name:** Early Act Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Lisa Allen & Dawson County Rotary Club

**Mission or Purpose:** The mission of Early Act is to promote goodwill, understanding, and peace through the active participation of its student members so that with committed citizenship and effective leadership, they may improve the quality of life of their school, local, and global communities.



## **Kilough Elementary School**

**Club or Organization Name:** Student Council

**Sponsor's Name:** Nicole Purdy

**Mission or Purpose:** Opportunities to serve as an advisory board, make decisions, recommendations, assist in working to improve our school.

**Club or Organization Name:** 4-H Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Fifth Grade Staff

**Mission or Purpose:** To acquire knowledge, develop life skills, form attitudes to become self-directed, productive members of society.

**Club or Organization Name:** Reading Bowl Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Kristi Bearden

**Mission or Purpose:** To compete in a statewide reading competition while building self-esteem and developing team spirit.

**Club or Organization Name:** Marathon Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Patrick Muenchen

**Mission or Purpose:** To promote lifelong physical fitness and personal enjoyment of physical fitness by running together.

**Club or Organization Name:** Kilough Coaches

**Sponsor's Name:** Cindy Sanford

**Mission or Purpose:** To develop student leadership in coaching through goal setting, team building, video production, and communication skills.

**Club or Organization Name:** Chorus for Grades 3-5

**Sponsor's Name:** Ashley Stell

**Mission or Purpose:** To provide students an opportunity for an advanced study in music and to equip students with basic choral music skills.

**Club or Organization Name:** WKES Broadcast Team

**Sponsor's Name:** Ashley Stell

**Mission or Purpose:** Communication service led via student-led, student-written, and student-produced daily video broadcast.

**Club or Organization Name:** Math Team

**Sponsor's Name:** Michelle Wagner

**Mission or Purpose:** To provide students an opportunity to compete in math competitions while building self-esteem and developing team spirit.

**Club or Organization Name:** Safety Patrol

**Sponsor's Name:** SRO Grizzle

**Mission or Purpose:** 5th grade students serve as hall monitors, keepers of the flags, and greeters within the building.

**Club or Organization Name:** Art Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Christy Sarratt

**Mission or Purpose:** To help students pursue advanced studies in art.

**Club or Organization Name:** Drama Team – Little Tiger Theatre Company

**Sponsor's Name:** Ashley Stell

**Mission or Purpose:** To provide students an opportunity to work as a team to perform for the school and community.

### **Riverview Elementary School**

**Club or Organization Name:** Yearbook Team

**Sponsor's Name:** Traci Jones

**Mission or Purpose:** To learn skills necessary for and accept responsibilities needed to produce the Riverview Elementary School Yearbook.

**Club or Organization Name:** Morning Broadcast Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Carmen Cunningham

**Mission or Purpose:** To provide a service to the school for communication via student-written, and student-produced daily video broadcast.

**Club or Organization Name:** 4-H Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Samantha Graves, Fifth Grade Staff

**Mission or Purpose:** To assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self- directive, productive, and contributing members of society.

**Club or Organization Name:** Marathon Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Clint Freeland

**Mission or Purpose:** To promote lifelong physical fitness and personal enjoyment of physical fitness by running together.

**Club or Organization Name:** Riverview Elementary School Chorus

**Sponsor's Name:** Hannah Lumme

**Mission or Purpose:** To provide students an opportunity to pursue an advanced study in music and to equip students with basic choral music skills.

**Club or Organization Name:** Riverview Elementary Art Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Danielle Fitts

**Mission or Purpose:** To promote a greater appreciation for the visual arts by developing life skills through the study and production of art.

**Club or Organization Name:** Riverview Elementary Reading Bowl

**Sponsor's Name:** Carmen Cunningham & RvES Staff

**Mission or Purpose:** To compete in a statewide reading competition while building self-esteem and developing team spirit.

**Club or Organization Name:** Drama Team - Little Tiger Theatre Company

**Sponsor's Name:** Jeremy Lavender

**Mission or Purpose:** To provide students an opportunity to work as a team to perform for our school and community.

**Club or Organization Name:** STEM Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Annette Painter

**Mission or Purpose:** To teach problem solving skills through hands-on activities involving science, technology, and math.

**Club or Organization Name:** SPARK Leaders

**Sponsor's Name:** Jeremy Lavender

**Mission or Purpose:** Foster leadership skills and assist in work to improve PBIS.

**Club or Organization Name:** Club Invention

**Sponsor's Name:** Beth Murray

**Mission or Purpose:** Students work in teams to creatively brainstorm on ways to solve everyday challenges and enhance their understanding of essential STEM concepts.

## **Robinson Elementary School**

**Club or Organization Name:** 4-H

**Sponsor's Name:** Fourth and Fifth Grade Staff and Samantha Graves

**Mission or Purpose:** To assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directive, productive, and contributing members of society.

**Club or Organization Name:** Morning News

**Sponsor's Name:** Carly Anglin

**Mission or Purpose:** To provide a service to the school for communication via student-led, student written, and student-produced daily video broadcasts.

**Club or Organization Name:** Marathon Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Logan Allen and Xarissa Bolz

**Mission or Purpose:** To promote lifelong physical fitness and personal enjoyment of physical fitness by running together.

**Club or Organization Name:** 5th Grade Chorus

**Sponsor's Name:** Jennifer Wright

**Mission or Purpose:** To develop their voices and get experience with performing.

**Club or Organization Name:** RES Helen Rufflin Reading Bowl

**Sponsor's Name:** Amy Swafford & Carly Anglin

**Mission or Purpose:** To expose fourth and fifth grade students to different types of literature and encourage reading through competition.

**Club or Organization Name:** Yearbook

**Sponsor's Name:** Brittany Croft

**Mission or Purpose:** To work together as a team to develop necessary skills needed to plan, develop and produce the RES yearbook.

**Club or Organization Name:** Student Leadership Team

**Sponsor's Name:** Michelle Richardson

**Mission or Purpose:** To foster leadership skills and assist in work to improve our school.

**Club or Organization Name:** Art

**Sponsor's Name:** Brittany Croft

**Mission or Purpose:** To introduce higher level art skills to students.

**Club or Organization Name:** Math Team

**Sponsor's Name:** Tiffany Turner

**Mission or Purpose:** To encourage 3rd-5th graders to use creativity, critical thinking, mathematics knowledge, problem solving.

**Club or Organization Name:** Club Invention

**Sponsor's Name:** Jennifer Garmon

**Mission or Purpose:** 1st-5th grade students work in teams to creatively brainstorm on ways to solve everyday challenges and enhance their understanding of essential STEM concepts.

**Club or Organization Name:** STEM Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Sheila Dean

**Mission or Purpose:** 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students work in teams to use creativity, critical thinking, math, science, technology, and engineering strategies to solve challenges and enhance learning.

**Club or Organization Name:** Drama Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Jordan Lefevre

**Mission or Purpose:** Drama Club would provide our students the opportunity to participate in drama and perform for our school and community.

### **Dawson County Middle School**

**Club or Organization Name:** 4-H

**Sponsor's Name:** Christie Downs, Amanda Farley

**Mission or Purpose:** 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

**Club or Organization Name:** Academic Bowl Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Crystal Adams

**Mission or Purpose:** The Academic Bowl Club is a competitive, academic club open to both 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students for which they can demonstrate their knowledge about topics including science, history, literature, math, art, current events, sports, etc. Fifteen students in this club will also be selected to represent DCMS at Academic Bowl competitions throughout the year.

**Club or Organization Name:** Baking 101

**Sponsor's Name:** Rachel Sams

**Mission or Purpose:** In Baking 101 we will focus on learning basic baking skills. Students will learn how to measure ingredients properly and read recipes and will experiment with different ingredients to vary recipes. All baked goods will be made from scratch!

**Club or Organization Name:** Calligraphy Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Jackie Sides

**Mission or Purpose:** To explore the art of handwriting and learn different techniques of hand lettering. Students will learn different types of cursives, script, calligraphy, print, and/or block lettering. We will use different techniques combined with a range of pens and markers to create various styles of hand-lettering.

**Club or Organization Name:** Card Games Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Courtney Midgett

**Mission or Purpose:** Students will learn new games and use higher-order thinking skills to practice strategies to win games. Students will have to learn to cooperate with others and can teach other students games they might already know. This will be a technology-free zone and students will learn to communicate with others by playing card games and teaching others.

**Club or Organization Name:** Cartooning Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Cory Hall

**Mission or Purpose:** Learn to draw in cartoon style. Using simple step-by-step techniques we will turn objects, people, animals, and more into cartoon images. We will also work on creating our own cartoon characters and build up to designing our own stop motion animation.

**Club or Organization Name:** Checkers Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Melissa Knuth

**Mission or Purpose:** Are you a master at solving puzzles? Can you develop strategies to defeat your opponents? Then you might want to consider joining the Checkers Club! Checkers will help students to develop their critical thinking skills in a safe, fun, and competitive environment!

**Club or Organization Name:** Critical Thinking/Game Club

**Sponsor's Name:** April Churchwell and Stephanie Davis

**Mission or Purpose:** To foster teamwork, friendship, respect, communication, problem-solving skills, sportsmanship, integrity, listening skills/following directions, and FUN.

**Club or Organization Name:** Cultural Detectives

**Sponsor's Name:** Jeff Compton

**Mission or Purpose:** Students will research and investigate various cultures around the world. The research will focus on food, traditions, etc.

**Club or Organization Name:** Exceptional Girls Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Taylor Greene

**Mission or Purpose:** To provide a space and place for girls who want to improve or work on social skills, coping skills, and basic life skills.

**Club or Organization Name:** Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)

**Sponsor's Name:** Kevin Grigsby, Melanie Sorensen, Jessie Gravitt, and Seth French

**Mission or Purpose:** To encourage the fellowship of athletes on and off the field and court, and to model positive moral and ethical behaviors during school activities.

**Club or Organization Name:** Future Farmers of America (FFA)

**Sponsor's Name:** Cassidy Samples

**Mission or Purpose:** To make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through Agriculture Education.

**Club or Organization Name:** I Am Second

**Sponsor's Name:** Cortney Evans & Susie Charles-Carr

**Mission or Purpose:** Small group Christian club focused on the I Am Second videos online. Students will have time to talk about their testimony, share stories, and help encourage fellow club members and other students in the school.

**Club or Organization Name:** Interact Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Vanessa Alman

**Mission or Purpose:** Do you like helping in the community? Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people 6-12th grade. We participate in several service projects throughout the year including Leap for Literacy, Wee Books Barn Dance, Pups in The Park, Trunk or Treat, the Annual Christmas Parade, and Shore Sweep. We average about one community service project a month during the weekend. If you like fun community service projects and want to learn a lot about our community, this is the club for you!

**Club or Organization Name:** Line Dancing

**Sponsor's Name:** Jennifer Palmer

**Mission or Purpose:** Students will learn line dances from across the decades. These dances will include, but not be limited to, the following: The Charleston, Chicken Dance, Hokey Pokey, The Electric Slide, Cupid Shuffle, Church Clap, and more...

**Club or Organization Name:** The Organization Organization

**Sponsor's Name:** Kristin Smith

**Mission or Purpose:** The Organization Organization is a group of people who love being organized and helping others do the same! We show ourselves being on the PROWL through organization and cleaning! This is a judgment-free club. You will help your peers and teachers with backpack organization, binder organization, and anything else that may need some organizational needs.

**Club or Organization Name:** Pickleball Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Robin Little

**Mission or Purpose:** Pickleball is a hybrid sport with rules similar to tennis and ping pong, but played on a smaller court. With rules that are easy to pick up, pickleball is a perfect sport for all ages. In this club, you would learn these rules and quickly get to playing one of the fastest-growing sports in America.

**Club or Organization Name:** Positive Peer Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Steve Hughes

**Mission or Purpose:** The Positive Peer Club is for students who are interested in building a more compassionate school community. The Positive Peer Club will be helping their classmates with special needs discover ways they can make a difference. They will work on school projects that impact their peers and teachers in a positive way.

**Club or Organization Name:** Puzzle Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Sarah Cushman

**Mission or Purpose:** Students will use higher-order thinking skills in order to solve an array of different types of puzzles. There will be crosswords, sudokus, word finds, jigsaw puzzles, hidden pictures, and brainteasers.

**Club or Organization Name:** Robotics

**Sponsor's Name:** Kristin Smith and Todd Phillips

**Mission or Purpose:** DCMS Robotics is a competition based extracurricular activity. Students will work in a small team to design, build and program a robot using the VEX IQ Robotics platform to compete in tournaments against other middle schools. Robotics is a sport for the mind. It blends applied physics, mathematics, programming, prototyping, design integrated problem-solving, teamwork and leadership.

**Club or Organization Name:** Sources of Strength

**Sponsor's Name:** Kristin Smith, Blair Helvey, and Cory Hall

**Mission or Purpose:** Sources of Strength is a national club with a mission "to prevent suicide by increasing help-seeking behaviors and promoting connections between peers and caring adults." At DCMS, SOS is a group of peer leaders chosen to represent students from all walks of life. Peer



leaders aid in organizing monthly school-wide campaigns to increase student awareness of their own personal strengths and support systems around them. The goal of SOS peer leaders is to help each student at DCMS know his or her value while connecting with others.

**Club or Organization Name:** Student Council

**Sponsor's Name:** Blair Helvey

**Mission or Purpose:** Qualified students who are the voice of the school. Help organize and implement school fundraisers, school activities, transition activities, and service projects.

**Club or Organization Name:** Tiger Pep Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Grace Owens

**Mission or Purpose:** The purpose of the Tiger Pep Club is to promote school spirit. In order to accomplish this, the club will decorate the halls and lockers, and attend athletic events to cheer on school athletes. If you have a passion for being a DCMS TIGER, this club is for you!

**Club or Organization Name:** Tiger Focus Technology Team

**Sponsor's Name:** Karen Westbrook

**Mission or Purpose:** The Tiger Focus Technology Team will create, film, and produce highlight videos for DCMS. These videos will be played for the school and shared with the community.

### **Dawson County Junior High School**

**Club or Organization Name:** 4-H

**Sponsor's Name:** Andrea Smith

**Mission or Purpose:** 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

**Club or Organization Name:** Interact Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Nicki Harvey

**Mission or Purpose:** The club offers fun, meaningful service activities while providing a chance to develop leadership skills and meet new friends. The service organization is based on the principles of Rotary International.

**Club or Organization Name:** Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)

**Sponsor's Name:** Laura Bailey, Jason Dyer, Alex Bennett, and Angie Smith

**Mission or Purpose:** Encourage fellowship of athletes on and off the field and court; model positive moral, and ethical behaviors during school activities.

**Club or Organization Name:** Technology Student Association (TSA)

**Sponsor's Name:** Don Hamil, Richard Sullivan, Brian Murray

**Mission or Purpose:** To be successful leaders and responsible citizens in a technological society through leadership activities and competitive skill development.

**Club or Organization Name:** Relay for Life

**Sponsor's Name:** Lori Sandoval and Becca Skelton

**Mission or Purpose:** To celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer and to support cancer research.

**Club or Organization Name:** Yearbook

**Sponsor's Name:** Marcie Hughes

**Mission or Purpose:** To develop skills needed to plan, develop, and produce the yearbook.

**Club or Organization Name:** FBLA

**Sponsor's Name:** McKay Whitmire and Lainie Esber

**Mission or Purpose:** Prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and business management.

**Club or Organization Name:** Art

**Sponsor's Name:** Samantha Hewlett

**Mission or Purpose:** To achieve a higher level of art skills to students.

**Club or Organization Name:** Team Sports

**Sponsor's Name:** Andy LeBlanc, Glen Minor, Dwayne Sapp

**Mission or Purpose:** Provide students with the opportunity to be physically active and work with others in a team setting.

**Club or Organization Name:** Sign Language

**Sponsor's Name:** Chip Penland and Tracy Martin

**Mission or Purpose:** Provide student to practice the language of ASL so that they may be able to communicate with the deaf and hard of hearing community.

**Club or Organization Name:** Marathon Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Jim Guy and Ryan LeFevre

**Mission or Purpose:** Provide students with the opportunity to be physically active while running and promote an overall healthy lifestyle.

**Club or Organization Name:** Card Games

**Sponsor's Name:** Teri Wilkins and Rhonda Sillesky

**Mission or Purpose:** Provide students with the opportunity to interact with others while playing various card games.

**Club or Organization Name:** Book Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Jonathan Tinsley and Thomy Edwards

**Mission or Purpose:** Students will read and discuss viewpoints from various pieces of both modern and classic literature.

**Club or Organization Name:** Board Games

**Sponsor's Name:** Cherie Powell and Jessica Castleberry

**Mission or Purpose:** Provide students with the opportunity to interact with others while playing various board games.

**Club or Organization Name:** Sources of Strength

**Sponsor's Name:** Becca Wilson and Amanda Moore

**Mission or Purpose:** Our mission is to spread hope, help, and strength into every corner of our school community while helping students and staff turn to their strengths and their supports that are all around.

**Club or Organization Name:** Chess Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Amy Burns and Judd Gravitt

**Mission or Purpose:** Provide students with the opportunity to interact with others while playing Chess.

**Club or Organization Name:** PALS Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Juianne Hunter and Holly Kimmel

**Mission or Purpose:** Provide students in the Community Based Instruction program the opportunity to interact with other students while building relationships, communication, and social skills.

### **Dawson County High School**

**Club or Organization Name:** Beta Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Michelle Gee

**Mission or Purpose:** DCHS Beta Club is a club that recognizes student achievement and also strives to promote character, develop leadership skills, and encourage service involvement among its members.

**Club or Organization Name:** Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

**Sponsor's Name:** Lori Grant

**Mission or Purpose:** To promote personal growth and leadership development through family and consumer education, focusing on the multiple roles of a family member, wage earner, and community leader to develop skills for life through character development, creative and critical thinking, interpersonal communication, practical knowledge, and vocational preparation.

**Club or Organization Name:** Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)

**Sponsor's Name:** Hope Honea

**Mission or Purpose:** Encourage fellowship of athletes on and off the field and court; model positive moral, and ethical behaviors during school activities.

**Club or Organization Name:** Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

**Sponsor's Name:** Beth Hamby

**Mission or Purpose:** Fun leadership development, amazing conferences, networking with members across the country, travel, and most of all, a good time.

**Club or Organization Name:** Future Farmers of America Organization (FFA)

**Sponsor's Name:** Keith Pankey

**Mission or Purpose:** To make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through Agriculture Education.

**Club or Organization Name:** Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)

**Sponsor's Name:** Leigh Ann Dyer

**Mission or Purpose:** To enhance the delivery of compassionate quality healthcare by providing opportunities for knowledge, skills, and leadership development of all health occupation students, therefore helping the students to meet the needs of the healthcare community.

**Club or Organization Name:** Interact Club

**Sponsor's Name:** TBD

**Mission or Purpose:** To provide opportunities for young people to work together for the betterment of the community and the world.

**Club or Organization Name:** Jobs for Georgia Graduates (JGG)

**Sponsor's Name:** Kathie Fodor

**Mission or Purpose:** To provide seniors with a chance to practice leadership and time management.

**Club or Organization Name:** Student Government Association (SGA)

**Sponsor's Name:** Anne Hyams

**Mission or Purpose:** Young leaders who are committed to the ideals of education and democracy; and are charged with the responsibility of representing their fellow classmates and developing policies that will enhance the well-being of their school and student body.

**Club or Organization Name:** Technology Student Association (TSA)

**Sponsor's Name:** Richard Hayes

**Mission or Purpose:** To be successful leaders and responsible citizens in a technological society through leadership activities and competitive skill development.

**Club or Organization Name:** Y-Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Hope Honea

**Mission or Purpose:** To create, maintain, and extend throughout the home, school, and community high standards of character.

**Club or Organization Name:** National Honors Society (NHS)

**Sponsor's Name:** Nikki Kenny, Kassie Byrd

**Mission or Purpose:** To recognize outstanding high school students. NHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character.

**Club or Organization Name:** Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica

**Sponsor's Name:** Paola Epstein & Jamie Bearden

**Mission or Purpose:** For students who have completed Spanish II and are enrolled in Spanish III who meet requirements for academic excellence.

**Club or Organization Name:** Fishing Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Donna Melton

**Mission or Purpose:** The DCHS Fishing Club emphasizes the ties between education and fishing. Members will learn the connection between math, language arts, and science and their applications to fishing. We intend to expose the students to the ever-increasing career opportunities that are being created by the sport and it gives students another great opportunity to utilize their time after school. The club will keep students active and involved in the outdoors through conservation projects and community service efforts.

**Club or Organization Name:** Key Club

**Sponsor's Name:** TBD

**Mission or Purpose:** Key Club is an international, student-led organization providing its members with opportunities to perform service, build character, and develop leadership.

**Club or Organization Name:** Quiz Bowl

**Sponsor's Name:** Susan Wright

**Mission or Purpose:** To promote academic excellence through the spirit of competition.

**Club or Organization Name:** DECA

**Sponsor's Name:** Levi Whitmire

**Mission or Purpose:** Prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.

**Club or Organization Name:** Peer Partners Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Ashley Caray

**Mission or Purpose:** Peer Partners Club is a community service organization for students. Peer Partners Club members seek to meet the needs of our world and promote progress in a world of change.

**Club or Organization Name:** Youth Leadership Dawson

**Sponsor's Name:** Tanya Porter

**Mission or Purpose:** This is a leadership development program that informs, motivates, and increases the awareness of selected high school sophomores and juniors through interaction with community leaders. Dawson County Schools and the Dawson Chamber of Commerce provide programs with hands-on activities and team-building exercises outside of the classroom walls. They provide opportunities to network with business leaders throughout the community. Gain career knowledge from a large variety of businesses and improve their sense of civic responsibility and servant leadership. To gain valuable leadership skills, develop excellent communication skills while realizing the importance of a team. The ultimate goal is for participants to get excited about returning and contributing to our community after college.

**Club or Organization Name:** Prom Committee

**Sponsor's Name:** Ashley Caray

**Mission or Purpose:** The Prom Committee is a service club for DCHS promoting community relationships and supporting school spirit and pride. Prom committee members change each year as the committee is made up of the Junior class officers and any member of the Junior class that would like to participate. Members meet as a club starting in the fall to begin planning Prom with the majority of the planning done early in the year and most of the physical work done after spring break.

**Club or Organization Name:** Anime Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Paola Epstein

**Mission or Purpose:** DCHS student organization dedicated to increasing the awareness of Japanese animation.

**Club or Organization Name:** Thespian Society/Drama Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Maggie Ewing

**Mission or Purpose:** The Dawson County High School Theater program and Thespian Society engages, inspires, entertains, and challenges audiences with theatrical productions that range from the classics to new work. Within the theatre classroom, we train and teach the next generation of theatre artists. The skills gained from theatrical experiences translate to the real world in the form of critical thinking, teamwork, and the importance of commitment. We are committed to creating a place where students are free to explore and create dynamic, high-quality performances.

**Club or Organization Name:** Visual Art Club

**Sponsor's Name:** John Lundy

**Mission or Purpose:** The Visual Art Club consists of high school students who love the arts. The club helps provide students with a sense of individuality, pride, open-mindedness, and creativity through a well-balanced art program. The club will motivate, engage, and challenge members to stretch their imagination and produce artwork to represent their vision.

**Club or Organization Name:** 4-H

**Sponsor's Name:** Laurie Verhoven

**Mission or Purpose:** To assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directive, productive, and contributing members of society.

**Club or Organization Name:** Creative Writing Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Lindsey Luchansky

**Mission or Purpose:** To encourage students to increase the frequency of their writing, help improve writing skills, and allow students the opportunity to write and share their writing with a group of non-judgmental peers. This could encourage students who normally hesitate from vocalizing to feel more comfortable doing so, and it will notify many students of certain scholarships/awards that are given for creative writing/poetry.

**Club or Organization Name:** Young Democrats

**Sponsor's Name:** TBA

**Mission or Purpose:** A political discussion club focused on the Democratic Party and its principles. Young Democrats enjoy discussing current events from the perspective of Democrats while coming to understand the other political parties as well. We look for volunteer opportunities to work on campaigns in the community and to make contact with the Democratic Party on the state level as

well. We also bring in speakers who enlighten us on school board issues, City Council issues, and election procedures. We also would like to be a club that provides a service to our school – we should be prepared to educate our peers when that opportunity arises.

**Club or Organization Name:** CTI

**Sponsor's Name:** Gina Duque

**Mission or Purpose:** To provide unique, meaningful leadership experiences for students in Georgia with disabilities as identified by the Division for Special Education Services and Support who are enrolled in secondary career, Technical and Agricultural Education courses, and/or receiving CTI services. To enhance career technology and agricultural skills, as related to improving employability and transition into the job market. Students will have the opportunity to compete with, and meet, other CTI students around the state through the club.

**Club or Organization Name:** International Club

**Sponsor's Name:** Paola Epstein

**Mission or Purpose:** The members of the International Club are committed to learning about other cultures and welcoming new international students into student life at Dawson County High School. We will attend the International Festival as a group; we will also host our own International Festival here in Dawson County, including a selection of traditional dances from our club members; we will host Taste of the Nations, where all Dawson families will have a chance to share their cultural experience with the students. As one of our most important objectives for the year, we will elect our 120 ambassadors who will lead our club and organize the activities.

**Club or Organization Name:** Tri-M Music Honor Society

**Sponsor's Name:** TBA

**Mission or Purpose:** This is a program that focuses on creating future leaders in music education and music advocacy.

**Club or Organization Name:** Chess Club

**Sponsor's Name:** TBA

**Mission or Purpose:** Chess Club aids in teaching today's youth discipline, life and problem-solving skills, as well as critical thinking abilities, all of which serve to develop better students and citizens.

**Club or Organization Name:** Young Republicans

**Sponsor's Name:** Robert Wiley

**Mission or Purpose:** A political discussion club focused on the Republican Party and its principles. Young Republicans enjoy discussing current events from the perspective of Republicans while coming to understand the other political parties as well. We look for volunteer opportunities to work on campaigns in the community and to make contact with the Republican Party on the state



level as well. We also bring in speakers who enlighten us on school board issues, City Council issues, and election procedures. We also would like to be a club that provides a service to our school – we should be prepared to educate our peers when the opportunity arises.

**Club or Organization Name:** Girls Who Code

**Sponsor's Name:** Pam Amendola

**Mission or Purpose:** Sisterhood - Join a safe and supportive environment of peers and role models where girls learn to see themselves as computer scientists. Code - Learn the concepts of loops, variables, conditionals, and functions that form the basis of all programming languages. Impact - Work in teams to complete a computer science impact program that solves a real-world problem in your community.

**Club or Organization Name:** SkillsUSA

**Sponsor's Name:** Jeff Perry

**Mission or Purpose:** SkillsUSA empowers its members to become world-class workers, leaders, and responsible American citizens. We improve the quality of our nation's future skilled workforce through the development of the SkillsUSA Framework skills that include personal, workplace, and technical skills grounded in academics. Our vision is to produce the most highly skilled workforce in the world, providing every member the opportunity for career success.

**Club or Organization Name:** Robotics

**Sponsor's Name:** Dusty Skorich

**Mission or Purpose:** The Dawson County Robotics team is a competition based extracurricular activity. Students will work in small team to design, build, and program a robot using the VEX IQ Robotics platform to compete in tournaments against other middle and high schools. Robotics is a sport for the mind. It blends applied physics, mathematics, programming, prototyping, design, integrated problem-solving, teamwork, and leadership. Students who are successful in robotics must work well under pressure and work well with others.

**Club or Organization Name:** Sources of Strength

**Sponsor's Name:** Will Anglin and Jennifer Smith

**Mission or Purpose:** Sources of Strength is a national club with a mission "to prevent suicide by increasing help-seeking behaviors and promoting connections between peers and caring adults." At DCMS, SOS is a group of peer leaders chosen to represent students from all walks of life. Peer leaders aid in organizing monthly school-wide campaigns to increase student awareness of their own personal strengths and support systems around them. The goal of SOS peer leaders is to help each student at DCMS know his or her value while connecting with others.

**Parental Opt-Out of Club Participation**

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby acknowledge receipt of information regarding student clubs that are scheduled to be operational at the school during the current school year. I understand that if a club for which information has not been provided is started after this information is distributed, I will be provided the club information at that time and my written permission will be required prior to my student’s participation.

I wish to withhold permission for my child to participate in the student club(s) listed below:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please Print)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date