



2025-2026 STUDENT HANDBOOK



Student Handbook 2025-2026

School Colors: Columbia Blue and Gold

School Mascot: The Mighty Patriot

Fort Service-Learning Magnet Academy

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“THE BEST MIDDLE SCHOOL IN THE WORLD”

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The History of Fort Service-Learning Magnet Academy

In the mid-1970s, the city of Columbus was growing by leaps and bounds. New housing subdivisions were established, and the Muscogee County School District needed to accommodate the educational needs of the children who lived in Northeast Columbus. On November 17, 1975, the school board approved the resolution for a junior high school properly named Eastern Junior High School at 2900 Floyd Road. Dr. Jimmy Riddle was named the first principal of the school.

On August 21, 1978, the school board accepted the certificate of completion on the premiere junior high school. It was a state-of-the-art edifice with the newly adopted open classroom learning environment. On January 16, 1978, Eastern Junior High School was appropriately named Judge T. Hicks Fort Junior High School after former Muscogee County School District Board chairperson and judge of the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit. Judge Fort was a member of the Board of Education from 1910 to 1941, serving as chairman from 1924 to 1941.

Fort's legacy of excellent instructional leadership was carried out by principals Mr. Paul Jones, Dr. David Schumacher, Ms. Jennifer Allen, Mrs. Lillia Bernard, Mrs. Sonja L. Matthews-Coaxum, Ms. Brenda Merritt, Ms. Amia Hamilton, and the current Principal, Dr. Taneshia Ingersoll.

Under Mrs. Matthews-Coaxum's helm, Fort Middle School created a new magnet program for academic stewardship—Fort Service-Learning Magnet Academy (FSLMA). Mrs. Matthews-Coaxum also incorporated the motto, "The Best Middle School in the World!" Fort Service-Learning Magnet Academy stands by this philosophy based on the accolades that she has received from the city, state, and nation: Beats The Odds School from the Governor's Office, a national Kindness Certified School, and several athletic championships in the district, to recognize a few of the multitude of the academic, social, and athletic achievements of Fort Service-Learning Magnet Academy.



FSLMA - Mission

Our mission is to promote our students' intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development in a safe, challenging environment so that they become confident, self-disciplined, and productive members of society.

MCSD- Mission

Our mission is to inspire and equip all students to achieve unlimited potential.

FSLMA- Vision

Our vision is to provide an opportunity for all students to learn in a safe atmosphere of instruction and support directed toward nurturing the whole child.

MCSD – Vision

The MCSD is a beacon of educational excellence where all are known, valued, and inspired.

MCSD – Values

MCSD fosters a healthy organization where...

- **WE** embrace equity and diversity
- **WE** hold ourselves and others to the same high standards
- **WE** commit to continuous learning and improvement
- **WE** treat everyone with dignity and respect

...as **WE** serve the needs of others.

MCSD Strategic Anchors

WE will make decisions...

- that benefit student achievement
- that are fiscally responsible with an eye on return on investment
- that invest in stakeholders
- that promote equity and access.

Fort Service-Learning Magnet Academy

What is Service-Learning?

Service-Learning is a methodology in which students have leadership roles in thoughtfully organized service experiences that meet real needs in the community. The service is integrated into the student's academic studies with structured time to research, reflect, discuss, and connect their experiences to their learning, which broadens their views.

Types of Service-Learning	Service-Learning is...
Direct Service	a service directly affecting the people, animals, or community structures we want to impact. This may include activities such as volunteering to clean up a community site or assisting in completing a community task.
Indirect Service	a form of fundraising or collections. It is the service in which you are not in the presence of the person or thing you are impacting. For example, students may collect canned food or non-perishable items for the Salvation Army to be distributed to members in the local community who are in need.
Advocacy Service	speaking up for or against an issue or solution. When we use our voices, we are being advocates.
Research-Based Service	finding out new information that informs or demands action. For example, collecting scientific data or surveying a group and developing next steps or solutions to the identified concern or need.
An "add on"	a learning methodology that aims to achieve core academic outcomes.

WE ARE SERVICE-LEARNING



When our students are engaged in service-learning projects, they become better equipped at linking the basic components of academics with real-life experiences. These projects meet real needs in our community, and research shows that service learning engages students, improves

critical thinking, and teaches the importance of teamwork, communication, and caring for others. We are, “Service Learning – Servant Leaders.”

The Profile of an FSLMA Student

Effectively listen, communicate, and interact with others.

- Build the 3Rs- Relationships, Rigor, and Relevance
- Create small communities for learning that lead to the development of close, mutually respectful relationships with adults and peers
- Develop and maintain positive relationships
- Advocate for self and others

Genuinely exhibit qualities of honorable character

- Show PRIDE (Be **P**repared, Be **R**espectful, Have **I**ntegrity, Be **D**isciplined, and Have **E**tiquette)
- Prepared to become productive, caring, and ethical citizens
- Portray sensitivity and compassion for others
- Accept personal responsibility for actions
- Successful in activities that address different abilities and learning styles

Continuously seek and apply knowledge and understanding

- Master and integrate core academic skills: English language arts, math, social studies, and science
- Involvement in instruction through an academic program that emphasizes foundational and advanced academics
- Apply knowledge and skills to real-world situations
- Exploration that allows critical thinking and making informed decisions
- Being prepared for success in high school

Successfully apply service-learning skills

- Exhibit a strong work ethic
- Have an opportunity for creative thinking and creative expression
- Maintain a sense of punctuality
- Communicate effectively
- Employ self-control and conflict-management skills
- Work collaboratively with others

Actively engage in and contribute to a local and global community

- Demonstrate leadership skills
- Contribute to the well-being of others
- Understand, respect, and interact productively with varying cultures
- Develop awareness of local, national, and world issues and events and their impact
- Understand how to transition from childhood to adolescence by developing positive self-esteem and respect toward others

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Before School: Students **cannot** enter the building before **7:40** a.m. Beginning at 7:40 a.m., students can enter the cafeteria to eat breakfast. **No food or drinks are to be taken out of the cafeteria.** Students should not arrive on campus before 7:40 a.m. Parents are asked to drop off students by the sidewalk near the clock/bench to reduce traffic congestion in front of the school and ensure the safety of children being dropped off and picked up daily. Students are not to be dropped off or picked up in the faculty parking lot, bus area, or across the street. **NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO BE PICKED UP OR DROPPED OFF AT OR NEAR CANAAN BAPTIST CHURCH PARKING LOT ACROSS FROM THE SCHOOL.**

Daily Schedule of Students:

7:40 a.m. Students may enter the building and report to the cafeteria

8:05 a.m. First Bell (students enter the building and report to ILT class)

8:10 a.m. Tardy bell (students must report to the attendance office **with their parent** for a pass)

3:10 p.m. Dismissal

After School: If students are not under the direct supervision of a teacher or coach, they must leave the campus immediately after the 3:10 p.m. bell. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action. Students who ride a bus should report directly to the bus loading area after school. Students who walk, or are picked up via automobile, should exit the front of the building.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Excused Absences: Students absent from a class have three (3) school days to present an excuse for the absence. Until an excuse is presented, the absence will remain unexcused. It is the student's responsibility to bring the excuse on the day the student returns to school. Once the excuse is verified, the absence will be marked excused in Infinite Campus.

A student may request make-up work for an excused absence. The student must make arrangements within three (3) school days to make up the work missed.

Excused absences include the following:

- The student is personally ill. A note from the parent describing the student's illness will be accepted as appropriate documentation no more than three [3] times per semester. After that, only valid excuses (doctor appointments, directed court appearances, etc.) can be submitted for the absence to be excused.
- Someone in the student's immediate family has a serious illness or death.
- The student is absent for a recognized religious holiday.
- The student's absence is mandated by a governmental agency.
- The student is participating in a school-related activity at another location. The absence must be pre-approved by an administrator.

Unexcused Absences: All other reasons for absences are considered unexcused unless approved by the administration.

Excessive Absences: Students may be absent from school only five (5) days per year. Students who miss more than 5 days will enter the attendance tracking cycle. This cycle involves our school social worker. Students who miss more than 10 days or are tardy for more than 20 days will need to attend summer school.

Tardiness:

1. **All students must be in class before the 8:10 a.m. bell or be considered tardy.** Tardiness will be unexcused unless the student has a doctor's note or court document. Oversleeping, car trouble, running errands, missing the bus, dress code violations, etc., are unexcused.
2. Students may not check in after 12:30 pm.
3. Tardy students who fail to check in through the Attendance Office before going to class will be considered skipping and subject to disciplinary action.
4. A student who checks out of school for any reason and returns to school must check back into school as soon as he enters the school grounds.
5. Students who are tardy 10 or more days will be referred to the school social worker and to support agencies outside the school system, as the principal deems appropriate.

Check-Ins: Please adhere to the following Check-In procedures:

- Report to the Attendance Office before you go to any other places in the building.
- If you were late for a court or doctor's appointment, you must bring documentation on their letterhead. **Only three (3) notes from the parent will be accepted per semester.** After that, only validated excuses (doctor appointments, directed court appearances, etc.) can be submitted for the tardiness to be excused.
- Parents may also email the excuse to: fortparents@muscogee.k12.ga.us
- You will receive an admit slip that documents the time you arrived and whether the tardiness is excused or unexcused. This is your pass to class and must be presented to the teacher when entering the classroom.

Check-Outs: We recommend that all parents, guardians, and students schedule all appointments before or after regular school hours. This prevents class interruptions and missed information when students check out. Excused check-outs shall be doctor or dentist appointments, court appearances, and attending the funeral of a close relative. No student will be dismissed to go home sick or for any other reason until a parent/guardian is contacted. MCS policy states students cannot be checked out after 2:30 p.m.

All persons checking out a student must present a valid picture ID and be authorized by the student's parent/guardian. No teacher has the authority to dismiss a student to leave school for any reason; neither may they be excused to run errands for teachers. All appointment check-outs are unexcused until an official note is returned. If a student checks out through the clinic due to the parent being called to pick the student up, the check-out will be excused.

Any student who arrives on campus is considered present and must check out before leaving campus. Failure to do so is considered skipping. Failure to properly check in or check out of school will result in disciplinary action.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING SERVICES

Guidance counselors are available to students, parents, and teachers. Individual and group counseling services are provided to help students resolve personal and school-related concerns. Counselors assist with parent-teacher conferences, student-peer relationships, self-awareness, career planning, drug awareness, values clarification, and other areas of need.

Guidance Staff:

- Guidance Director- Ms. Carla Thomas
- Guidance Counselor- Mrs. Sukina Boynton

Parent Conferences: Parents concerned about their child's academic achievement or behavioral concerns are encouraged to contact their child's ILT teacher and schedule a conference to meet with their child's teachers. The conference is to be set up by the student's ILT teacher.

Student Schedules and Schedule Changes: Students receive their schedules at the beginning of each year. On the first day of school, students report to their ILT class. Students are expected to follow that schedule for the year. If there are problems with a student's schedule, please scan the provided QR code, complete the form, and wait to hear from the assistant principal or guidance counselor.

Schedule changes are permitted for the following reasons:

- Student has already passed the course
- Administrative Error

The administration may change a student's schedule to balance class loads or to close a class because of low enrollment. While these things happen occasionally, they are kept to a minimum. **Schedules are not changed because a student wants a change; there must be a legitimate need.**

The administration begins pre-registration for the upcoming school year in the spring. Students can select courses to meet the requirements for promotion to the next grade. Students must plan a course of study each year.

ILT (Increased Learning Time)

ILT will occur daily and is used for district-mandated screenings, Beable tasks, and other necessary tasks.

Support to Students: Providing support services is a major focus in the guidance program. To help ensure that the needs of students are met and the whereabouts of students are known, the following procedures will be used:

- Students must have a pass to see a counselor.
- Counselors will schedule individual student appointments whenever possible to cause fewer classroom interruptions.
- If a student wishes to see their counselor but does not have an appointment, teachers should email the counselor, who will schedule a meeting with the student. **If it is a crisis situation**, immediately send the student to guidance.
- Students may use the telephones in guidance **only in an emergency** (Note: A student leaving their uniform or homework at home is not considered an emergency).

Support to Parents and the Community: Every attempt to work cooperatively with parents and adhere to parent and community requests will be made. To help ensure that the needs of parents and the local community are met, the following procedures will be used:

- Parents or community members are asked to call in advance to schedule appointments with guidance staff.

Student Progress Monitoring Student progress may be monitored via Infinite Campus. Parents and/or guardians should ensure you have gained access by securing an access code and completing the program verification process. You can access Infinite Campus through the school's website or by downloading the "App" for free through the iPhone or Android App Stores. If you do not have computer access, a paper copy of the progress report can be made available upon request and sent home with the student. Teachers may elect to distribute the progress reports, but the student and parents/guardians are responsible for monitoring the student's progress. Parents/guardians are advised to contact their child's teacher at least once every 9 weeks or more to strengthen parent-school relationships.

Hospital/Homebound Services: Services will be provided should a student become ill and cannot attend school for at least 10 or more days. A medical doctor must certify that the student will likely be absent for an extended time. A visiting teacher, provided by the school system, will serve as a liaison between home and school to allow a student to remain on track with school work. The parent must contact the grade-level counselor to make arrangements for these services.

Withdrawing from school: Any student withdrawing from FSLMA must bring a parent or guardian to the school to sign the withdrawal form. The parent/guardian of record must present a valid ID to withdraw the child. All fines must be paid, and all school materials (i.e., textbooks, technology, and associated accessories etc.) must be returned before a withdrawal is complete. The withdrawal process takes a minimum of one school day to complete.

Grading Categories and Weights: NOTE: All grades are on a 100-point scale

40% - Summative Assessments

60% - Formative Assessments

Student Retention Guidelines

Retention decisions are made with careful consideration of each student's academic, behavioral, and developmental progress. The goal of retention is to provide students with the additional time and support needed to master essential skills for future success. Multiple factors are evaluated to determine whether retention is in the best educational interest of the student.

Academic Performance

Students who consistently perform below grade level in core subjects—including ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies—may be considered for retention. Indicators include lack of progress on classroom assessments and assignments, and failing final grades in two or more core academic areas.

Standardized Assessment and Benchmark Data

Performance on diagnostic and benchmark assessments such as Star Reading/Math and the Georgia Milestones (GMAS) is also reviewed. Students who perform below expected levels or show minimal academic growth over the school year may require additional instructional time, which may include, but not be limited to, summer school and/or retention.

Attendance

Frequent absences or tardiness can significantly disrupt a student's learning and academic progress. Excessive absences that negatively impact achievement will be considered as part of the retention decision. The Muscogee County School District (MCSD) Attendance Policy will be enforced.

TESTING INFORMATION

Georgia Milestones End of Grade (EOG): EOG tests are administered in the Spring in the areas of math (6-8), ELA (6-8), science (8), and social studies (8)

Georgia Milestones End of Course (EOC) High School Physical Science: This course is designed as a survey course of chemistry and physics. Students investigate physical science concepts through experience in laboratories and field work using the processes of inquiry. Students who complete this course and meet the requirements will receive high school credit.

Georgia Milestones End of Course (EOC) Algebra Concepts and Connections: Enhanced Algebra: Concepts and Connections is a course option that thoughtfully blends Grade 8 content standards with Algebra: Concepts and Connections standards. This course awards high school credit for middle school students who meet the requirements.

Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT): The PSAT is given in October of each year to all 8th-grade students. All students are encouraged to do their best on the PSAT because it is an excellent predictor of success and performance on the SAT, as well as possibly qualifying for National Merit Scholar designation.

YouScience: A unique career discovery profile designed to help students better understand their natural abilities, broaden awareness of career opportunities, and make more informed decisions about their individual pathway from school to career.

GAA- The GAA 2.0 is designed to ensure that students who have an IEP determination are provided access to the state academic content standards and allowed to demonstrate achievement of the knowledge, concepts, and skills inherent in the standards.

ACCESS: ACCESS is a set of large-scale English language proficiency assessments for students identified as English learners. These assessments measure students' language acquisition along the development continuum from kindergarten through grade 12.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

DISCIPLINE POLICIES

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

FSLMA has implemented our school's comprehensive Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework. The main focus of PBIS is to provide a clear system for all expected behaviors at FSLMA. While many of us have assumptions about what is expected behavior, we cannot assume that everyone's beliefs are similar. Through PBIS, we will work to create and maintain a productive and professional environment in which ALL school and community members have clear expectations and understanding of their roles in the educational process.

PBIS focuses on positive behavior. Our school-wide recognition and acknowledgment system benefits ALL students who follow our building-wide expectations. The PBIS matrix and expectations are taught and reinforced daily, and students are acknowledged for following the expectations in all areas of the school.

To be proactive when addressing the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of our students, the Muscogee County School District has contracted with This W.O.R.K.S. Inc. We at Fort Service-Learning Magnet Academy have chosen to implement one of their programs - ***A Second Chance W.O.R.K.S.*** The W.O.R.K.S. program uses the social-emotional learning framework with an emphasis on restorative justice to educate the whole child while teaching them how to be accountable for their behavior. Student sessions are conducted during the school day by a principal-designated facilitator who has been thoroughly trained by a W.O.R.K.S. consultant who is licensed by The International Institute for Restorative Practices. The facilitators work with academic teachers, parents, and administrators to individualize services as much as possible to meet the needs of each student in the program. Parent conferences may be required to re-enter the normal school environment following an out-of-school suspension. Parent/student sessions are held weekly, and the time they are offered varies.

Building-Wide Expectations

Students will meet the five building-wide expectations specified within both classroom and non-classroom settings at all times.

As a FSLMA student, I will always strive to:

BE **Prepared** ~ BE **Respectful** ~ Have **Integrity** ~ Be **Disciplined** ~ Have **Etiquette**

Why?

Because we are:

“The Best Middle School in the World”



Fort Service Learning Magnet A PRIDE CREED

Expectations	Classroom	Hallways	Cafeteria
Be Prepared	Having all required materials to be actively engaged learner.	Following all hallway procedures.	Reporting silently to assigned lunch line.
Be Respectful	Being kind with our words and actions to one another.	Enter hallway traffic while keeping personal space.	Following all cafeteria procedures.
Have	Completing and	Practice self-control.	Using our

Progressive Discipline Plan: The Fort Service-Learning Magnet Academy's school-wide discipline plan is a progressive discipline plan that includes, but is not limited to, teacher remediation, teacher detention, administrator remediation, removal/isolation from class, community/school service, In-School Intervention (ISI), Out-of-School Suspension, intervention program, referral to MCSD Discipline Tribunal, expulsion, assignment to Marshall Success Center (MSC-Alternative School), and in extreme situations, referral to the MCSD Police Department..

FSLMA's 3 Behavioral Non-Negotiables:

- Fighting
- Verbal and/or Written Abuse/Threatening of Faculty and Staff
- Major Disturbances (disruptions that hinder school operation where teachers, administrators, and school resource officers are involved to de-escalate)

Violation of any of FSLMA's behavioral non-negotiables will result in an out-of-school suspension. The length will be at the administrator's discretion based on extenuating factors unique to each event.

Prepared- Properly expectant, organized, or equipped; ready

Respectful- Full of, characterized by, or showing politeness

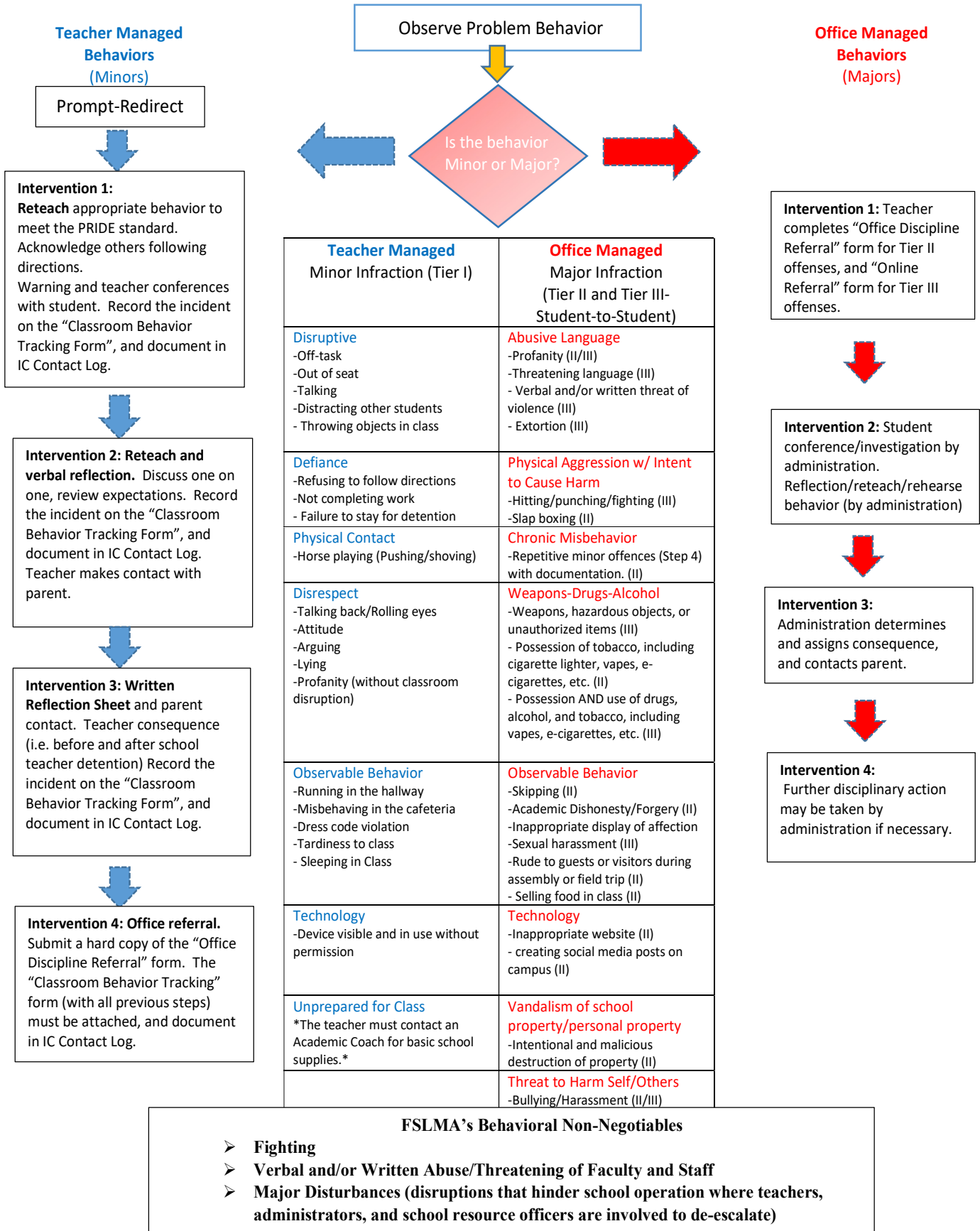
Integrity- Adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character, honesty

Disciplined- Having or exhibiting discipline (to act in accordance with rules)

Etiquette- Conduct as established in any class or community, or for any occasion

Fort Service-Learning Magnet Academy

PRIDE (Be **P**repared, Be **R**espectful, Have **I**ntegrity, Be **D**isciplined, and Have **E**tiquette)



Consequences for Level I Offenses:

1st Offense: Warning and teacher conferences with the student (documented on the tracker form)

2nd Offense: The teacher makes verbal contact with a parent and the Guidance Counselor, if applicable. (documented on the tracker form)

3rd Offense: Teacher consequence (documented on the tracker)

4th Offense: Referral to the assistant principal (attach the tracker to ODR hard copy)

Consequences for Level II and Level III Offenses:

Consequences for level II and III offenses are at the discretion of the administrators and may include, but are not limited to, in-school intervention, out-of-school suspension, or referral to the MCSD Disciplinary Tribunal panel. Consequences are determined using administrators' information at the time of the offense. Adjustments may be made in certain instances based on extenuating circumstances. Parents and/or students may require restorative practice sessions following a level II and level III offense.

NOTE: Any behaviors that are not included above that are a threat to school safety or inhibit normal school operation will be addressed at the discretion of the administration.



Bullying occurs when a student “is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other students.” However, bullying differs from other forms of conflict. The “imbalance of power between the bully and the victim based on physical size, strength, age, or social status” represents a key feature of bullying. Bullying is also characterized by repetition over time. Peer conflict involves a perceived balance of power and for every action there is a response. (MCSD Website)

CONSEQUENCES

Lunch Detention: Students placed in Lunch Detention will be given a detention reminder and should report to ISI during lunch. Students who skip Lunch Detention may be assigned ISI. Students may be assigned lunch detention at the discretion of the administration.

Teacher Detention: As a teacher consequence, students may be required to stay after school for misconduct in the classroom. All students assigned detention will be given a written, 24-hour notice in advance to arrange transportation. Teachers will document the assignment of detention and contact the parents. Failure to stay for detention may result in an Office Discipline Referral.

In-School Intervention (ISI): Students will be assigned to ISI for specified dates. While assigned to ISI, students will complete all classwork assigned by their teachers. Students are counted as present and given credit for the work completed. Students who misbehave in ISI are subject to OSS. Students are not allowed to possess cell phones while in ISI. The ISI Coordinator will label the phone, secure it, and return it to the student at the end of each day (or period) assigned. *While assigned ISI, a student **may not** attend or participate in extra-curricular activities, including practices, competitions, games, meetings, ceremonies, etc.*

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS): Students suspended from school are prohibited on campus. Students are encouraged to reach out to their teachers to request work. Although not required, teachers may elect to provide work to students while they are suspended from school. *While assigned OSS, a student **may not** attend or participate in extra-curricular activities, including practices, competitions, games, meetings, ceremonies, etc.*

Restorative Discipline: To be proactive when addressing the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of our students, the Muscogee County School District has contracted with This W.O.R.K.S. Inc. We at Fort Service-Learning Magnet Academy have chosen to implement one of their programs - ***A Second Chance W.O.R.K.S.*** The W.O.R.K.S. program uses the social-emotional learning framework with an emphasis on restorative justice to educate the whole child while teaching them how to be accountable for their behavior. Student sessions are conducted during the school day by a principal-designated facilitator who has been thoroughly trained by a W.O.R.K.S. consultant who is licensed by The International Institute for Restorative Practices. The facilitators work with academic teachers, parents, and administrators to individualize services as much as possible to meet the needs of each student in the program. Parent conferences may be required to re-enter the normal school environment following an out-of-school suspension. Parent/student sessions are held weekly, and the time they are offered varies

MOBILE DEVICES AND ACCESSORIES

All electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, earbuds/headphones (wired or wireless), and smartwatches, are to be placed in the off position before entering the school building and must remain off until the end of the day after exiting the building. Cell phones should always be stored in the student's locker and not be visible at any time. Cell phone use is strictly prohibited in the building.

- **1st Offense**—The electronic communication device will be turned in to the principal or designee. The parent/guardian may pick up the device after 3 school days, at the end of the school day between 3:25 and 3:55 p.m., or give an adult written permission to do so (schools may verify by asking for identification of the adult picking up the device).
- **2nd Offense - The Student is assigned one (1) day of lunch detention.** The parent/guardian may pick up the device after five (5) school days (see procedure for 1st Offense).
- **3rd Offense—The Student will have five (5) days of lunch detention.** The parent/guardian may pick up the device after seven (7) school days (see procedure for 1st Offense).
- **4th Offense - The Student is assigned In-School Intervention (ISI) for two (2) days.** The parent/guardian may pick up the device after ten (10) school days. A mandatory parent conference will be held.

If the parent/guardian is adamant that he or she cannot allow the device to be held for the number of days listed in the proposed procedures, the parent/guardian can choose to allow their child to accept **four (4) days of ISI** instead of the device being confiscated.

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 damage, loss, or theft. Parents should consider this carefully when sending devices to school with their child/children. Mobile devices and accessories may not be used during testing.

Classroom Tardy Policy:

Students who are tardy for class periods ILT through 6th period will report directly to class and follow the teacher's tardy protocols.

Non – Compliance Consequences:

- **1st Offense:** Warning and teacher conferences with the student (documented on the tracker)
- **2nd Offense:** Teacher makes verbal contact with a parent, as well as Guidance Counselor, if applicable. (documented on the tracker form)
- **3rd Offense:** Teacher consequence (documented on the tracker form), and parent contact
- **4th Offense:** Referral to the Assistant Principal (attach the tracker form and ODR)
- **5th Offense:** Referral to ISI, and mandatory parent conference



Fort Service-Learning Magnet Academy

Dress Code and Uniform Policy

All students are required to wear school uniforms Monday through Friday.

6th Grade



light blue collared polo-style shirt or sweatshirt.

Accessories



Students are required to wear a belt and Clear Backpacks only.

7th Grade



Yellow collared polo-style shirt or sweatshirt.

Bottoms



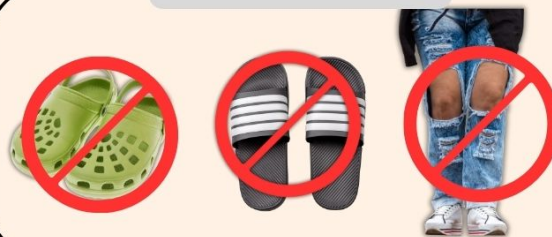
Navy Blue or Khaki Uniform Pants

8th Grade



White collared polo-style shirt or sweatshirt.

Not Permitted!



Slides (Including bubble slides or CROC alternatives), jeans with holes and joggers are **NOT PERMITTED** on our campus. Please review the MCS D and Fort Service-Learning Magnet Academy handbook for more details.

Jacket and Hoodie



School Logo Black Jacket and Gray Hoodie

The only items **PERMITTED** over the uniform shirt during the day are Sweatshirts your grade-level Color or the school-purchased logo gray hoodie or black jacket shown on the left. The collar of the uniform shirt must remain visible at all times. Items with school logo can be purchased from

MYPAYMENTSPLUS.COM



Fort Service-Learning Magnet Academy

NEW SCHOOL POLICY

During the 2025-2026 academic school year, only clear bookbags and clear water bottles will be allowed.

Mesh bags are not allowed -only clear.

No purses, belt bags or fanny packs will be allowed.

A small personal non-clear makeup bag no longer than 5'x7" for female item is allowed.



These procedures are in place to help ensure a safe and secure learning environment.



All food items must be in a lunch bag.

Thank you for your support!

DRESS AND GROOMING RESTRICTIONS

Disruptive dress or grooming will not be permitted. The school administrators shall determine whether any particular mode of dress or grooming violates the FSLMA dress code policy. No clothing or jewelry with emblems representing or suggesting drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products or insignia of gangs may be worn. Clothing with sexual innuendoes will not be permitted. Fake alcohol or drug advertisements are not allowed.

Gang-related clothing or paraphernalia of any kind will not be allowed on campus.

Administrators reserve the right to modify dress code requirements based on individual circumstances.

Students new to FSLMA will have five school days to obtain the appropriate uniform without penalty.

A. HATS

- No hats or visors are to be worn in the classroom, auditorium, cafeteria, media center, and offices
- No hoods are to be worn in the classroom, auditorium, cafeteria, media center, and offices
- No sleep bonnets or shower caps are to be worn at any time.
- No bandanas/scarves/do-rags are to be worn at any time.
- No baklavas, gaiters, or other non-medical masks are to be worn at any time. Medical face masks that cover only the nose and mouth are acceptable.

B. SHIRTS

- No halter tops, spaghetti straps, tube tops, tank tops, net/mesh, see-through, or revealing tops
- No low-cut tops revealing cleavage
- No shirts that show the midriff area
- No muscle shirts ("A" top {"wife beater" tank top})
- Shirts must be worn at all times.

C. PANTS

- No extremely tight or revealing pants. No sagging pants or oversized pants below the line; NO SAGGING
- Underwear or gym shorts cannot be exposed or seen when sitting or standing
- No jeans with holes above the knee are permitted unless leggings are worn underneath
- No pajamas or blankets are allowed
- No leggings or tights unless worn with a top that covers the thighs
- No extreme cut-outs/holes in jeans

Be honest in keeping shirt tucked in all day while at school by tightening belt or wearing appropriate pants	
sagging pants of any kind are NOT permitted	shirts t
	

Be in charge of your own style – but follow the acceptable		
tights/leggings worn as pants are NOT permitted	Styles i	fing
		

D. SKIRTS AND DRESSES

- No shorter than 3 inches above the knee (sticky (post-it) note test)
- If a skirt or dress is designed with a slit, the top of the slit must be no shorter than 3 inches above the knee
- No tight-fitting body suits are to be worn (i.e., onesies)
- No tight-fitting skirts or dresses should be worn

E. SHORTS

- Must fit appropriately and should be worn on the waist
- If shorts can be worn properly on the waist, no belt is required
- Shorts must be no shorter than 3 inches above the knee (post-it note test)

F. SHOES

- Must be worn at all times
- No slides, bedroom slippers, CROCS, shower shoes, fuzzy slippers, or flip-flops are to be worn at any time
- Certain classes may require specific footwear for safety purposes.

G. OTHER ITEMS

- No items or paraphernalia with reference to gangs, drugs, hate, violence, race, or sex.
- Chains on a belt, wallet, key ring, etc., and items with spikes are not permitted.
- No money should be worn on your clothing.

Be considerate of others and dress appropriately in a school.		
	it is offensive to see someone's underwear	even appropriate
		

Dress Code Violation Consequences

- **1st Offense**—Parent contact and student conference. The student will receive a verbal warning and return to class. Documented by the clerk or parent liaison.
- **2nd Offense** – Referral from clerk or parent liaison; 1 day of ISI and parent contact.
- **3rd Offense & beyond** – Referral from clerk or parent liaison, parent contact, and 3 days of ISI.

RESTRICTIONS OF STUDENTS

The following restrictions apply to all students while at school or at school-sponsored functions.

Students may NOT:

- Possess any weapon or instrument designed to do bodily harm, including a knife of any length.
- Possess, drink, or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages.
- Use, furnish, sell, possess, or be under the influence of any narcotic, hallucinogenic, or dangerous drug.
- Commit an act of defiance, either in language or action, against a faculty or staff member.
- Forge, falsify, alter, or illegally possess school forms or use forged notes or excuses.
- Tamper with fire-fighting equipment or emergency alarm systems.
- Write on or deface school property.
- Use vulgar language.
- Gamble in any manner, including playing cards or throwing dice.
- Engage in physical or verbal altercations.
- Leave campus during lunch or at any time during the school day.
- Loiter or wander in the halls during the assigned lunch period.
- Run, play or horseplay in the halls. Unnecessary noise and boisterous behavior will not be tolerated.
- Behave in any manner that threatens the safety, security, or well-being of other students, faculty, or other school personnel.
- Fail to abide by the classroom rules of each of their teachers.
- Engage in inappropriate displays of affection, such as kissing or embracing.
- Throw food or remove food or drinks from the cafeteria.
- Participate in or attend extracurricular activities sponsored by the school if the student is out of school, suspended, or assigned to an alternative school.
- Enter the teachers' lounges or workrooms/mailroom in the Main Building.
- Go to the student parking lot without a pass from an administrator.
- Smoke, use, or possess tobacco/vape products.
- Tamper with a computer or any other form of technology that is the school's property.
- Bring food and drink in the classrooms.
- Order food from delivery services or have outside food delivered to them by a parent, family member, and friend.



SCHOOL TRANSPORTED STUDENTS

Bus transportation provided each day is a privilege, and when students are riding the bus, the driver is in charge. In the morning when bus students arrive at school, they will move immediately to the cafeteria and/or gym area. In the afternoon, all students who ride the bus will report to their bus when called. Appropriate behavior is expected from each student to ensure the safety of all.

SPECIFIC RULES:

1. Hands, arms and heads should be inside the bus at all times.
2. Loud talk and laughter are not allowed.
3. Horseplay is not permitted at the bus stop or on the bus.
4. Never tamper with the bus.
5. Do not leave books, lunch, coats, purses, or other personal possessions on the bus.
6. Do not throw anything out of the window.
7. Do not leave your seat until the bus has stopped.
8. Be very quiet when the bus stops at a railroad crossing - no noise.
9. Any instructions that may be added by the driver of your bus.
10. No food, gum, or drinks allowed.
11. Student must sit facing the front, feet on the floor, and the aisle clear.

We also expect appropriate behavior of bus students at their neighborhood stops. Playing in the street, throwing, wrestling or damaging the neighborhood areas are prohibited, as well as interfering with passing citizens and other students.

Violation of these regulations may result in suspension of bus privileges or suspension from school.

NOTE: A student is not permitted to get off at an unassigned bus stop unless he/she has a written permission from a parent/guardian and the note has been approved by the administration or designee.

These notes must be turned in to the front office staff prior to the student reporting to his/her first period class. A student may pick up his/her note during their lunch period or at the end of the day before leaving and present it to the driver before boarding the bus.

Progressive Disciplinary Actions for Bus Referrals:

1st OFFENSE - Written warning

2nd OFFENSE: 0-3 days bus suspension/Parent contact

3rd OFFENSE: 0-5 days bus suspension/Parent contact

4th OFFENSE: 0-10 days bus suspension/Parent contact

5th OFFENSE: Suspension from the bus for the remainder of the year/Parent contact

Depending on the infraction, the administration reserves the right to forego the progressive disciplinary action.

DEFINITIONS

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty is the attempt by a student to receive credit for work that is not of their own doing. This problem comes in various forms, such as plagiarism, cheating on homework, cheating on tests, taking another student's work and turning it in, copying someone else's work, and using unapproved sources for answers for an assignment. **Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in any form.** If a student is caught cheating, they are subject to disciplinary action.

Accident: A student injured on the campus must report the injury immediately to a teacher so that the appropriate first aid may be administered. An accident report form must be completed and filed in Student Services. Please note that neither students nor visitors to the campus are covered by any insurance policy carried by the school or the school district.

Accident Insurance: The Muscogee County School District offers student accident insurance to all students in the Muscogee County School District. This insurance is available to you at a nominal fee. If you are interested, you may contact the school office for information. If you do not wish to take out Student Accident Insurance, your child's health insurance is your responsibility. *The Muscogee County School District does not carry health coverage for students.*

To qualify for tryouts, all athletic program participants must have a current physical/medical form on file.

Additional Help: Students who are experiencing difficulty with class assignments should make arrangements to stay before or after school for additional help. Students and parents are encouraged to reach out to their teachers for assistance in scheduling extra support.

Authorized Use Policy (AUP): To use the Internet during the school day, a student must complete an AUP form. Both the parent and the student must sign the AUP for it to be valid. Failure to provide the school with a completed and signed AUP may prevent the student from completing classroom assignments that use the Internet.

Bus Passes: Students who live more than 1.5 miles from the school and whose addresses are within the attendance area are eligible to ride the school bus. Parents must complete the online registration process before requesting a bus pass. Riding the bus is a privilege that will be withheld from any student who refuses to follow the rules and regulations governing bus riders outlined in the Muscogee County School District's Behavior Code and Discipline Policy.

Clinic: The clinic is open to all students. Students must first obtain an eHall pass from their teacher to enter the clinic. If a student must take medication during school, a medical authorization form must be filled out and given to the clinic worker. This is necessary for daily and occasionally taken medications, such as aspirin or cough medicine. We must have written authorization from a parent or guardian before any medication can be dispensed. Students who become ill must report to the clinic for parent contact and proper check-out procedures. **Students should not use their cell phones to notify parents of an illness.**

Uniform Clothing Closet: The Muscogee County PTSA, Sara Spano Clothing Bank, and FSLMA sponsor a clothing bank that serves the needs of students enrolled in the district and school. The clothing bank is always in need of clean, usable clothing items appropriate for school wear. Students of all sizes and ages are served. Donations may be brought to school and taken to the attendance office at any time.

Conferences: Parents should contact their student's ILT teacher to schedule a conference with teachers or staff. On the day of the conference, parents must check in with the Attendance Office to acquire a visitor's pass.

Deliveries: Parents are not permitted to bring any items to their children during school hours. The front office will not accept or interrupt instructional time to deliver items to students. Delivery items include, but are not limited to, Chromebooks, homework, book bags, folders, keys, permission slips, uniforms,

lunch, athletic equipment, flowers, balloons, and other similar items. Deliveries from a 3rd party business will not be accepted for students.

Fines: Students must pay all fees in a timely fashion. Students must clear all fines before they are given a schedule in the fall.

Form Return Policy: Throughout the year, students will be given various forms that must be taken home and signed by a parent/guardian. The student is expected to return the form within three (3) school days. **If a problem occurs where the student cannot comply with the policy, it is the student's responsibility to inform the teacher or an administrator of the problem prior to the deadline date.**

eHall Passes: eHall Pass is an electronic hall pass system that enhances school security and streamlines classroom management. Students request an eHall Pass from their teacher for approval through their Chromebook. Students are allowed two eHall Passes per day. The eHall Pass will time out after five minutes, at which time the student should be back in class. Students should not be in the halls during the first 10 minutes or last 10 minutes of each class period.

Magnet, Open Seat, and Hardship Students: All students enrolled under magnet, open seat, or hardship transfers are expected to maintain good academic, attendance, and behavioral standards. Those students who are not in good standing may be withdrawn and required to attend their assigned ("home") school.

Hall Lockers: Lockers will be distributed and assigned to students for \$10. Students are not allowed to share lockers. Students will be assigned a MCSD Chromebook and most, if not all, materials will be electronic which will negate most any need for a locker.

Book Bags and Purses: Students are allowed to carry clear bookbags only. Athletes may carry separate bags and place them in the old gym before the start of school. Refer to the graphic below for approved and non-approved bags. Administration reserves the right to deem any bag that does not adhere to the graphic below as non-approved. The student will leave the bag in the attendance office for the day, take it home at the end of the day, and not bring it back on campus. Disciplinary action may be taken for those who do not adhere to the bag policy.



Gym Lockers: Athletes' lockers will be assigned by their respective coaches, and the head coach of each sport will determine the procedures for usage.

Lost and Found: Students are to check lost and found for personal items lost in the parent liaison office.

Media Center Services: The Media Center is open from 8:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. An e-Hall pass from a teacher is required to visit the Media Center during school hours. Fines are charged for overdue materials.

Medication: Students are not to carry medication (including non-prescription) on their person during the school day. Students who must take medication during school hours must turn in all medication to the school clinician. All medication will be administered by the school clinician at the appropriate time. Medication authorization forms are available in the clinic and must be on file if students are to receive medication. All medication must be given to the school clinician in its original prescription container. Students may carry specific medications on their person, such as inhalers, insulin, and/or auto-injectable epinephrine, which requires a special permission form signed by a licensed physician.

Personal Items: FSLMA assumes no responsibility for the security of personal items. Students should avoid bringing large amounts of money or valuable items (e.g., cell phones, and other electronic devices) to school.

Progress Reports: Student progress may be monitored via Infinite Campus. Parents and/or guardians should ensure you have gained access by securing an access code and completing the program verification process. You can access Infinite Campus through the school's website or download the "App" for free through the iPhone or Android App Stores. If you do not have computer access, a paper copy of the progress report can be made available upon request and sent home with the student. Teachers may elect to distribute the progress reports, but the student and parents/guardians are responsible for monitoring the student's progress. If you need updates from your child's teachers before progress reports or report card distribution, please contact the school so that the teachers can provide you with hard-copy updates. Parents/guardians are advised to contact their child's teacher at least once every 9 weeks or more often if needed to strengthen parent-school relationships.

Report Cards: Report cards are issued at the end of each nine-week grading period. They record achievement, effort, attendance, and teacher comments. All reports will be available via the Parent Portal. The report card is an official school document. Students may be issued a report card to be taken home to their parent/guardian. By the last day of school, all debts are to be cleared and all books returned to the respective teachers. I's (*Incompletes*) must be removed within two weeks of the following grading period; if not, the "I" changes to a grade of "F".

GRADE SCALE

90 - 100	A	Excellent
80-89	B	Above average
70-79	C	Average
Below 69	F	Failing
	I	Incomplete

NOTE: ALL MISSED ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE BY THE END OF THE PROGRESS REPORTING PERIOD OR FIVE DAYS AFTER THE ASSIGNMENT'S DUE DATE, WHICHEVER IS GREATER.

Sales/Cash: Students are prohibited from selling/buying items of any description from one another on the school bus or school grounds. Please make a point of seeing that your child does not carry large sums of money to school. There is rarely a need for students to have money at school. When dance tickets, game tickets, etc., are sold at school, the amount is announced in advance, and students should bring only the needed amount of money with them. **Large sums of money and expensive jewelry are invitations to theft.** The school will not be responsible for the loss or theft of items.

Social Media: FSLMA is very active on Facebook and Instagram. Please check our pages for information, important dates, recognitions, and updates. Our Facebook and Instagram handle is “FSLMA2900.”

Telephone Numbers and Addresses: Please inform the office of any changes to your home/cell phone, work phone, and home address. We must have a working phone number for emergency notification for every student.

Telephone Use: Telephones in the Attendance Office may be used **for emergency use only** during the school day and after school hours.

Visitors: Columbus city ordinance bans unauthorized visitors from driving or parking on campus during the school day. Being in the building without the permission of an administrator is against the law. Students should not invite visitors to the campus without first clearing it with an administrator. All school visitors, speakers, or guests coming to FSLMA must go by the Attendance Office to be issued a visitor’s pass. Visits for strictly social purposes will not be approved. Teachers and students are asked to report suspected trespassers to the office immediately. Trespassers will be turned over to the administration and/or MCSD police.

Website: The FSLMA website is available at <https://sites.muscogee.k12.ga.us/fort/> and provides a wide range of information about the school. It is updated throughout the school year.

Chromebook Policies and Procedures

TAKING CARE OF SCHOOL CHROMEBOOKS

All students have been issued a Chromebook (to include Case and Charger) to use during the school day. Due to the high number of damaged Chromebooks in the past, students are not allowed to take their Chromebooks home. However, a student may receive permission to take their Chromebook home once the parent makes an appointment with the Media Specialist to sign a Chromebook Agreement form.

Students must always be responsible for their Chromebook/Case/Charger. To be good stewards of taxpayer dollars, students must be responsible for caring for their Chromebooks and not damaging them in any way. Chromebooks are to be carried in a case when not in use. Students who damage Chromebooks and accessories can be assessed a replacement fee as per the Board policy (see MCSD Board Policy JS: Student Fees, Fines, and Charges).

General Guidelines

- Students are responsible for the general care of the Chromebook they use in each class.
- If Chromebook damage occurs and is deemed intentional by Principal or their designee, the student may face disciplinary action.
- Cords, cables and removable storage devices should be inserted carefully into the Chromebook.
- Each Chromebook is equipped with a hard, clear plastic case. **This case should not be removed for any reason by the student. Doing so could lead to damage and associated fines/fees.**
- Students should never carry Chromebook while the screen is open.
- Students are not to charge other electronics using the Chromebook. This dramatically shortens the battery life of the device.
- Chromebook screens can be damaged if subjected to rough treatment. The screens are particularly sensitive to damage from excessive pressure.
- Do not lean on the top of the Chromebook when it is closed.
- Do not place anything near the Chromebook that could put pressure on the screen.
- Do not poke the screen with your fingernail or with a pen.
- Do not place anything on the keyboard before closing the lid (ex. pens or papers).
- Students are responsible for their ethical and educational use of the technology resources of MCSD. Each student and parent will be required to follow the required Netbook User Agreement and the MCSD Acceptable Use Policy, as well as all other MCSD policies.
- MCSD has purchased filtering software which is designed to help monitor internet usage and all websites that are accessed. This software blocks inappropriate sites and also logs a history of every site that each user accesses. If a site gets by the filter, MCSD can immediately add it to the filter to be blocked. This software monitors and filters websites when the student is not on the school network. Students who attempt to find inappropriate sites will be redirected to the Principal's office for disciplinary actions.

- Transmission of any material that is in violation of any federal or state law is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to the following: confidential information, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material and computer viruses.
- Any attempt to repair, reconfigure the netbook, alter data or files of another user will be considered an act of vandalism and subject to disciplinary action.
- Teachers have a right to manage and/or restrict student use of the netbook, software and internet within the confines of their classroom.

Privacy and Safety

- Do not participate in chat rooms or send chain letters.
- Do not open, use or change computer files that do not belong to you.
- Do not reveal your full name, phone number, home address, social security number, credit card numbers password or passwords to other people.
- Remember that storage is not guaranteed to be private or confidential.
- If you inadvertently access a web site that contains obscene, pornographic or otherwise offensive material, notify a parent, teacher or the principal immediately so that such sites can be blocked from further access. This is not merely a request; it is a responsibility.
- Do not attempt to bypass or circumvent security protocols (firewalls, proxy servers, etc.).

Chromebook Identification

- Students **will not** remove any MCSD property/asset stickers, Windows product key, or serial number sticker. This is considered technology tampering and vandalism and the student may be subject to disciplinary action for doing so.

Password Protection

- Students are expected to use and keep their logon password confidential.
- Disciplinary action may result due to actions of an unauthorized user.

Care and Use of School Property - Chromebooks, Textbooks, and Media Center Checkouts:

Students will be held responsible for the proper care of all books, supplies, Chromebooks, and accessories or equipment furnished to them by the school. A student who defaces, damages, or loses school property shall be required to pay for the damage or loss (see MCSD Board Policy JS: Student Fees, Fines, and Charges).

A Parent/Student must pay all fees and fines owed to the school in a timely fashion. Parent/Student must clear all fines or fees during the year the fines are assessed. Fines must be paid/cleared where they were assessed and before moving to the next level in school.

School Nutrition Program (SNP)

School Year 2026

The 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) must meet to be in compliance with their guidelines. Caloric and nutrient requirements are based on age and grade. Also, the MCSD Board Approved Wellness Program (EEE and EE-R) encourages and promotes healthy guidelines to be followed. 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 are to be captured at the point of sale. Pin pads, bar code scanners or student look-up 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-eight of our schools are CEP schools. Please contact your student's school office or call the School Nutrition Office at (706) 748-2386 to see if your student's school is a CEP school.

CEP schools School Year 2025-2026:

Aaron Cohn Middle School, Allen Elementary School, Arnold Magnet Academy, Baker Middle School, Blackmon Road Middle, Blanchard Elementary School, Brewer Elementary School, Carver High School, Clubview Elementary School, J.D. Davis Elementary School, Dimon Magnet Academy, Dorothy Height Elementary School, Double Churches Elementary, Double Churches Middle School, Downtown Magnet Academy, Eagle Ridge Academy, East Columbus Magnet Academy, Eddy Middle School, Forrest Road Elementary School, Fort Middle School, Fox Elementary School, Gentian Elementary School, Georgetown Elementary School, Hannan Magnet Academy, Hardaway High School, Johnson Elementary School, Jordan High School, Kendrick High School, Key Elementary School, Lonnie Jackson Academy, Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School, Mary A. Buckner Academy, Midland Academy, Midland Middle School, North Columbus Elementary School, Northside High School, Rainey McCullers School of the Arts, Reese Road Leadership Academy, Richards Middle School, Rigdon Road Elementary School, River Road Elementary School, Rothschild Leadership Academy, Shaw High School, South Columbus Elementary School, Spencer High School, Veterans Memorial Middle School, Waddell Elementary School, Wesley Heights Elementary School, Wynnton Arts Academy

Families may use www.MySchoolBucks.com to add money to their student's account for the purchase of Ala Carte items.

Menus

Monthly menus can be found on the Muscogee County School District website under the families tab. Menus may change on a very 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. Special Dietary Needs Form can be found on the Muscogee County School District website under the School Nutrition tab, or in the school clinic or cafeteria. Forms should be turned into the school nurse or clinic worker who will then provide the information to the Nutrition Specialist. The Nutrition Specialist will review the information and discuss the meal modifications with the cafeteria manager. You may contact the School Nutrition office at 706-748-3220 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 a lunch.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Updated 7/2/2025

Fort Middle School Alma Mater

In the pines of East Columbus,
Stands a school we love.
Memories to last a lifetime,
Blessed from Heaven above.

In the halls of dear old Fort,
Friends we've come to know.
As our minds grow.

Chorus:

Fort Middle School, we adore you,
We will 'ere be true,
And pledge to you to be loyal,
Love you gold and blue!

In the walls of this dear school,
Our spirit here remains,
Join with us in one last chorus,
Joyful, true refrains.

(Repeat Chorus)

Created by: *Mr. Marcus Rogers and his
Enrichment Class, May 2009*

Clubs/Organizations Description

ACADEMIC BOWL TEAM- The PAGE Academic Bowl for Middle Grades is a quiz bowl competition for teams of students in sixth through eighth grades enrolled in public and private schools throughout Georgia.

ART CLUB- The Art Club brings artists together to share their interests and enrich their experiences in art, as well as making creative contributions to the community.

DANCE TEAM- The dance team performs during basketball season, pep rallies, Black History Month performances, and various activities throughout the year.

DRAMA CLUB- Drama Club provides interest in theatre through the presentation of plays and performances. Drama Club is a way for middle school students to use their acting and other theatrical skills in a productive setting, outside of the classroom.

FCA- The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) is a student-led organization that unites athletes and non-athletes alike to explore faith, character, and leadership through a Christian perspective. It's open to all students, regardless of their athletic involvement or religious background.

HELEN RUFFIN READING BOWL- The Georgia Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl is open to students in grades four through twelve across the state. It is a state-wide reading initiative to increase student achievement and reading comprehension, as students develop a deeper appreciation for literature, enhance verbal communication skills, promote cooperation, build self-esteem, and develop team spirit.

MATH CLUB - The Math Club provides a platform for students with a genuine interest in math and prepares them for the MCSD Middle School Mathematics Competition.

NJHS- The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) elevates a school's commitment to the values of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship and helps middle-level students develop the knowledge and skills to become well-rounded student leaders in their school, community, and beyond.

FORT Leaders (Peer Helpers)- Our FORT Leaders are a group of student volunteers who play an integral role in delivering programs and services to their peers.

ROBOTICS CLUB- This organization offers a deep dive into STEM activities as students prepare for LEGO and other robotics competitions.

SPELLING BEE- A school-wide competition where contestants are asked to spell English words, and the winners advance to district, state, and national level competitions.

STUDENT COUNCIL- The Student Government is an elected group of students who are responsible for promoting school spirit and awareness of others (through activities such as the canned food drive). Each 6th through 8th grade class has representation with officers elected from those grades.

*** Additional clubs may be found on the FSLMA website.

Fort Service-Learning Magnet Academy 2025-2026

Regular Bell Schedule

Students enter the building 7:40a-8:05

ILT 8:10a-8:35a

1st Period 8:40a- 9:35a

2nd Period 9:40a-10:35a

3rd Period 10:40a-11:35a

4th Period 11:40a-1:10p

Lunch A 11:45a- 12:10p

Lunch B 12:15p-12:40p

Lunch C 12:45p-1:10p

5th Period 1:15p-2:10p

6th Period 2:15p-3:10p

July 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

1-25 Summer Break
4 Independence Day Observed
28-31 Teacher Planning/Staff Development Days

August 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

1 Teacher Planning/Staff Development Days
4 1st Day of School/1st Semester Begins

September 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

1 Labor Day
4 Progress Reports
19 Virtual Learning Day



2025-26 School Year Calendar

- Student/teacher holiday
- Semester start dates
- Teacher planning/staff development/student holiday
- Virtual Day
- Last Day for Students

October 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

6 End of Nine Weeks
8 Report Cards
9 Teacher Planning/Staff Development Day
10-13 Fall Break

November 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

11 Veterans Day
12 Progress Reports
24-28 Thanksgiving Break

December 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

19 1st Semester Grading Period Ends
23-31 Winter Break

January 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

1-2 Winter Break
5 Teacher Planning/Staff Development Day
6 2nd Semester Begins
7 Report Cards
19 Martin Luther King Jr., Day

February 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

6 Progress Reports
13 Teacher Planning/Staff Development Day
16 Presidents Day

March 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

12 End of 3rd Nine Weeks
17 Report Cards
30 Spring Break

April 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

1-3 Spring Break
21 Progress Reports

May 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

20-23 Graduation
21 Last Day/Report Cards (Elementary)
25 Memorial Day
22-26 Teacher Post Planning
26 Report Cards (Secondary)
27-29 Summer Break

June 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

1-30 Summer Break