



Dr. Phinnize J. Fisher
Middle School

Parent and Student Handbook

Dr. Phinnize J. Fisher Middle School
700 Millennium Blvd.
Greenville, SC 29607

Dr. Phinnize J. Fisher Middle School Student/Parent Handbook 2020-21

Principal: Jeremie Smith 452-0810

Asst. Principal: Michael Parker 452-0804

Asst. Principal: Metris Cain 452-0805

Program Director/AP: Tracy Burns 452-0894

Guidance: Michelle Kirby 452-0811

Betty Quarshie 452-0893

Gretchen Fox 452-0931

Melanie Miller 452-0846

Caiti Miller 452-0869

Media Center: Joy Rohrbaugh 452-0812

Resource Officer: John Prain 452-0807

Your Handbook This Student/Parent Handbook will outline expectations and procedures for a successful school year.

Please review its contents with your parents. You can also view this handbook on our website at www.greenville.k12.sc.us/fisher.

PJFMS Bell Schedule 2020-21: Located at the rear of the handbook.

Key Personnel

Guidance Counselor: If you need to see the counselor about class schedules or any other concerns, ask your teacher for an appointment form so that you can meet with her. Forms are also located in the Attendance Office.

Nurse: If you need to see the nurse, you must get a pass from your teacher. Nurse Parker is in the Health Room in the main office.

Administrators: To report any bullying incident or any other concern(s), Please speak with Mr. Parker, Mrs. Burns, or Mrs. Cain. Either of them will be happy to help.

Textbooks: If you have any problems with your textbooks, see Mrs. Burns or Mrs. Cain.

Transportation: For any transportation questions or concerns, see Mr. Parker.

Laptops: For any problems with your laptop, see Mrs.

Rohrbaugh.

Tardies/Early Dismissals: The main office staff can answer any questions between 7:30 am and 4:30 pm.

Expectations and Daily Routines: School is a place to learn, achieve, and prepare for the world of college and career. Our school has clear expectations for the classroom and common areas of the campus, so that students can reach their goals.

Student ID Badge Policy

As part of Greenville County Schools' continuing efforts to provide a safe learning environment, all middle and high school students and staff are required to wear photo ID badges. Students will be provided with a free ID badge at the beginning of the school year to wear on a lanyard. Student ID badges will also be used to purchase lunch and check out media books and textbooks. Students are responsible for keeping up with their ID badges and wearing them every day.

- The photo side of the ID is required to be visible at all times, using a lanyard around the neck.
- **Students must wear their ID badges whenever they are on campus, on field trips, or attending school functions.**
- The school will provide each student with a lanyard at the beginning of the school year. Replacements can be purchased from the school for \$1.00. Lanyards are required to be break-away for safety purposes.
- ID badges may not be altered or defaced in any way (stickers, Sharpie, markers, buttons, etc.) Lost, stolen, or defaced ID badges must be replaced at a cost of \$5.
- Each morning, homeroom teachers will check to be sure students are wearing their ID badges. If a student is not wearing an ID badge the homeroom teacher will issue a temporary ID. Consequences may apply for repeated ID infractions.
- Students are encouraged to purchase a 2nd ID as a backup if needed. IDs can be purchased for \$5 in the front office each morning before school starts.

Grading:

Greenville County Schools has implemented the Assessing Student Progress document as its guiding document for grading, homework, late work, and more.

Grading values are: 90-100 A 80-89 B 70-79 C 60-69 D 50 or less F

Late Work Procedures

Please visit the link below to view the Fisher MS Late Work Philosophy

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n7FwlyOAEFalmzgy_SGdKTqCMcNXyAG7/view?usp=sharing

Redo & Retake Procedures

Please visit the link below to view the Fisher MS Redo/Retake Philosophy:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cxtKoSqhY8eAfPwV5AFEDLSHujWj_6yM/view?usp=sharing

Grade reporting Parents and students should keep a current record of students' progress. All are encouraged to view and discuss grades frequently. Parents will need to access new login information for the "Backpack" system. This will replace the parent portal.

The school sends a printed grade report to the home at least 4 times per year. Students are responsible to give grade reports to parents. Parents must take care to review the grades and comments and are encouraged to contact teachers if there are concerns.

Academic Probation

At the end of every nine weeks, the student's core class GPA will be monitored. If a student has below a 2.0 GPA in their English, Math, Science, and Social Studies classes, they will be placed on academic probation.

The first time and each subsequent time this occurs, a parent/teacher conference will be scheduled and the student will be unable to participate in after school activities until academic probation is lifted.

Other interventions, such as tutoring, may be put into place while on probation in an effort to support the student's success.

Academic probation will be lifted when the core GPA is above a 2.0.

Promotion and Retention Policy Students must pass all required academic subjects in order to be promoted to the next grade level. The required academic subjects are English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

Students who fail required academic subjects or miss more

than 10 days of school may be retained or required to attend summer school for promotion.

A student who fails the semester in any course, to include any Related Arts class, is ineligible for school sports in the next semester.

Media Center Fisher Middle School has a well-equipped and active Media Center. Students are welcome to use this space to read, study, and do research as part of a class or with a pass from a teacher. The Media Center is open from 7:45 am to 3:00 each day.

Students may check out books as long as they have no late or lost books. If a desired book is not available, request that the Media Specialist put that book on reserve for you so that you will be contacted when it becomes available.

Most materials are checked out for two weeks. Reference books do not circulate. No overdue fines are charged at Fisher, but students must return late books or pay for lost books before

Assemblies and Special Programs Classes will assemble in large groups for special school programs, to hear guest speakers, and to celebrate together. Teachers will escort students to and from these programs.

Attendance Regulations South Carolina Compulsory School Attendance Law outlines uniform rules to ensure that students regularly attend school. Students are counted present only when they are actually in school, on home-bound instruction, or are present at an activity authorized by the school principal.

The school year contains 180 days. To earn credit, students must attend at least 85 days of each 90-day (semester) course and at least 170 days of each 180-day course. Any absence in excess of 10 days may cause the loss of credit for the year.

Because 170 days are the minimum required by the state, the first 10 absences may be lawful, unlawful, or a combination. All absences beginning with the 11th must be lawful and can be excused only if they fall within the following guidelines:

Lawful Absences

1. Absences caused by a student's illness

and whose attendance in school would endanger his/her health or the health of others. These absences must be verified by a physician's statement within two (2) days of

the student's return to school. 2. Absences due to an illness or death in the student's immediate family verified by a statement from the parent within two (2) days of the student's return. 3. Absences due to a recognized religious holiday of the student's faith when approved in advance. Such request must be made in writing to the principal. 4. Absences for students whose parent/guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed armed services and has been called to duty, is on leave, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone, shall be excused as long as such absences are reasonable in duration as deemed by the principal so that the student can visit with his/her parent or legal guardian relative to such leave or deployment of the parent or legal guardian. 5. Absences due to activities that are approved in advance by the principal. This would include absences for extreme hardships. Such approval should be prearranged, when possible.

Unlawful Absences

1. Absences of a student without the knowledge of the parents. 2. Absences of a student without acceptable cause with the knowledge of the parents. 3. Suspension is not to be counted as an unlawful absence for truancy purposes.

The Greenville County Schools automated phone system informs parents of absences and late arrivals each day. If you have questions about an absence or tardy, please call the attendance clerk at 452-0800.

Perfect Attendance

Middle Schools in Greenville County have developed a uniform policy for perfect attendance. Please note the change in order to achieve the standard. The definition of an absence at a Greenville County Middle School is missing more than one half of any singular class period for which a student is enrolled, or multiple class periods for which a student is enrolled during a school day. An absence in any part of the school day for a minimum of more than one half class period, even if the student was present for all other portions of that same school day, by definition excludes a student from being determined to have perfect attendance.

Returning After an Absence Upon return to school, the student must bring a note to the front office upon arrival to school. The note should contain the following:

- Student's full name
- Date(s) of absence
- Reason for absence
- Parent or guardian's signature

Procedures for Makeup Work*

- All work missed during any absence must be completed and returned to the teacher within five (5) days of the students return to school.
- Students are responsible to get makeup work from their teacher(s).
- Provisions to make up school work missed during extended absences can be worked out with the teacher(s) concerned.

*Please note that this policy is being re-evaluated this school year and is subject to change

Excuse from Physical Education Class If it is medically necessary for a student to limit physical activity, the student must have a written note. In case of a long-term excuse from physical education, students must submit a physician's note to the school nurse.

Early Dismissals Early dismissals are either excused or unexcused. The following are considered excused: medical appointments, illness of student or immediate family members, death in the immediate family, or dismissals approved by an administrator.

Early dismissals count against class attendance records, and repeated early dismissals can cause loss of credit. Students must be in school 3.5 hours to be counted present for the school day.

Pre-arranged Early Dismissal

- Parents who must take a student out of school during the day should send a note with the student's name, the time for needed dismissal, and a phone number where the school can reach the parent.
- On arrival in the morning, the student will bring the note to the main office to get an Early Dismissal pass.
- At the time arranged in the note, the student will show the dismissal pass to the teacher and report to the main office.
- The parent will come into the office and sign the student out on the computer.

No early dismissals will be granted after 2:45 pm. If

parents come to sign out students after 2:45, they will need to speak with an administrator.

In an emergency situation, an administrator will consult with the parent before walking with the parent to class to get the student.

In every case, the parent is required to sign for the release of the student in School Check-In.

Arriving Late to School

Students who arrive after 8:25 am must get a Late Permit from the office. Tardiness will be excused for doctor or dentist appointments for a late bus. Other late arrivals are unexcused.

If a student is in the hall before the 1st block bell, but does not get to class on time, he/she must go to the classroom door, to be admitted by the teacher.

A student is tardy if he/she is not in class when the tardy bell rings.

Consequences of School Tardiness

- A warning is issued for the first tardy.
- After 2 tardies, the parent will be contacted.
- Continued tardiness to school may result in a referral to Attendance Services and may impact the students special permission status.

Late Buses

Students who arrive on a late bus will report to the main office, unless an administrator gives different instructions. Students will get a pass directly to class or get a pass after they eat breakfast. Students on late buses will not be counted as tardy to school.

Travel to and from School

Students Who Walk to School: Students who walk to school should be alert to traffic. Walk on the left side of the road facing traffic or on the side with a sidewalk. Behavior should be orderly and safe. If any student encounters a problem on the way to or from school, report it to an adult.

All walkers enter school in the morning through the front entrance next to the Main Office.

Students Who Ride Cars to School: All vehicles enter the campus at the driveway on Millennium Blvd. This is a one-way traffic circle.

At the front sidewalk, pull as far toward the orange cone as

possible. The drop off zone is from the orange cone back to the cross walk. Students may not be dropped off in the rear or at the sides of the school.

Please park in the front parking lot if you are coming into the school. Do not park in the parking lot next to the bus loading area.

Students Who Ride Buses/Vans to School: Bus/van riders arrive at school in the rear driveway. Students move directly to the cafeteria for breakfast.

Afternoon Dismissal From School

Students will be escorted to the following areas for dismissal:

- Front sidewalk for car riders
- Back sidewalk for carpool
- Side entrance for bus, van, activity buses
- EDP in the cafeteria
- Athletes will be dismissed to the gym with an announcement.

Change of Transportation: If a student must change his/her means of transportation from school, a written note must be presented in the Main Office informing them of the change and the length of time the change will be in effect. If this a permanent change, then a transportation needs to be submitted to the front office. Bus changes may take up to two weeks.

Student Messages and Calls: Parents are encouraged to make clear arrangements with students for transportation, early dismissals, after school lessons and practices before school starts. The office will provide the message to the 7th period teachers. In an emergency, school staff will bring a student to the office to use the telephone. The student will make the call under the supervision of an administrator, teacher, or counselor.

Late Pickup Policy:

Students not picked up by 4:00pm must be signed out in the front office. Students will serve the following consequences:

- 1st: Warning
- 2nd: Meeting or conference to discuss the situation
- 3rd: Placement in EDP(regular fees will apply)
- 4th: Repeat offenses may result in loss of special permission privileges

CAFETERIA INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES

These prices are subject to change and will be announced through the public media.

Meal Prices for 2020-21

Breakfast is free for all students.

Adult Breakfast is \$2.10.

Student lunch is \$2.50 and reduced lunch is \$0.40.

Adult lunch is \$3.95.

Eligibility for Free and Reduced Meal Prices Students who were eligible for free and reduced priced meals at the end of the previous year will begin the school year under that same arrangement. Students must submit a new subsidized meals application within the first week of school for a review of eligibility. Failure to submit this application in a timely manner can result in unnecessary charges to the student's lunch account. These charges cannot be removed, even if the student is later approved for free or reduced meal prices.

Charged Meals Charged meals will be allowed as follows: All students will be offered a reimbursable meal. Only reimbursable meals may be charged; no extra sale items may be charged. For all students that owe money on their cafeteria, account a letter will be sent home to the parent notifying them of the charges. These letters will be sent home with students weekly.

SNACKS AND DRINKS All food and drink must be consumed in the cafeteria during breakfast and lunch unless authorized to consume food and drinks elsewhere in the building or on school grounds. Students may carry a plastic (not glass), water bottle with them. Water bottles can be used during class at the teacher's discretion, but are not to be used elsewhere in the building.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING The comprehensive guidance program provides services to students, parents, and staff. This service is consistent with identified student needs in academic, career, and personal/social areas. The counselors provide consulting, referral, and intervention to support student success.

Permission to see the Guidance Counselor and/or an Administrator may be granted by a teacher. If there is an emergency, the teacher will call the front office for help. For non-emergencies, the request will be passed on to the specified person who will find the student as soon as

possible.

Special programs of counseling and character development at Fisher Middle School include: bullying prevention, transition services, small group and individual counseling, Red Ribbon Week activities, career assessments, Career Center visits, and job shadowing.

Eighth grade students develop an Individual

Graduation Plan (IGP) in a conference held with each student and his parents.

Parent – Teacher Conferences Parent-teacher conferences may be scheduled by contacting the individual teacher. Conferences are generally scheduled during teacher planning times.

If you are requesting a conference with more than one teacher, please contact the Guidance Counselor or an Administrator to schedule.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE It is very important that the school has current emergency contact information, and that parents notify the school immediately of any changes to personal data including address and telephone.

TRANSFER/WITHDRAWAL POLICY When a student is leaving Fisher Middle to attend another school a parent or guardian must contact the guidance clerk to complete and sign a withdrawal form. This will ensure that grades at withdrawal are up to date and that all student obligations have been met.

EMERGENCY FORMS Emergency Contact forms are sent home with students at the beginning of the year. It is very important, in case of a medical emergency, that these forms are kept current with the school nurse. They must contain working emergency numbers and student's chronic medical conditions and allergies. Return these forms promptly to the nurse and keep the school informed of phone number changes.

HEALTH SERVICES All School Nurses are licensed and attend a minimum of 12 hours annually in service education directly related to student services. All are also Red Cross certified in First Aid and CPR.

Fisher Middle School is a certified Heart Safe Facility with two defibrillators and ten certified First Aid Responders.

Medication Policy

All prescription and over-the counter-medication must be

delivered to the school nurse or other designated school employees by the student's parent, legal guardian or a previously designated adult. MEDICAL FORM #1 must be filled out before any medication can be left at school.

It is against School District Policy for a student to carry ANY medication on their person without prior approval. All medication must be maintained by the Health Room. Violations of the medication policy are dealt with appropriately. Medication needed on field trips is also covered by this policy and must be administered by an individual designated by the principal.

For your student's safety please remember:

- Absolutely no medication will be given without the written permission from the parent.
- Prescription medications also require a written Physician's authorization. These forms are available through the school nurse.
- School nurses may not administer the first dose of any medication. The first dose must be given at home and the student must be monitored for at least two hours for a reaction before coming to school.
- If your child must self-administer medication at school, parents must fill out MEDICAL FORM – 2 before bringing the medication to school.
- School nurses are legally required to administer FDA approved medications only.
- All prescription medication must be administered as labeled.
- OTC medication may not exceed package directions and the parent must provide written authorization on MEDICAL FORM – 3 for the medication to be kept in the health room.
- ALL MEDICATIONS MUST BE IN THE ORIGINAL CONTAINER. No medication will be given from zip-lock bags or envelopes.
- Any medication given every day for longer than TWO WEEKS must have written Physician's authorization. This includes Tylenol, Ibuprofen, etc.
- No medication containing ASPRIN OR PPA can be given at school without a doctor's authorization. This includes but is not limited to Pepto-Bismol, Excedrin, and some OTC cold medications.

- If your child forgets to take a morning dose of medication, school nurses are not allowed to give that dose at school. Parents may come to the Health Room to give the missed dose.

- No narcotic pain medications can be given at school (ex: Lortab, Darvocet, Tylox, etc).

Illnesses and Injuries If a student becomes ill or is injured, he should speak to the teacher. The teacher will use his/her discretion and may write a pass that permits the student to go to the Health Room. Students may be sent with another student if the teacher feels the student needs extra help.

If the student comes to the Health Room and needs to go home, we must contact a parent or legal guardian. We cannot send a student home with anyone until a parent is notified. Please keep your contact numbers current!

If the student has an emergency situation or needs immediate care that cannot be provided at school, those contacts listed on the Emergency Contact forms will be called if we cannot reach a parent first.

Students who have been ill with a fever or upset stomach must remain symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school.

MONEY AND PROPERTY RESPONSIBILITIES

Textbooks and Class Supplies Books and related materials will be issued to students in most classes. Students must provide other materials such as notebooks, paper, pencils, pens, and folders that are needed for success in the classroom. Students must bring assigned laptops, workbooks, and necessary materials each day.

Students must take care of the school equipment and material provided for their use. Willful damage to school property or that of others will result in required restitution, and may require further disciplinary action.

Students who have lost laptops, books, or other school property, no matter the circumstances, will be ineligible to participate in special school events until their debts have been cleared. School debts can consist of but are not limited to: textbooks owed, lunch money, lost library books, NSF checks, P.E. locks, or lost athletic uniforms.

Students who participate in PTA or school fundraisers must turn in the money received for all items sold and present a balanced accounting of product received and money owed.

Students must not bring large amounts of money or

items of significant dollar or sentimental value to school.

Field Trips At times, teachers will arrange to take students on field trips that directly relate to the curriculum. Students who demonstrate responsible school behavior may represent our school on class trips. All students must bring a permission slip signed by the parent and any required payment by the designated due date.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

The District Administration communicates closings or delayed school openings for inclement weather or other emergencies through local television and radio stations. The District customer service number is 355-3100.

SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Fire drills are held once a month. Severe weather drills and other safety drills are also held during the school year.

Expected Behavior for Emergencies

- Follow practiced procedures quickly.
- Remain silent.
- Go straight to your designated location.
- Look for and follow teacher directions immediately.
- Stand in a single file line with the appropriate teacher.
- Control yourself so that others can remain safe.

Fisher Middle School has detailed safety procedures to follow in case of intruders or other acts that would impact the safety of the students and staff. All teachers have a copy of these procedures and are instructed on how to implement these plans.

Any student who notices an unfamiliar person on campus or in the building without a visitor's badge should immediately report their presence to the closest adult.

VISITORS AND SCHOOL SAFETY

Parents are always welcome, but are encouraged to make an appointment to see a teacher or administrator. Teachers and administrators may be unavailable for conferences between 7:45-8:35 am and 3:15-3:45 pm, due to supervising students and managing school procedures.

For security and safety, all visitors, including school volunteers, must use the main entrance, sign in, note the purpose(s) for the visit, and receive a nametag.

An administrator or a counselor must approve your request to visit the classroom. The school will consult with the teacher before approval. Allow 24 hours for this arrangement.

Students and staff members are not allowed to open any door for visitors to enter other than the Main Office door.

Visitors must wait for someone to escort them unless directed otherwise by the office clerk. Your name tag must be visible at all times. This regulation is for student safety and the orderly operation of our school.

Visitors on campus who do not check in at the main office may be determined to be trespassing.

SCHOOL BUS CONDUCT AND SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Expected Behavior On or Around Buses In order to insure the safety of all students riding buses in Greenville County Schools, appropriate behavior is required for all students. Transportation to and from school is an extension of the classroom and should be considered part of the school day. The issue of safety requires students to be on their best behavior while on school buses or vehicles. Violations of school bus rules will be addressed board policy [ICDAD](#), and board rule [ICDAD](#).

The School District Behavior Code is in effect for all students at all times when being transported on school buses to and from school or school activities. Thus, while students may lose the privilege to ride the bus due to their misconduct, the student may also be disciplined according to the District's Behavior Code, board policy [JCDA](#) , up to and including suspension, recommendation for expulsion and notification to law enforcement.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR CODE, Policy [JCDA](#): The Board expects students to conduct themselves in an orderly, courteous, dignified and respectful manner. This requirement refers to their actions toward other students and teachers, their language, their dress and their manners. The Board believes self-discipline is an interpersonal goal of public education.

Students have a responsibility to know and respect the policies, rules and regulations of the school and District. Violations of such policies, rules and regulations will result in disciplinary actions. The Board directs students to the District's Behavior Code set forth in this policy and the

student handbook for their individual school. The Board authorizes its schools to incorporate the use of electronic devices, including cell phones, tablets and other similar devices, into the school environment when appropriate to enhance learning and student achievement. Schools will establish rules and expectations for student use of electronic devices, and students will be disciplined in accordance with this policy for any inappropriate or unauthorized use of a device. The Board authorizes its school authorities to employ probation and suspension and to recommend expulsion, if necessary, to enforce this policy.

Alcohol Use/Drug Use, Policy JCDAC: No student, regardless of age, will possess, use, sell, purchase, barter, distribute, or be under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, as defined in S.C. Code Ann. §§ 44-53-110 through 44-53-270, (see the Behavior Code) in the following circumstances.

- on school property (including buildings, grounds, vehicles)
- at any school-sponsored activity, function or event, whether on or off school grounds (including any place where an interscholastic athletic contest is taking place)
- in route to or from, or during any field trip
- during any trip or activity sponsored by the Board or under the supervision of the Board or its authorized agents

Full details of this policy can be viewed at this link, [JCDAC](#).

Student Concerns, Complaints and Grievances, Policy JCDAG: The District is committed to fostering an environment that both promotes learning and prevents disruptions in the educational process. While the District embraces students' legal rights and the principle of freedom of speech, these rights are not absolute. The District will strive to prevent student behavior including, but not limited to, unlawful student assemblage, acts of violence, and vandalism that is disruptive to the school setting. In order to create and maintain an atmosphere that promotes learning and prevents disruption, the District has implemented procedures to address student concerns, complaints, and grievances. Full details can be found at these links; Policy [JCDAG](#), Rule [JCDAG](#).

Gang Activity or Association, Policy JCDAE: Greenville County School District will maintain conditions on school property and at school- sponsored events that provide for a safe environment for students and staff in accordance with law and the standards set by the Board. In establishing such standards, the Board prohibits the presence and activities of gangs on or near school property and at school- sponsored events. A "gang" shall consist of two or more persons acting together for and with the purpose of committing an act of violence against another person. The full content of this policy can be viewed at the following link, [JCDAE](#).

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

Fisher Middle School expects that students will keep all non-GCS issued devices powered off and put away during their classes and in hallways during the school day.

- Student use of personal devices in the classroom is at the discretion of the teacher.
- During school hours, outside of the classroom, students may use their devices before school starts, during lunch, and after school as long as they abide by the Acceptable Use Policy they signed at the beginning of the year.
- Students should not text, call, email, or access social media on personal devices during school hours unless it's with permission of the staff or during any designated times. Parents should not call or text their student during school hours. If an emergency arises, students and parents may contact each other through the school office.
- Students who choose to bring personal devices to school are responsible for the safety and use of those devices. Fisher Middle School will not be held liable for any loss of or damage to devices which are brought to school.
- Students who stay after school for athletics or activities must ask permission of the coach or sponsor to use a cell phone to check on a ride home.

STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE

This section is dedicated to provide GCS students with guidance on acceptable use of the district's information technology resources, including but not limited to:

1. The Internet, intranet, e-mail, portal;
2. District assigned computing devices such as personal electronic devices, laptops, desktops and portable storage; and

3. The District's network and supporting systems and data transmitted by and stored on these systems.

A. Compliance with Copyright Laws

Students are to follow copyright laws at all times. Students should refer all questions regarding copyright concerns to administrators at their school.

B. Filtering and Monitoring Computer Resources

The District takes reasonable precautions by using filtering software to keep inappropriate Internet sites and e-mail out of the classroom. The District strongly adheres to the guidelines set forth by COPPA and CIPA when installing filtering/monitoring software devices on District equipment. The District does not supervise individual e-mail accounts.

1. The District reserves the right to review any e-mail sent or received using District equipment and e-mail accounts.
2. Students must adhere to the behavior expectations while using technology and e-mail, including but not limited to those expectations contained in board policy. The District's Behavior Code is Board Policy JCDA.
3. Technology is constantly changing and evolving. Due to the nature of the Internet, online communications, and evolving technology, the District cannot ensure or guarantee the absolute safety of students during the use of technology, including email and the Internet. Parents and students should contact the school immediately with any concerns related to the use of technology.

C. Prohibited Uses of GCS Resources

The following uses of GCS computer resources by students are prohibited from:

1. The use of school computers for commercial purposes.
2. The use of obscene, bullying, profane, lewd, threatening, disrespectful, or gang related language or symbols.
3. The bypass or attempt to bypass any of the District's security or content filtering safeguards.

4. Allowing another person to use the computer under your District login.

5. Adding, modifying, repairing, reconfiguring or otherwise tampering with any device on the network infrastructure including, but not limited to: wireless network devices, computers, printers, servers, cabling, switches/hubs, routers, etc.

6. Unauthorized access, overloading, more commonly known as Distributed Denial of Service or Denial of Service, or use, or attempted unauthorized access or use of District information systems.

7. Destroying or tampering with any computer equipment or software.

8. The use of any "hacking tools" that can be used for "computer hacking", as defined in the South Carolina Computer Crime Act, may not be possessed on school property, on any District premise, or run or loaded on any District system.

9. The use of school computers for illegal activities including but not limited to planting viruses, hacking, or attempted unauthorized access to any system.

10. Violating any state or federal law or regulation, board policy or administrative rule.

D. Agreement of Use

Students, parents and guardians agree that GCS computer equipment must be handled with care and respect.

E. Consequences

Students who violate this administrative rule may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion in accordance with board policy and state and federal law. Suspected criminal activity must be immediately reported to law enforcement.

IV. GCS INTERNET SAFETY AND OTHER TERMS OF USE

A. General Access

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA"), U.S.C. §254 (h), the District uses technological devices designed to filter and block the use of any of the District's computers with Internet access to retrieve or transmit any visual depictions that are categorized as

obscene, child pornography, or "harmful to minors" as defined in the CIPA.

1. Though the District makes reasonable efforts to filter such Internet content, the District cannot warrant the effectiveness of its Internet filtering due to the dynamic nature of the Internet.
2. Users of a District computer with Internet access may request that the "technology protection measures" be temporarily disabled to conduct bona fide research for another lawful purpose. These requests should be made to ETS with the knowledge of that employee's supervisor.

B. Education, Supervision, and Monitoring

It shall be the responsibility of all District school staff to make a reasonable effort to educate, supervise, and monitor appropriate usage of online computer network access to the Internet in accordance with this administrative rule, CIPA, COPPA, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

C. Personal Safety

The following list is considered precautions taken by GCS to ensure the safety of their students, employees, and other individuals.

1. Students will not post or email personal contact information about themselves or other people unless it is in conjunction with a specific teacher-approved assignment or approved college/career communication.
2. Students will not agree to meet with someone they have met online without their parent/guardian's approval.
3. Students will promptly disclose to an administrator, teacher, or other school employee any message they receive that is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable.
4. Employees will report any concerns related to their use of technology to their immediate supervisor.

D. Expectation of Privacy

Individuals should not have an expectation of privacy in the [General matrix](#)

use of the District's email, systems, or equipment. The District may, for a legitimate reason, perform the following:

1. Obtain emails sent or received on District email.
2. Monitor an individual's use on the District's systems.
3. Confiscate and/or search District-owned software or equipment.

The District may confiscate and search personal electronic devices in accordance with New Jersey v. T.L.O. and applicable law.

***Please note that parents may choose for their child not to have access to the Internet at school; however, students who do not have access to the Internet will not be able to access email or web-based programs that teachers may be using in class. The majority of student textbooks will also be accessed online, as well as most of the media center's book collection.**

Dress Code:

The following criteria will serve as the expected dress code for 2020-21 students attending Dr. Phinnize J Fisher Middle School. Fisher spirit-wear is allowed every day.

Tops:

- Solid color, collared top (I.e. polo style, rugby style, dress shirt)
- Coverings: (I.e. Hooded sweatshirts, pullovers, etc.) must follow Fisher dress code if worn in school. Logos on coverings will be allowed. Hoods will be expected to be dropped upon entry and remain down. Students will be asked to remove the sweatshirt if the hood is up or does not meet Fisher dress code.
- Fisher Spirit Wear; T-Shirts, Long Sleeve T-Shirts, crew neck sweatshirts, hooded sweatshirts
- Students may wear another Greenville County Schools spirit wear/jersey if they participate in an activity for that school
- Dresses must be of a solid color
- No sleeveless shirts

Bottoms:

- No Holes in any part of the bottoms
- No blue denim
- No athletic shorts, joggers, sweatpants, warm-up pants, wind pants, etc. unless it's a dress down day or other special event (ReWa 5K, Field & STEAM)
- Pants are to remain pulled up so as not to expose undergarments
- Shorts should be at a modest length (ID length above knee based on GCSD)
- On jeans/dress down day, holes or tears must be at the knee or below and anything above that must have an added layer of clothing underneath

Shoes:

- Proper shoes must be worn at all times
- No wheeled shoes
- No house shoes or slippers unless it's a pre-approved theme day

Fisher Administration will review unique situations and make determinations based on the best interest of all parties.*

Repeated violations of the dress code will be treated as disruptive behavior in violation of the District's Behavior Code and may result in school suspension.

Student Expectations:

All students attending Dr. Phinnize J. Fisher Middle School are expected to adhere to the expectations in the matrices. Please use the following link to view:

[Expectations Matrix](#)

[Non-Location Specific Matrix](#)

Disciplinary Procedures

Cooperation with School Staff Fisher Middle School will provide an environment that is orderly, safe, and free from disruption. Teachers will fulfill their obligation to teach, and protect the rights of the class to learn. Students, when corrected by an adult, must not argue or respond in a manner that extends the disruption to the lesson. Respect the learning of others, comply, and remain silent.

Consequences for violation of the discipline code:

Phone Calls and Conferences with parents may or may not involve the presence of the student.

Teacher Detentions may be held in the mornings, afternoons, or at lunch. held as needed during the school week. Teachers will contact parents at least 24 hours prior to the day of detention. The school does not provide transportation home.

A Disciplinary Referral is a report of behaviors that the adult has seen or heard, or that have been reported. A student who receives a referral will have the opportunity to tell the Assistant Principal his or her version of the event. The Administrator will assess the incident and respond accordingly.

In-School-Suspension (ISS): Students will report to the ISS Room and remain the entire school day (including lunch). Students will complete class assignments. Students will remain on task, and may not talk or put their head down. Disruptions in ISS will result in further disciplinary action. ISS does not count against student attendance.

Out of School Suspension means a student cannot attend school or be on the school grounds, nor attend any program at the school during the day or at night and cannot ride a school bus. OSS does not count against student attendance.

OSS pending Expulsion involves a hearing to determine the disposition of a particular offense. Prior to the hearing, the student will remain out of school.

Expulsion means the removal of a student from school and the cessation of educational services for the remainder of the school year.

Criminal Prosecution: Any student committing a breach of the Disciplinary code that may also constitute a crime will, in addition to District disciplinary action, be referred to appropriate law enforcement officials for possible criminal prosecution.

School Safety Act of 1996 State law requires that students handbook contain this notice: Any student who commits an aggravated assault and battery on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event against any person affiliated with the school in an official capacity is guilty of the misdemeanor of assault and battery against school personnel and may be fined not more than \$1,000.00, imprisoned for not more than one year, or both. Judicial, law enforcement, or corrections officials must notify the principal of any conviction of this crime of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature against a school official, and of other "violent crimes". Any school official

who reports a school-related crime in good faith is immune from criminal and civil liability arising from the report.

Guidelines for Use of Personal Devices

Personal Video and Photography Video and photography on any device should only be used with teacher permission for school use only. Taking any video or photography on school grounds without teacher or administrator consent will result in disciplinary action.

Student Speakers at School-Sponsored Activities

The School District of Greenville County is committed to maintaining an educational environment in which students of all backgrounds, beliefs and religions are welcome and treated with equal dignity and respect. The District will neither advance nor inhibit religion. In accord with the United States Constitution, the District protects private expression, including religious expression, by individual students as long as that expression does not create a disruption to or interfere with the educational environment.

Student speakers at school-sponsored activities, including graduations, may not be selected on a bias that either favors or disfavors religious speech. Where student speakers are selected on the basis of genuinely neutral, evenhanded criteria and retain primary control over the content of their expression, that expression is not attributable to the school and therefore may not be restricted because of its religious disruption to or interfere with the educational environment.

Student speakers at school-sponsored activities, including graduations, may not be selected on a bias that either favors or disfavors religious speech. Where student speakers are selected on the basis of genuinely neutral, evenhanded criteria and retain primary control over the content of their expression, that expression is not attributable to the school and therefore may not be restricted because of its religious or secular content. In contrast, where school officials determine or substantially control the content of what is expressed, such speech is attributable to the school and may not include prayer or religious content. A school, however, may prevent or remove a speaker if the content of their speech is obscene, contrary to the District's behavior code

or secular content. In contrast, where school officials determine or substantially control the content of what is expressed, such speech is attributable to the school and may not include prayer or religious content. A school, however, may prevent or remove a speaker if the content of their speech is obscene, contrary to the District's behavior code or substantially disruptive to the school environment.

For a comprehensive overview of student's rights, please review the U.S. Department of Education's guidelines on religious expression in public schools at:

<https://ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/religionandschools/index.html>

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or substantially disruptive to the school environment.

Fisher Middle School 2020-21 Bell Schedule

8th Grade		7th Grade		6th Grade	
PE/Ess 1	8:25-9:15	Core 1	8:25-9:19	Core 1	8:25-9:15
PE/Ess 2	9:18-10:08	Core 2	9:22-10:16	Core 2	9:18-10:08
Advisory WIN	10:11-10:46	Advisory WIN	10:19-10:54	Core 3	10:11-11:01
Core 1	10:49-11:43	Lunch/ Recess	10:57-11:35	Core 4	11:04-11:54
Core 2	11:46-12:40	PE/Ess 1	11:38-12:28	Lunch/ Recess	11:57-12:35
Lunch/ Recess	12:43-1:21	PE/Ess 2	12:31-1:21	Core 5	12:38-1:28
Core 3	1:24-2:18	Core 3	1:24-2:18	PE/Ess 1	1:31-2:21
Core 4	2:21-3:15	Core 4	2:21-3:15	PE/Ess 2	2:24-3:15

Reporting Bullying, Discrimination, Harassment, Intimidation and Misconduct

The District is committed to fostering an environment that both promotes learning and prevents disruptions to the educational process. Accordingly, the District prohibits all forms of bullying, discrimination, harassment, or intimidation. As provided in Board Policy and Administrative Rule JCDAG, students and parents may file a report of bullying, discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or misconduct by other students, employees of the District, or third parties involved in the school setting.

All reports should be filed with the principal or his or her designee. Reports may also be filed by a student's parent. If the allegation is against the school's administration, the student or parent should file a report directly with the District's Parent Resource Representative. (See Policy JA for contact information). Anonymous reports may be made, but those reports must provide the District with adequate information in order to begin an investigation.

Additionally, students and parents should immediately report any concerns related to employee interactions with students that are inconsistent with the requirements and expectations contained in Board Policy GBV. Concerns that should be immediately reported to a school's administration include potential mistreatment of students and other conduct by employees that could constitute inappropriate interaction or communication, including those sexual in nature.

Investigations and Consequences

Reports will be investigated promptly, thoroughly, and confidentially. The investigation shall include appropriate steps to determine what occurred and to take actions designed to end the harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and prevent such misconduct from reoccurring. The student and his/her parent shall be informed of the results of the investigation and shall be advised how to report any subsequent issues. Any discipline of students or staff shall remain confidential.

If the investigation determines that inappropriate conduct has occurred, the administration shall take reasonable, timely, age-appropriate, and effective corrective action. Examples of corrective action include, but are not limited to, disciplinary action against the aggressor, up to and including termination of an employee or expulsion of a student.

The District prohibits retaliation or reprisal in any form against a student or employee who has filed a report. The District also prohibits any person from falsely accusing another person.

Appeals

Notification of the outcome of the investigation will be issued in writing to the complainant and the complainant will be informed of the right to appeal. An appeal related to disability discrimination or harassment should be made to the District's 504 Coordinator. An appeal regarding color, race, or national origin should be made to the District's Title VI Coordinator. An appeal regarding sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, or gender discrimination should be made to the District's Title IX Coordinator. (See Policy JA for contact information). A complainant may then appeal the decision of the coordinator to the Superintendent or his or her designee.

A complete copy of the District's Policy, Administrative Rule, and report form referenced above can be located at <http://www.boarddocs.com/sc/greenville/Board.nsf/Public#>. You may also receive a copy of Policy JCDAG, Administrative Rule JCDAG, or the report form from your school upon request.