

SEVIERVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Student & Parent Handbook 2007 – 2008

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Homeroom Teacher: _____

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A Message from the Administration

On behalf of the administration and faculty, we welcome you to Sevierville Middle School. During the 2006-2007 school year, the administration and faculty at Sevierville Middle School worked very hard and trying to improve focus, efficiency, the environment and overall a better school for the students, parents, and the community. We worked at bringing focus to our student needs, our curriculum needs, and facility needs in order to create a more positive, more welcoming atmosphere, for all members of Sevierville Middle School as well as the community. During the 2007-2008 school year we plan on doing the same, and we believe we will keep growing, learning, and succeeding in creating a great climate for this community of learners. This handbook is published in order to provide students and parents with a quick reference to information that is necessary to the operation and needs of the school. It is essential that all students and parents read the information contained in this handbook, so everyone can contribute to a safe, positive, and proactive process for the teaching and learning environment. We hope you have a great year at Sevierville Middle School.

Mission Statement

With student success as our primary focus, we desire to encourage and empower all students to strive for their highest academic, physical, emotional, and social potential, preparing them for continuing levels of education, training, and civic responsibility.

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I. COMMUNICATION

Parent-Teacher Organization

The purpose of this organization is the home and the school into a closer relationship so that parents and teachers can cooperate more intelligently in the training of our children. The membership of this organization shall consist of the people interested in pursuing the goals of the organization. One very important purpose of the SMS PTO is to recruit parent and community volunteers to help with every phase of life at Sevierville Middle School. We are always looking for and asking for volunteers to help in the library, the cafeteria, and with student events. We look for volunteers that can help display student successes and with fundraising activities. The tasks are endless, the opportunities are great, and the personal reward and satisfaction you can receive is limitless. Be an active member of the SMS PTO. Please feel free to contact the school if you are interested in the PTO.

Parent-Teacher Communication

Sevierville Middle School teachers believe that parent-teacher communication is very essential in the educational process of children. Throughout the year personal contacts will be made with you the parent/guardian in order to keep you, and your son/daughter's informed of academic and social progress. Contacts will come in the form of phone calls, postcards, and personal notes. Parent-Teacher conferences will be scheduled during the school year; however parents are encouraged to contact the school whenever the need arises. We request that you call the school to schedule a meeting, because our teachers' schedules do not allow time for drop-in conferences. We plan on making sure you know where your child is academically and socially and what we are doing to try and improve your child's life. Also, please do not forget to make use of the school website for school information and weekly class assignments.

Visitors

We encourage parents to visit Sevierville Middle School; however, all visitors are *required* to check in at the school office. Appointments for conferences with administrators, a counselor, or classroom teachers should be scheduled through the SMS office. Scheduled appointments will save everyone valuable time. Students from other schools may not visit school or classes during the school day.

Student Messages

We will be unable to deliver messages to students, except in cases of an emergency. We understand that parents may feel the need to get in touch with students during the school day, but we cannot stop the instruction of the other students in the class for any reason other than an emergency. The nature of the emergency must be specified to a school official before classroom activities will be interrupted. **After school arrangements, meeting places, pick-up times, etc. should be made between the child and the parent before the student arrives at school in the morning.**

Phones

Office phones at SMS are for school business purposes only. Students will not be permitted to make phone calls during the school day unless it is an emergency. Also, students will not be called to the office to receive incoming phone calls.

II. ACADEMIC PROCESS

Academics

Sevierville Middle School's academic goal is to meet the students at their current achievement level and improve their academic, physical, emotional, and social awareness. All students can learn and will learn if they desire. We will meet the challenge and provide an education that meets students on their level and foster their growth throughout the year. The task of improving educational ability is a serious one and we promise to work at furthering all learner's growth at Sevierville Middle School.

All students will receive instruction in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, art, music, computer technology, and guidance. Special courses include band, accelerated mathematics, and Algebra 1. The school-wide instructional program is enhanced through a full inclusion program designed to serve special education populations (e.g. learning disabled, gifted, Comprehensive Developmental Classroom students and Social Developmental Classroom students) in the least restrictive environment where all students can benefit. Physical Education is a required portion of a well-balanced educational program. Students are expected to participate in all PE activities unless excused by a doctor's note. Seventh and eighth grade students are expected to dress out in the appropriate clothing and shoes. Students not dressing out will be given a written assignment to be completed during class time. Band is an elective subject offered to students in grades six through eight. Enrollment is for the full year. Each student will provide his own instrument. If a lease-purchase agreement is desired, please contact one of the band instructors for details.

Guidance & PRIDE

Guidance is an integral part of the total middle school program. Guidance will come from the homeroom teachers, the administration, and the guidance department. The primary function is to provide a comprehensive guidance program for all students and to specifically provide activities to meet the needs of the individual student. Teachers, administrators, and counselors will be available to meet with teachers, students, and parents to provide support and enhance the educational opportunities for the student.

PRIDE also serves as an integral part of the counseling, fostering, and growth of the student. PRIDE stands for Programs for Reaching Individual Developmental Excellence. Each week students are able to meet with their peers and teachers to work through social matters that are ever-changing in their life. Activities include discussions about family, social issues, school issues, and pertinent items going on in the life of the student with the goal being that no one leaves Sevierville Middle School without having connected to at least one staff member and a specific group of students.

Library

The SMS Library is located in the center of the academic wing of our building and is the focal point of the academic learning environment. It is a fully equipped facility designed to support and expand the academic programs while also providing enjoyable recreational reading material for all students. The library is available for both individual student research and class research projects. Books may be checked out on a two-week basis. Students must have a library pass from the teacher if coming without a class. If a library book is lost or damaged, the student who checked it out is responsible for paying for it. **Grade cards will not be issued nor cumulative records sent to a new destination until all student obligations are cleared.**

Grading Policies & Grade Cards

Academic policies governing the school state that 2/3 of the academic grade will be accrued through daily assignments and homework while 1/3 of the academic grade will be from testing. Grade cards will be sent on the sixth instructional day following the end of the six weeks grading period. The grade card must be signed by the parent or guardian and returned to the teacher as soon as possible. Mid-grading period progress reports will be sent to the parent or guardian by the seventeenth day of the grading period for all academic subject areas.

The following grading scale will be used:

A	95-100	B+	90-92	C+	83-84	D	70-72
A-	93-94	B	85-89	C	75-82	F	Less than 70
				C-	73-74		

Homework

We believe homework is important because it is a valuable aid in helping students make the most of their experience in school. We give homework because it reinforces what has been taught in class, prepares students for upcoming lessons, and helps students develop self-discipline, responsibility, and organizational skills. At Sevierville Middle School homework takes several different forms, but there are basically four types of homework assignments.

1. Preparation homework helps students inform themselves about the next day's lessons.
2. Practice homework provides students with review and reinforcement about material presented in a previous lesson.
3. Extension homework guides students, enabling them to expand on concepts that were taught in class.
4. Creative homework includes the higher level thinking skills - analysis and synthesis.

We expect students to follow these guidelines when completing homework assignments:

- All assignments will be completed.
- Students are responsible for making up homework missed due to absence.
- Homework will be turned in on time.
- Students will turn in work that is neatly done.

There is no ideal time allocation for homework, but when making homework assignments, teachers do so with an awareness of the general expectations of other teachers in other subject areas. Additionally, consideration is given to the amount of time available during the school day to complete assignments. It is the general belief at Sevierville Middle School that all academic classes require that students spend some amount of time, on a regular basis, engaged in some form of homework. The specified amount of time allocated depends on the subject and the purpose of the assignment.

Every homework assignment will be given for a specific purpose. Not all homework will be evaluated for grading purposes. Each assignment, however, will be reviewed for accuracy or quality. Homework can be a factor in the determination of the daily grade.

Each teacher will clearly define his/her homework policies and expectations to students. As the word "homework" implies, there must be a close and supportive relationship between the home and school relating to homework. Parents are urged to provide encouragement, as well as time, for students to participate in this important component of education.

III. SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Field Trips

All grades at SMS will participate in educational field trips. The same good manners and rules of conduct that apply at school will be expected of students participating on field trips. Expenses for these trips will be the responsibility of each student. Information concerning the purpose of the trip, place to be visited, cost, chaperones, etc., will be sent to parents in a timely manner. **Students participating in field trips must turn in a signed permission slip from parents.** Phone calls for permission will not be accepted.

Students who have been suspended out of school, placed at the Alternative School or Parkway Academy, placed in in-school suspension for multiple offenses, or who have accumulated 5 unexcused absences will NOT be allowed to go on field trips during that semester. Parents are encouraged to participate and are welcomed as chaperones on SMS field trips. Because these outings require seating space on buses and reservations for many of the attractions to be visited, adults accompanying each group will have to pay depending on rules of bus companies and attractions.

Assembly Programs

Programs will be scheduled during the school year with some being educational and others for entertainment. Students and parents will be notified of any cost. Recognition and awards programs for achievement, leadership, and improvement will also be scheduled during the school year.

Singing, Art, Special Activities, Exploratory, and Clubs

Students are encouraged to be a part of a group or activity. Students with a group or activity have a great opportunity to feel a part of the school and enhance their chances for success. Sevierville Middle School offers a wide range of special interest activities designed to both awaken and deepen interests of our students. These offerings may be of several venues. We have outstanding music and arts programs with teachers that are very creative in involving and enriching the lives of our students. Throughout the year singing programs and art classes are announced that will make students feel apart of something special that can enrich their life for years to come. Also, each week students have the opportunity to take Exploratory classes or special interest courses (fly-fishing, scrapbooking, line-dancing, walking, model car building, etc.) taught by teachers and community volunteers with special talents. Such exploratory courses combined with other activity programs like team building, clubs, organizations, and special days at SMS will provide all students an opportunity to be actively involved.

Interscholastic Sports

Students are encouraged to be a part of a group or activity. The chance for student improvement is accelerated when being a part of a group or activity. Opportunities abound throughout the year for participating in athletics. Sevierville Middle School supports boys and girls basketball and girls volleyball under the guiding principals of the Sevier County Board of Education and the TSSAA. All three teams participate in regular season games and tournaments. We have been very successful having won multiple county championships and experiencing other successes throughout the years so please become involved. We also offer opportunities associated with Sevier County High School and the community to become involved in cheerleading, baseball, golf, soccer, swimming, and wrestling.

IV. ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at school and promptness for classes are necessary if each student is to benefit from the programs and instruction offered at SMS. Each student should strive for a perfect attendance record. State law requires a student to attend school for ***three hours and thirty minutes*** to be counted present for that day. The following is a summary of the current policy:

Absences and tardies will be classified as either excused or unexcused as determined by the principal or his/her designee using the following criteria as set forth by the Board. Excused absences and tardies result from the following:

1. Personal illness
2. Illness of Immediate family member
3. Death in the family
4. Extreme weather conditions
5. Religious observances
6. School bus failures
7. Circumstances which in the judgment of the principal create emergencies over which the student has no control.

Other absences and tardies will be unexcused.

Students participating in school-sponsored activities will not be counted absent. All missed class work or tests must be made up when a student has an excused absence or is out of class on a school-sponsored activity. When a student's absence is unexcused, the student will be allowed to make up tests missed. Regular class work will not be made up, and the student will receive a zero for that work. Please do not forget that it is the student's responsibility to obtain make-up work.

For grades 6 - 12, parent/guardian notes will be accepted by the principal for each event of student illness in a semester. Such events will be considered excused. These events or occasions may be one or more days. **If the illness becomes extended (four or more days), the principal may request a medical statement to verify the illness. After four occasions in a semester, medical or other professional statements provided by a doctor, dentist, etc., may be required by the principal for each occasion. If requested by the principal, failure to provide the statements will cause the absence to become unexcused.** Any student having five or more unexcused absences will be considered for possible truancy actions.

Family Vacations

A total of five (5) school days per school year may be excused by the building level administration for a family vacation prior to the student going on vacation. **Approval will be dependent upon the student's attendance and academic record.** Longer periods of time must be requested and approved by the Superintendent of Sevier County Schools. Please do not request a vacation around the weeks of TCAP Testing which are usually in the first weeks of April.

Daily Schedule & Tardies

The school day at SMS begins at **8:05 a.m.** and ends at **3:05 p.m.** The school doors open at 7:15, and no student should arrive before 7:15 for there will be no supervision. Students who arrive before 7:50 a.m. must go directly to the gym or commons area depending on grade level. Students are not allowed in academic wings of the building until 7:50. Students will be dismissed from the gym or commons area at 7:50 to report to homerooms. If a student is late for school and arrives after 8:05 a.m., he or she must bring a note signed by the parent including a phone number where the parent can be reached. **Unexcused tardies will result in disciplinary action.**

Students are considered tardy (unexcused) even if parents have difficulty getting them to school in the morning. The SMS Tardy Policy is:

1. Four unexcused tardies per semester - parent notification by school personnel.
2. After four unexcused tardies students will have 1 day of ISS each time they are tardy.

Early Dismissal

If it is necessary for a student to leave school early, a parent or an adult listed on the authorization card must come in the office to check the student out. Classes missed will be excused for the same reasons as full day excused absence. Any student absent for an excusable reason is responsible for completing work missed as a result of leaving early. No student is to be picked up after 2:45 P.M. unless he/she has a doctor's appointment.

Afternoon Dismissal

Afternoon dismissal begins at 3:05 p.m. Students who ride first load buses will go to the back parking lot and load at that time. Parents will pick up students who are car riders at the front entrance to the building. Students who have parent permission to walk will also be dismissed at 3:05. At 3:15 p.m. second load bus riders will be dismissed from the team areas to report to the commons area to wait for buses. Students not picked up by parents (car riders) will report to the commons area where parent/guardians can pick them up.

School Closing & Severe Weather

Announcements concerning the closing of schools in Sevier County due to inclement weather will be made on local radio and TV stations. Please listen to these stations and do not call the school. We will need to keep the lines free for emergency use. **Parents and students should have a plan for early dismissal from school due to weather conditions. These emergency plans will be followed in the event of an early dismissal.**

Make Up Work Pertaining to Absences

Students who have been absent from school with an excused absence are allowed to make up any work missed during this time. Board policy grants one school day for each excused absence to make up work beginning with the day the student returns to school. **It is the student's responsibility to see each teacher and request needed assignments.** Parents may request needed assignments for students who have been absent for **more than 3 days.** These assignments may be picked up in the school office after 3:15 with prior arrangements having been made with the student's teachers before 9:15 A.M.

V. STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Education is a process of growing and learning to live in society as a contributing, participating member of the group. Discipline is the development of self-control, character, responsibility, restraint, fair play, and consideration for the feelings and welfare of others. Good manners (consideration for the other person) encompass both of these ideas.

School rules and regulations are based upon Sevier County schools Code of Student Conduct and Discipline and will be followed at all times - both at the school and at school sponsored activities. A copy of this policy is on file in the SMS office. During the first week of school, teachers will review The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline with all students. All students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects consideration for the rights and feelings of others, in addition to pride in our school and self-respect. Blatant disregard for, or continued violation of these rules will result in appropriate disciplinary action to include, but not limited to: removal of extra-curricular privileges, parent notification, campus cleanup, isolated study, in-school suspension, bus suspension, Alternative School placement, out-of-school suspension, or expulsion.

General Policies

1. All SMS Staff members have not only the right, but also the responsibility and duty to reprimand or correct a student whom is misbehaving. Disrespect by students toward any staff member will not be tolerated. We believe students should show respect to all staff members at all times.
2. Students should be present and on time each school day. Daily attendance and punctuality are essential for good work and progress.
3. In class, good citizenship means students always do assignments, bring materials to class, and in general, conduct themselves in an acceptable manner.
4. Boy-girl relationships are a natural part of growing up. However, we feel that obvious or open displays of affection (kissing, handholding, arms around each other, etc.) are not appropriate in the school, buses, school grounds, or field trips.
5. Obscene/vulgar language/gestures will not be allowed. Name-calling is unacceptable.
6. Damage, destruction, or defacing of school property at SMS will not be tolerated.
7. Chewing gum is not permitted on campus.
8. CD players, radios, tape recorders, cameras, collectable cards, tapes, CD's, cell phones, laser pointers and other valuable possessions should not be brought to school except with special permission and for a special purpose. Students are not permitted to bring items to sell at school.
9. Students may not drive any motorized vehicle to school.
10. Students cannot take part in any after-school activity if they were absent from school, in ISS, ALC, or suspended.
11. Skateboards or roller blades are not to be brought to school at anytime.
12. The school prohibits sexual harassment. Sexual harassing conduct includes any unwelcome physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature.
13. The school understands that if a student is a victim of a violent crime at school, parents will be notified and the child has the right to attend another grade-appropriate public school in the county.

VI. STANDARDIZED DRESS & GROOMING: GRADES 6–12

The Sevier County School System recognizes the effect, which student dress and grooming have upon student behavior and commitment to learning. Attire considered disruptive to health or safety is not appropriate. The following rules concerning dress and grooming are mandatory in grades 6-12, beginning with the 1999-2000 school year.

Bottom wear

(Waist and Below: Pants, Skirts, Shorts, & Skorts)

Bottom wear must be size appropriate for the wearer with *no sagging or bagging*, and must be worn securely at and around the waist so as not to reveal undergarments and to prevent pant legs from touching the floor. Wide-legged pants which expose less than one fourth of the top of the foot, large pockets, cargo pockets, spandex, or leggings shall not be allowed. Skirts, shorts, or skorts must be no shorter in length than four (4) inches above the knee in grades 6-8. Slits must be no higher than four (4) inches above the knee in grades 6-8. This pertains to clothing even when worn with stockings/leggings underneath.

Belts

Belts are required if pants are noticeably sagging.

Top Wear

(Waist and Above)

Shirts must be size appropriate for the wearer and have having sleeves which cover the Deltoid muscle. They will be worn either tucked in or no more than three inches below the top of the waist band, but in no event shall the bottom of the shirt cover any portion of a pocket opening. Bare midriffs will not be allowed. **Size appropriate** fleece pullovers, light jackets, long sleeve crew neck, v-neck, or cardigan sweater vests; or sweatshirts may be worn over an approved shirt.

Dresses

Girls may wear dresses appropriately sized for the wearer with the length no shorter in length than four (4) inches above the knee. Dresses may either have sleeves or be a sleeveless dress as long as no undergarments are visible. Dresses will not have string or spaghetti straps but will have straps that come to the edge of the shoulder.

Shoes

Shoes must be worn at all times.

Coats

Coats, heavy jackets, or raincoats shall not be worn inside the building unless otherwise directed by the school principal or his/her designee in an unusual situation.

All Apparel

Clothing shall be neat, clean, hemmed, and shall not have holes, rips, cuts, or frayed edges. Articles of clothing shall not be worn which imply or promote alcohol, sex, drugs, tobacco, violence, gangs, racial slurs, or offensive language. No pajamas or house slippers shall be worn except for special days announced by the principal.

Head Wear

No headgear or sunglasses will be worn in the building (except those worn for obvious medical reasons and the results thereof).

Accessories

Any accessory that is studded, spiked, contains chains or can tabs, or in any way presents a potential danger or harm to self or others is prohibited. Boys earrings that can present potential danger in case of altercations are not allowed (hoops or long earrings).

Other

Tattoos whether permanent or temporary will be covered if possible. Visible body piercing jewelry (except for ears) is prohibited. Hair is not to be sprayed or dyed in unnatural colors (such as blue, pink, green, orange, yellow, etc.), spiked, or mohawked.

Special Days

Schools may develop special dress days for special occasions at the discretion of the principal.

Special Situations

If a student cannot comply with the standardized dress code based on special conditions or religious beliefs, his or her parent or guardian may write a letter explaining the situation to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee, with a copy to the school principal or his/her designee. Each case will be dealt with on an individual basis. To insure the health and safety of students, the school principal or his/her designee is allowed to further restrict manner of dress or style of hair in specific curriculum areas (shop, chemistry lab, etc.)

Book bags

Book bags must be constructed from materials, which allow the contents of the book bag to be visible. Any band instrument or necessary sports bag must be dropped off at an area designated by the building level principal. Under no circumstances will these bags be allowed down academic wings.

Disciplinary Action

Any student not attired in accordance with the foregoing policy shall be subject to disciplinary consequences as per board policy. In addition to the foregoing, when a student is attired in a manner that is likely to cause disruption or interference with the operation of the school, the principal shall take appropriate action. **Legal Reference: T.C.A. 49-6-4215**

Tobacco, Alcohol, Drugs, & Weapons

A student shall not use or have possession of tobacco products, drugs, or alcohol in any form on school premises, on school buses, or on school sponsored activities. A student may be suspended for unlawful use, possession, or distribution of barbitol or legend drugs, marijuana, and/or alcohol. Use or possession of tobacco shall subject the student to in-school punishment, placement at the alternative learning center, or suspension. A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit any weapons or dangerous instruments on the campus of Sevierville Middle School.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

Cafeteria

Both breakfast and lunch are served daily at Sevierville Middle School for all children. The cafeteria staff provides attractive, well-balanced, nourishing meals. All students are encouraged to participate in our lunch program. Payment is made daily or in advance for extended periods. Due to price changes from year to year, lunch prices will be announced at the beginning of each year. Having breakfast catered is not permitted.

Students may choose a salad or regular lunch service for the prices listed. Students who forget their lunch money will be allowed to charge a maximum total of \$5.00 that must be paid back as soon as possible. Students who do not wish to eat in the SMS cafeteria may bring a lunch from home. **Leaving the SMS campus during the lunch period or having the lunch catered is not permitted.** Beverages should be brought in a thermos. Drinks in cans or bottles are not permitted. Parents are welcome to eat lunch with their son or daughter at Sevierville Middle School provided they sign in the front office and inform the person supervising lunch.

Forms are available to all students for free or reduced breakfast or lunch. These may be obtained from the office or from the cafeteria manager. Please complete the information and return it to the school as soon as possible.

Bus Transportation

Sevier County provides bus transportation for students according to state guidelines. Riding a bus is a privilege and students are expected to observe proper rules of conduct and good manners at all times. Failure to do so will result in appropriate disciplinary action. The transportation department determines bus schedules, routes, and drivers. Questions related to transportation should be made to that department at 453-3568.

The bus driver is in complete charge of students riding the bus. The driver's instructions must be followed at all times. The driver has the authority to assign seats on the bus. Students who plan to ride a bus to which they are not regularly assigned should bring a signed note from their parent requesting this privilege and receive permission from the SMS administration along with a contact person and phone number to verify the note.

Rules for Bus Conduct:

- Observe the same good manners used in class.
- Be courteous.
- Fighting is never acceptable behavior.
- Use no profanity.
- Do not cause damage to the bus.
- Cooperate with the driver.
- Keep head, hands, and feet inside the bus.
- Stay in your seat.

Accidents & Illnesses

Accidents or illnesses, which occur during the school day, should be reported immediately to the teacher in charge. Office personnel should also be notified. The school nurse or office personnel will provide temporary care. Parents will be notified at home or at work. Names and phone numbers of a relative or neighbor should be provided on the emergency card and the authorization card. These people will be called if the parent cannot be reached. If emergency medical attention is required, the student will be taken to the nearest medical facility. Please sign the portion of the enrollment card that allows us to care for your child and designate

the medical doctor you prefer. Office personnel will place calls concerning an accident or illness. Students will not be allowed to call home requesting to be picked up. Parents and students also need to have up to date contact and emergency phone numbers at all times. A student without proper contact numbers will not be allowed to attend school due to the fact that schools have to be able to contact parent/guardians in case of illness or emergency.

Medicines

If a student is taking any type of medication, it should be brought to the office on arrival to school. A signed note from the parent should accompany the medication. If a child is taking prescription medication the following procedures must be used:

1. The medication must be clearly labeled in the *original* packaging with the child's name, directions for dosage, and the physician's name.
2. The medication is to be brought to the office and left there until it is to be taken.
3. The student will be responsible for returning to the office to take the medication at the appropriate time.
4. At the end of the day the remaining medication should be picked up and taken home.
5. No more than 5 days of medication should be sent to the school at a time.

Textbooks

Textbooks are furnished to each student in Sevier County at no cost to the individual. Each person signs a textbook agreement at the time of enrollment and agrees to pay for any damage or loss of the book according to a scale adopted by the Sevier County Board of Education. All books must be returned to the appropriate teacher at SMS before grades or cumulative records will be released. Records and notice of promotion will not be released until all obligations are removed.

Lost & Found

Any items, which are found at SMS, should be turned in to the office. Items, which have been lost, should be inquired about in the office. It will be helpful if personal items such as jackets, purses, book bags etc. are marked with the student's name. If found, these items can be returned to the proper person.

Lockers

Lockers or cubicles are available for students during the first week of school. They are the property of the school and can be inspected at any time. Students need to keep them in good condition. No posters are allowed--inside or out. Students may bring book bags to school; however, they must be kept in the locker or cubicle. Students should NOT carry book bags to class. School locks will be provided with a fee and no other locks may be used by students other than school locks due to safety and efficiency in case of students needing assistance or in case of emergency.

Electronics

Students are **not permitted** to use electronic devices such as cell phones, mp3 players, or any other non-academic related items during school hours. If these devices are seen, they will be taken up by the teacher and turned in to the office. A parent must come to the office to claim the confiscated device. If it is necessary for the student to have such devices, then it must be turned off and secured in his/her locker until the end of the school day. The school assumes no responsibility for lost, stolen, or broken items.

VIII. COUNTY, STATE, & FEDERAL GUIDELINES

Non-Discrimination Policy

The Sevier County School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, handicap, or veteran status in provision of educational opportunities, program, activities, or employment opportunities and benefits. Inquiries of grievances should be directed to Larry Stott, Title VI Coordinator at 226 Cedar Street, Sevierville, TN 37862.

Title I School

Sevierville Middle School is a Title I school-wide project school requiring governmental policies to be followed in accordance with Title I standards and regulations. In accordance with this title, this requires that parents of students must receive notification if the school hires a teacher for four or more consecutive weeks who is not highly qualified. Also, in accordance with Title I regulations, school monies funded through Title I must be linked to school improvement plans and must be used to augment regular education programs. Expenditures using Title I funds must also take into account the experiences for the economically disadvantaged.

Also, in accordance with Title I regulations, English language learners or LEP can opt-out of language instruction programs no later than thirty (30) days after the beginning of the school year. The school alongside the opt-out provision must notify the parents of an LEP child selected for participation. If students are selected for language instruction services during the year then the school must notify the parents within two weeks of identification.

No Child Left Behind & Parents Right to Know

Sevierville Middle School, under NCLB requirements, wants parents to know that you have the right to request and receive timely information on the professional qualifications of their children's teachers and paraprofessionals.

Sevierville Middle School, under NCLB & Parents Right to Know, will supply each parent and child information regarding the students success pertaining to state academic assessments. Information regarding TCAP testing will come in the form of the "Student Profile Document" given to each parent and child at the beginning of the school year or as soon as TCAP information is received from the state.

Sevierville Middle School, under guidance from NCLB, would like to provide information to state and county websites which provides information concerning

- State Academic Assessments
- Special Education & 504
- Bullying & Behavioral Policy
- Governing Policies by the State Educational System
- Governing Policies by the Sevier County Board of Education

Website: www.state.tn.us/education/

Website: www.sevier.org

Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act

Sevierville Middle School is in compliance and will follow all the privacy protections afforded parents and students under Section 444 of the General Provisions Act as added by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

Safe School Choice

Sevierville Middle School will notify parents if your child is the victim of a violent crime at school. If this does indeed occur the child has the right to attend another grade-appropriate public school in the district.

IX. 2007-2008 TENTATIVE SCHOOL EVENTS CALENDAR

August	15-17	Teacher Administrative & In-Service Days
	16	Parent Orientation for 6 th & New Students
	20	First Day of School
	24	Purple & White Volleyball Match & Kick Off Dance & Movie
	28	Parent Orientation for 7 th & 8 th Grade
	31	No School
September	3	No School
	14	Kick Off School Wrapping Paper Fundraiser
	21	Picture Day
	25	Parent Conferences
	27	Parent Conferences
	28	Fall Dance & Movie
October	10	Grade Cards
	12	Reward for Academic Success Day
	25	Purple & White Basketball Game & Halloween Dance & Movie
	26	No School
November	2	Yearbook Pictures
	12	No School In-Service Day for Teaching Staff
	16	RIF
	20	Grade Card Distribution
	20	Thanksgiving Dance & Movie & Reward Day for Academic Success
	21	½ Day of School
	22-23	No School-Thanksgiving Break
December	14	Big Party
	19	Christmas Dance & Movie
	20-2	No School-Christmas Break
January	15	Administrative Day-No School
	18	RIF
	21	No School
	22	Grade Card Distribution
	25	Winter Dance & Movie & Reward Day for Academic Success
	29	Parent Conferences
	31	Parent Conferences
February	6	TCAP Writing Assessment
	12	No School-In-Service Day
	14	Valentines Dance & Movie & Balloons & Bear
	15-18	No School
	22	RIF
	26	Parent Conferences for Beginning High School
	28	Parent Conferences for Beginning High School
March	7	8 th Grade High School Visitation
	12	Grade Card Distribution
	20	Spring Pictures & Reward Day for Academic Success
	21	½ Day
	24-28	No School-Spring Break
April	14-18	TCAP Testing
	18	TCAP Dance & Movie
	21-25	Hunter Safety Field Trips
	30	Grade Card Distribution & Free Style Friends Picture Day
May	2	"Dude Looks Like a Lady" & Reward Day for Academic Success
	8-9	Social Studies Fair
	9	"Run for the Cubs" Walkathon/Fundraiser
	12-16	Field Days & Lunch & Limo
	20	Spring Luau
	21-22	7 th Grade Trips
	23	8 th Grade Trip
	26	No School
	27	Talent Show & Yearbook Signing
	28	8 th Grade Rewards Day
	29	7 th Grade Rewards Day
	30	6 th Grade Rewards Day
	30	End of Year Dance & Movie
June	2	8 th Grade Trip to the Park
	3	No School Administrative Day
	4	Grade Card Distribution

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**Sevier County School System
2007-2008
School Calendar**

X. PARENT NOTIFICATION & ASSURANCE

Student, Parent, & School Agreement

I have read and understand the policies and information pertaining to the governance of Sevierville Middle School. I understand that these policies are formed in accordance with school, county, state, and federal laws and regulations. I agree to follow the policies set forth by Sevierville Middle School and the Sevier County Board of Education during the 2007-2008 school year. I also agree to support my child's academic, social, physical, and emotional growth in order to foster success for him/her.

Students Signature: _____

Parents Signature: _____

The administration and teaching staff will uphold the policies set forth by Sevierville Middle School and the Sevier County Board of Education to the best of our ability. We will serve and guide in order to enhance academic, social, physical, and emotional learning for all members and people associated with Sevierville Middle School.

Dr. Jayson Nave
Principal

(Please Tear Out the Bottom Portion and Return to the Homeroom Teacher)

Student, Parent, & School Agreement

I have read and understand the policies and information pertaining to the governance of Sevierville Middle School. I understand that these policies are formed in accordance with school, county, state, and federal law and regulations. I agree to follow the policies set forth by Sevierville Middle School and the Sevier County Board of Education during the 2007-2008 school year.

Students Signature: _____

Parents Signature: _____

I, Mr. Jayson Nave, will uphold the policies set forth by Sevierville Middle School and the Sevier County Board of Education to the best of my ability. I will serve and govern the faculty to do the same in order to enhance academic, social, physical, and emotional learning for all members and people associated with Sevierville Middle School.

Dr. Jayson Nave
Principal

