

Arnold Magnet Academy



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Student/Parent Handbook 2026-2027

Dear Arnold Students and Parents:

On behalf of the faculty and staff, it is my pleasure to extend to you a warm and heartfelt welcome to Arnold Magnet Academy! As a C.O.M.P.A.S.S. Magnet, AMA offers students a unique opportunity to envision a future of purpose, passion, and possibility by cultivating career awareness, academic excellence, and essential life skills. Here at Arnold, our faculty is dedicated to every student's intellectual development and emotional growth following the 3 P's: Passion, Perseverance, Positive Attitude. Students will discover new skills, new friends, and new interests as they explore the wide variety of academic and athletic activities, clubs, organizations, and teams. We encourage parents to actively participate in our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) which supports Arnold's students and faculty. Let's have a great school year and remember...

Say It Loud! Say It Proud! It's great to be an ARNOLD RAM!

Administration Team

Daphne Herring, Academic Dean
Nikesia Patrick, Guidance Director
Giana Lee-Upshaw, Academic Coach

Gloria Bernal-Askew, Assistant Principal
Suzette Baker, Lead SPED
Chad Slater, Discipline Dean
Elizabeth Bridges, Media Specialist

Mission Statements

The Muscogee County School District: To inspire and equip all students to reach their unlimited potential.

Arnold Magnet Academy: To inspire and guide middle school students through a dynamic learning environment that integrates career exploration, personal motivation, and academic planning. We are committed to equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to thrive in high school, higher education, and career readiness.

Vision Statement: Empowering every student to envision a future of purpose, passion, and possibility by cultivating career awareness, academic excellence, and essential life skills.

SCHOOL DAY PROCEDURES

School hours for students are from 8:10 AM to 3:10 PM.

School office hours are from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

NO students should arrive on campus before 7:40 AM as there is NO SUPERVISION to ensure their safety.

Doors open at 7:40 AM to allow students in a quiet, orderly manner to be supervised in their HR class.

Breakfast begins at 7:40 AM and ends at 8:00 AM.

Car Riders are dropped off in the back of the school **ONLY**. **For students' safety, drop off is prohibited in the bus loop and on the streets in front of the school.**

Bus Passes are available to students who live more than 1½ miles from the school and whose addresses are within Arnold's attendance zone. **Riding the bus is a privilege**; thus, the rules and regulations governing bus behaviors outlined in the Muscogee County School District Behavior Code and Discipline Policy are to be followed.

Personal deliveries such as, but not limited to flowers, balloons, gift bags, food and messages for students will be kept in the office until the end of the school day.

Food from outside vendors cannot be brought into school. No exceptions per the Nutrition Manager.

Before and after school activities require a teacher-generated pass in the E-hall pass application.

Tutorials and Detentions: Students participating report directly to those designated classrooms.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance affects student achievement. For those whose attendance exceeds 15 absences, regardless of whether these are excused or unexcused, retention for the following year will be considered. Parents will be notified by the principal to attend a Retention Committee meeting after 15 absences.

Excused absences are personal illness, death in the immediate family; prior approval by the principal; state recognized religious holidays; mandate by government agencies; instances where attendance by the pupil would be hazardous; service as a page in the General Assembly of Georgia.

Within **3 days** of returning to school following an absence, the student must submit a written excuse to include the **date, parent signature, telephone number, and a statement of the nature of the absence**. Failure to submit a note within **3 days** will result in the absence being recorded as **unexcused**. Only eight parent notes per school year will be allowed to excuse absences. After eight absences, a doctor's note is required in order for absences to be excused.

Out of school (OSS) suspensions are considered unexcused absences.

Make-Up Work: Students have 3 days to make-up the missed work. Any extensions to this deadline are at the discretion of the teacher. Students are allowed to contact teachers via CANVAS for missing assignments when absent from the instructional period to include time missed due to I.S.S. and/ or O.S.S.

Late Arrival to School:

Excessive Number- late arrivals to school are subject to consequences as part of the **Expectations for Student Behavior** in this Student/Parent Handbook.

Any student arriving at school after 8:20 AM must report to the office to check in before being admitted to class and **MUST BE signed in by a parent/guardian**.

An excused tardy, in which documentation is required, results from events beyond a student's control, such as an accident, area power outage, late bus, or excuses determined by the principal and/ or assistant principal.

Late Arrival to Class:

Arrival to class after the tardy bell denotes tardiness, and consequences for being tardy to class will be determined by the classroom teacher and/or team. Students will only be excused with a written pass from a teacher or the front office with the date, time, and signature.

Hall Passes are issued through the E-hall pass application and are required for a student to leave the instructional environment. Students are expected to remain in class for maximum learning

opportunities; thus, restroom and water breaks should not interfere with instruction. Halls will be monitored during the school day.

Student Check-Out:

Student Check-out for appointments, or in case of illness, takes place in the front office by individuals listed by the parent on the Authorized Pick-Up list submitted in the Online Registration portal each year. **Identification** will be required of people checking out a student. **Attendance is taken daily in every class; therefore, six missed classes calculate as an entire day absence.**

In order to excuse an early dismissal, documentation is required. Records will be kept documenting the number of days a student misses due to early checkouts. Excessive incidents of unexcused early checkouts will result in a mandatory conference with the school counselor, then, may be referred to the school social worker which will include the parent/ guardian of the student.

Check out officially ends at 2:40 pm. **As per MCSD policy, students will only be permitted to check out after 2:40 PM with a documented appointment notice.**

Consequences for failure to adhere to attendance policies:

The student will be referred to the school counselor and/ or social worker or support agencies outside the school system which may include the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS), Juvenile Court, Family Connection and other agencies for:

- (1) Students arriving on campus before 7:40 AM.
- (2) Students who are consistently late to school/ class
- (3) Excessive student check-outs.
- (4) Students who are picked up after 3:40 PM.
- (5) Students who remain on campus 30 minutes after an extracurricular event.

AFTERNOON DISMISSAL

Afternoon Dismissal from School takes place at **3:10 PM**.

Bus riders: Via announcement and/or the Microsoft Teams Application, bus riders are dismissed as their bus arrives and will exit the building.

Walkers: Those walking home from school are dismissed at approximately 3:15 PM and must leave campus immediately. Loitering/socializing on campus is not permitted.

Car Riders: Students who ride home in private vehicles will be dismissed to the back of the building in the car pick up area. Students who are not picked up by **3:40 PM** will report to the bus loop to be picked up.

Students pick up in the bus loop, in the front of the school, in the parking lot, and pick up on the streets is strictly PROHIBITED.

There is no supervision on campus after 3:40 PM except for specific clubs, organizations, and sports teams.

AFTER SCHOOL EVENTS

After-school events require parent permission. Students are **NOT** allowed to leave campus unless accompanied by an adult and are to be picked up within 15 minutes of the conclusion of an event, or they will not be able to attend future extracurricular activities.

If transportation cannot be arranged, the student should not attend the function. Students are prohibited from walking off campus before events start.

Clubs/organizational meetings: Opportunities for students to participate in enrichment activities after school are supervised by an Arnold staff member. Information about these opportunities is communicated through our website, morning announcements, and ConnectEd correspondence.

Athletics: Students who participate in team sports practice or competition are under the supervision of a coach and are to report to designated locations when directed. For games, spectators and athletes are to be picked up in the parent pick up loop in the back of the school.

Dances: Arnold students only, who have maintained acceptable conduct, may attend school dances. If students are not picked up within 15 minutes of the designated end time, they may be prohibited from attending the next dance. The pick-up location is on the front bus loop. The school dress code and other school policies apply to dances.

FOOD:

The Arnold cafeteria provides nutritious, well-balanced meals each day for free. Parents may contact the School Nutrition Manager at the school with related issues. As a lunch option, students may bring lunch from home, but competitive/fast food is prohibited. If the student is not eating lunch, documentation stating this, signed by parents, must be on file with the homeroom teacher. All extra food must be purchased with cash.

Outside food and snacks such as: carbonated drinks, bottled water, chewing gum and candy, chips, etc. are not to be brought to school. Items will be confiscated and discarded.

Eating of meals anywhere besides the cafeteria (including gum, candy, and snacks) is prohibited unless it is recommended for Social Distancing purposes according to MCSD-CDC guidelines.

School Nutrition Program (SNP)

School Year 2027

Mission Statement of the Muscogee County School Nutrition Program is to provide a nutrition program that will maintain and improve the health of school children and the educational community and encourage the development of sound nutritional habits that will foster academic success.

USDA has regulations that the School Nutrition Program (SNP) has to meet to be in compliance with their guidelines. Caloric and nutrient requirements are based on age and grade. Also, MCSD Board Approved Wellness Program (EEE and EE-R) encourages and promotes healthy guidelines to be followed including, but not limited to, FDA standards for portion sizes and the elimination of the consumption of fried foods as well as foods containing > 35 % sugar by weight. School lunches also offer a variety of foods, whole grains, and fat free and low-fat milk choices. Muscogee County School District shall abide by nutrient standards of the School

Nutrition Program for all foods sold and served on campus during the school day. The sale of foods or beverages to students on school premises other than through SNP is prohibited from 12:01 a.m. until 30 minutes after the end of the school day. Food shall not be used as a reward or punishment. The use of candy and other food rewards for academic performance or good behavior is prohibited. **Fundraising efforts** shall be supportive of healthy eating, encouraging the sale of non-food items or nutrient dense foods. USDA regulations ban the sale of foods of minimal nutritional value.

The School Nutrition Program provides a healthy breakfast and lunch choice for students every day. Students may bring their own lunches from home. **Restaurant containers are not allowed in the cafeteria.** Parents are encouraged to have lunch with their children and a school lunch may be purchased to eat in the cafeteria with the students.

School meals may be captured at the point of sale in a variety of ways. Pin pads or bar code scanners will be used.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) was established by Congress through the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, which reauthorized the Child Nutrition Programs. CEP aims to increase access to the School Meal Programs by offering breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students, without the need to process or collect individual free and reduced meal applications. Forty-one of our schools are CEP schools.

Arnold Magnet Academy is a CEP school.

Non-CEP Schools:

Britt David Magnet Academy

Columbus High School

Mathews Elementary

Free and Reduced Meal Priced Meal Applications (Non-CEP Schools Only): Continued

Free and Reduced Meal Priced Meal Applications (Non-CEP Schools Only):

If your student is enrolled in one of the **12 non-CEP schools** (see previous list), a new application must be completed and approved every school year before your child can qualify for free or reduced-price meal benefits. For quicker processing, an online application is available at www.myschoolapps.com. If you prefer, a paper application is available upon request at your child's school or at the School Nutrition Office at 2960 Macon Road. When completing a paper application, we must receive the original since these applications are scanned. We cannot accept a faxed or copied application. **ONLY ONE** application needs to be completed for your entire household. If someone receives SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) OR TANF, you must include the current CASE number on the application (NOT the EBT or food stamp card number) and indicate whether the program is SNAP or TANF. We receive thousands of applications every year. Completed applications are processed within 10 days. You will be notified with a letter regarding the outcome of your application.

Applications **CANNOT** be approved if they are not completely filled out so, please **COMPLETE ALL REQUIRED FIELDS** on the application. ***Until your application is approved, please provide your child(ren) with money to purchase meals.***

If you have an approved MCSD application from the previous year on file, benefits will be extended for the first 30 days of the new school year (or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first). After 30 days, your child's status will change to PAYING and they will be charged for meals until a new application is approved. If your application is denied or incomplete, please call our office with any questions at

706-748- 2389. Applications can be submitted at any time throughout the year, especially if your income goes down, you lose your job, your family qualifies for SNAP or TANF benefits, or there is a change in your family size. *For quicker processing of meal benefit applications, the Family Meal Application is available online at www.myschoolapps.com. If you prefer, you may complete a paper application at your child’s school or at the School Nutrition Office located at the Muscogee County Public Education Center, 2960 Macon Road. Computers will also be available in the School Nutrition Main office.*

5 REASONS FOR COMPLETING Free & Reduced Applications

ONE MEAL APPLICATION AFFECTS MANY AREAS!

1



INCREASED FUNDING TO SUPPORT STUDENT EDUCATION

2



ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNET ACCESS

3



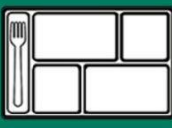
DISCOUNTS FOR FEES ASSOCIATED WITH COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESSES

4



DISCOUNTED FEES FOR SAT, ACT & AP TESTS. SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

5



FREE OR REDUCED MEAL PRICES FOR HEALTHY, NUTRITIOUS STUDENT MEALS

Contact your child's school for details today

Paying for School Lunch

Muscogee County SNP does accept personal checks as payment for meals in our cafeterias. Payments may be made by cash, money order, cashier’s check, traveler’s check, or on-line via **our online payment system, My School Bucks**, using your credit or debit card.
www.MySchoolBucks.com

School Meal Prices: Prices are subject to change based on USDA reimbursements rates

School Meal Prices	
Breakfast	
Elementary, Paid	\$ 1.00
Middle/High, Paid	\$ 1.25
Reduced	\$.30
Adult, MCSD Staff	\$ 2.00
Adult, Outside MCSD	\$ 2.50
Lunch	
Elementary, Paid	\$ 2.45
Middle/High, Paid	\$ 2.70
Reduced	\$.40
Adult, MCSD Staff	\$ 4.25
Adult, Outside MCSD	\$ 5.00
Free and reduced-priced meals for breakfast and lunch are available for eligible students. Applications can be picked up at the School Nutrition Office.	

Menus

Monthly menus can be found on your school's website. Menus may change on short notice due to supply chain issues, market conditions, deliveries, or special school activities.

Special Dietary Needs

MCSD School Nutrition will make meal modifications and substitutions to the regular school meals for a student with a disability that restricts their diet. The Special Dietary Needs Prescription Form **must be** completed and signed by a licensed physician, unless the child has a healthcare plan or an IEP/504 Plan on file, and returned to MCSD School Nutrition Program, including the school cafeteria manager and the Nutrition Specialist before the school cafeteria can provide any modifications or substitutions. A form and instructions can be found on the School Nutrition page of the MCSD web site, or at the school clinic or cafeteria. You may contact the School Nutrition office at 706-748-2386 for more information.

A nutrition analysis chart for menu items is available on the website. Please be aware that there are factors that may affect a product's actual nutritional value and/or ingredient composition at any given time: Supply chain issues may cause substitutions; manufacturers' formulations may change without notice. USDA donated products may become available at any time during the year and may replace a purchased item. Product brands may change during the year as new bids are approved. Schools may be using inventory from a previous bid or manufacturer. Our recipes may change during the school year. A la carte snack items vary from school to school, so check with the Nutrition Manager at your student's school for specific information.

Seamless Summer Option

SNP provides breakfast and lunch at various schools throughout the district during the summer. Please check the website or call 706-748-2386 for locations. All children up to 18 years of age receive a free meal. Adults may purchase lunch.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Classroom parties/celebrations are at the discretion of the classroom teacher/team and must be cleared with approval by administration prior to the activity.

Arnold Faculty and Staff are not responsible for lost or stolen personal items.

PE Requirements include participation and appropriate dress as designated by the PE instructor. Although there is no required uniform for any PE class, t-shirts, shorts, and sneakers are expected to be worn. Health classes will be scheduled intermittently and held in a classroom setting.

GRADES/ASSESSMENT:

Grading Scale is as follows: **A** (90-100: Excellent), **B** (80-89: Above Average), **C** (70-79: Below Average), and **F** (below 70: Failing).

Progress Reports are posted in Infinite Campus every 4 ½ weeks.

Report Cards are posted on Infinite Campus every 9 weeks.
Grades are entered on a weekly basis and are available for review.

The GA Milestones Test (GMAS) is one measure of academic achievement required by the State of Georgia to assess student mastery of content taught. The results are shared with parents and act as a guide in student placement for the next school year.

PARENT COMMUNICATION AND INVOLVEMENT:

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled through our guidance clerk on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:20 AM or 3:35 PM.

The Parent Portal of Infinite Campus allows students' grades and academic progress to be accessed in real time. Access is passcode protected; passcode information is obtained in the school office.

Phone Numbers and Addresses should be current; please keep the office informed of any changes in case of an emergency.

Personal Student Logins may be used anywhere in the school where students use a computer. This login gives each student specific access to computer software and is not to be shared with any other student. Students are responsible for ALL activities submitted/ completed under their student login. Consequences for misuse as identified by the instructor will result in a consequence from the instructor and/or administration.

ConnectEd broadcasts and emails are sent during the school year to update stakeholders on Arnold news. Telephone numbers and emails are acquired from Infinite Campus, the Muscogee County School District student information system. If you do not receive this correspondence via phone or email, please update your contact information with our school office.

PTO encourages every student and parent to join. Membership dues are \$10.

The Local School Council provides advice, recommendations, and assistance to principals and local boards of education.

Visitors and Volunteers – Raptor System-must check in through the office and be properly identified before visiting any area of campus. Visitors will be given a temporary pass, which must be worn at all times while visiting. If visiting a classroom, for confidentiality reasons, we ask that classroom visits not exceed 15 minutes. **No parent/ teacher conferences will be held at this time.**

Arnold Magnet Academy Website is an excellent source of information:

<http://sites.muscogee.k12.ga.us/arnold/>

STUDENT WELLNESS:

Medication schedules, when possible, should be arranged so that parents can monitor dosage at home. If medicine must be taken at school, parents must contact the school clinic worker or

guidance clerk. **Students are not to carry medication of any kind (even non-prescription) on their person during the school day.** If a student requires any medication/ device throughout the day, documentation must be on file with the clinic worker from a licensed physician.

The school does not provide medicine of any kind for students.

The clinic worker is on campus **Monday-Thursday 8:45 AM -1:00 PM;** and **Friday 8:20 AM -11:05 AM.**

Parents who bring meds must report to the office when entering the building.

Student Health- COVID- 19 Guidelines/ Procedures according to MCSD handbook

Guidance Services provides interventions for behavior, academic, or personal issues through (1) teacher/parent referral; (2) classroom guidance. Appointments are made by emailing the counselor, consulting with the counselor in person, or submitting a referral form. Administration reserves the right to make referrals to the Guidance Department in an effort to assist students with personal/ social, academic, behavior, careers or physical needs. As a result, the parent/guardian may be contacted for assistance to address student needs.

CHROMEBOOK POLICY:

Students are issued an MCSD (Muscogee County School District) Chromebook for educational use only. Chromebooks are issued to students at Arnold and are kept at the school each day. Students pick up their Chromebooks in the morning and return Chromebooks to the cart in the afternoon.

Students are responsible for lost or damaged devices. Students should make every effort to prevent damage to the device. The 1st unintentionally cracked screen will be repaired free of charge. Upon the 2nd unintentionally cracked screen, students will be issued a warning form for parents to sign. On the 3rd unintentionally cracked screen, students will be fined \$100. If any more screens are broken after the 3rd, the device will remain in the Media Center for students to use when necessary.

Also, students will be fined for any damage deemed intentional by Virtucom, Inc. Students whose device has been damaged and deemed intentional will be charged \$100. Damaged devices should be reported immediately to the Media Specialist in the Media Center. Damages not reported immediately may be deemed intentional.

Students must be responsible for their Chromebooks during the school day. Chromebooks come with a protective Gumdrops case. The Gumdrops case should never be removed from the Chromebook. No papers, photos, stickers, etc., should be slid under the Gumdrops Case. The fee for a damaged Gumdrops case is \$20.

If keyboard keys come off, the student should keep all the pieces and bring them to the Media Center for repair. Students must not remove the rubber from under the keys for any reason.

Keep food and any liquids away from the Chromebook to prevent spillage.

Students should touch ONLY their own Chromebook. Students should not allow any other student to use their Chromebook. Any damage from playing (slamming another screen, knocking it off a desk while roughhousing, etc.) can be charged to the student who caused the damage.

MCSD Student Learning Device Program information can be found at the following website:
<https://sites.muscogee.k12.ga.us/sldp/>

Locker Protocols:

Students are required to purchase a locker from their Homeroom Teachers for **\$15.00 CASH ONLY**. **EACH LOCKER IS ASSIGNED ONE PER STUDENT. LOCKERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE SHARED BETWEEN STUDENTS.**

When can students access their LOCKERS?

- **Before homeroom**
 - o Drop off any personal items including cell phones, air pods, headphones, athletic bags, book bags, etc.
- **Check Out**
 - o Students may pick up personal items from lockers while on the route to the office to check out.
- **Physical Education (P.E.) Attire**
 - o Students may pick up and drop off P.E. items **immediately before and after** their P.E. class period.
- **During Advisement (After School)**
 - o Students may collect personal items from locker during their advisement period when they are turning in Chromebooks.
- **After School**
 - o All student-athletes may collect their personal items from their locker when they are called to the gym for practice.

This will be a daily process in an effort to streamline the entry, check out, and dismissal processes within the building while providing each student with a secure location to store their personal items and electronic devices.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Arnold Magnet Academy is a cell phone free area during the instructional day. We at Arnold Magnet Academy are aware of the need for parents and students to communicate before and after school to arrange transportation, pick-ups, drop-offs, and other necessary safety concerns. We are also aware that cellular devices create an unwanted distraction to the teaching and learning environment that we strive to maintain each and every day. With these two factors in mind, we are implementing a “**NO Cell Use / Operation Phone Policy**” that we believe will address the concerns of all stakeholders.

Students are asked to refrain from bringing cell phones to school.

However, if a student chooses to bring a cell phone/electronic device to school, **Arnold Magnet Academy (AMA) will not be held responsible if the cell phone/electronic device is lost, stolen, or damaged.**

To prevent possible violations of cell phone procedures, all students are required to place their cell phone in their locker. If a student needs to make a phone call, they can do so by asking their teacher for a pass to the office to use the school phone.

The following procedures are designed to provide a learning environment that is conducive for teaching and learning, without the interference of cell phone use throughout the school day in the hallways, cafeteria, restrooms, locker rooms, or classrooms. **CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE USED OR SEEN ON CAMPUS AT ANY TIME UNTIL THE LAST BELL AT 3:10 P.M. (GA HB 340)**

*****Cell Phone Procedures Will Be Strictly Enforced*****

Any further offense will result in out-of-school suspension and a mandatory parent conference prior to the student returning to school. The meeting MUST be with legal parents/guardians.

- ❖ 1st Offense – Cell phone will be turned into the principal or designee.
 - Parents may pick up the phone after **1 full school day** or give an adult written permission to do so (21 yrs. old or older) who is on the student's registration sheet written permission to pick up a cell phone.

Note: Must show valid I.D.

- 2nd Offense – Student assigned In-School Suspension for **1 day**.
 - Parents pick up the phone after **3 full school days** (see 1st offense).
- ❖ 3rd Offense – Student assigned In-School Suspension for **2 days**.
 - Parents may pick up the phone after **5 school days**.
 - A mandatory parent conference is held.
- ❖ 4th Offense – Student will be **suspended out of school for 2 days** for each offense **due to defiance**.
 - Parents pick up phone at the end of the school day (see 1st offense)

If the parent/guardian is adamant that he/she will not allow the cell phone/electronic device to be held for the number of days listed in the procedures, then the parent/guardian chooses for the student to receive a **two day out of school suspension** in lieu of the device being held.

Other Electronic Devices

All other electronic devices are **prohibited**. Electronic devices include, but are not limited to: SmartWatches, MP3 players, personal gaming devices, AirPods, bluetooth headphones, bluetooth speakers, etc.

Please note per MCSD Handbook: Electronic Devices

MCSD personnel are not expected to search for items that students have lost after they elect to bring them to school, and personnel will not be responsible for the value of a phone or other device in the event of an unintentional damage, loss or theft of the phone or device.

Students are prohibited from using any electronic device during the operation of a school bus, including, but not limited to, cellular phones, pagers, audible radios, audible tape or compact disc players, or laser light in a manner that might interfere with the school bus communication equipment or the school bus driver's operation of the school bus.

Phone calls: If a student needs to make a phone call during the school day, they can do so by asking their teacher for a pass to the office to use the school phone.

DRESS CODE:

Student Dress Code is designed to maintain a level of personal hygiene necessary to ensure a healthy school environment, to ensure safety, to refrain from any mode of dress which distracts from the learning environment, and to reflect self-pride and pride in our school. The dress code must be followed at all school functions on and off campus.

The required standard of dress for students shall be as follows:

Students shall dress, groom, and wear clothing that does not distract others or disrupts/interferes with the operation of school. **No excessively oversized clothing is allowed.** Clothing or accessories displaying or advertising substances illegal for minors is prohibited. Suggestive phrases, designs, markings, profanities, or gang-related attire/items are also prohibited.

All Students: Reference MCSD Handbook and Code of Conduct

Head: HOODIES are prohibited; caps, hats, bandannas of any color, bonnets, or outer scarves are not to be worn in the school building during the school day unless there is a special activity during which they are deemed appropriate by the administration.

Shoes: Must be worn at all times. However, flip-flops, thong sandals, shower shoes, slides, crocs, house slippers, or heels higher than two inches are **PROHIBITED**.

Items such as chains on a belt, wallet, etc. and items with spikes, or bandannas worn around the leg or arm are not allowed.

Pants/Skirts/Shorts: Sweatpants, athletic shorts, and wind pants are allowed at AMA. Belts are required for pants that cannot be worn properly on or above the waist. Sagging pants will not be permitted. Pants with holes and/or ripped designs above the knee exposing skin are **not permitted**. Shorts or skirts must be no more than **three** inches above the knee and longer than the students' fingertips. No tight-fitting pants, shorts, or skirts. **No Pajama pants (flannel/ cotton/ silk, etc.) are allowed to be worn. Leggings are not to be worn as pants.**

Shirts: No sleeveless shirts or tank tops. No solid-colored white t-shirts. Undershirts may not be worn as an outer shirt. Shirts **must** be worn under jackets. No crop tops, halter tops, undergarments, spaghetti straps, or see-through clothing is allowed. Midriffs should not be seen.

NOTE: Bonafide religious attire is permitted.

Back Packs - Only Clear Back Packs (Book Bags)- are allowed and will be stored in the student's locker at Arnold Magnet Academy.

The school principal, assistant principal, or designee will make the final determination on whether a student's dress conflicts with these guidelines.

Expectations for Student Behavior:

Discipline Plan

The Arnold Magnet Academy staff are committed to providing a safe and orderly environment that ensures each student a place to learn and to express ideas that are free from mental and physical threats. Because parents play a vital role in influencing student behavior, your involvement is essential to the development of your child and the preservation of a safe and well-disciplined school. As a home/school team, we hope to foster the following within each student: self-control, respect for others, and principled decision-making.

PBIS = Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports

Arnold is one of the first ten MCSD PBIS pilot schools. With this title, our staff will be providing positive behavior management strategies to monitor and encourage appropriate behavior for all students. These principles are taught, retaught, and modeled continuously throughout the year. The program enables all students to experience a safe, positive, and proactive environment in which they can learn, grow, and experience success.

AMA Rams are Respectful, Accountable, Well Mannered, and Safe

Arnold Rams	Hallway/Common Areas	Cafeteria	Bathroom
Be <u>R</u>espectful	Calm Voices Use kind words to and about others	Calm Voices Use kind words to and about others	Wait your turn Flush the toilet
Be <u>A</u>ccountable	Use locker time wisely Gather all needed class materials	Stand in a straight line facing forward Enjoy your own food	Place your trash in the trash can Have a teacher initialed pass
Be Well <u>M</u>annered	Say excuse me and open doors for others Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself	Say please and thank you to cafeteria staff Clean up after yourself	Honor the privacy of others Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself
Be <u>S</u>afe	Travel on the right Walk at all times	Remain seated until dismissed Sit in your designated area	Wash hands with soap and water Maintain personal space

Positive Behavior and Making Good Choices has its Rewards! Every student is able to earn PBIS Points each school day and in each of their classes. Teachers, Administration, and Staff use the PBIS App to reward students who are making positive behavioral choices. These points can be redeemed in their classes and at monthly celebrations as well as in the AMA PBIS store.

Restorative Practices

Arnold Magnet Academy uses restorative practices to build positive relationships, strengthen the school community, and help students learn from conflict and inappropriate behavior. When appropriate, students may participate in restorative conversations, reflection activities, conferences, circles, mediation, or plans to repair harm.

Restorative practices encourage students to:

- explain what happened;
- recognize who was affected;
- accept responsibility for their actions;
- identify what is needed to repair the harm; and
- make a plan for more appropriate choices.

Restorative practices do not eliminate accountability or required disciplinary consequences. Serious, repeated, or unsafe behaviors will continue to be addressed in accordance with the Muscogee County School District Behavior Code and Arnold Magnet Academy procedures. The goal is to maintain safety while helping students restore relationships, remain connected to learning, and make better decisions in the future. This language reflects the implementation guide's emphasis on relationships, responsibility, repair, and reintegration.

Consequences for Disruptive Behaviors

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS): Students who are suspended out-of-school are prohibited from attending or participating in any extra-curricular sports events, concerts, dances, field trips, clubs, etc. This includes practicing for such events. Penalties will include additional ISS or OSS days and possible criminal trespassing charges.

In-School-Suspension (ISS)/ In-School Intervention (ISI): Students are assigned to ISS/ISI by the school administration for Level I and II offenses and are to report to the ISS room before homeroom. Students are supervised by the ISS technician while they work independently on class assignments. In order for students to return to class, they must: (1) fulfill the time in ISS/ISI and (2) complete all assignments. Students assigned to ISS are considered present and are given every opportunity to complete the same work that their peers are doing in class.

Administrative Lunch Detention: This consequence is assigned by the school administration and is held in the ISS room. Lunch Detention students stand in the front of their classes' lunch line, receive a 'carry out' lunch, and report to ISS for lunch.

Administrative After-School Detention: This consequence is assigned by the Administration and will be held on a **designated Tuesday and/or Thursday** from **3:15pm to 5pm** in the cafeteria. Pick up will be in front of the building. All students must be picked up by 5:15 p.m. or it may result in further consequences to include another assigned day for Administrative Detention.

Teacher Detention: Teachers/teams may have a morning or afternoon detention plan for their classes. Parents are to be notified and given a 24-hour notice of the detention In Writing

Mandatory – Requested Parent/Guardian Visitation for Classroom Observation

Parent/ Guardian/ Student Session after school – Tuesday and/ or Thursday 3:30 – 4:30pm.

Because students are learning to assume responsibility for their actions, it becomes the duty of the school to discipline the student when inappropriate behaviors occur. The following infractions and consequences are referenced from the contents of the Muscogee County School District Behavior Code and Discipline Policy Book, which is distributed to students. However, each school reserves the right to develop a student handbook that is based on their student's demographics and needs. A parent and the student must sign that they have received the MCSD handbook. School administrators will consider frequency, severity, grade level, and prior disciplinary problems when overseeing student discipline. This list is not intended to be exclusive but exemplifies behaviors that will be addressed.

Personal and Property Safety

• Fighting • Tobacco Use/Possession (including possessing lighters and matches) • Vape Use/Possession • Indecent Exposure (including extreme dress code violations) • Sexual Misconduct • Severe AUP Violations • Gang-related Activity • Threats	1st Offense: 3 days OSS / Parent Conference with Admin 2nd Offense: 5 days OSS / Parent Conference with Admin 3rd Offense: 7 days OSS / Parent Conference with Admin Fights of an extremely violent nature may result in 3–10-day suspension, tribunal, police charges, or any combination of the three. Gang-related activities will be referred to the MCSD Discipline Tribunal, and a police report will be filed.
• Attempting to Fight/Play Fighting/Horseplaying/ Slap Boxing * Instigating a Fight	1st Offense: Administrative Detention -1-day ISS 2nd Offense: 1-2 days ISS 3rd Offense: 2 days ISS – 1 day OSS 4th Offense: 1-2 days OSS (return w/parent)
Recording or posting fights or any disturbance during or after school, including on the bus or at the bus stop.	Administrative discretion
• Major Vandalism	1st Offense: 1 day OSS & restitution 2nd Offenses: 2 days OSS & restitution 3rd Offense: 3 days OSS; refer to MCSD Discipline Tribunal, restitution & file a police report
• Weapons (as noted in the MCSD Behavior Code and Discipline Policy Handbook, to include pellet/toy guns) • Assault of School Employee • False Fire Alarm • Bombs/Terroristic Threats • Arson • Drugs/Alcohol Use/Possession	1st Offense: 10 days OSS; refer to MCSD Discipline Tribunal & file a police report
• Bullying (written/verbal/cyber) • Threat/Intimidation	1st Offense: Counseling Referral/ Parent Conference with Administration prior to returning to class. 2nd Offense: ISS – 2 days OSS; Parent Conference with Administration 3rd Offense: 3 days OSS; refer to MCSD Discipline Tribunal
• Sexual Harassment (written/verbal)	1st Offense: Counseling Referral/ Parent Conference with Administration prior to returning to class. 2nd Offense: ISS- 2 days OSS; Parent Conference with Administration 3rd Offense: 3-10 days OSS; refer to MCSD Discipline Tribunal

Misrepresentation

• Misconduct (severe class disruption that interferes with the educational process) • Blatant Verbal Defiance/Disrespect	1 st Offense: 1 day ISS 2 nd Offense: 2 days ISS 3 rd Offense: Reverse Suspension 4 th Offense: 1 day OSS 5 th Offense: 3 days OSS *** Continuous Misconduct may result in tribunal referral for Chronic Disciplinary Problem Student (3-10 days OSS) *** Administrative Detention may be assigned at any given offense at the Admin Discretion.
• Profanity towards Faculty/Staff	1 st Offense: 1 day OSS 2 nd Offense: 2 days OSS 3 rd Offense: 3 days OSS
• Profanity towards Peer	1 st Offense: ISS - 1 day ISS 2 nd Offense: 2 days ISS 3 rd Offense: 2 days OSS
• Dress Code Violation • Gum/Candy- Teacher administer consequences	Violations that cannot be corrected by Teacher consequence will become an office referral: 1 st Offense: Parent Contact 2 nd Offense: Lunch Detention / Mandatory Parent Conference (Behavior Contract) 3 rd Offense: 1 day ISS / Parent Contact 4 th Offense: 2 days ISS / Parent Contact
• Stealing	1 st Offense: 2 days OSS & restitution 2 nd Offenses: 3 days OSS & restitution 3 rd Offense: 5 days OSS & restitution *** Administrative Detention may be assigned at any given offense at the Admin Discretion.
• Forgery	1 st Offense: Counseling Referral/ Parent Contact 2 nd Offense: 1 day ISS 3 rd Offense: 3 days ISS 4 th Offense: 3 days OSS *** Administrative Detention may be assigned at any given offense at the Admin Discretion.
• Skipping School/Class • Leaving Class/Campus	1 st Offense: Mandatory Parent Conference (Safety Issue)- 1 day ISS. 2 nd Offense: 2 days ISS- Parent Contact 3 rd Offense: 3 days ISS 4 th Offense: Mandatory Reverse Suspension *** Administrative Detention may be assigned at any given offense at the Admin Discretion.

•Selling of Items (Items will be confiscated) ***Per MCSD Discipline Handbook. Some Selling of Items (Drugs, Alcohol, etc.) may result in a Tribunal Referral for further disciplinary action by MCSD.	1st Offense: 1 day ISS 2nd Offense: 2 days ISS 3rd Offense: 3 days ISS 4th Offense: 3 days OSS Administrative Detention may be assigned at any given offense at the Admin Discretion.
• Misbehavior in ISS	Any Misbehavior in ISS will result in additional days in ISS or OSS depending on the severity.
• Bus Referral	All students will adhere to the Bus Contract which was signed during Student Verification Day 1st Offense: Warning and Parent Contact 2nd Offenses: 1 day suspension from the bus 3rd Offense: 3 days suspension from the bus Major violations such as fighting and severe disrespect are at the discretion of the admin.
•Tardiness / Absences to School	3rd Tardy-Parent called by school personnel and a referral to the school social worker 4th Tardy-Mandatory Parent Conference with Administration 5th Tardy- Administrative Detention 6th Tardy- 2 days ISS 7th Tardy- 3 days ISS 8th Tardy- Mandatory meeting with Social Worker/ Parent/ Admin (Legal Action may be Pending) Students with excused absences must present written documentation to the Attendance Clerk. Refer to page 3 for more information.
•Electronic Device Violations (Cell phones, Smart Watches, MP3 players, PS2 players, etc.) If the electronic device belongs to another person, the owner may also receive a penalty.	**Refer to cell phone/electronic policy on pages 12-13 for more information**

Disruptions	
Any behavior that takes away from the integrity of instruction and learning	1st – thru 5th offenses = classroom consequences Continual interruptions = Level II Offense