

Jones Middle School

Student and Parent Handbook

2023-2024



3575 Ridge Road

Buford, Georgia 30519

Website: www.glennjonesms.org

Mr. Glenn C. Jones

“A Lifetime and Legacy of Service”

Mr. Glenn C. Jones graduated from Lawrenceville High School in 1932. That same year, he started his career of educating children at Bethesda School. In 1933, he began teaching at Bristol Academy and then later moved to Zion Hill School. Glenn Jones moved to Harmony Junior High in 1938 and remained there for 35 years! While at Harmony, Mr. Jones taught a full load of classes, drove the bus, coached basketball, rang the bell for class changes, stoked the coal stoves, began one of the first school lunch programs, and found time to be the principal. His impact on students and their families has been immeasurable; and he continues to provide unending inspiration to the faculty and staff of Glenn C. Jones Middle School where his legacy of helping all children continues every day!

Our Vision:

Jones Middle School will become a world-class school where students acquire the knowledge and skills to be successful in high school, college and careers.

Our Mission:

The mission of Jones Middle School is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each student, resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.

We Believe...

- Our school will educate and inspire each child to become a productive citizen who contributes to society.
- Our shared beliefs and mission will guide our behavior and decisions.
- Our climate will be characterized by order, security, kindness, and service to others.
- Our work will be characterized by care for our students, for their parents, and for our colleagues.
- Our teachers will be experts in their fields, dedicated to refining their craft & collaborating with each other.
- Our challenging, engaging, and inspiring lessons will provide academic rigor for all students.
- Our teachers and students set and achieve high academic and performance goals.
- Our students will exhibit leadership qualities necessary for meaningful relationships and future endeavors.
- Our partnership with our community will provide our students with an unparalleled educational experience.

General Information

School Administration

Ms. Lin Thornton	Principal
Ms. Charmaine Grey	7th Grade Assistant Principal
Mr. Stacy James	8th Grade Assistant Principal
Dr. Felecia McClain-Sturdivant	Special Education Assistant Principal
Ms. Lindsay Moore	6th Grade Assistant Principal

Daily Schedule

6	8:50 – 9:20 Homeroom & Daily Huddle	9:20-9:50 JAG Time	9:50-10:55 Academic Period 1	10:55-12:25 Academic Period 2 + Lunch	12:25-12:28 Transition 12:28-1:08 Connection A	1:08-1:10 Transition 1:10-1:50 Connection B	1:50-1:53 Transition 1:53-2:58 Academic Period 3	2:58-4:00 Academic Period 4
7			9:50-10:55 Academic Period 1	10:55-12:00 Academic Period 2	12:00-1:30 Academic Period 3 + Lunch	1:30-2:35 Academic Period 4	2:35-2:38 Transition 2:38-3:18 Connection A	3:18-3:20 Transition 3:20-4:00 Connection B
8			9:50-10:55 Academic Period 1	10:55-10:58 Transition 10:58-11:38 Connection A	11:38-11:40 Transition 11:40-12:20 Connection B	12:20-12:23 Transition 12:23-1:53 Academic Period 2 + Lunch	1:53-2:58 Academic Period 3	2:58-4:00 Academic Period 4

Arrival and Dismissal

Car Rider Procedures

- To minimize the car line backing up onto Ridge Road and to maintain safety, the car rider line will wrap along the side of the school.
- Parents are expected to drop off and pick up students in the front of the school along the curb. Staff will direct vehicle movement and the unloading or loading of students.
- Students should not exit vehicles in other areas of the parking lot (unless with a parent).

➤ **Morning Drop-Off**

- If your child is attending study hall, tutoring, intramurals, or any other club/activity, they may be dropped off between 7:50 – 8:15AM. Drop off is on the side of the building at the cafeteria doors. There is no student entry through the front doors until 8:50AM.
- Any student that arrives between 8:15 – 8:50AM must remain in their vehicle until the 8:50AM bell.
- Pull up to the drop off sign before letting your child out of the car in the mornings.
- Be sure your child is prepared to quickly exit the car when you come to a complete stop.
- Only turn right out of the parking lot to keep traffic moving.
- Only let your child out of the car in our designated locations for drop off (not the parking lot).
- After 9:20AM, please park and check your child in tardy.

➤ **Afternoon Pick-Up**

- Students will be dismissed at 4PM and will exit through the front doors and will be supervised by adults.
- Communicate with your child at 4PM where you are in the car rider line.
- Pull all the way forward before stopping to let your child in your vehicle.
- Only turn right out of the driveway.
- Students may be picked up at Zion Hill Baptist Church or Ivy Creek Elementary School. We have adjust who escort/supervise students until they are off campus safely.

Bus Riders

- During afternoon dismissal, students must be silent and listen carefully for their bus number.
- Students may only ride their assigned bus to and from school.
- A bus pass must be requested by a parent to JMS to ride an unassigned bus.
- Requests for long-term bus changes must be approved by the GCPS District Transportation Office.
- Riding a school bus is a privilege. Improper conduct on the bus will result in suspended privileges.

Walkers

- Walker will be issued a walker tag for their bookbag. Must be clearly visible.
- Walker tag permission forms/requests can be found on the JMS website.
- Walkers will be escorted along a designated path to exit campus.

Student Checkouts & Picture ID

Requirement

Students will only be released from school to parents or to a person who has been approved and identified by a parent in the student profile information. *Picture ID will be requested by the office staff before the student will be released. Students will not be allowed to check out after 3:30 p.m. Please keep this in mind when scheduling appointments.

Visitors

Please come to the front door of the school, ring the doorbell and a staff member will assist you in entering the building. All visitors are required to report directly to the front desk and sign in with the office clerk. A **visitor's badge will be issued and must be worn while on the school campus.** Please come and visit with us or volunteer through the PTSA. We welcome you.

Attendance

Students are encouraged to attend school every day. Daily attendance positively impacts a student's academic achievement. Parents are encouraged to contact the school each day a student is absent. If a child is absent, parents are required to submit a note stating the reason for the absence. **Parent notes for excused absences must be submitted within 2 weeks of the absence.** Doctor's notes will be accepted at any time. Attendance will be monitored by the administration. *Parents of students surpassing 5 unexcused absences will be contacted by the school.

➤ Extended Absence

If a student is absent for an extended amount of time (more than two days), a parent should email each teacher prior to the extended absence. Parents may refer to teacher eCLASS pages for missing assignments/information.

➤ Make-Up Work

It is the responsibility of the student to communicate with his/her teachers after an absence to secure any missed assignments and due dates.

Digital Learning Days

Four Digital Learning Days are scheduled throughout the school year. These are also Teacher Planning Days. Additional Digital Learning Days may be necessary due to inclement weather or other emergency situations.

Scheduled Digital Learning Days for 2023-2024

- Friday, September 15th
- Friday, November 3rd
- Friday, February 2nd
- Friday, March 15th

What to Expect on Digital Learning Days?

- Students will access each of their teacher's eClass pages to locate the DLD lesson for the day.
- Lessons will be asynchronous, and students will work through their assignments independently.
- There will be no Zoom sessions, nor a set schedule on those days.
- Students are free to access lessons throughout the day at their time of choosing.
- Teachers are available by email to assist students throughout the day should questions arise.

How Do I Support My Child During Digital Learning Days?

- Identify an appropriate place to work (preferably at a desk/table.) Ensure necessary materials.
- Encourage your student to be mentally present- resist the urge to multi-task (i.e. toggling among other screens, watching TV, playing games, using social media, etc...)
- Review grades in the Parent Portal and encourage your child to complete any graded assignments that were not turned in. Digital Days are a great time to make up late work!
- Communicate to your child that you expect them to access each class and complete assignments.
- Ask your child to show you his/her completed assignments for all 6 classes that evening.
- Have discussion with your child about school. What are they learning about in their classes?
- Should your child have questions or need additional support, he or she may email the teacher.

Grading

Numerical Grading System

- All students are issued numerical grades. The official grading system for GCPS is as follows:
 - A = 90 – 100
 - B = 80 – 89
 - C = 70 – 79
 - U/F = Below 70

Gradebook Assessments

- All classes will be assigned at least 5 graded summative assessments during each semester.
- All classes will be assigned between 14 and 20 graded formative assignments each semester.
- All classes will take a final exam at the end of each semester.

Grade Weights

- Grade weights vary by course; however, grades from all courses will include classwork, quizzes, projects, summative assessments, and other graded tasks as shared by the teachers.

Make-up Work/Work not turned in (NTI)

- Unless absent, a student is expected to submit work on time to the appropriate teacher when it is due.
- When absent, it is the student's responsibility to ask for assignments missed and check the teacher's eCLASS page. It is the student's responsibility to turn in make-up work.
- As a general rule, students are given two days to turn in make-up work for each day absent. However, teachers will work with students on an individual basis, as needed.
- Any work not turned in will be recorded in the grade book as an "NTI" (not turned in) until the work is received by the teacher and graded.
- An "NTI" is factored into the grade book as a ZERO and greatly impacts a student's overall grade. It is the student's responsibility to follow up with the teacher regarding NTIs.

Weekly Progress and Parent Portal

- Teachers will email grade reports periodically to the parent email address located in the portal.

Please make sure this information is updated and check your spam folder. Parents and students always have access to current grades in both the Parent and Student Portals.

Midterm Grades & Semester Report Cards

- Semester 1 Midterm Grade Report- October (via email)
- Semester 1 Report Cards are sent home in early January
- Semester 2 Midterm Grade Report- March (via email)
- Semester 2 Report Cards are mailed home after school ends in May

Promotion Criteria

6th Grade:

The guideline for promotion from grade six to grade seven is: Students should pass five out of six subjects each semester. (Language Arts and Mathematics should be two of the five subjects passed.) Passing a course is determined by the student earning a grade average of no less than 70 percent each semester.

7th Grade:

The guideline for promotion from grade seven to grade eight is: Students should pass five out of six subjects each semester. (Language Arts and Mathematics should be two of the five subjects passed.) Passing a course is determined by the student earning a grade average of no less than 70 percent each semester.

8th Grade:

The guideline for promotion from grade eight to grade nine is: Students should pass five out of six subjects each semester. (Language Arts and Mathematics should be two of the five subjects passed.) Passing a course is determined by the student earning a grade average of no less than 70 percent each semester. Eighth grade students should score Grade Level or Above on the Reading and Vocabulary domain of the Language Arts Georgia Milestones End of Grade (EOG) Assessment and achieve the performance level of developing or higher on the Mathematics Georgia Milestones.

Home-School Communication

Parents should verify the accuracy of their contact information at the beginning of each school year, or they can update this information in the Parent Portal. In addition, if changes to contact information occur during the school year, parents should contact the school office to let staff know of those changes, or update via the Portal. This will improve communication throughout the year and ensure that your family will receive messages sent through SchoolMessenger.

SchoolMessenger

GCPS sends emergency notifications such as school closings and safety alerts by phone, text, and/or email via SchoolMessenger. All Jones Middle School general/non-emergency notifications will be sent by email using SchoolMessenger. SchoolMessenger messages from Gwinnett County Public Schools will come from the number 1-844-248-6644. Please add this phone number to your contacts so you can easily identify the call as

coming from Gwinnett County Public Schools. If you miss a phone message, you can call this number back to retrieve and replay phone notifications.

GCPS Parent Portal

The Parent Portal provides a tremendous amount of information to you about your child. In the Parent Portal you can view your child's grades from this year and past years, lunch balance, State/National Test Scores from previous years, Transformation information, Discipline, Attendance Records, and more.

- <https://vimeo.com/443451764>- English
- <https://vimeo.com/443479056>- Spanish
- If you don't have a Parent Portal account, go to the JMS Webpage and print Parent Portal Form.
- Bring form to the front office desk with a picture ID.
- Go to the Jones Middle School Webpage <https://www.gcpsk12.org/JonesMS>
- Under PARENTS Click on Parent Portal.
- Trouble logging in or seeing all of your children? Email malena.mitchell@gcpsk12.org

eClass Notifications

Students & parents can be notified by email when items are added or updated on teachers' eClass Course pages.

- Go to the student's eClass course page.
- In the top right corner, click on the drop down next to the child's name.
- Click Notifications. Enter and email address.
- Chose what items you want to be notified about your child's eClass pages.

Student Portal

The Student Portal provides students access to online textbooks and resources, as well as the ability to monitor their classroom grades. Students may access teachers' daily assignments, has important information, school dates, and teacher contact information. From the Jones webpage, go to Students -> My eClass and log in with your portal log-in. <https://publish.gwinnett.k12.ga.us/gcps/home/gcpslogin>

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to work together cooperatively. Please feel free to request an in-person or virtual conference with your child's teacher at any time. An Early Release Conference may be requested by your child's teacher during the month of October and/or March. Teachers or parents may also request parent conferences as needed throughout the year.

Student Academic Support and Tutoring

Weekly Morning Tutoring: 8:20 – 8:50

- Monday Language Arts Tutoring
- Tuesday Math Tutoring
- Wednesday Science Tutoring
- Thursday Social Studies Tutoring
- Fridays Connections Tutoring

No pass or required appointment on designated days.

Jag Time

Jag Time is a daily, 30-minute period dedicated to academic remediation and/or enrichment. This period also serves as a time for students to engage in social emotional learning (SEL), which is provided through our counseling and advisement programs.

Student Support Team

The Student Support Team (SST) exists to help classroom teachers identify students that are having difficulty either academically or behaviorally and to recommend alternative instructional strategies for that student. The team reviews and considers all available information about an individual student. Parents and/or teachers can refer a student to the SST Committee. If a parent has any questions concerning the referral process, he or she should contact either the student's teacher or assistant principal.

Academic Assistance Program (AAP)

The Academic Assistance Program provides intervention and credit recovery for students who do not achieve a passing grade after 1st semester. AAP (Semester Academic Assistance Program) information sheets and schedules are sent home in January.

Counseling Department

School counseling services are available to all students. A counselor is assigned to each grade level. The goal for the guidance and counseling program is to help students be academically and personally successful. The Jones Middle School Counselors will work closely with “at-risk” students in order to help these students be more successful. Shena Manning: 6th Grade/Nathan Shope: 7th Grade/Ashley White: 8th Grade.

Dress Code

Clothing-

ALL clothing should provide sufficient coverage.

Hats and Hoods-

Headgear is prohibited in the building. This includes, but is not limited to, caps, hats, hoods, bandanas, wave caps, sweatbands, or any other head covering. *Exceptions for religious or medical reasons.

Shoes-

Health & safety regulations require that footwear be worn at all times at school. No slippers.

Undergarments-

Undergarments should not be visible. Bathing suits of any kind are not allowed.

Outerwear-

Students may not wear trench coats or other long coats resembling the style of a trench coat to school. Students may not wear blankets, capes, or costumes to school.

Words and Images-

No student clothing shall display words or symbols that advocate or depict violence, drugs, alcohol, sex, illegal gang affiliation or other illegal activity expressed or implied. No student clothing or accessories shall be disruptive or have caused past disruption to the school environment.

Jewelry and Accessories-


Jewelry and accessories that may be used as weapons are not allowed to be at school. This includes, but is not limited to, wallet chains, jewelry such as spiked rings, spiked bracelets, two or three finger rings that are joined and bulky chains worn around the neck or waist. Sharp objects that could pose a danger, such as spikes or safety pins, are not allowed on clothing or book bags.

Gang Affiliated Attire-

Students are not allowed to display clothing or symbols that have been identified by the Gwinnett County Police Gang Task Force as being commonly identified with gangs. Garments, jewelry, body art and tattoos that

communicate gang allegiance are not allowed to be worn at school, and no item may be worn in a manner that communicates gang affiliation.

School-Wide Behavioral Expectations

	Classroom	Lunch (Cafe, Classroom or Outside)	Hallway	Restroom	Virtual
Responsible	Be active in class and prepared with all materials. Complete assignments on time.	Get meal in orderly manner and report to lunch area quickly. Pick up any food or trash left on tables or floors.	Go directly to your destination. Maintain an inside voice level at all times inside.	Wash your hands. Clean up after yourself. Report inappropriate behavior and damage.	Be on time with needed materials and a fully charged device. Only visit websites that are approved by your teacher.
Respectful	Be kind and courteous toward your teachers and fellow students. Listen and show empathy.	Leave the lunch area clean and ready for others. Use an inside voice. Be kind to all in the cafeteria (students and staff alike).	Walk quietly and keep your hands and feet to yourself as you stay to the right.	Use facilities appropriately. Give everyone privacy in the restrooms.	Keep your video on with microphone muted when not speaking. Focus on the instruction.
Reflective	How do my words and actions help build our classroom community?	How do my words and actions allow others to enjoy their meal?	Do I move in a manner that does not interfere with learning or safety of others?	How do my words and actions respect privacy of others?	Does my digital footprint positively represent myself, my peers and my school?

*Jones Middle School Jaguars are **Responsible** students who are **Respectful** to everyone and **Reflective** of their actions.*

Students who violate minor classroom rules, may receive a teacher assigned citation and consequence. These consequences may include but not limited to: warning, silent lunch, conference, or teacher detention. Teachers will notify parents when a citation has been issued.

PARENT INFORMATION

Cell Phones & Electronic Devices

Gwinnett County Board of Education permits students to have in their possession a cell phone on a limited basis. *If you need to contact your student, please call the front office at 770-904-5450 and we will be happy to deliver the message.* **Students are responsible for the security of their cell phones. During school hours, students should have their cell phones silenced and put away. Students who violate the policy will receive consequences.**

“Away for the Day” Electronic Devices

All middle school students in Gwinnett County Public Schools will be issued a Chromebook to keep and use for instructional purposes. Students will no longer have any instructional reason to rely on a cell phone as their “device” needed for school. Due to the 1:1 Chromebook initiative, here is our “Away for the Day” electronic device expectation.

- With the implementation of 1:1 Chromebooks, there is no longer any need for a student to use a cell phone as an instructional device.
- Upon arrival, students are expected to silence/turn off their phones and store them in their backpacks where they will remain for the duration of the school day. Cell phones and other devices should not be visible or in use during the school day.
- Students are not to keep cell phones or earbuds/headphones on their person. Students are expected to have **WIRED** earbuds daily to accompany their district-issued Chromebook for necessary instructional purposes.
- If a student needs to contact home for any reason, they may do so from any school office phone. If you need to contact your student, please call the front office at 770-904-5450.
- Students assume all responsibility for any personal electronic devices brought to school.
- If a personal electronic device of any kind is lost, stolen, or damaged,
the school is not responsible for restitution nor is the school obligated to investigate.

If a student fails to adhere to the “Away for the Day” policy, he/she will be subject to the following consequences:

- **1st offense** – The teacher reminds the student of the “Away for the Day” expectation and sends the student to the grade level administrator to receive a warning.
- **2nd offense** - The teacher reminds the student of the “Away for the Day” expectation and sends the student to the grade level administrator to secure their device for the remainder of the day. The student will retrieve their device at the end of the school day. A parent/guardian will be contacted via email.
- **3rd offense** – The teacher reminds the student of the “Away for the Day” expectation and sends the student to the grade level administrator to secure their device for the remainder of the day. The student will receive an administrative consequence and a parent will be contacted to retrieve the cell phone.

This along with other supports, will help provide a safer environment for students and will allow us to continue to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each student.

Outside Food and Deliveries

Parents are discouraged from bringing items such as lunches, gym bags, and books to school to be delivered to students. Interruption of classes to deliver these items interferes with instruction. We cannot deliver flowers, gifts, or fast-food lunches to students. Students who arrive to school with outside food or non-water specialty drinks must consume these food and beverage items prior to 1st period.

School Property

Tech devices, textbooks, musical instruments, library books and other school equipment and/or property

should be considered on loan for the period the student uses such equipment or material. In the event of loss or abuse of instruments, equipment or property, restitution will be determined by the amount it costs to replace or repair instruments, equipment or school property.

➤ **Technology Device Checkout Guidelines**

- Devices should be maintained by the student while checked out.
- Any issues with the device should be reported to the school immediately.
- All devices checked out to students must be checked back in at the school's determined date.
- Upon their return, devices will be assessed for damage and fines may be assigned based on the damage in order to cover the cost of replacement parts and repairs.
- If a device is returned in good condition, no fine will be assigned.
- Device services will be turned off and replacement fines will be assigned if not returned.

Personal Property Responsibility

Any personal property that will cause disruption at school or on the bus will not be permitted. While the school will make every reasonable effort to protect personal property, the school cannot be responsible for its security. When personally owned electronic devices, cell phones, earbuds, rented instruments, or equipment and the like are brought to school, the school cannot assume responsibility for loss or damage. That responsibility remains with the student and parents.

Student Insurance

Student Accident Insurance, which provides coverage specifically for accidental injuries, is made available through our partnership with K & K Insurance. The plan, which has several coverage options, is best used as a supplement to your child's existing insurance policies. Because GCPS does not cover injuries that occur at school, we encourage parents to consider this reasonably priced insurance product.

For full details about the K & K Student Accident Insurance program, including coverage options and pricing, please review one of these downloadable files at <https://www.gcpsk12.org/Page/24706>.

Meals: Lunch & Breakfast

Students will use their student ID cards (issued by the school) in lieu of keypads at the register. To ensure Free and Reduced Lunch opportunities parents must fill out a FRL form at the beginning of each school year. (See details and website below to access the application.)

Free and Reduced Lunch Application:

The online application is available 24/7 and is a secure environment at <https://www.nlappscloud.com/>. Parents are welcome to complete and submit an online application form at any time after July 15, 2022. When you submit your online form, please make sure you receive a confirmation number. Later, you will be able to use this number to find out the status of your child's online application. Your child's approved Free or Reduced Price eligibility status from SY22-23 will be available through September 15, 2023, so that you have time to complete a new application for SY23-24.

Medication

The faculty and staff of Jones Middle School are vitally interested in the health and welfare of all students; however, the administration, teachers and staff are not licensed physicians or nurses. No employee will furnish a student with any medicine, including aspirin or similar non-prescription medications, except those designated staff members assigned to the clinic.

To ensure the safety of all students at our school, the following guidelines will be followed when medications are to be sent to school.

1. All medications, prescription and over the counter, require completion of the Administration of Medication Request Form. **Parents must bring medication to the clinic for safe storage.**
2. If a request is made that an over-the-counter medication be administered on a long-term basis (more than one week) or an on-demand basis, then a doctor's statement may be required explaining the necessity for the medication.
3. All medications must be in the ORIGINAL CHILD-PROOF CONTAINER. Prescription medications must be in the labeled prescription bottle. Medications stored in envelopes, baggies, etc. will not be administered.
4. Please try to administer all prescription and over-the-counter medicine at home when possible. Parents should check with their physician regarding the need for medications to be administered during school hours. Medications prescribed for three times daily often can be given before school, after school and at bedtime.
5. Students should never keep medicine in their possession while attending school. All medicines, prescription and non-prescription (i.e. Tylenol, aspirin, etc.) must be kept in the clinic and administered there. Students, who are in possession of medication, such as Tylenol, or their own prescription medication, are subject to disciplinary action as outlined under Gwinnett County Public Schools Code of Conduct Rule. Following this guideline will help us ensure that medications are properly controlled and properly administered at school.
6. Students will not be called out of classes to take their medicine. We are committed to ensuring that learning time is protected. Calling a child out of class to take their medicine interrupts the learning of all children. We

must insist that parents provide the necessary reminders and motivation for children to remember to report to the clinic to take their medicine.

Connections Program

Students have two Connections classes each semester in addition to their regular academic classes. Band, Orchestra, Chorus, DLI, Guitar, and Spanish (grades 7 and 8) are year-long connections classes. Students in these programs rotate into one other new connections class each semester.

Connections Course Options:

Physical Education

Students are instructed in a variety of exercise techniques, recreational sports and AKS based skills to improve the quality of their life and wellness.

Health

All grade levels are instructed in the state required Health classes. Proactive lessons are taught informing students of the issues of wellness, drug awareness, and a host of vital age-appropriate issues.

Engineering

Studies in robotics, computer assisted drafting and a variety of technology-based activities are provided in this state of the art lab setting.

Computer Science

These courses will provide an exploratory foundation in computer programming, information systems, networking, and cybersecurity.

Choral Program

Chorus is offered at all three grade levels. Students are instructed in vocal techniques, music theory, and performance skills. Opportunities are available for involvement in district, state, and community choirs.

Band Program

In band, students follow the prescribed three-year program. Instrumental instruction, music theory, and performance skills are a part of the musical skills experience.

Orchestra Program

Strings classes are offered in all levels. Students are instructed in violin, cello, viola, and bass while being

taught the fundamentals of music. Theory, history, performance and appreciation are important parts of this three-year program.

Music Technology

Students will be exposed to electric keyboards, Apple software applications and other fun musical experiences.

Guitar

Guitar is currently offered to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Students are taught the fundamentals of music as well as theory, history, performance and appreciation.

Art

Students in the visual arts program are given instruction in the elements digital design and 2D, 3D art including pottery, art history, painting, and art appreciation.

Theater

Students will explore acting and improvisation. They learn the basic techniques of acting and character and voice development as well as presentation skills and script writing.

Spanish

Sixth grade students are introduced to the Spanish language customs and cultures during a semester period. A year-long program is available to students in grades 7 and 8. Students completing this program and passing the proficiency exam may enter high school in second year Spanish. Carnegie units are available for this course in middle school.

Dual Language Immersion

Students continue their elementary Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Spanish experience through Connections at the middle school level. As 6th graders, all DLI students will take a yearlong Advanced Language and Literacy course. There are two semester long options for 6th graders as well: Culture & History and Media Literacy.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Cheerleading

The Jones Middle School Jaguars have spirited cheerleaders made up of seventh and eighth grade students. The main purpose of the Jaguar cheerleaders is to promote and uphold school spirit, develop a sense of good sportsmanship among the students, and to foster a better relationship among schools during basketball season. To try out for cheerleading, students must meet certain criteria. Members of the squad are expected to adhere to a set of requirements agreed to at the time of selection. Satisfactory conduct, effort and grades are mandatory requirements for team membership.

Basketball

Jones Middle School has a basketball program for 7th and 8th grade students interested in trying out. Members of the basketball team are chosen based upon effort, grades, conduct, and basketball ability. A one-week try-out session for boys and girls emphasizing drills and scrimmaging will determine who will make the team. Players are selected for each team based upon the coaches' assessment of potential. Uniforms are provided free of charge for team members. Satisfactory conduct, effort, and grades are mandatory requirements for team membership.

Step Team

Students have the opportunity to prepare for basketball half-time routines with arrangements based on rhythm and dance. The Step Team performs at home basketball games.

Intramural Program

During the fall and spring, Jones Middle School has a before school intramural program for students. This program is designed to involve all students and to provide sports activities among groups of students within the local school. Students must have a signed permission form to stay after school for intramurals.

Responsible Use of Electronic Media for Students (version 053012)

Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) recognizes that the use of technology is prevalent in society. Students and staff have access to the Internet, cell phones, games, and a variety of personal technology devices. Students and staff utilize social media websites and applications as well as a variety of other digital resources that allow them to interact, share, create and innovate. Staff members utilize these same resources as a means to effectively engage and motivate student learning and collaborate with colleagues.

When using GCPS technology or network access, students are expected to follow the Student Conduct Behavior Code, including respecting others' privacy. Online student accounts to be used for legitimate educational purposes will be subject to monitoring and review, including review of text and attachments that are related to that student or students. At NO TIME should a student consider GCPS e-mail, networked applications, or account or technology access private or confidential in any way.

While the school district does maintain internet filters, there may be times when a student may accidentally or purposefully discover inappropriate materials online. Gwinnett County Public Schools DOES NOT CONDONE the use of such materials. Inappropriate use of GCPS technology or network access is a violation of the Student Conduct Behavior Code.

Access is a privilege, not a right, and all students are expected to treat this learning tool with respect. GCPS technology, network access, and electronic resources must not be used to:

-Harm other people, interfere with other people's work, or steal property.

- Gain unauthorized access to other people's files or programs.
- Gain unauthorized access to on-line resources, including using someone else's password.
- Make changes to the hardware/software configuration of any machine, including installing/deleting software.
- Improperly use the network, including introducing software viruses and/or bypassing security policies.
- Steal or damage data and/or computers and network equipment.
- Access, upload, download, distribute pornographic, hate-oriented, obscene, or sexually explicit material.

Failure to follow these guidelines violates Georgia, O.C.G.A., Codes 16-9-90, 16-9-91, 16-9-93, and 16-9-93.1 as well as Title XVII of United States Public Law 106-554, known as the Children's Internet Protection Act. Such use can also lead to disciplinary action, up to and including loss of access to GCPS technology resources and further disciplinary actions as defined by existing GCPS policies. Such disciplinary actions may include confiscation of technology being used inappropriately if an incident occurs.

TIPS FOR STUDENTS

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP AND INTERNET SAFETY

1

LAWS Many sites and web tools are 13+. Most images and work online are protected by copyright.



2

TALK Tell your parents what you're doing online. Always ask a trusted adult if you're unsure of anything.



3

FRIENDS Don't add or meet online friends without parent permission. Don't trust everything friends tell you.



4

PRIVACY Keep personal info private: **Y**our full name, **A**ddress, **P**hone number, **P**asswords, **Y**our plans and birthday.



5

REPUTATION Don't post anything you wouldn't want teachers, family, friends, and future employers to see.



6

QUESTION You can't believe everything you read and see online. There's a lot of incorrect and biased info.



7

BULLYING Tell someone if you think cyberbullying is happening to you or other people you know.



8

ACCOUNTS Choose sensible email addresses and usernames. Use strong passwords and don't share them with others.



9

MANNERS Be polite and respectful at all times. Treat others online how you'd like to be treated.



10

UNPLUG Balance your screen time and green time. Get outdoors, move, play, and interact face to face.



SafetyFirst

The health and safety of GCPS students and staff is our highest priority. Here are some tips you need to know and a few ways that you and your family can help.

Maintaining a healthy school environment

Everyone plays a part in maintaining a healthy school environment! Students can help by washing hands frequently, staying a safe physical distance from others, and staying home if sick. Masks are required in Gwinnett County Public Schools, with exceptions for documented reasons.



Responding to Lockdowns and Evacuation

If your student's school has been placed on lockdown or evacuated, please do not go to the school. Excessive traffic could interfere with law enforcement efforts or emergency response. The school will contact you to let you know how to proceed.

Schools go on **lockdown** when school officials and local law enforcement authorities determine that conditions outside or inside the school are unsafe.

Schools are **evacuated** when the school environment is unsafe for the students to stay in the building.

For more information about school safety, see the Safety and Security information on the GCPS website (www.gcpsk12.org).

Preparing for Inclement Weather

- If bad weather is forecast overnight, GCPS officials drive roads and bridges across the county to gauge conditions. In addition, the district assesses any power issues that might have an impact on schools and digital learning.
- During inclement weather, GCPS usually announces plans for a Digital Learning Day or full-day cancellation by 6 a.m. Once a decision is made, the district posts the announcement on the GCPS website, GCPS TV, the district's Facebook page, and Twitter and Instagram accounts. GCPS also notifies metro-Atlanta news outlets and alerts families with a phone call and optional text message via SchoolMessenger. (Families must request the text feature.)

When inclement weather is predicted, GCPS works with local authorities to monitor current and expected conditions in the area.

- When bad weather moves in during the school day, district leaders decide the safest and most efficient way to get students home. Should GCPS schools release early or cancel afternoon or evening activities, GCPS notifies parents and community members via local school communication vehicles and SchoolMessenger calls and texts, through reports to metro-Atlanta news media, and posts to the GCPS website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

The school system does not issue an announcement when school will be in session as scheduled.

Make sure your student's school has up-to-date contact information for you.