

STUDENT HANDBOOK



2010-2011



2010-11 Middle School Student Handbook
District Information

L.C. (Buster) Evans, Superintendent
Ann Crow (District 1), Board Chairman
Mike Dudgeon (District 2)
Tom Cleveland (District 3), Vice Chairman
Darla Light (District 4)
Nancy Roche (District 5)

Main Phone: 770.887.2461
Transportation Phone: 770.888.1234
Email: fcs@forsyth.k12.ga.us
Website: www.forsyth.k12.ga.us

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Rivewatch Middle Standards for Behavior</i>	4	<i>Discipline</i>	14	<i>Lost and Found</i>	19	<i>Student Drop-Off & Pick-Up Information</i>	26
<i>School Calendar</i>	5	<i>Discipline Records</i>	14	<i>Lunch</i>	19	<i>Student Planner</i>	26
<i>Academic Grading</i>	6	<i>Discrimination/ Harassment Reporting</i>	14	<i>Media Center</i>	21	<i>Student Searches</i>	26
<i>Accidents/Injuries</i>	6	<i>Dismissal Procedures</i>	15	<i>Medications and Fevers</i>	21	<i>Teenage Drivers Curfew</i>	27
<i>Arrival Procedures</i>	6	<i>Dress Code</i>	15	<i>No Child Left Behind</i>	21	<i>Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act</i>	27
<i>Athletic Teams</i>	7	<i>Emergency Evacuation</i>	15	<i>Out-of-District Students</i>	22	<i>Telephone Use</i>	27
<i>Attendance</i>	7	<i>Emergency Response to Life Threatening Asthma or Allergic Reactions</i>	16	<i>Parent-Teacher Conferences</i>	22	<i>Textbooks</i>	28
<i>Breakfast</i>	9	<i>Equity</i>	16	<i>Parties</i>	22	<i>The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act</i>	29
<i>Bus Information</i>	9	<i>Evacuation and Tornado Drills</i>	16	<i>Physical Education</i>	22	<i>Visitors</i>	29
<i>Campus Crime Stoppers</i>	10	<i>Extracurricular Activities</i>	16	<i>Possession of Weapon</i>	23	<i>Withdrawal Requirements</i>	29
<i>Care of Personal Items</i>	10	<i>False Public Alarms</i>	16	<i>Promotion/Retention</i>	23	<i>Successful Middle Schoolers</i>	30
<i>Change, Vending Machines</i>	11	<i>Field Trips</i>	17	<i>Recognition of Achievement</i>	23	<i>Additional FERPA Information</i>	31
<i>Classroom and school Visits by Parents</i>	11	<i>Gang-Related Activity</i>	17	<i>Registration</i>	23	<i>Appropriate Use Policy (Computers)</i>	33
<i>Clubs</i>	12	<i>Gateway Academy</i>	17	<i>Reporting of Student Progress</i>	23	<i>Computers and Network Resources</i>	34
<i>Computer Use</i>	12	<i>Harassment</i>	18	<i>School Supplies</i>	24	<i>Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment Notice</i>	36
<i>Connections Classes</i>	12	<i>HIV/AIDS Sex Education</i>	18	<i>School Closings, Early Dismissal, Delayed Opening and Emergency Notification</i>	24	<i>Residency Requirements</i>	37
<i>Counseling</i>	12	<i>Hospital Homebound</i>	18	<i>School Safety Hotline</i>	24	<i>Acknowledgement of Receipt</i>	38
<i>Course of Study</i>	13	<i>Interscholastic Activities</i>	18	<i>Section 504</i>	24	<i>Middle School Assessment Calendar</i>	39
<i>Dances</i>	13	<i>Intramurals</i>	19	<i>Special Needs Scholarship</i>	25		
<i>Deliveries at School</i>	13	<i>Items Sold at School</i>	19	<i>Staying After School</i>	25		

Riverwatch Middle School Standards for Behavior

All members of the Riverwatch community, including students, staff members, parents and visitors, are expected to model these standards of behavior while involved in any school activity.

Be here.

Be on time.

Be friendly.

Be polite.

Be prepared.

Be a listener.

Be a doer.

Be a quality worker.

Be a positive risk taker.

Be a success.

FORSYTH COUNTY SCHOOLS 2010-2011 STUDENT CALENDAR

Revised
May 13, 2010

	July 2010	January 2011	
Early Release Days	S M T W T F S 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	S M T W T F S 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	3 Prof. Dev.(Student Holiday) 17 MLK Day (No School)
End of Semester		19 Days	
First/Last Day of School			
Inclement Weather Days			
Pre/Post Planning/Prof. Dev.			
Prof. Dev. (Student Holiday)			
Student/Staff Holidays			
2-5 Preplanning (Prof. Dev.)	S M T W T F S 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	S M T W T F S 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	18 Inclement Weather Day (#1) 21 Presidents' Day (No School) 21-22 Student/Staff Holiday
4 Open House MS 4-6:30 PM		17 Days	
5 Open House ES 4-6:30 PM			
6 Student/Staff Holiday			
9 First Day of School			
25 Early Release/Prof. Dev.			
6 Labor Day (No School)	S M T W T F S 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	S M T W T F S 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	18 Early Release/Prof. Dev.
22 Early Release/Prof. Dev.		23 Days	
14-15 Early Release/Parent Conf. (K-8)	S M T W T F S 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	S M T W T F S 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	4-8 Spring Break (No School) 25 Prof. Dev./Parent Conf.(K-12) (Student Holiday) 26 Inclement Weather Day (#2)
14-15 Early Release/Parent Conf. (K-8)		14 Days	
1 Student/Staff Holiday	S M T W T F S 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	S M T W T F S 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	25 Last Day of School 25 End of 2 nd Semester(91 Days) 26-27 Post Planning(Prof. Dev.)
2 Prof. Dev.(Student Holiday)		18 Days	
22-26 Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)			
17 End of 1 st Semester (87 Days)	S M T W T F S 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	S M T W T F S 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	TOTAL DAYS: 178 Days – Students 187 Days – Staff
20-31 Holiday Break (No School)		13 Days	

	Begin	End	Early Release
Elementary I	7:40 a.m.	2:20 p.m.	11:50 a.m.
Elementary II	8:20 a.m.	3:00 p.m.	12:30 p.m.
Middle	9:00 a.m.	4:15 p.m.	1:30 p.m.
High	8:25 a.m.	3:40 p.m.	12:55 p.m.

Elementary 1: 7:40 a.m.	Elementary II: 8:20 a.m.
Big Creek, Brookwood	Daves Creek, Johns Creek
Chattahoochee, Chestatee	Mashburn, Midway
Coal Mountain, Cumming	Sawnee, Silver City
Haw Creek, Matt	Whitlow
Settles Bridge, Sharon	
Shiloh Point, Vickery Creek	

GENERAL INFORMATION



ACADEMIC GRADING

A:
90-100

B:
80-89

C:
70-79

F:
69 or below



ACCIDENTS/INJURIES

We pride ourselves in taking the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of all our students at all times. However, despite our best efforts an accident may occasionally occur. Any student who is injured on school grounds must report the injury to the supervising staff member and/or go directly to the main office. All safety precautions will be taken. The student will receive any necessary first aid. Parents will be notified if the injury is considered anything other than minor. An accident report will be completed by the supervising staff member.

Insurance forms that offer 24-hour or school day accident coverage for students are available in the main office. The Forsyth County School System cannot reimburse parents for costs incurred due to injuries occurring at school or school sponsored events.



ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

Students who are brought to school by car will be dropped off in front of the main entrance to Riverwatch Middle School. **No student should be dropped off at school before 7:30 AM unless they have been specifically asked by their teacher (and they have a note with him/her) to arrive earlier to work on a school assignment or project or participate in a school activity. Adult supervision is not available until this time.** A structured, adult-supervised time of study will be provided in the Riverwatch media center for these students who choose to arrive at school before 8:30 AM. Students must come prepared to work on homework, a school project, research, or to read during this 7:30 AM-8:30 AM time. Any student who does not follow the expectations set forth for this structured study time will not be allowed to arrive at school before 8:30 AM. Car riders who arrive between 8:30 AM & 8:50 AM should report to the cafeteria for supervision. Bus riders typically begin arriving at school around 8:30 AM. They will report to the gym for supervision. Bus riding students who eat breakfast will be permitted to leave the gym to walk to the cafeteria and purchase a breakfast. Bus riders should remain in the gym, car riders should remain in the cafeteria, and students working in the media center during the structured study time should remain in the media center until they are dismissed by the adult(s) in charge to report to their Rivertime class. Any student who leaves the area they are to report to upon arrival at school without a proper pass from a teacher, will be subject to disciplinary consequences for being away from their assigned area of supervision. At no time prior to 8:45 AM will students be permitted to “walk the halls” or go to a teacher’s class without a pass from a teacher. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain a morning pass from his/her teacher at least by the day before.



ATHLETIC TEAMS

The following interscholastic team sports are offered for seventh and eighth grade students:

- Football
- Track
- Basketball
- Golf
- Cheerleading (Football and Basketball)

In order to try out for and participate in interscholastic activities a physical examination and insurance waiver are required of each participant. For a student to be eligible to participate in athletic extracurricular activities for a season, he/she must be enrolled in the school for which he/she will participate, be in the seventh or eighth grade, meet academic requirements, meet the age requirement, and have not exceeded four semesters of participation.

To meet academic requirements, a student may not fail more than 2 classes during a semester. The grades from the previous semester will determine eligibility for the current semester (ex. grades from spring 2006 will determine eligibility for fall 2006). To be eligible to participate in athletic extracurricular activities each day, a student must be in school for at least half of the school day. If a student is absent on Friday, he/she may participate in weekend activities. A student who is in ISS or has OSS is not eligible to participate that day, and will not become eligible until he/she is admitted back into class. Students who are in ISS or have OSS on Friday may not participate in weekend activities. A student who is sent from his/her home school to Piedmont Learning Center may not participate in extracurricular activities.

Gender Equity:

State law prohibits discrimination based on gender in athletic programs of local school systems (Equity in Sports Act, O.C.G.A. Y 20-2-315). Students are hereby notified that Forsyth County Board of Education local school system does not discriminate on the basis of gender in its athletic programs. The sports equity coordinator for this school system is Dr. Candace Norton, Forsyth County Board of Education 1120 Dahlonega Hwy. Cumming, GA 30040, 770-887-2461. Inquiries or complaints concerning sports equity in this school system may be submitted to the sports equity coordinator.



ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is essential to success in school. As permitted under the Georgia compulsory education law and Forsyth County Board of Education policy, students may be excused for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness or attendance in school that endangers a student's health or the health of others.
2. A serious illness or death in a student's immediate family necessitating absence from school.
3. A court order or an order by a governmental agency, including pre-induction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school.
4. The observance of religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.

6. A scheduled medical, dental or eye examination of the student.
7. Registering to vote or voting.
8. Visiting with a parent or legal guardian who is in the military service in the armed forces and has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support post. The student may be excused for a maximum of 5 days per school year.

Non-school related activities and vacations are considered unexcused.

Student Absence

It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/ guardian(s) to contact the school office, by 10:00 a.m. to report the student's absence. Students must **submit a note or parents must fax or e-mail the attendance office within five (5) school days for the student's absence to be considered excused.** Attendance Fax Number: 678-455-7120 or Attendance e-mail: tcollum@forsyth.k12.ga.us. The parent/guardian must write the note, fax or e-mail stating the student's name, the date(s) of absence(s), and the reason for the absence. The principal may require students to present appropriate medical or other documentation upon return to school for the purpose of validating that absences are excused.

In case of extended illness, hospitalization or injury, the parent should apply for hospital homebound service. Hospital homebound service should be applied for immediately when absences of ten (10) days or more are anticipated for the student.

Consequences

If a student has excessive absences, early check-outs, and/or late check-ins, the student and/or the parent may be referred to the School Social Worker, Juvenile Court, State Court, and/or Department of Family and Children Services. A parent/guardian who violates the compulsory education law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine not less than \$25.00 and not greater than \$100.00, imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, community service, or any combination of such penalties at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction. Each day's absence from school is considered a violation.

Any student who has ten or more school days of unexcused absences in the current academic year or ten or more school days of unexcused absences in the previous academic year will be subject to the rules of O.C.G.A. 40-5-22, school attendance and motor vehicle licenses law. In order to be eligible for a license, a student must satisfy the attendance requirements noted above for a period of one academic year prior to the application for an instruction permit or driver's license. The instruction permit or driver's license will be revoked for a period of one year, if a student has ten or more school days of unexcused absences in an academic year. Charges may also be filed in Juvenile Court on students who do not comply with the compulsory education law.

Make-up Work

It is the student's responsibility to turn in make-up work, when he/she is absent from school. Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to use **Angel** to retrieve make-up work. The student has five (5) school days to make-up work. The teacher has the discretion to grant a longer period to make up work if there are extenuating circumstances.

Late Check-in or Early Check-out

An unexcused late check-in or early check-out is defined as any time a student arrives late to school or leaves school early for a reason other than those defined by the State Board of Education as an excused absence. A combination of three unexcused tardies and early check-outs will be considered one unexcused absence. Students who miss more than half of the time in any class will be considered absent for that class period. When possible, medical and dental appointments should be made outside of school hours. If a student is being

checked in or checked out for a doctor's appointment, a physician's note or appointment card is required within 5 school days to be considered excused.

Check-in: Parents must sign their child in upon late arrival.

Check-out: If it is necessary for a student to check-out early due to illness, the student must be assessed by the school nurse for the absence to be excused. Parents must personally sign their child out.

Non-school related activities and vacations are considered unexcused.

Students who are absent from school for the entire day or the last half of the day may not attend after-school events for that day. This includes practice sessions, games, performances, dances, club meetings, etc.



BREAKFAST

A nutritious breakfast is prepared each and every morning by the cafeteria. For a nominal charge, students will be able to purchase a breakfast prior to the start of the school day. Please refer to the chart on page 20 for pricing. It will be the responsibility of the students to manage their time in the morning accordingly to eating breakfast and reporting to their first class on time. Students who abuse this privilege and report to their first class late will be subject to consequences for tardiness.



BUS INFORMATION

Transportation is furnished to all Forsyth County students who attend their home school and those students that require transportation service to support their "Individualized Education Plan." Bus stops will be within 0.3 miles of the intersection of the parent's property and the first county maintained road. Bus stops are set by the Director of Transportation in conjunction with recommendations by the Field Coordinator for the local school. Forsyth County Schools encourage supervision appropriate to the age and/or maturity level(s) of students at bus stops by parents or guardians.

Middle school administrators and transportation staff have determined that changes in bus transportation will not be permitted in Forsyth County Middle Schools except in cases of true emergency. If such an emergency occurs, a bus pass will be presented to the driver, but only after it is approved by the school administration.

Forsyth County School's Bus Safety Guidelines are included in the 2009-2010 Code of Conduct and Discipline Procedures. All students and parents should read these guidelines so that they are aware of student behavior expectations while riding the bus. Bus drivers will discuss bus rules and regulations. Food, beverages, skateboards, etc. cannot be transported on the school bus. Drivers will enforce county policy to provide a safe ride to and from school for all students. Students are expected to develop and practice riding behaviors that are safe, orderly and respectful. Bus drivers will use the Three Step Student Behavior Management Plan to help students achieve that goal. The school administration is responsible for assigning appropriate, effective consequences for inappropriate behavior. Bus drivers will complete referral forms for students who choose to conduct themselves inappropriately on the bus.

School administrators will adhere to county policy regarding such behavior. Possible consequences include seating assignments, after-school detention, parent notification, etc. Major or repeated disruptions will be handled by suspending a student's privilege to ride the bus for a specified number of school days. If this occurs, it will be the parent's responsibility to provide transportation to and from school for the student. Everything related to our bus policies is done to ensure that every child has a safe ride to and from school on a daily basis. Activities which distract bus drivers simply cannot be allowed to occur. Some buses are equipped with video equipment to monitor student behavior. Please keep in mind that as school starts it usually takes two weeks for bus routes to follow a consistent schedule. If you live in a rapid growth area it may take longer

to follow a consistent schedule and the entire route system may need adjustment periodically. Full information regarding Transportation procedures and the Student Behavior Management Plan are located on the Transportation website and copies are available for reading in each school office.

FCS provides school bus transportation for all eligible FCS students based on the student's residence and school of enrollment, and in compliance with federal, state and/or local laws, rules, regulations and/or procedures. The Transportation Department is authorized to develop a framework and procedures that provide transportation services to eligible FCS students.

The Forsyth County Board of Education encourages supervision appropriate to the age and/or maturity level(s) of students at bus stops by parents or guardians. For information regarding Transportation practices and procedures, visit www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/transportation



CAMPUS CRIME STOPPERS

Students are encouraged to report information about weapons, drugs, threats of violence or other dangerous or harmful situations to the principal, an assistant principal, a teacher or another trusted adult. Anonymous TIPS can also be reported to FCS' Crime Stoppers by one of three ways.

- A. ANONYMOUS TEXT message to "crimes" (274637) and begin your message with "FCSS."
- B. ANONYMOUS Web tip at www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/crime
- C. Call the ANONYMOUS tip line at 770-205-4625

Anonymous reports can also be made by calling the State of Georgia School Safety Hotline Number, 1-877-SAY-STOP (1-877-729-7867). Callers will not be asked to reveal their identity.



CARE OF PERSONAL ITEMS

As a service, a locker will be provided for each student for a fee of \$5.00. Only the locker assigned is to be used. Sharing a combination with one person eliminates any security associated with the use of a locker. Likewise, forcing a locker open without using the combination will eliminate any degree of security for the person utilizing the locker. A locker should not be used to house valuables. All lockers are individually checked at the conclusion of a school year and are in proper working order at the beginning of the following school year. Locker combinations are changed yearly. Problems with a locker should be reported immediately to a teacher on the student team. Abuse of a locker, using other's lockers, or failing to report problems with a locker can lead to having locker privileges revoked and will require payment for repairs. Student bookbags, school lockers, desks, and other school property shall be subject to inspection and search by school authorities at all times without further notice to students or parents. The Forsyth County School System reserves the right to use "walk-through" and "hand-held" metal detectors and "drug -sniffing" dogs at any school function, including activities which occur outside normal school hours off the school campus. Students are notified that these metal detectors will be used at the discretion of school administrators.

P.E. lockers and combination locks are also provided in the locker rooms as a service for each student for a nominal fee. Students must adhere to the same policies as the service locker. Failure to do so will result in the locker privileges being revoked and/or will require payment for lost combination locks and/or repairs.

The school does not assume responsibility for lost items. Valuables and large amounts of money are not to be brought to school. In addition, cameras, radios, ipods, games, toys, trading/playing cards, electronic devices, skateboards, etc. should not be brought to school unless specifically approved by an administrator for a special school purpose. Items such as those just listed will be confiscated and kept in the front office area; however, the school assumes no responsibility for the "safe keeping" of confiscated items. Confiscated items will only be returned to a parent. A parent may come to the school any time during normal operating hours to claim any of his/her child's confiscated item(s).

In the event that a parent is unable to visit the school during the regular school day, the item may be claimed by the student on the last two days of the school year. Items confiscated more than once will be available for retrieval only on the last two days of school. Items not claimed one week after the last day of school will be discarded or donated to a charitable organization. Weapons, tobacco and other drug products and similar items (or items promoting such products) will not be returned to a parent or student.



CHANGE & VENDING MACHINES

Office and food service personnel will not be able to provide change for students. Students should be prepared for the day by bringing correct change to school. Office staff cannot cash checks nor can joint checks for more than one child be accepted due to bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing procedures. The user is responsible for any money lost in a vending/juice/snack machine. Please notify the office if a machine is out of order so that others do not lose change. Specific times that vending machines can be used will be shared with students at the beginning of the school year. Typically, vending machines can only be used after school and at after school events. Drinks may not be taken onto the school bus.



CLASSROOM AND SCHOOL VISITS BY PARENTS

The Riverwatch Middle School staff values the concept of parents as partners in education and understands that each student's education extends beyond the four walls of the school. Parent and community support and assistance are vital in all facets of the school program. It is therefore essential that parents be informed and involved in their child's education. Parents and community members have opportunities for observing students in the academic and extracurricular setting through a number of established activities and events which showcase our students' academic, athletic, and artistic talents and endeavors. If a parent of a Riverwatch student or a prospective student wishes to set up an individual classroom or school visitation, then he/she will be afforded every opportunity to make that visit. The following guidelines shall be used in setting up parent visitations:

CLASSROOM OBSERVATION BY PARENTS OF A RIVERWATCH STUDENT:

The Parent Should:

- Make the request to the principal, in writing, at least 48 hours prior to the requested time.
- State the purpose of the visit (Identify what they expect to accomplish by the visit).
- Sign in at the front office, receive a visitor's badge, and be escorted to the classroom.
- Stay no more than one class period, unless an extenuating circumstance.
- Refrain from engaging the attention of the teacher or students through conversation or other means.
- Remain as inconspicuous and non-disruptive to the instructional process as possible.
- Return to the office for a brief conference with an administrator at the end of the visit.

An Administrator Should:

- Arrange the time and date of the observation with the appropriate teacher(s).
- Inform the parent of the details.
- Escort the parent to the classroom.
- Provide the parent with copies of textbooks and other pertinent instructional materials.
- Confer with the parent at the end of the visit.

SCHOOL VISITATION BY PARENTS OF PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

An Administrator or other designee will:

- 1) Assign a counselor or administrative team member to present an overview of Riverwatch's educational program for the parent.
- 2) Provide the visitor with printed material concerning Riverwatch's educational program.

- 3) Give the visitor a guided tour of the facility.

CLUBS

Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of clubs that enhance social and emotional development.

The General Assembly of Georgia requires that each school provide written information regarding the school's clubs and organizations, excluding competitive interscholastic activities or events, and provide an area for a parent or guardian to decline permission for his/her student to participate in a club or organization (O.C.G.A. 20-2-705).

A Club Brochure will be distributed to students and parents during the first week of school and will be available any time after that in the front office and/or on the Riverwatch web site.

COMPUTER USE

Riverwatch Middle School is very fortunate to have a wonderful technology-enriched facility. We believe that a "technology rich" classroom can significantly enhance both the teaching and learning process. Students have access to computers daily in their classrooms, in the Media Center, in the school's three computer labs, and through the mobile laptop computer labs.

Access to appropriate, instructional software, local and wide area networks and the Internet are available on most computers. Due to the complex nature of these systems and the magnitude of information available via the Internet, the Forsyth County Board of Education believes guidelines regarding acceptable use are warranted in order to serve the educational needs of our students.

Please read pages 34-36 for the Forsyth County Board of Education Policy on "Computers and Network Resources: Student Acceptable Use Guidelines." Violations of the "Student Acceptable Use Guidelines" may result in a student's access privileges being revoked, disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action taken.

CONNECTIONS CLASSES

Connections classes are designed to reinforce critical reading, writing, mathematics and thinking skills taught within the academic block time, as well as help students develop interpersonal skills and investigate career options. Students are rotated through Connections throughout their middle school years. Areas of study may include:

- Band
- Chorus
- Physical Education
- Health
- Art
- Exploring Communication Technology
- Explorations in Technology
- Newspaper
- Personal Fitness

COUNSELING

Counselors assist students in their social, emotional, and academic growth through individual, group, and

classroom activities. The guidance curriculum is a planned effort to provide each student with a set of skills and experiences to promote self-understanding, decision-making, problem-solving, communication improvement, and career planning. Counselors also coordinate transition activities to ensure a smooth transition for entering sixth graders and rising ninth graders.

Counselors offer small-group counseling on topics such as divorce, grief, self-esteem and friendship. Students are given a needs assessment which provides an opportunity to express an interest in a particular support group. Parents and teachers may also refer students for small-group counseling. If parents do not wish for their child to participate in group or individual counseling, the school counselor must be notified.

COURSE OF STUDY

Forsyth County middle schools are dedicated to providing structured middle school programs that embrace current research findings on the middle school child. Each grade level is divided into teams of teachers and students who work together to achieve academic and personal goals. Teachers work together to plan instruction and to solve problems. This enables students to sense consistent expectations and to strive to meet clearly understood standards of achievement.

The daily schedule followed by all sixth, seventh and eighth grade students is composed of five 55 minute periods of Academic Core classes (Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language) and two 50 minute periods of Connection classes per day. Connections Classes are comprised of those previously notated.

Each grade level and/or team will provide students and parents with information regarding subject area objectives, via a course syllabus at the beginning of the year. Students and parents are encouraged to use this information to better understand academic requirements.

DANCES

Dances will be held for each grade level periodically throughout the school year. Dances are usually held after school from 4:20-6:00. Students are required to have a signed parent permission slip to attend each dance. A nominal admission is charged for each dance. High expectations are held for appropriate student behavior and dress. Dances are for Riverwatch students only. Any student in ISS or OSS or absent on the day of a dance may not participate.

DELIVERIES AT SCHOOL

In an effort to maintain academic focus, parents and other individuals are not allowed to have flowers, balloons, etc. delivered to the students during school. Such items create a disruption in the school day and the learning process. Items will be held in the school office until the end of the school day when the student comes to claim it. Students **will not** be called to the office for deliveries, nor will delivery persons be permitted to deliver items to the classroom. It is against school policy for parents to bring "fast food" to the cafeteria for the students to eat. This creates a situation where the cafeteria is in competition with an outside food provider. Students will not be allowed to eat these foods in the RMS cafeteria.

In an effort to help students develop responsibility and to enable the school secretaries to accomplish their assigned duties, any item (such as lunches, money, instruments, P.E. clothes, shoes, projects, homework, etc.) delivered by parents will be held in the office until the student comes to claim it. Students will not be called to the office for these items. Parent cooperation is greatly appreciated in this matter.



DISCIPLINE

Parents and students are expected to read and know **The Forsyth County 2009-2010 Code of Conduct and Discipline Procedures, the Riverwatch Standards for Behavior and the Riverwatch Student Handbook** that is given to every student upon their enrollment at Riverwatch Middle School. Parents and students will be asked to sign a paper saying that they have read the Code of Conduct and understand the policies, regulations, and rules set forth in the Code of Conduct and Discipline Procedures. Students and parents are expected to adhere to the Forsyth County Code of Conduct on the way to and from school, including in vehicles provided for student transportation by the school system; at school or on school property any time; and off school grounds at any school activity, function or event and while traveling to and from such events. Any specific questions about this Code of Conduct should be addressed with the school's administration.

Forsyth County Code of Conduct policies and procedures developed during the course of this school year supersede the applicable portions of this student handbook. Such information will be given to each child as it is available.



DISCIPLINE RECORDS

In compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act, FCS will facilitate the transfer of discipline records to any public or private school in which a student is enrolled or seeks, intends, or is instructed to enroll on a full- or part-time basis in the school.



DISCRIMINATION/HARESSMENT REPORTING

FCS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or gender in employment decisions or educational programs and activities, including its athletic programs. Any student, employee, applicant for employment, parent or other individual who believes he or she has been subjected to harassment or discrimination by other students or employees of the school district based upon any of the factors listed above should promptly report the same to the principal of the school or the appropriate coordinator as listed below, who will implement the board's discriminatory complaints or harassment procedures. Students may also report harassment or discrimination to their school counselor. Equity coordinators for the school system are:

Title VI

Bruce Wagar (Students)
Candace Norton (Personnel)

Title IX

Bruce Wagar (Students)
Candace Norton (Personnel)

ADA and 504

Sarah Taylor (Students);
Candace Norton (Personnel)

Gender Equity

Candace Norton (Students)

Community Based Work Programs

Genise Tworek

Equity coordinators may be contacted at the Forsyth County Board of Education and Professional Development Center, 1120 Dahlenega Highway, Cumming, Georgia 30040, 770.887.2461. Students and employees will not be subjected to retaliation for reporting such harassment or discrimination. A copy of the discriminatory complaints procedure under Forsyth County School District Policy GAAA/JAA (Equal Opportunity/Discriminatory Complaints) or under Policy IDFA (Gender Equity in Sports) is located in the school district policy manual that is available at www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/boe > policies and procedures.



DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Students who ride home in vehicles other than a school bus are dismissed at the same time as bus riders. Parents who transport students home are to pick up their children in the car rider area which is located in the front of the building.

Only persons listed on the student's check-out card, with photo I.D.'s, are allowed to check out students unless advance arrangements have been made to do otherwise. Students must be checked out through the front office.

If a student needs to check out during the day for a doctor's or dentist's appointment, the following steps should be followed:

- Parent comes in office **with photo I.D.** to sign student out.
- Student comes to office at appointed time.
- If someone other than parent is going to check out a student, then that person's name must be on the check out card and **must present a photo ID.**
- **No student will be allowed to check out after 4:00pm.**
- **Early Release – Check outs are not allowed after 1:15 pm.**

Students who come in late or leave early jeopardize their learning in the missed class. Accurate record-keeping also becomes more difficult when numerous requests for early dismissal are made. Lastly, instruction is interrupted when students enter or exit classes late or early. It is strongly recommended that medical appointments be scheduled outside of the regular school day. If it is necessary to schedule these during the school day, parents are encouraged to stagger the appointments so that the same class is not missed repeatedly. Parents will not be allowed to check out students between 4:00 and 4:15 due to problems this creates during dismissal. **Frequent requests for early dismissal will result in administrative action.**



DRESS CODE

See the 2010-2011 Code of Conduct and Discipline Procedures for Forsyth County's dress code policy. The school administration is authorized to determine what constitutes inappropriate dress for the school setting. Questions about the dress code should be addressed with the administration.



EARLY DISMISSAL

Early dismissals will be announced as described above. In the event of inclement weather, notification will be as soon as the decision is made. In the event of a school crisis, parents will be notified after the safety and security of students is assured.



EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In the event of a crisis situation that requires the evacuation of the school campus, students and staff will be transported to a safe, secured site. As soon as the safety and security of students is assured, traffic control is established and checkout preparations are made, parents/guardians will be notified as described above about family reunification procedures.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO LIFE THREATENING ASTHMA OR ALLERGIC REACTIONS

FCS partners with District II Public Health to implement a program for the emergency response to life threatening asthma or systemic allergic reactions (anaphylaxis). Designated school staff members are trained to assess the clinical signs, call 911 and administer the medications (benadryl, epinephrine injection or nebulized bronchodilator). The student must be transported to the nearest emergency room for evaluation and treatment.

EQUITY

FCS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or sex in any of its employment practices, educational programs, child feeding program or any other service or activity. It is the policy of the Forsyth County Board of Education to comply fully with the requirements of Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act and all accompanying regulations. Any student, employee, applicant for employment or other person alleging a violation shall promptly notify the principal or the designated school system coordinator.

EVACUATION, LOCKDOWN, AND TORNADO DRILLS

Plans are in place and practiced regularly throughout the school year to ensure the safety of all students and other building occupants should a fire, severe storm warning, or other weather-related or emergency situation arise.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extracurricular activities are defined as any school-sponsored program for which some or all of the activities are outside the regular school day. Examples include all individual and team sports, cheerleading, clubs, academic bowls, and fund raising activities. This definition does not include field trips, homework or work required outside the school day for a scheduled class. The Athletic Program includes all individual and team sports such as cheerleading, football, basketball, golf, and track. In order to participate in the Athletic Program a student may not fail more than two (2) subjects in the semester prior to the sport's season. (i.e. A student may not fail more than 2 subjects in the spring semester to be eligible for the football season in the fall.) Extracurricular eligibility for the Athletic Program is determined by state board policy.

Students who have ISS or OSS or absent for the day may not participate in extracurricular activities.

FALSE PUBLIC ALARMS

Bomb and other terroristic threats, fire alarms and prank 911 calls will not be tolerated. Consequences will include a parent/guardian conference, immediate suspension, referral to law enforcement, and referral to a disciplinary tribunal hearing. If found guilty by a tribunal, the student is also subject to expulsion, long term suspension and restitution. The tribunal will impose restitution for all expenses incurred for lost instructional time and the restoration of the instructional process. Restitution may include but will not be limited to costs for:

salaries, transportation, food and water, care for the handicapped, phone and other communication, laboratory work and any other legitimate expense incurred in the restoration of the normal educational operation of the school and the school system.



FIELD TRIPS

Riverwatch's students are sometimes provided with opportunities to attend interesting, educational events and functions. When field trips are planned, students will receive information regarding the cost for each of these trips and tentative dates. Field trip money will not be refunded if disciplinary action prevents a student from attending. When possible, refunds will be given to students with excused absences. Conduct requirements will also be shared with everyone. Activities occurring away from school require exemplary behavior. Student safety and maximum educational benefit cannot be ensured unless every student attending a field trip has demonstrated a commitment to proper behavior. The county Code of Conduct and any pertinent school rules are in effect for field trips.

No student will be denied an opportunity to participate in a field trip because of financial hardship. Work scholarship programs are available for students who indicate a need. Priority is given to students in the free/reduced lunch program. Parents must notify their child's team teachers of the necessity for financial aid.



GANG-RELATED ACTIVITY

Gang related activity will not be tolerated in FCS. Students engaging in gang related activities will be subject to disciplinary action as defined in the Forsyth County Board of Education Code of Conduct and Discipline Procedures. See the definitions of *Gang Member* and *Gang Related Activity* below.

In addition to those definitions, from time to time new types of gang communication methods or activities may be invented. In that event, the Principal is authorized to further define and prohibit those newly developed activities. Gang Member is defined as: A person who is part of an association of three or more people who form an allegiance for a common purpose and engage, individually or collectively in illegal behavior. Gang Related Activity is defined as: Any act or exhibition, individual or collective, which (1) communicates gang allegiance or affiliation; and / or (2) would be a criminal act if committed by an adult; and (3) is deemed to be gang related by the Principal. Gang related activity includes but is not limited to: communication of gang affiliation through hand sign flashing, wearing of clothing articles in a certain way or color scheme; jewelry, tattoos, gang symbols or graffiti on personal items; vandalism of public or private property, and acts of intimidation, threat, fighting and other forms of violence.



GATEWAY ACADEMY

Gateway Academy Notice: Gateway Academy provides a structured alternative learning environment for Forsyth County students in grades 6-12. The purpose of Gateway Academy is to serve chronically or seriously disruptive students in an alternative setting and to focus on the remediation of behavioral issues that frequently interfere with the learning process. The goal at Gateway is to prepare each student for a successful return to the base school and ultimately, to graduate. Emphasis is placed on goal setting and problem solving methods to help students make good choices. Study skills and organizational skills are also stressed. Gateway Academy students will receive academic instruction in core subjects and a limited number of electives while the negative behaviors are being confronted and addressed. The NovaNet computer program will be used for some courses. Because of the time lost away from the regular academic track at the base school, parents and students need to realize that the student may not be able to graduate on time. Students are referred to Gateway through a tribunal process, but must be accepted by the Gateway administration following a parent, student, principal conference during orientation. There are very rigorous expectations of all Gateway students that include wearing school uniforms, following a strict code of behavior and submitting to periodic, random

drug screening. Random searches may also be conducted. There is no bus transportation provided to Gateway Academy except that which is required through an Individual Educational Plan for disabled students. Orientation is held one time per week on Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. The student and parent/guardian must attend orientation prior to attending Gateway Academy. Parents and students will be asked to sign a contract during orientation agreeing to comply with the rules and regulations at Gateway Academy. The students will begin school the day following orientation.



HARRASSMENT

The school district forbids sexual, racial and other harassment of all employees and students while at school, in the work place or at any school event or activity. Any student, employee, applicant for employment or other person alleging a violation shall promptly notify the principal or the designated coordinator for the school system.



HIV / AIDS AND SEX EDUCATION

Sex/AIDS education lessons are included as part of the health curriculum for grades 6-8. FCS currently uses the *Choosing the Best* program for sex/AIDS education lessons. *Choosing the Best* is an abstinence based program that is correlated with the Georgia Quality Core Curriculum. The units of study include: the risks of STDs and HIV/AIDS; teen pregnancy; pressures to be sexually active; sex, love and healthy choices; avoiding unhealthy relationships; and setting boundaries. Health teachers may include human growth and development content within the sex/AIDS education lessons. Parents/guardians may schedule an appointment to review the sex/AIDS education curriculum resources used at their child's school by contacting the lead health teacher of the school. If a parent/guardian does not wish for his/her child to participate in this portion of the course, notification must be made in writing to the health teacher prior to the beginning of the unit. Alternative assignments will be given and assessed for those students opting out of sex/AIDS education lessons.



HOSPITAL-HOMEBOUND

If a student should need to be absent from school for more than 10 consecutive school days because of serious illness or an accident, arrangements may be made to provide instruction at home. In accordance with state rule 160-4-2.31 Hospital/Homebound Services, students with absences due to psychiatric/emotional disorders, as defined in the latest edition of the Diagnostic, and Statistical Manual (DSM), may be eligible for hospital-homebound instruction. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to request homebound instruction as soon as possible. An application for services supported by a doctor's recommendation will be required. The application and supporting documentation are submitted to the Principal of the school.



INTERSCHOLASTIC ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Forsyth County middle school students are encouraged to participate in numerous interscholastic activities which challenge them academically and allow them to display their talents. These activities might include, but are not limited to the following:

Band Competitions
Oratorical Contest
Science Fair

Geography Bee
Choral Competition

Spelling Bee
Essay Contests

Students who have ISS or OSS or are absent for the day may not participate in interscholastic academic activities.

INTRAMURALS

An intramural program is in place at the middle school level with activities being offered either before or after the school day. This program is an extension of the physical education program and may involve competition among classmates for both boys and girls. This program is designed to increase participation of all students in recreational games and sports activities. Activities may include basketball, flag football, lacrosse, roller hockey, volleyball, weight training and soccer. All students are eligible for participation. Transportation is not provided by the school.

ITEMS SOLD AT SCHOOL

No items can be bought, sold or traded at school unless the sale is sponsored and approved by Riverwatch Middle School and/or the Forsyth County Board of Education. This includes candy, food and drink. **Administrative approval must be given for any such fundraising activity.**

LOST AND FOUND

Students who find lost or misplaced personal articles are asked to take them to the front office where they can be claimed by the owner. Library books should be turned in at the Media Center and found textbooks should be given to the appropriate teacher. Items located in "lost and found" will be donated to a charitable organization at the end of each quarter. Again, it is stressed that students not bring valuables to school and that each child accept the responsibility for the safekeeping of his/her possessions.

LUNCH

Only students in elementary will be allowed to charge up to the equivalent of five (5) meals. No ala carte purchases may be charged to the student's debit account, except milk/50% juice when a meal is brought from home. Middle and high school students are not allowed to charge a meal or ala carte items. (Adults are not allowed to charge a meal or any portion thereof.) A charge notice will be completed and sent home to the parent/guardian through the student. When the manager has sent home the third notification with no success in collection of outstanding charges, the principal or counselor will be asked to intervene to assist with collecting the delinquent payments and assessing if there is a need for free or reduced priced meals.

After the fifth unpaid charge, the manager will offer the student a snack or partial meal such as a sandwich or crackers and milk. If a student continues to come to the cafeteria without a lunch from home or money and the student's account continues to be delinquent, the case will be considered for release to the Department of Family and Children's Services for neglect. Students who have unpaid meal charges will not be allowed to purchase any extra sale food items until the charges have been satisfied.

Returned Check Policy:

The Food and Nutrition Services Program will accept checks for exact payment of meals or prepayments to the student's debit account. The program will not cash personal checks or give change back when a check is received for payment.

FCS uses a check company to collect checks that are returned unpaid. Without further notice, they will attempt to collect on the check electronically if it is returned unpaid by your bank for any reason. If a check is returned unpaid, the face amount and a state-authorized fee will be collected electronically from the parent's account when the money is available. If a parent writes a check to the district, they are consenting to allow the check recovery company to electronically collect the face amount and the fee if the check is returned unpaid by the banking institution to the recovery company. After the Board of Education, or any entity thereof, has received two (2) checks returned by a financial institution due to insufficient funds or closed accounts, all financial transactions thereafter will be on a cash only basis.

Your Child's Automated Meal Account:

Each school has an automated system that is able to track the payment and purchasing activity of each individual student's account. Meals may be pre-paid for the week, month, or even the year. Prepayment is encouraged because it eliminates the daily handling of money for the child, and reduces the time the student must stand in line waiting, providing them more time to enjoy their meal.

Students may purchase meals and extra foods sold through the School Nutrition Program with funds debited from their meal account. **If parents/guardians wish to limit the use of their child's account to meals only, each school year parents/guardians must send a written note to the school's program manager stating that their child will not be allowed to purchase extra items off of their meal account. If this restriction is applied to the account and they select extra items on the line, they will be required to pay cash at the point of sale.** Parents/guardians or siblings having lunch with a student may not use the student meal account to pay for guest meals.

Meal Pre-payment by Debit or Credit Card via the Internet:

Register at www.myLunchMoney.com to prepay for a child's meals online using Visa or Mastercard. Parents/guardians must use the student identification number, school name, and student's date of birth to register and place money on their child's account. **If the child's student ID is less than six digits, parents must put in a leading zero(s) to make it six digits.** If parents/guardians do not know their child's student ID, contact the school's nutrition manager. To learn more about this visit the food and nutrition at www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/nutrition. Prepayments made through myLunchMoney.com may take up to 48 hours to post to the student's meal account at school.

Parents/guardians will be assessed a \$1.95 fee per transaction made through mylunchmoney.com. Prepayments in any amount made online for your child's meals will be assessed a \$1.95 fee per school transaction. If parents/guardians have more than one child at the same school and are making prepayments on each child's account at the same time, only one transaction fee of \$1.95 will be assessed to their debit or credit card. If parents/guardians have children in multiple schools a \$1.95 will be assessed per school site.

Parents/guardians that have used the online prepayment method previously should verify the account information annually. This is particularly important if the student has changed schools. Credit and debit card information should be verified periodically as well.

It is against school policy for parents to bring "fast food" to the cafeteria for students to eat. This creates a situation where the cafeteria is in competition with an outside food provider. Students will not be allowed to eat these foods in the RMS cafeteria.

School Year 2010-2011 School Meal Prices

Grade Level	Student Full Paid		Student Reduced		Employee		Parents/ Guest	
	Breakfast	Lunch	Breakfast	Lunch	Breakfast	Lunch	Breakfast	Lunch
6-8	\$1.25	\$2.00	\$.30	\$.40	\$1.50	\$2.50	\$1.75	\$3.00

Extra ½ pint Milk: \$.60



MEDIA CENTER

The Media Center is open and accessible throughout the school day. The Media Center houses books, magazines, several newspapers, audiovisual materials and equipment, computers and reference materials. The Media Center can distribute video and “live” programs throughout the school. Students are encouraged to explore the diverse materials available to help them in their academic studies.



MEDICATIONS AND FEVERS

All medications (prescription and nonprescription) must be brought to school by the parent/ guardian. No student will be allowed to bring medications to school. Students may not have medication in their possession, except with a physician’s order for emergency situations only. Medications brought in bags or other unmarked containers will not be given. Prescription medication must be in the pharmacy container labeled with the child’s name, date, name of medication, name of prescribing physician, time(s) the medication is to be given and name of pharmacy filling the prescription. Please ask the pharmacist to provide two labeled prescription bottles so that parents/guardians have one bottle at home and one at school. Do not send medication to the school that needs to be given only once daily or two/three times a day unless the physician specifically states a time during the school day for the medication to be given. If medication can be given at home, please do so.

Parents/guardians must provide specific instructions (including drugs and related equipment) to the nurse. It will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform the school of any changes in pertinent data. A “Request for Administration of Medication” form must be completed by the parent/guardian. **New medications will not be given unless a new form is completed.** The bottom portion of the form is to be completed by the physician for **ANY** long-term medication (more than two weeks.) The form may be brought to the school by the parent or faxed by the parent or physician. Due to the risk of Reye’s Syndrome in children under the age of 18, the school will require a physician’s signature in order to give any aspirin-containing medications including Aspirin, Pepto-Bismol, and Excedrin. Due to the risk of choking, students may not bring cough drops.

Communicable Disease

A child is not to return to school until fever, diarrhea and/or vomiting has stopped **for a full 24 hours**, without the aid of medication. Prescribed antibiotic medications for communicable diseases are to be given for 24 hours prior to return.



NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND PARENT NOTICE OF TEACHER QUALIFICATION

In compliance with the requirements of the *No Child Left Behind* statute, the Forsyth County School System informs parents that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student’s teacher(s). The following information may be requested:

- 1) whether the teacher has met the Georgia Professional Standards Commission requirements for certification for the grade level and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- 2) whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which Georgia qualifications or certification criteria have been waived;
- 3) the college major and any graduate certification or degree held by the teacher;
- 4) whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning your child’s teacher’s qualification, please contact the Human Resources Department at 770-887-2461. [Section 1111(h)(6)]

OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENTS

Students are expected to attend school in the district in which they live. Parents who wish to request a transfer may pick up an out-of-district school form from the Central Office at 1120 Dahlonega Hwy. If a request for transfer is approved, it shall be the responsibility of the parents/guardians to provide transportation for their child both to and from school and to ensure that the student arrives on time and is picked up on time each afternoon. Students enjoying out-of-district status must demonstrate academic and behavioral success, as well as good attendance, in order to continue attending Riverwatch. For the 2009-2010 school year, RMS will not be taking out of district student requests because we are at/over capacity.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher-Student conferences are highly encouraged. Consistent, positive contact between the home and school helps to create a climate of trust and enhances student opportunities for academic and personal success. Fall and spring early-release days facilitate the opportunity for large numbers of conferences. If a parent desires a conference prior to being notified by a teacher, they are to call the school to request an appointment.

PARTIES

Parties (birthday, holiday, etc.) are not allowed at Riverwatch Middle School. Soft drinks, cakes, etc. should not be brought to school.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Emphasizing the importance of total fitness, this course gives each student the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of recreational activities such as track and field, softball, soccer, basketball, dance, and volleyball. The American Alliance of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (AAHPER) Physical Best Test is used as a measure of each student's level of fitness and gives guidelines for individual fitness goals.

Uniforms - All students are required to dress out on a daily basis.

- The P.E. Uniform consists of black shorts and a plain gray or white T-shirt. "Riverwatch Middle" T-shirts and
- shorts of good quality may be purchased through the school store.
- Tennis shoes and socks are also a required part of the P.E. Uniform.
- Cut-off jeans may not be worn and T-shirts must be plain (advertising of any kind is not permitted)
- A warm-up suit may be worn over the P.E. uniform on cold days.
- No other clothing may be worn as part of the P.E. uniform, and undergarments may not hang out below the shorts.

Students will be given a minimum of three test grades each nine weeks (written tests and/or skills tests). More detailed information about grading procedures will be included in the Health and Physical Education Teacher Syllabus. In order for consideration to be given for a student to be excused from participation, a note must be brought from home and given to the P.E. instructor. Students may still be required to dress out for P.E. Notes must include a parent/guardian phone number for verification purposes. Frequent excuses or excuses for extended periods of time must be written by a physician. An excused student will be given an alternative assignment to earn his/her daily grade and/or skills test grade.

POSSESSION OF A WEAPON

It shall be unlawful for any person to carry or possess or have under such person's control while within a school safety zone or at a school building, school function, or school property or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the school any weapon or explosive compound, other than fireworks (O.C.G.A. §16-11-127.1). Board policy and state law (O.C.G.A. §20-2-751.1) require that any student determined to have brought a weapon to school will be expelled from school for a minimum of one calendar year, subject to modification on a case-by-case basis as required or authorized by state and federal law.

PROMOTION / RETENTION

Any student who does not earn a grade of 70 or above in each subject is a candidate for retention. Students must pass three out of five academic classes to be promoted. A committee composed of the student's teacher(s), a counselor, and an administrator meets to discuss each student and to make a decision as to the most appropriate grade placement for that student. If summer school is available, student promotion may / may not be based on attendance and successful completion of the summer school program. All 8th grade students must meet or exceed the standards on the Reading and Math portions of the Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT), which is given in April, in order to be promoted to the 9th grade. Eighth grade students not passing the CRCT math and reading sections would be recommended for summer school and required to pass the CRCT retake.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

There will be a variety of student recognition celebrations throughout the year. These may include, but are not limited to:

Golden Panther Award Luncheons
Athletic Awards Nights

Honors Day Celebrations
Club Celebrations

REGISTRATION

Registration for all students will be conducted at the Hill Center at 136 Elm Street in Cumming. To make an appointment to register your child call (678) 947-0863, or you may schedule an appointment through our website at www.forsyth.k12.ga.us.

In order to register, a student must have the following:

1. A current Georgia immunization certificate and an eye, ear, and dental certificate
2. Documentation of withdrawal from the previous school (if applicable)
3. Proof of residency in school district
4. Copy of the student's birth certificate
5. Student's social security number

REPORTING OF STUDENT PROGRESS

Parents receive information on their child's academic standing on a regular basis. Every **4 1/2 weeks** an Interim Report will be issued, and every 18 weeks (semester) a Report Card will be issued to students. Please confirm these dates found on the school calendar on the RMS website. **Parents should contact the team teachers when students fail to bring these reports home.** Parents are highly encouraged to sign up for

Parent Portal in order to stay abreast of their child's academic progress on a daily basis. Registration forms for Parent Portal are available on the school system's website or at Riverwatch's front office.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Teachers will give students a list of suggested school supplies for each grade level or class. Specific supplies may be requested by individual teachers, however, no student will be denied learning opportunities if he/she is financially unable to secure requested materials or funds. Students may purchase some school supplies at the school store which is located in the media center.



SCHOOL CLOSING, EARLY DISMISSAL, DELAYED OPENING, AND EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

Parents/guardians are requested to make arrangements in advance for taking care of their children when schools are closed for emergency reasons. The plans should include arrangements for school closings, delayed openings and early dismissals.

FCS closings will be announced on the local and metro broadcast media outlets, the school system website, www.forsyth.k12.ga.us, and on the automated voice service at (770) 887-2461. Subscribers to FCS' newsletters will also receive an email notifying them on closings or delays.

School Closing and Delayed Opening Information: School closings or delays will be announced as described above before 5:30 a.m. If school opening is delayed, please follow the same routine/schedule as normal, but push back the start time by two hours. On delayed days, breakfast is not served, lunch will be served and school will dismiss at the regular time.

Early Dismissal Information: Early dismissals will be announced as described above. In the event of inclement weather, notification will be as soon as the decision is made. In the event of a school crisis, parents/guardians will be notified after the safety and security of students is assured.



SCHOOL SAFETY HOTLINE

Students are encouraged to report information about weapons, drugs, threats of violence or other dangerous or harmful situations to the principal, an assistant principal, a teacher or another trusted adult. Anonymous reports can be made by calling the School Safety Hotline Number, 1-877-SAY-STOP (1-877-729-7867). Callers will not be asked to reveal their identity.



SECTION 504

The Student Support Team (SST) is the mechanism in FCS for identifying disabled students who are eligible for an individual accommodation plan under Section 504. A teacher, educator, or parent/guardian may refer a student to the Student Support Team to consider the appropriateness and eligibility of a student for a 504 individual accommodation plan. For questions regarding SST and /or 504, contact the school level SST chair.



SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

A teacher, principal, counselor or parent/guardian may recommend students for referral to special services. Initial evaluation for special education services are administered only with parental permission. After the evaluation is completed, a staff meeting (including parents/guardians, teachers, counselor, administrator and the school psychologist) will determine the student's eligibility; and if appropriate, placement for special education services will be made.



SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP - GEORGIA

Parents/guardians of students who receive special education services in FCS have the option to exercise public and private school choice. Under a State law passed by the Georgia State Legislature in 2007, parents/guardians of students who receive special education may choose to transfer their child to another public school or private school in Georgia. Parents/guardians must be current residents of Georgia and have been residents for one year.

SPECIAL NEEDS PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE OPTIONS:

A parent/guardian can request a transfer to another public school within their school system as long as there is available space at that school and the school has a program with the services agreed to in the student's existing individualized education program (IEP). If the parent/guardian chooses this option, then the parent/guardian shall be responsible for transportation to the school.

The parent/guardian may request a transfer to a school in another school system if there is available space and the system and school have a program with the services agreed to in the student's existing individualized education program. If a school system accepts the child, then the parent/guardian shall be responsible for transportation to the school in that system.

The parent/guardian may also request a transfer to one of the State schools for the deaf and /or blind operated by the State Board of Education. Acceptance into a State school will depend on whether or not that setting is appropriate for the student's needs. If the parent/guardian chooses this option, then the parent/guardian shall be responsible for transportation to the State school. Please contact the Georgia Department of Education for more information about transferring to a State school.

SPECIAL NEEDS PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE OPTION:

Parents/guardians interested in transferring their child to a private school in Georgia may be able to take advantage of a Georgia Special Needs Scholarship. These scholarships provide funding that can be used to offset tuition costs at participating private schools in the State of Georgia. For more information on the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship and the parent application process, visit the Georgia Department of Education's website at <http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/sb10.aspx>



STAYING AFTER SCHOOL

Students are not allowed to stay on campus after the school hours unless they have permission from a Riverwatch teacher, coach, or administrator, or are staying for a school-sponsored event. Any student who violates this policy is assumed to do so with the foreknowledge of his/her parent(s) and that the school cannot assume responsibility for the student. For safety reasons, students are not permitted to walk off campus and then return to school for their activity. Students remaining at school are the direct responsibility of the teacher, coach, or administrator granting permission to stay after school.

To retain social and other after - school privileges, students must be picked up promptly. This holds true for school - sponsored activities such as athletic and scholastic competitive events and practices, club activities, dances, etc. Students should make arrangements to be picked up at the scheduled time. Failure to do so will result in notification indicating that future infractions will lead to having attendance privileges revoked for the remainder of the semester. Similar action will be taken for students who choose to remain on campus but are not attending a specific event. If necessary, law enforcement officials will be contacted to transfer students to a safe location while waiting for their parents. If this occurs, a note will be posted on the front entrance doors of the school so that parents can be notified that this has occurred. These procedures are in place to ensure the safety of our students and to keep parents informed regarding the whereabouts of their children. Students should also be aware that proper behavior is expected in order to retain the privilege of attending after-school events. If student behavior warrants removal from the event, no refund (if applicable) will be provided.

If a student is absent from school, (s)he is NOT allowed to attend after school events for that day. This includes practice sessions, games, performances, dances, club meetings, etc. The same restrictions are in effect for students who have served in-school or out-of-school suspension.



STUDENT DROP-OFF AND PICK UP LOCATION

A.M. Drop-off and P.M. Pick-up

Parents will drop-off and pick-up their child at the main entrance to Riverwatch Middle School. In order to have a more expedient and effective procedure, parents must encircle the drive and parking lot and drop off/pick up their child on the way out. Students will not be allowed to cross out-going traffic to reach their ride coming in the drive. We ask parents' full support and cooperation with these procedures to ensure the safe-keeping of all of our students. **No student should be dropped off at school before 7:30 AM. Adult supervision is not available until that time.**



STUDENT PLANNER (River Guide)

Every Riverwatch student is required to have a *River Guide* for the entire year to help with organization of school assignments, projects and activities. We encourage students to purchase a *River Guide* that will be available in the RMS School Store for a nominal charge.

Students are expected to have their *River Guide* with them daily, in all classes. Each class will have a designated time where students will be expected to write down in their *River Guide* the goal /standard for class that day and any class work and homework assignments given. Parents are encouraged to review their child's *River Guide* nightly and to reiterate its importance to their child staying organized and on top of things.



STUDENT SEARCHES

Student cars brought on campus, student book bags, and school lockers, desks and other school property shall be subject to inspection and search by school authorities at all times without further notice to students or parents. FCS reserves the right to use "walk-through" and "hand-held" metal detectors and "drug or weapon sniffing" dogs at school and during any school function, including activities which occur outside normal school hours or off the school campus. Students are notified that these metal detectors will be used at the discretion of administrators.



TEENAGE DRIVER CURFEW

Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §40-5-24) prohibits Class D licensed drivers from driving on public roads, streets or highways between the hours of 12:00 Midnight and 6:00 a.m. It is the responsibility of individual students, to be informed as to the terms and conditions which currently exist or may be imposed upon driver's licenses issued by the State of Georgia, and to comply with such terms and conditions. It is not the responsibility of the Forsyth County Board of Education, its board members, employees or agents to either inform students of such terms or conditions, or insure compliance with the laws of this State.



TEENAGE AND ADULT DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY ACT

This law mandates the school system to report non-compliant students **14-17 years old** for the purpose of denying or suspending the driver's license. A non-compliant student is defined as one who has:

- Dropped out of school without graduating and has remained out of school for ten consecutive days;
- Ten or more school days of unexcused absences in the current or previous academic year; or
- Been found in violation by a hearing officer, panel or tribunal of one of the following offenses, has received a change in placement for committing one of the following offenses, or has waived his or her right to a hearing and pleaded guilty to one of the following offenses:
 - a) Threatening, striking, or causing bodily harm to a teacher or other school personnel;
 - b) Possession (internal or external) or sale of drugs or alcohol on school property; or
 - c) Possession or use of a weapon on school property (For the purpose of reporting non-compliance under this Act only, the term "weapon" shall be defined in accordance with O.C.G.A. §16-11-127.1 but shall not include any part of an archaeological or cultural exhibit brought to school in connection with a school project),
 - d) Any sexual offense (including sexual touching) prohibited under O.C.G.A. Chapter 6 of Title 16; or
 - e) Causing substantial physical or visible bodily harm to or seriously disfiguring another person, including another student.



TELEPHONE USE

In order to protect the instructional time of our students, phone calls from the office will only be made in the case of an emergency. Likewise, phone calls from a child's parent to make special arrangements will not be accepted in the office. **Parents may not change their child's mode of transportation unless in the case of an extreme emergency.** Administrative approval must first be given. Students will not be called to the office or the phone during class time without administrative approval. This approval will only be given in an emergency situation. Concerns about safety and the interruption of instruction have led to the implementation of these procedures. (Failure to make arrangements to stay after school or bring necessary materials to school does not constitute an emergency.) If a student is ill and needs to call home, he or she is to use the designated phone in the clinic or office.

Cell phones and other electronic devices must be in OFF mode and kept out of sight during the school day. Confiscated items will only be returned to parents.

TEXTBOOKS

All textbooks are on loan to students for use during the school year. Each student is responsible for the textbooks issued to him/her. Payment for lost or damaged books is the responsibility of the student and his/her parent or guardian.

THE FAMILY EDUCATION RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The U.S. Congress enacted legislation in 1974 to extend civil rights protection to educational records maintained by public schools and other educational agencies. The Act allows access to educational records by parents, eligible students, and school staff members and prevents access to those same records without parental permission except for those individuals who are entitled access.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act created four basic rights:

- A) The right to be informed of FERPA's provisions,
- B) The right to prevent disclosure of educational records without prior written consent,
- C) The right to inspect educational records,
- D) The right to challenge the content of educational records.

The Forsyth County School District has designated the following information as directory information.

- a) Student's name/ Parent's name, address, and telephone number
- b) Student's date and place of birth;
- c) Student's team designation
- d) Student's participation in official school clubs and sports;
- e) Weight and height of student if he/she is a member of an athletic team;
- f) Dates of attendance at the Forsyth County School System schools; and
- g) Awards received during the time enrolled in Forsyth County School System.

Unless you, as a parent/guardian or eligible student, request otherwise, this information may be disclosed to the public upon request. In addition, two federal laws require school systems receiving federal financial assistance to provide military recruiters or institutions of higher learning, upon request, with the name, address, and telephone numbers unless parents have advised the school system that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent. You have the right to refuse to allow all or any part of the above information to be designated as directory information and to refuse to allow it to be disclosed to the public upon request without your prior written consent. If you wish to exercise this right, you must notify the principal of the school, in writing, within 10 days of the first day of school or of your enrollment date.

You are also notified that from time to time students may be photographed, video taped, or interviewed by the news media at school or some school activity or event; unless you, as a parent/guardian object in writing to your student being photographed video taped or interviewed, to the principal of the school where your student is enrolled. You must notify the principal of your objection by the date specified above. The principal will take reasonable steps to control the media's access to students. However, your submission of a written objection does not constitute a guarantee that your student will not be interviewed in circumstances which are not within the knowledge or control of the principal.

See pages 32-33 for more information regarding FERPA.



VISITORS

For students' safety, all visitors must report to the school office and sign in upon arrival to campus. Badges will be issued to visitors and must be worn while on campus. Students are not allowed to bring visiting friends or relatives to school with them during a regular school day. Please see page 10 for more information about classroom and school visits by parents.



WITHDRAWAL REQUIREMENTS

The parent/guardian who enrolled the student is expected to accompany the student to withdraw. Any fees owed are expected to be paid at this time. Copies of any requested grading or testing information that is needed for registration at the new school will be provided at this time.

SOME THINGS PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP YOUR CHILD BE SUCCESSFUL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Review your child's student planner (River Guide) daily with your child. Carefully go over long-range and short-range assignments.
- Don't expect school personnel to solve neighborhood problems.
- Check in at the office and secure a visitor's badge prior to visiting or working in the building.
- Support the people and events/activities at school.
- Maintain a positive attitude about your child, the school, and members of the school staff.
- If a problem occurs at school, get the facts, then cooperate with the people at school to solve the problem.
- Work as a volunteer.
- Attend all parent meetings.
- Come to school for conferences and be on time.
- Tell staff members when they have done something good for and with your child.
- Play with your child.
- Know where your child is and what he/she is doing at all times.
- Help your child learn to cope with boredom and to understand that boredom is a part of life.
- Help your child understand that learning is not always fun.
- Provide many opportunities for your child to develop common sense.
- Be reasonable in your expectations for your child and his teacher.
- Appreciate what your child is getting in the way of an education.
- Talk with your child.
- Help your child with his/her homework.

**NOTICE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND ELIGIBLE STUDENT
OF RIGHTS UNDER THE
FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT
AND THE PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)**

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) (the "Act"), parents/guardians have a right to:

- 1) Inspect and review, within 45 days of a request, the education records of a student who is their child, or in the case of a student who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, or those who are emancipated, their own education records. Parents/guardians or eligible students should submit to their principal a written request identifying the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and provide notice of such arrangements.
- 2) Request the amendment of the student's education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights. To request the school district to amend a record, parent/guardian or eligible students should write the school principal, specify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights. If the district decides not to amend the record, it will notify the parent/guardian or eligible students of the decision and inform them of their right to a hearing. Additional information regarding the hearing procedure will be provided with the notification of the right to a hearing.
- 3) Consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the Act and the regulations promulgated pursuant to the Act authorize disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is to school officials with legitimate educational interest. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member; a member of the school board; a person with whom the district has contracted to perform a specific task (such as attorney, auditor, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee (such as a disciplinary or grievance committee). A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school district forwards educational records without prior consent to another school in which the student seeks or intends to enroll.

File with the United States Department of Education a complaint under 20 S.F.R. 99.64 concerning the alleged failures by the Forsyth County Board of Education to comply with the requirements of the Act or the regulations promulgated there under. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-4605.

FERPA DIRECTORY INFORMATION NOTICE

FCS has designated the following information as directory information:

- | | | |
|----|--|----------------------|
| 1. | address and telephone number; | Student's name, |
| 2. | place of birth; | Student's date and |
| 3. | participation in official school clubs and sports; | Student's |
| 4. | student if he/she is a member of an athletic team; | Weight and height of |
| 5. | at FCS; and | Dates of attendance |
| 6. | during the time enrolled in FCS. | Awards received |

Unless a parent/guardian or eligible student, request otherwise, this information may be disclosed to the public upon request. In addition, two federal laws require school systems receiving federal financial assistance to provide military recruiters or institutions of higher learning, upon request, with the name, address, and telephone numbers unless parents/guardians have advised the school system that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent. Parents/guardians have the right to refuse to allow all or any part of the above information to be designated as directory information and to refuse to allow it to be disclosed to the public upon request without your prior written consent. If parents/guardians wish to exercise this right (Opt-Out), they must notify the principal of the school, in writing, within 10 days of the first day of school or of their enrollment date.

Parents/guardians are also notified that from time to time students may be photographed, video taped, or interviewed by the news media at school or some school activity or event; unless a parent/guardian objects in writing to their student being photographed video taped or interviewed, to the principal of the school where their student is enrolled. Parents/guardians must notify the principal of their objection by the date specified above. The principal will take reasonable steps to control the media's access to students. However, parent/guardian submission of a written objection does not constitute a guarantee that their student will not be interviewed in circumstances which are not within the knowledge or control of the principal.

Appropriate Use of Forsyth County Schools Computer and Network Resources

It is the belief of the Forsyth County Board of Education that the use of technology for the purpose of information acquisition, retrieval, manipulation, distribution and storage is an important part of preparing children to live in the 21st century. The Board further believes that a “technology rich” classroom can significantly enhance both the teaching and learning process. This technology includes computer hardware, software, local and wide area networks and access to the Internet. Due to the complex nature of these systems and the magnitude of information available via the Internet, the Forsyth County Board of Education believes guidelines regarding acceptable use are warranted in order to serve the educational needs of students.

It shall be the policy of the Forsyth County Board of Education that the school system shall have in continuous operation, with respect to any computers belonging to the school having access to the Internet:

1. A qualifying “technology protection measure,” as that term is defined in Section 1703(b)(1) of the Children’s Internet Protection Act of 2000; and
2. Procedures or guidelines developed by the superintendent, administrators and/or other appropriate personnel which provide for monitoring the online activities of users and the use of the chosen technology protection measure to protect against access through such computers to visual depictions that are (i) obscene, (ii) child pornography, or (iii) harmful to minors, as those terms are defined in Section 1703(b)(1) and (2) of the Children’s Internet Protection Act of 2000. Such procedures or guidelines shall be designed to:
 1. provide for monitoring the online activities of users to prevent, to the extent practicable, access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and the World Wide Web;
 2. educate minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act;
 3. prevent unauthorized access, including so-called “hacking,” and other unauthorized activities by minors online;
 4. prevent the unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and
 5. restrict minors’ access to materials “harmful to minors,” as that term is defined in Section 1703(b)(2) of the Children’s Internet Protection Act of 2000.

The district’s technology resources are provided for educational purposes that promote and are consistent with the instructional goals of FCS. Use of computers and network resources outside the scope of this educational purpose is strictly prohibited. Students and employees accessing network services or any school computer shall comply with the district’s acceptable use guidelines. The district reserves the right to monitor, access, and disclose the contents of any user’s files, activities, or communications.

It must also be understood that the Internet is a global, fluid community, which remains largely unregulated. While it is an extremely valuable tool for educational research, there are sections that are not commensurate with community, school, or family standards. It is the belief of the Board that the Internet’s advantages far outweigh its disadvantages. The Forsyth County Board of Education will, through its administrative staff, provide an Internet screening system which blocks access to a large percentage of inappropriate sites. It should not be assumed, however, that users are completely prevented from accessing inappropriate materials or from sending or receiving objectionable communications.

Additionally, access to the Internet and computer resources is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, users violating the Forsyth County Board of Education's acceptable use policy shall be subject to revocation of these privileges and potential disciplinary action.

Computers and Network Resources *Student Acceptable Use Guidelines* Forsyth County Schools Computers and Network Resources

Student Acceptable Use Guidelines

Please read the following carefully. Violations of the Acceptable Use Guidelines may cause a student's access privileges to be revoked, disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

Any student who utilizes the computer lab(s) or any computer equipment at the school must be aware of certain policies for use of the equipment and/or facilities. Procedures are in place for the protection of students and equipment. Students will be held accountable for any violation of the following policies (as would be the case for any classroom disciplinary matter). A student and his/her parents will be responsible for damages and will be liable for costs incurred for service or repair.

Students are only allowed to utilize the computers and network to retrieve information and run specific software applications as directed by their teacher. Students are not permitted to explore the configuration of the computer, operating system or network, run programs not on the menu, or attempt to do anything they are not specifically authorized to do.

Students are responsible for ensuring that any computers or computing devices, diskettes, CDs, memory sticks, USB flash drives, or other forms of storage media that they bring in from outside the school are virus free and do not contain any unauthorized or inappropriate files. Students are permitted to connect to the district network via the secure wireless connection provided by the school system, but all access must be in accordance with this Acceptable Use Policy. Students are NOT permitted to use their own computing devices to access the Internet via personal Wi-Fi accounts or by any manner other than connecting through the secure wireless connection provided by the school system.

Safety Issues:

- 1) Any on-line communication should always be at the direction and with the supervision of a teacher.
- 2) Never provide last name, address, telephone number, or school name online.
- 3) Never respond to, and always report to the teacher or parent, any messages that make you feel uncomfortable or that are from an unknown origin.
- 4) Never send a photo of yourself or anyone else.
- 5) Never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone you met on-line.
- 6) Never open attachments or files from unknown senders.
- 7) Always report to a teacher any inappropriate sites that you observe being accessed by another user or that you browse to accidentally.

Examples of prohibited conduct include but are not limited to the following:

- A) Accessing, sending, creating or posting materials or communications that are:
 - a) Damaging to another person's reputation,
 - b) Abusive,
 - c) Obscene,
 - d) Sexually oriented,

- e) Threatening or demeaning to another person,
- f) Contrary to the school's policy on harassment,
- g) Harassing, or
- h) Illegal

- B) Using the network for financial gain or advertising.
- C) Posting or plagiarizing work created by another person without their consent.
- D) Posting anonymous or forging electronic mail messages.
- E) Attempting to read, alter, delete, or copy the electronic mail messages of other system users.
- F) Giving out personal information such as phone numbers, addresses, driver's license or social security numbers, bankcard or checking account information.
- G) Using the school's computer hardware or network for any illegal activity such as copying or downloading copyrighted software, music or images, or violation of copyright laws.
- H) Downloading, installing, or using games, music files, public domain, shareware or any other unauthorized program on any school's computer or computer system.
- I) Purposely bringing on premises or infecting any school computer or network with a Virus, Trojan, or program designed to damage, alter, destroy or provide access to unauthorized data or information.
- J) Gaining access or attempting to access unauthorized or restricted network resources or the data and documents of another person.
- K) Using or attempting to use the password or account of another person or utilizing a computer while logged on under another user's account.
- L) Using the school's computers or network while access privileges have been suspended.
- M) Using the school's computer hardware, network, or Internet link in a manner that is inconsistent with a teacher's directions and generally accepted network etiquette.
- N) Altering or attempting to alter the configuration of a computer, network electronics, the operating system, or any of the software.
- O) Attempting to vandalize, disconnect or disassemble any network or computer component.
- P) Utilizing the computers and network to retrieve information or run software applications not assigned by their teacher or inconsistent with school policy.
- Q) Providing another student with user account information or passwords.
- R) Connecting to or installing any computer hardware, components, or software which are not school system property to or in the district's technology resources without prior approval of the district technology supervisory personnel. Students are permitted to connect to the district network via the secure wireless connection provided by the school system, but all access must be in accordance with this Acceptable Use Policy. Students are NOT permitted to use their own computing devices to access the Internet via personal Wi-Fi accounts or by any manner other than connecting through the secure wireless connection provided by the school system.
- S) Bringing on premises any computer, disk or storage device that contains a software application or utility that could be used to alter the configuration of the operating system or network equipment, scan or probe the network, or provide access to unauthorized areas or data.
- T) Downloading or accessing via e-mail or file sharing, any software or programs not specifically authorized by Technology personnel.
- U) Bypassing or attempting to circumvent network security, virus protection, network filtering, or policies.
- V) Possessing or accessing information on school property related to "Hacking", or altering, or bypassing network security or policies.

- W) Participating on message boards without teacher direction, or in live chat using but not limited to AIM, Yahoo, or MSN Messenger.
- X) Students should follow the guidelines below when performing Internet searches.

Middle:

Students in grades 6-8 may only perform unsupervised Internet searches using Nettekter (<http://school.nettrekker.com>). A search using any other search engine must be conducted with teacher supervision. *This is a **copy** of the student user agreement for Internet access.

PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT NOTICE

No student shall be required to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent; or
8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program), without prior written consent of the parent or eligible student.

A parent/guardian of a student may, upon request, inspect any survey created by a third party containing one or more of the items listed as (1) through (8) above before the survey is administered or distributed by a school to a student and may choose to opt the student out of participation in the survey. The Superintendent shall develop procedures for: (1) granting a request by a parent/guardian for reasonable access to such survey within a reasonable period of time after the request is received, and (2) making arrangements to protect student privacy in the event of the administration or distribution of a survey to a student containing one or more of the items listed as (1) through (8). The requirements of PPRA do not apply to a survey administered to a student in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

A parent/guardian of a student may, upon request, inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for the student. The Superintendent shall develop procedures for granting a request by a parent/guardian parent for reasonable access to instructional material within a reasonable period of time after the request is received.

Parents/guardians shall be notified prior to the administration of physical examinations or screenings that the school may administer to students. This notice shall offer the parent/guardian the opportunity to opt the student out of any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is (1) required as a condition of attendance; (2) administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and (3) not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, or of other students.

The parent/guardian parent of a student shall be notified prior to the commencement of activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information (or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose). Such notice shall offer the parent/guardian the opportunity to inspect, upon request, any instrument used in the collection of such information before the instrument is administered or distributed to a student and to opt the student out of such activities. The Superintendent shall develop procedures that: (1) make arrangements to protect student privacy in the event of such collection, disclosure, or use, and (2) grant a request by a parent/guardian for reasonable access to such instrument within a reasonable period of time after the request is received.

Residency Requirements and Address Changes

Proof of residence is required when a student initially enrolls in a school, when entering grades K, 6 and 9, and whenever indication of a change of residence occurs. Change of Address forms are available at the school or at www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/registration

In the event of an address change, the Registration Center staff, principal or principal's designee shall accept the following records as proof of residency:

1. A current utility bill (gas, electric, water, telephone, or cable) *and* a current and valid lease or rental agreement. Records must include the name and address of the parent/guardian.

OR

2. A current utility bill (gas, electric, water, telephone, or cable) *and* one of the following documents establishing home ownership – deed, **closing statement, mortgage statement, or property tax statement**. Records must include the name and address of the parent/guardian.

OR

3. A FCS Affidavit of Residency, if a parent/guardian is unable to provide the records listed above. The notarized affidavit shall be completed and signed by the parent/guardian, as well as the legal owner or landlord of the property where the student and parent/guardian reside. The affidavit will be in effect until the parent/guardian provides proof of residence as required by the Forsyth County Board of Education, but no longer than the end of the current school year.

A school system representative may visit the address given by any parent/guardian to verify residency.

A family that rents a home in Forsyth County, while owning a home in another county, solely for the purpose of proving residence for their children to attend school in Forsyth County will be considered in violation of this policy. Students who are illegally enrolled shall be immediately withdrawn. Violations of this policy may be pursued in court.

Student Handbook Acknowledgement of Receipt

Parent/Guardian:

I have read and fully understand the contents of the (RMS) Riverwatch Middle School Student Handbook. I have explained these rules to my child.

Child's Name _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

Student:

I understand and will abide by the RMS Student Handbook. I understand that any violation of the RMS Student Handbook may result in loss of privileges and/or disciplinary action.

Student's Name (please print) _____

Student's Signature _____

Please return this form to your Rivertime teacher.

2010-2011 Middle School Assessment Calendar

Grade	Assessment	Assessment Dates
6-8	CRCT	April 13: Reading April 14: Language Arts April 15: Make-up April 19: Math April 20: Science April 21: Social Studies April 22: Make-up May 26-27: Retests for Grade 8
8	Georgia Writing Assessment	January 19 January 20: Make-up
6	ITBS	September 8: Vocabulary/Reading September 9: Language September 10: Math September 15: Make-up
6-8	GAA	September 1 – March 11: Ongoing portfolio assessment
6-8	ACCESS	January 24- February 17: Student testing
8	EOCT (Accelerated Math Students Only)	May 11, 2010: Math I
8	NAEP	TBA