



R. S. Middle School
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Home of the Knights

Mission Statement:

R-S Middle School, together with parents and community, will enable students to excel in a 21st century society.

Welcome to RS Middle School. The administration, faculty and staff are pleased to have the opportunity to work with you as we prepare our children for a successful future. The first few pages of this handbook contain important information for parents and students about our school. The next few pages will provide information regarding attendance, discipline, computers, buses and other school and district policies, which guide our school. I encourage parents and students to sit down together and read through this information at the beginning of school. The staff of RS Middle School would like to wish everyone a successful school year! It's great to be a Knight!

Expectations for Students

All students are expected to demonstrate integrity, civility, responsibility and self control. This expectation is directly related to the board's educational objectives for students to learn to be responsible for and accept the consequences of their behavior and for students to respect cultural diversity and ideological differences. Integrity, civility, responsibility and self control also are critical for establishing and maintaining a safe, orderly and inviting environment.

Prohibited Behavior

In addition to all school rules and standards, the following behaviors are specifically prohibited as violating the standards of integrity and civility:

cheating, including the actual giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance or the actual giving or receiving of an unfair advantage on any form of academic work; plagiarizing, including the copying of the language, structure, idea and/or thought of another and representing it as one's own original work;

violating copyright laws, including unauthorized reproduction, duplication and/or use of printed or electronic work, computer software, or other copyrighted material; cursing or using vulgar, abusive, disrespectful or demeaning language, signs or gestures towards another person; and

playing abusive or dangerous tricks or otherwise subjecting a student or personnel to personal indignity.

Organizations and Discipline

Should a student's violation of the student conduct code have a negative impact on our school, club or organization, the student could be removed from any extra-curricular activities.

Computer Use

R-S Middle school is proud of our Going G.L.O.B.A.L. computer initiative. Every student is expected to adhere to appropriate computer use guidelines. Computers are intended to enhance instruction and learning. Misuse of computers that take away from the learning environment may lead to a student being placed on day use only with his/her computer. More detailed information and guidelines will be shared with students at the beginning of school.

Dress Code

The Rutherford County Board of Education believes that the dress and personal appearance of students greatly affects their academic performance and their interaction with other students. The board requests that parents outfit their children in clothing that will be conducive to learning. The board prohibits appearance or clothing that does the following:

violates a reasonable dress code adopted and publicized by the school, is substantially disruptive, is provocative or obscene, or endangers the health or safety of the student or others.

A student who is not in compliance with middle school dress code will be given a reasonable period of time to make adjustments so that he/she will be in compliance. Failure to comply will result in the student being removed from school until their

appearance or clothing meets school district policy or rules. The student's parent/guardian will be notified prior to any such removal.

Rutherford County Schools provides a quality instructional program and learning opportunity for every student. The personal appearance of every student is an important component of establishing a safe environment for optimal learning and respect for one another. Students are expected to dress in an appropriate manner while on school district property or representing the school. This is the responsibility of the student and his/her parent or guardian. Personal appearance shall be such that it does not disrupt student work or school order, become distracting to other students, or violate health and safety guidelines.

R-S Middle School Dress Code Examples:

Street shoes or sandals will be worn. Bedroom shoes are not permitted

All shirts and/or blouses must meet the top of the lower garment. No bare midriff shirts or blouses will be permitted. No tank tops, spaghetti strap tops, halter-tops, or vests without shirts will be permitted.

Hats, sunglasses, hair curlers, skullies, picks, do-rags or head sweatbands may not be worn inside the school.

No clothing or jewelry will be permitted that display or promote profanity, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, anything perceived as gang related, or anything of a sexual nature.

Shorts, skirts, and dresses may not be shorter than mid-thigh. Biker shorts or athletic shorts of any kind are not permitted.

Clothing is not to be sheer or mesh, have excessive holes, or expose underclothing.

Trousers/slacks/shorts must be worn at waist level. Because of safety reasons, sagging trousers and baggy clothing are not permitted.

Clothing may not drag on the floor.

Extraneous articles hanging from clothing, such as chains or other articles are considered dangerous, and will not be permitted.

There shall be no jewelry affixed to a student's nose, tongue, lip, chin, cheek or eyebrow.

Cell Phones & Other Electronic Devices

The Rutherford County Board of Education recognizes that cellular telephones have become a method by which people communicate with their children. Due to safety concerns the board understands the need for parents to stay in contact with their children.

Therefore, it is the policy of the board to allow cellular phones and other wireless

communication devices in the schools as long as they are not turned on, handled, or visible during the instructional day or as otherwise directed by local school rules or school personnel. The school principal may authorize use of a cell phone when there is a reasonable need for such use. Violations of this policy may lead to disciplinary action against the student for disruptive behavior.

If the phones or other devices are on, handled or displayed during the instructional day or in violation of local school directives, school personnel are to confiscate the phones or other devices. The student's parent or guardian must come to the school and sign for the release of the phone or device. If the student has a phone or device confiscated by school personnel a second time during the school year, the phone or device will not be returned to the student until the end of the school year. Neither school personnel nor the board will be responsible for damage to or loss of confiscated phones or other electronic equipment

* Other electronic equipment may include MP3 Players, headphones, flash drives, video games, etc...

Buses

Bus Offenses -- The following acts are illustrative of behavior that interferes with the orderly operation of school buses and are prohibited:

Delaying the bus schedule

Fighting

Using tobacco products

Using profanity

Refusing to obey instructions

Tampering with or damage to the bus

Refusing to meet the bus at designated stops

Unauthorized leaving of the bus

Distracting the driver's attention while the bus is in operation

Failing to observe established safety rules and regulations

Committing offensive actions toward others both inside and outside the bus

Violating any other expected standard of behavior while on the bus