

# Pigeon Forge Intermediate School Student Handbook 2020-2021



3003 Jess Wilson Road  
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863  
Office:(865)366-9100 Fax:(865)366-9101  
Wendy Patterson, Principal  
[www.pfi.sevier.org](http://www.pfi.sevier.org)

This handbook belongs to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_  
HOMEROOM \_\_\_\_\_



*\*Pigeon Forge Intermediate School is a Title I school-wide project school.*

*\*Policies and procedures may change throughout the school year as needed. We will attempt to communicate any changes to students and parents as they occur.*



## **Welcome to Pigeon Forge Intermediate School**

We are so glad to have you and your child in our PFI family! This handbook has been written in an effort to clearly communicate important information, policies, expectations, and procedures to our students and families. Working together as a team, we can provide a safe and nurturing learning environment for our students. Our hope is that this handbook helps our students and families to have an enjoyable and productive school year.

*Go Tigers!*

### **Mission Statement**

Our mission at Pigeon Forge Intermediate is to create a culture focused on relationships, while providing an engaging learning experience to prepare students for future endeavors.

### **Vision**

Pigeon Forge Intermediate envisions students as productive global citizens with a passion for continuous learning and growth.

### **Core Beliefs**

- ❖ Every student has the ability to learn and grow.
- ❖ Strong, positive relationships must be at the center of our work.
- ❖ Consistent communication between home and school is vital to a student's success.
- ❖ Classroom instruction should be engaging and developmentally appropriate.
- ❖ The use of ongoing data drives instruction to meet the needs of students.

### **School Improvement Goals**

- ❖ Decrease the percentage of students chronically absent from 15.7% to 14.5%.
- ❖ Increase the number of students in the On-Track and Mastered Category to meet the district average in all subject areas.

- ❖ **Increase student growth in all subject areas.**

### **School Hours**

School hours are 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Upon arrival, all students will report to the gymnasium. No students are allowed to go to classrooms prior to 7:50 am without permission and a teacher present. Students have the opportunity to eat breakfast during bus duty each morning. Students will be picked up from the gym at 7:50 am by the teacher. Students arriving after 8:05 am will be considered tardy and must be escorted in the building and report to the front desk for a tardy form. Teacher supervision begins at 7:00 each morning. No student should arrive prior to that time. All car riders are to be picked up through the car dismissal line. Any time that you are dropping off or picking up in the office you must show a picture ID to enter the building.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is a key factor in student achievement and therefore, students are expected to be present and on time each day that school is in session. School begins at 8:00 am. School dismisses at 3:00 pm.

Absences and tardiness 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 Sevier County Board of Education.

Excused absences and tardiness result from the following:

- Personal illness
- Illness of immediate family member
- Death in the family
- Extreme weather conditions
- Religious observances
- School bus failures
- Circumstances which in the judgment of the principal create emergencies over which the student had no control

#### **Other absences and tardies will be unexcused.**

Students participating in school-sponsored activities, whether on or off campus, will not be counted absent. In order to be school-sponsored, the activity must be school planned, school oriented, and/or teacher supervised. All missed class work and tests must be made up when a student has an excused absence or is out of class on a school-sponsored activity.

**If a student is absent from school, he/she must bring a parent or doctor's note to their homeroom teacher. Otherwise, the student will receive an unexcused absence.**

**For grades K-8, parent/guardian notes will be accepted by the principal for each day of student illness in a semester or term.** Such events will be considered excused. These events or occasions require a note for each day missed. If the illness becomes extended (four or more days), the principal may request a medical statement to verify the illness. After several occasions in a semester or term, medical or other professional statements provided by a doctor, dentist, etc., may be required by a 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 including Truancy Court, which is held in the Sevier County Board Room at the Sevier County Schools Central Office every Wednesday.**

### **Tardies**

The school day at Pigeon Forge Intermediate School begins at 8:00 am and ends at 3:00 pm. If a student is late for school he or she must report to the office for a tardy note. Tardies will be issued beginning at 8:05 am. Please be aware that early check-outs are considered tardies, as well.

*Students are considered tardy (unexcused) even if parents have difficulty getting them to school in the morning. Excessive tardiness can negatively affect a student's grade due to missed instruction and work.*

### **Make-Up Work**

Students who receive an excused absence are required to make up work missed in each class (Board Policy 623). Students in grades K-6 may receive prompts from teachers to ensure that work is completed on time. Students have at least the same number of days absent to complete the make-up work. Teachers and principals may extend this make-up time if situations warrant an extension.

Students who receive an unexcused absence will not be permitted to make up missed daily work. Instead the student will receive a zero for this daily work. Major tests may be made up.

### **Early Check-Out**

**Students leaving school before 11:51 will be counted absent.** If a student stays home on the day of a field trip he/she will be counted absent. If it is necessary for a student to leave school early or check out, a parent or an adult on the emergency card must come to the office to check the student out. **Class time missed will be excused for the same reasons as a full day excused absence.** Any students absent for an excusable reason are responsible for completing work missed as a result of leaving early. **Please do not pick your child up early unless absolutely necessary.**

### **Family Vacations & Trips**

The Sevier County Board of Education recognizes that families may request a vacation. Parents should make such requests by filling out a vacation request form from the front office. This request must be submitted to the front office. The Board allows the principal to approve one family vacation per year for up to five days in the event the student is in good academic standing and has good attendance. The student may be denied a vacation request if he/she was on the State of Tennessee's Chronically Absent list from the previous year. A vacation request for longer than 5 days must be approved by Sevier County Board of Education.

### **Bus Riders**

Sevier County provides bus transportation for students according to state guidelines. As stated in Sevier County Board of Education Policy 610 (Bus Conduct), the school bus is an extension of school activity. Students must conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with the established standards for safety and classroom behavior.

Students are under the supervision and control of the bus driver while on his/her bus and all reasonable directions given by the driver will be followed. The principal of the student transported will be informed by the bus driver of any serious discipline problem and may be called upon to assist if necessary. A student may be denied the privilege of riding the bus if the principal determines that his/her behavior is such as to cause disruption on the bus, or if the student disobeys state or local rules and regulations pertaining to student transportation. The suspension of a student from riding the school bus will follow the same general procedures as any other school suspension. Questions related to transportation should be made to Danny Ellis, Transportation Supervisor, at 453-3568.

The bus driver is in complete charge of students riding the bus. The driver's instructions must be followed the first time given 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 office. Permission forms are in the front office.**

#### **Rules for Bus Conduct are:**

- Riders must obey bus driver and follow directions the first time they are given.
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- No cursing, swearing, or loud talking.
- Do not eat, drink, or chew gum.
- Gross misconduct such as fighting or possession/use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or weapons will result in action as noted in the discipline code.
- When getting on/off the bus, always cross in front of the bus.
- Keep all parts of the body and objects inside the bus.
- Stay in the seat facing forward.
- Good conduct and rules of safety must be observed at bus stop.
- All loose objects not required for school may not be brought on buses.

#### **Consequences - (Once official notification made to principal of offense.)**

- First Offense: Student warned for violation of rules. (Written or phone notification to parents or guardian from individual school.)
- Second Offense: Bus riding privileges suspended for up to three days.
- Third Offense: Five days suspension of bus riding privilege.
- Fourth Offense: Ten day suspension of bus riding privilege and meeting with Board or designee.

### **Vandalism or Damage to Bus**

Student and parent/guardian are responsible for damage to bus or other personal property. Transportation will be denied until cost is recovered.

### **Cafeteria**

Our school provides excellent meals at reasonable prices. In addition to breakfast and lunch, PFIS will offer a “Second Breakfast” for students who do not arrive at school in time to eat breakfast. This will be delivered to the classrooms shortly after morning announcements. Students may bring lunch from home, but they may not bring carbonated drinks in cans or bottles. Ordering lunch out is prohibited. Parents may drop lunch off for their child, but parents are not allowed to bring/cater a lunch for another child. Parents may manage their student’s account with MyPaymentsPlus; instructions are available on [www.sevier.org](http://www.sevier.org) or [www.pfi.sevier.org](http://www.pfi.sevier.org). You may pay by the day or in advance by the week, month, or year either online or at the school.

#### **Breakfast**

Grades 4, 5 & 6 (\$1.75)

#### **Lunch**

Grades 4 & 5 (\$2.55)

Grade 6 (\$2.65)

Extra milk, juice, and other a la carte items are sold. A la carte items may not be charged. While charging in the cafeteria is discouraged, we understand that it occurs from time to time. All charges will be expected to be paid prior to a student receiving his/her grade card each six weeks.

Parents are encouraged to complete applications for free/reduced meals. These applications may be obtained from the office or the cafeteria manager, and may be returned to the office or the cafeteria manager. Free/reduced forms must be completed and turned in **every** school year. Eligibility does not automatically renew each school year. If your financial situation changes during the school year, applications can be submitted when needed. Students are to enjoy breakfast/lunch.

All students are expected to follow these cafeteria rules:

1. Each class is to enter and exit quietly.
2. Students are to obey all adults on lunch duty.
3. Students may talk in quiet voices to their neighbors.
4. Students will use appropriate manners.
5. Students are responsible for cleaning occupied area and should leave a clean table when finished.
6. Students should remain seated unless given permission to leave their seat.

### **Telemedicine**

The Sevier County School System partners with Cherokee Health Systems to provide the Sevier County Student Medical Assistance Response Team (S.M.A.R.T.). A key component of the S.M.A.R.T. program is telemedicine. Telemedicine utilizes state of the art technology to assist the school system in attending to the physical needs of students. The telemedicine connection is a secure, two-way video link with the child and the school nurse on one end, and a medical provider on the other.

What to Expect During a Telemedicine Visit: During a telemedicine visit, a child can be screened, examined, diagnosed, treated, and monitored. Special equipment gives the medical provider the ability to examine the child’s ears, eyes, nose, throat, lungs, skin, etc. Assisted by a Sevier County School System registered nurse, a child can be seen through telemedicine for the following concerns:

- cuts/abrasions,
- rashes,
- pink eye,
- coughs/colds,
- strep,
- earaches,
- flu-like symptoms.

A Cherokee Health Systems pediatric or family nurse practitioner is available via telemedicine. Once the required paperwork is completed by parents, all students enrolled at the school sites are eligible to be seen at our clinics. For students with TennCare, CoverKids, or other insurance coverage, Cherokee Health Systems will submit claims to the insurance provider. Standard copays will apply. For students without insurance coverage, services will be provided on a sliding scale based on income information. See the school nurse for questions about Telemedicine.

## **Calendar**

Sevier County School System's 2020-2021 calendar is available online at [www.sevier.org](http://www.sevier.org).

## **Cell Phones & Electronics**

Office telephones are for school business purposes only. If a student becomes ill or is injured during the school day, office personnel will call and notify the parent. Students will not be permitted to make telephone calls during the school day. Cell phones during school hours are prohibited and will be confiscated if they are seen or heard during school hours. Cell phones must be turned off and put away during school hours. Cell phones that are confiscated must be picked up in the office by a parent/guardian. Repeated offenses may result in disciplinary action.

## **Harassment & Bullying**

Pigeon Forge Intermediate School will not tolerate harassment of others. Physical, sexual, racial, religious, ethnic, or verbal harassment will not be acceptable in the classroom, at school events, or events on school property. Any person(s) believing he or she is the victim of harassment should report the alleged incident to school administration. Written reports may be mailed to Pigeon Forge Intermediate School, C/O Wendy Patterson, Principal, 3003 Jess Wilson Road, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863. The principal may also be contacted directly at (865) 366-9100. Bullying of any description should be reported to your child's teacher, guidance counselor, and/or administration.

## **Pictures**

All professional group pictures taken throughout the school year are prepay only. You will have the option to order online or send in payment with the order envelope by the scheduled picture day. If you are ordering online, please send the order number or printed certificate of your order on picture day. The photographer must have order information at the time the pictures are made.

## **Yearbooks**

Yearbooks will be available for purchase during the fall of each school year. If you do not purchase at that time, they will be available for purchase again in the spring at an increased price. However, only the number of books pre-paid are ordered. There is no guarantee of extra books after the order is placed in the spring. Plan ahead to place your order for this wonderful book of memories.

## **Grading System**

Grading will be uniform within the elementary schools in grades 4 through 6 as follows:

| <b>Grade Assigned</b> | <b>Class Grade Average</b> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| A                     | 95-100                     |
| A-                    | 93-94                      |
| B+                    | 90-92                      |
| B                     | 85-89                      |
| C+                    | 83-84                      |
| C                     | 75-82                      |
| C-                    | 73-74                      |
| D                     | 70-72                      |
| F                     | Less than 70               |

**Grade cards may be held if the student has an obligation (such as library fine, lost or damaged textbook, lunch charges, etc.) which has not been paid. Records will not be sent to another school unless all student obligations are met.**

**Progress reports are sent after the third week of each six weeks grading period. Grade cards are sent five days after the end of the six weeks period. Parents are required to sign and return both reports. Parents can access a student's grades at any time online at [www.gradebookwizard.com](http://www.gradebookwizard.com). Ask your child's homeroom teacher for their access code.**

## **Six Weeks Grading Periods**

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Six Weeks Ends | September 23, 2020 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Six Weeks Ends | November 5, 2020   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Six Weeks Ends | December 22, 2020  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Six Weeks Ends | February 24, 2021  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Six Weeks Ends | April 16, 2021     |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Six Weeks Ends | June 1, 2021       |

## **Grade Card Distribution**

October 1, 2020

November 16, 2020

January 14, 2021

March 4, 2021

April 26, 2021

June 1, 2021

## **Dress Code**

Board Policy 628 (Standardized Dress and Grooming Code for Grades Pre-K through 12) provides recognition of 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. Rules concerning dress and grooming are mandatory in grades Pre-K–12 and are available for review in Board Policy 628 on [www.sevier.org](http://www.sevier.org).

### **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. Large bell-bottoms that expose less than one-fourth of the foot, large pockets (pockets that are excessively large or expand to be excessively large) are not permitted. Leggings and other similar bottom wear may be worn with a top which covers the student's buttocks and torso base. Bottom wear must exceed the length of the wearer's fingertips when arms/hands are fully extended. Tears/rips/frays are allowed in bottom wear when they are located on the garment beyond the wearer's fingertips when arms/hands are fully extended; otherwise, exposed skin areas must be covered. No undergarments can be exposed.

### **Top Wear (Waist and Above)**

Shirts must be size appropriate for the wearer. Sleeveless topwear is permitted as long as the shoulder area is covered with a non-see-through material; straps of less than the child's hand width and tank tops do not meet these requirements. Bare midriffs shall not be allowed. Size-appropriate fleece pullovers; light jackets; long sleeve crewneck, 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 and the length must exceed the length of the wearer's fingertips when arms are fully extended; otherwise, exposed skin areas must be covered. No undergarments can be exposed. 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. Straps of less than the child's hand width will not meet these requirements.

### **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**

Articles of clothing shall not be worn which imply or promote alcohol, sex, drugs, tobacco, violence, gangs, racial slurs, or offensive language.

### **Head**

No headgear or sunglasses will be worn in the building (except those worn for obvious medical reasons or religious purposes).

### **Accessories**

Any accessory that presents a potential danger to self or others is prohibited.

### **Other**

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

### **Special Days**

Schools may develop special dress days for occasions at the direction of the school 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 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 ensure the health and safety of students, the school principal or his/her designee is allowed to further restrict the manner of dress or style of hair in specific curriculum areas (shop, chemistry lab, etc.).

### **Bookbags**

Bookbags must be constructed from materials that allow the contents of the bookbag to be visible. Any band instrument or necessary sports bags must be dropped off at an area designated by the building level principal. 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

Approved November 13, 2017

### **Field Trips**

All grades will participate in educational field trips. The same good manners and rules of conduct that apply at school and on the bus will be expected of students participating on field trips. Information concerning the trip will be sent to parents in a timely manner. Students participating in field trips must turn in a signed permission slip from their parent or guardian. Telephone calls for permission will not be accepted.

Students who have been suspended out of school, placed at the Alternative School, or who have been placed in in-school suspension for multiple offenses **will not** be allowed to go on field trips.

**Students who stay at home on the day of the field trip will be counted absent.**

4th Grade: Farm Day & Environmental Center

5th Grade: DARE Day

6th Grade: Environmental Center

### **Chaperones & School Volunteers**

The Sevier County Board of Education welcomes and encourages community and family members to act as school volunteers and field trip chaperones. With that encouragement, however, comes the need to maintain a safe environment for Sevier County students. Therefore, all school volunteers and field trip chaperones must:

- Be willing to treat all Sevier County students and staff members with dignity and respect;
- Be willing to provide proof they are 21 years of age or older;
- Be willing to sign in and out at the front office when entering/exiting a school building;
- Be willing, whenever possible, to remain in the presence of a staff when students are present;
- Be willing to truthfully complete and return a Volunteer/Chaperone Release;
- Be willing to acknowledge the authority of staff members at school or on field trips;
- Be willing to take direction from and perform tasks assigned by school staff members;
- Be willing to refrain from disciplining, striking or inappropriately interacting with students;
- Be willing to refrain from using tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs while a volunteer/chaperone;
- Be willing to dress appropriately and use no vulgar language while a volunteer/chaperone.
- Be willing to bring no other children.

Pigeon Forge Intermediate Volunteer/Chaperone procedure packet can be picked up at school and includes:

1. Volunteer application
2. Sevier County School System Volunteer Confidentiality Form
3. Volunteer Statement affirming understanding of Confidentiality
4. Sevier County Schools Volunteer/Chaperone Release
5. TBI Background Check

The Sevier County Board of Education and its staff members retain full and absolute authority to determine whether volunteers and chaperones have complied with the above directives. Serving as a school volunteer or field trip chaperone remains a privilege and not a right; therefore, the Sevier County Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, or a building level supervisor may unilaterally determine to strip all volunteer/chaperone privileges without recourse or appeal, including, but not limited to, a determination based on failing to comply with the above-directives. The Sevier County Board



of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, or a building level supervisor may also unilaterally determine to reject a school volunteer/chaperone for any reason allowed by law.

### **GradeBook Wizard**

GradeBook Wizard is our online gradebook program that allows both parents and students to stay informed of academic progress. Homeroom teachers will provide a parent login to each parent at the beginning of the year. Parents may log on by going to our school's website, clicking on the "GradeBook Wizard" icon, and following the steps for login. You MUST have a login code to be able to access your child's grades. This ensures that your child's grades are not seen by others who do not have the code. This is a very valuable resource offered to parents to ensure they are aware of their child's academic progress throughout the school year.

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Parents are welcomed and encouraged to make appointments and come to school to talk with teachers. Appointments must be made to coincide with the teachers' schedules; before and/or after school appointments are best. Regular parent conferences are scheduled after school at various times throughout the school year. Scheduled dates and times for conferences may be found on both our school's website calendar and on the GradeBook Wizard welcome page.

### **Parent Involvement**

Parents are encouraged to take part in our school. Active participation in our PTO is one of the best ways to be involved. The PTO will have membership information available during registration and orientation. Parents may visit the SCBE web site at [www.sevier.org](http://www.sevier.org) for more beneficial parent information and educational resources.

### **Legal Documents**

It is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian to provide the school with a current copy of any legal document that concerns custody of children. If a child's natural parent is prohibited from picking up the child, we must have a legal document on file attesting to that fact. The legal guardian must provide proof of residency. Students must attend school in the county in which their parent/guardian resides.

### **Medication**

Board Policy 627 clearly states that the Sevier County Board of Education acknowledges the fact that students occasionally must take prescription medicine during school time as prescribed by a licensed physician or dentist or non-prescription medicine as requested by a parent/guardian. When medicines must be taken during school hours, the student must be competent to self-administer the medication with assistance and must adhere to the procedures communicated by school officials.

Students must bring all medication to the clinic. Medication should be brought in the original package with directions for administering the medication. Medication administration forms are available from the school secretary and must be completed by a parent. Students may not carry prescription or over the counter drugs with them without special permission from school officials. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action. State law prevents staff from giving students medication without proper procedures.

### **Personal Property**

Radios, CD players, cell phones, cameras, jewelry, electronic games, large amounts of money and other expensive items are not allowed to be brought to school. Misuse of such items creates a disruption in the classroom and interferes with school. The school will not be responsible for personal property, including band instruments, brought to school. All band instruments should be placed in safe areas during the school day. Students may not buy or sell personal property at school. Skateboards are not allowed at school. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action.

### **School Phone Use**

Parents and students are expected to make afternoon arrangements before coming to school, and students are expected to be prepared for school upon arrival. Students will not be allowed to use the office phone to obtain permission slips, homework, practice clothes, etc. Such use of the office phone causes disruptions and interferes with school operations. Students will not be called out of class for messages unless it is an emergency situation (death in the family, serious medical situation, etc.)

### **Physical Education Program**

Tennis shoes and appropriate clothing for exercise are required for the physical education program. All students must participate or have an excuse from a physician.

## **Student Insurance**

Accident insurance is offered to all students at a very reasonable rate. We encourage all students to participate. All students who participate in school sponsored athletic activities must show proof of insurance.

## **Textbooks & Library Books**

Textbooks and library books are on loan to students for their use during the school year and are checked out by barcode through the library. Textbooks are also labeled with the student's name and teacher initials. They are to be kept clean and handled with care. Students will pay for damaged or lost books. Students will not be issued books until payment is received or lost books are returned. Replacement costs may be obtained in the school office. The same rules, policies, and consequences apply to library books on loan to students.

## **Truancy**

In accordance with the Tennessee Compulsory Attendance Law (TCA 49-6-3007), any student who has accumulated 5 or more unexcused absences\* is considered truant and therefore in violation of the law. In order to comply with state law and SCBE policy, the following truancy procedures will be followed at PFIS.

- Warning: Issued when a student accumulates 3 unexcused absences.\*
- Mandatory Parent Meeting: Issued when a student accumulates 5 unexcused absences.\*
- Truancy Petition: Issued when a student accrues an unexcused absence after parent meeting.

Truancy court or a juvenile judge will have the power to impose fines, impose curfews, restrict privileges, and consider required treatment for health problems and potential detention for violations of a valid court order for students or jail for adults who violate willfully any imposed conditions pertaining to school attendance. It is the desire of the school system and juvenile court to assist students and families to every extent possible, and we must have the cooperation of students and parents to accomplish these positive results.

\*Unexcused absences are accrued when students do not bring notes to their homeroom teacher following an absence. Many times a parent will send a note, but students do not deliver it to the teacher. Parents should check with the student to monitor this. Five parent notes per semester will be accepted for excused absences and will not be accepted more than five days after the absence. Doctor notes will be required for excused absences after the limit of parent notes has been reached. Students are excused for the following reasons: illness, religious holiday, death in the family, and medical appointments

# **Sevier County School System Notices, Policies, and Procedures**

## **Disclaimer**

This handbook is being provided to you to highlight certain policies and procedures for students and parents. For a complete copy of the Sevier County School System's District Student/Parent Handbook, please visit our website at [www.sevier.org](http://www.sevier.org). Should you desire a printed copy of the complete handbook as shared online, please contact your child's principal.

## **SCBE Policy Manual**

A Sevier County Board of Education website is available at <http://www.sevier.org/home>. The website features a copy of the Sevier County Board of Education Policy Manual as well as other meaningful school related information. A link is available from the website to our school's website.

## **Non-Discrimination Statements**

Pigeon Forge Intermediate School, in accordance with Title VI and Title IX, follows a non-discrimination policy which states, "The Sevier County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, creed, national origin, disability, age (40 and over), special education status, religion, pregnancy, military/veteran status, or genetic information in provision of educational opportunities, programs, activities, or employment opportunities/benefits. The Sevier County School System provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups." Inquiries or completed grievance forms should be referred to Mr. Tony Ogle; Mr. Tony Stinnett, Title VI Coordinator; or Dr. Whit Helton, Title IX Coordinator; at 226 Cedar Street Sevierville, Tennessee 37862.

- Inquiries, questions, or complaints related to students or disabilities should be referred to your principal or to the Director of Student Services and ADA/Section 504/Title II Coordinator: Mr. Tony Ogle, (865) 453-4671, 226 Cedar Street, Sevierville, Tennessee 37862.
- Inquiries, questions or complaints related to Title IX (sex discrimination) matters should be referred to Dr. Whit Helton and issues related to Title VI (race, color, or national origin discrimination) matters should be referred to Mr. Tony Stinnett at 865-453-4671, 226 Cedar Street, Sevierville, Tennessee 37862.

- Inquiries, questions or complaints related to employees should be referred to your principal or to the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Human Resources: Karen King, (865) 453-4671, 226 Cedar Street, Sevierville, Tennessee 37862. If you have questions or concerns regarding any of the above, please call the main office at 865-453-4671.
- The Sevier County Board of Education is committed to taking immediate action to eliminate harassment on the basis of disability, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects. The Sevier County Board of Education does not tolerate harassment on the basis of disability. Students and school personnel who believe that they have been subjected to harassment on the basis of disability are encouraged to report the harassment to the school district. Those students, parents, and school personnel who believe they have been subjected to harassment on the basis of disability are encouraged to contact their principal or the Director of Student Services and ADA/Section 504/Title II Coordinator, Mr. Tony Ogle, (865) 453-4671, 226 Cedar Street, Sevierville, Tennessee 37862. Those students or employees who have been found to engage in acts of harassment on the basis of disability will be promptly disciplined up to and including suspension and/or dismissal. Students, parents, and school personnel are encouraged to work together to prevent harassment on the basis of disability.

### **Child Nutrition Program**

In the operation of the child nutrition program, no student will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age, or disability. A student enrolled in the Sevier County School System may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals and/or free milk if income eligibility criteria are met. These criteria are posted annually on [www.sevier.org](http://www.sevier.org) or can be found on the Free and Reduced Meal Application distributed by the school.

### **Enrollment**

Refer to Board Policy 649 and Board Policy 603 for information about student enrollment. With few exceptions, students residing outside of Sevier County are not eligible to attend Sevier County Schools. A “non-resident student” is a student whose legal residence is located outside of Sevier County. “Legal residence” is defined as the primary residence of the student’s custodial parent(s) or guardian(s). Board Policy 603 (Student Assignment and Transfers within the System) also addresses several enrollment issues. The Sevier County Board of Education has established no attendance zones for schools in our system; however, bus transportation will be provided to the local school only. Parents who reside in Sevier County may transport their children to any school they choose.

After the first five days of school, parents of elementary students may not transfer their children from one school to another unless the parents move into a new community. For secondary students there will be no more than three days of open enrollment per term. An exception may be made to this statement if both gaining and losing principals believe that the transfer is in the best interest of the student(s) and the schools. If either or both principals disagree, the parents may appeal to the Superintendent's hearing officer.

### **Vaccinations**

Per state law, the Sevier County School System is required to provide information to parent(s)/guardian(s) as to the following diseases.

*Meningococcal meningitis* is inflammation of the tissues and fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord. It can be caused by bacteria or viruses. Symptoms can include fever, sudden severe headache, stiff neck, rash, nausea, and vomiting.

- The bacteria that causes meningococcal meningitis is very common. Most people will carry this bacteria in the back of their nose and throat at some point in their lives without ever getting sick. In a few people, the bacteria overcomes the body’s immune system and passes through the lining of the nose and throat into the blood stream where it can cause meningitis.
- Meningitis is spread through exchange of respiratory droplets or saliva with an infected person. Only a small percentage of people who are exposed to the bacteria will develop meningitis. The bacteria that causes meningitis is not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been.
- There is a vaccine that will decrease the risk of some types of meningococcal meningitis, but it does not totally eliminate risk of the disease.

*Influenza* is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. Symptoms can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, feeling tired, and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea.

- Flu viruses are spread mainly by droplets made when someone with the flu coughs, sneezes, or talks. A person can also get the flu by touching something that has the flu virus on it and then touching his/her mouth, eyes, or nose.

- There is a vaccine that can be received in the form of a flu shot or by nasal spray that can protect against the flu.

To receive additional information regarding these diseases, including locations to receive the vaccinations, contact Mr. Steve Branton, School Health Coordinator.

### **Immunizations**

No students entering school, including those entering kindergarten or first grade, those from out-of-state, and those from nonpublic schools, will be permitted to enroll without proof of immunization. Immunization requirements can be found at [www.sevier.org](http://www.sevier.org).

### **Student Fees and Fines**

Based on Sevier County Board of Education Policy 638 (Waiver of Student Fees), students who receive free or reduced cost lunches are eligible for waivers of school-related fees. School fees are defined as fees for activities that occur during the regular hours, fees for activities and supplies required to participate in all courses required for credit or grade, fees for a copy of the student's record, refundable security deposits, and fees or tuition applicable to courses taken by resident students for credit or grade in the summer. School fees do not include fines imposed for lost textbooks, late returned library books, parking, abuse of school property, debts incurred, costs for extracurricular activities occurring outside the regular school day, etc. Documentation of parent consent for the waiving of confidentiality on applications for free and reduced meals will be required.

### **Children and Youth in Transition**

The Sevier County School System will ensure that all children and youth receive a free appropriate public education and are given meaningful opportunities for success in school. The system will follow the requirements outlined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. A copy of the policies related to McKinney-Vento is available in the school office.

### **English Learners**

If the inability to speak and understand the English language excludes a student from effective participation in the educational programs offered by the Sevier County School System (SCSS), the SCSS shall take reasonable actions to provide the student equal access to its programs. Students who are English learners (EL) shall be identified, assessed, and provided appropriate services. No student shall be admitted to or excluded from any program or extracurricular activity based on the student's surname or EL status.

### **Students in Foster Care**

Board Policy 653 (Procedures for Students in Foster Care) clarifies that the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains key protections for students in foster care that are designed to promote school stability, student success, and collaboration between local education agencies (LEAs) and child welfare agencies.

The Sevier County School System shall provide all students in foster care, to include those awaiting foster care placement, with a free and appropriate public education. Students in foster care, to include those awaiting foster care placement, shall be immediately enrolled, even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment (i.e. academic records, immunization records, health records, proof of residency). Placement shall be determined based on the student's best interest. At all times, a strong presumption that keeping the student in the school of origin is in the student's best interest shall be maintained.

### **Students from Military Families**

A student who does not currently reside within the District shall be allowed to enroll if he/she is a dependent child of a service member who is being relocated to Tennessee on military orders. To be eligible for enrollment, the student will need to provide documentation that he/she will be a resident of the District on relocation. Within 60 days of enrollment, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student shall provide proof of residency within the District.

### **School Safety and Security Act, School Discipline Act, TCA 49-6-2008**

Parents, please be aware of the following laws that relate to persons on our campus:

- Personal searches may be conducted if the principal has a reasonable suspicion that a student or visitor has in his/her possession drugs, drug paraphernalia, and dangerous weapons.
- Vehicles parked on school property by students or visitors are subject to search for drugs, drug paraphernalia, or dangerous weapons.
- A student may be subject to physical search because of the results of a locker search, or because of information received from a teacher, staff member, student, or other person, if such action is reasonable to the principal.

- FELONY- State law prescribes a maximum penalty of six (6) years imprisonment and a fine not to exceed three thousand (\$3,000.00) for carrying weapons onto school property.
- No person shall enter onto the grounds or into the buildings of any school during the hours of student instruction, except students assigned to the school, the staff of the school, parents of the students, and other persons with lawful and valid business on the school premises.

### **Visitor Check-In**

The school system is committed to a safe campus without interruption of the instructional process. Visitors will be asked to display a driver's license or government issued photo identification before entering the building, to report to the school office upon entering the school, and to sign a guest log. Authorization to visit elsewhere in the building or on the school campus will be determined by the principal or his/her designee. Through the KeepnTrack Program, guest passes will be issued for all persons other than students and employees of the school. Parents must come directly to the school office to register as a visitor with a valid ID and must receive permission to visit any other part of the building.

### **Chapter 410 of the Public Acts of 2007**

Smoking is not permitted in any form at any time inside any school building. State law prohibits the use of tobacco in any form after regular school hours in any public seating areas, including, but not limited to, bleachers for sporting events, concession stands, or public restrooms. Smoking may be permitted in designated areas at outdoor athletic events, but such smoking must be restricted to a place far enough away from the seating areas, restrooms, and concession stands so that the smoke will not drift back into these areas

### **Testing Calendar**

As passed in the 2014 General Assembly, Public Chapter 892 requires the Tennessee Department of Education as well as school districts to post a calendar of all state and district mandated tests each school year beginning July 31, 2014. This information is available on the district's website at [www.sevier.org](http://www.sevier.org). Individual student test results from state testing processes will be released to students and parents by the Sevier County School System promptly upon receipt of the information from the Tennessee Department of Education. Questions about assessment processes should be referred to your child's teacher, principal, or Mr. Tony Stinnett, District Testing Coordinator. Mr. Stinnett can be reached at [tonystinnett@sevier.org](mailto:tonystinnett@sevier.org) or at 865-453-4671. Due to the emergency school closure in March of 2020, no standardized testing information will be available for the 2019-2020 school year.

### **Tennessee Report Card**

The current Tennessee Report Card is available at the State Department of Education website (<https://www.tn.gov/education/data/report-card.html>) and on the school system's website. The Tennessee Report Card provides information about demographics, statistics, and performance indicators for both the system and school.

### **Title I**

Pigeon Forge Intermediate School is a school-wide Title I project school. Parent involvement is promoted by our Title I Supervisor, Tonya Berrier. Our initial Title I parent meetings will be held Monday, August 10, 2020 @ 4:00pm for 4th grade students/parents; Tuesday, August 11, 2020 @ 4pm for 5th grade students/parents; Wednesday, August 12th @ 4pm for 6th grade students/parents. (Subject to change pending CDC guidelines.)

### **Parents' Right to Know**

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that all schools notify parents that they have a right to request and receive timely information on the professional qualifications of the teachers and paraprofessionals working with their children.

### **Surveys, Analyses, and Evaluations of Students**

Surveys, analyses, and evaluations for research purposes shall be allowed by the Sevier County Board of Education (SCBE) when the project is viewed as contributory to a greater understanding of the teaching-learning process, the project does not violate the goals of the SCBE, and the disruption of the regular school program is minimal.

No student shall be required to submit to a survey. Per state and federal law, prior to the dissemination of a survey, analysis, or evaluation to students, parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified of their ability to review the materials. Such notification shall include information indicating the purpose of the survey, analysis, or evaluation as well as who will have access to the results. Following such notification and prior to the administration of the survey, analysis, or evaluation, parent(s)/guardian(s) may opt their student out of participation.

### **Severe Weather Closings**

Announcements by Superintendent of Schools Jack Parton concerning the closing of schools in Sevier County will be made on local radio and television stations as well as the school system's website and app. In the event of an emergency or abrupt closing, a phone messaging service will be utilized. When the primary phone number for a student changes, the primary parent or guardian should contact school officials and request that the child's phone numbers be updated on all enrollment information as well as in the district's messaging system.

## **Class Size Requirements**

Students with disabilities placed in the general education classroom will receive a free appropriate public education. The instructional needs of all students will be met. Equitable and educationally sound placement of all student including students with disabilities will be achieved. The state's BEP formula will be utilized in determining class size for all classrooms.

## **Asbestos Management Plans**

Parent(s)/guardian(s), upon request, shall be given the opportunity to review the Asbestos Management Plan. The Sevier County School System's AHERA Management Plan is available for public inspection upon request at the Sevier County School System Maintenance Department at 405 Catlett Road, Sevierville, TN 37862. Anyone interested in reviewing this plan should contact Kevin McClure or Roger Shorter at 865-453-4140.

## **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act**

In 1974, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (Buckley Amendment) Public Law 93-380, 438 was passed to ensure confidentiality of school records. FERPA requires that the Sevier County School System with certain exceptions, obtain the written consent of parents prior to disclosure of personally identifiable information from a child's educational records. Parents should be encouraged to carefully review the FERPA notice which is distributed for parent signature at each school annually. The notice specifically deals with the access of military recruiters. In 2015, the Sevier County Board of Education modified its Student Records Policy (BP 122). Parents are encouraged to review the modified policy online at [www.sevier.org](http://www.sevier.org).

## **Photographs and Video Images of Students**

Throughout the school year, there may be school sponsored programs and events where photographs or videos may be taken by the media or school district staff. These photographs and/or videos may then be cablecast on the district's educational access channel, or website, thereby making it available to anyone with local cable or internet access. It is the policy of the Sevier County School System that neither students nor their works be identified by name when featured on the district's educational access channel or the district website without prior consent. Your consent to these types of group photographs or videos is assumed, unless you notify your child's school in writing that you do not want your child included in such photographs or videos.

## **SCSS Progressive Truancy Intervention Plan**

All students must follow the new state law, which requires school personnel to intervene with services for students who accrue five (5) or more unexcused absences during the school year. A student's first five (5) absences in each semester may be excused with a note from a parent.

### **Tier One (3+ Unexcused Absences)**

- Schools will check attendance and connect students and families with a school Attendance Team to create an attendance contract and monitor progress.

### **Tier Two (Continued Accumulation of Unexcused Absences 4+)**

- A school based Attendance Team member will check student needs through an individualized assessment, will schedule follow up meetings with the student and parent as needed, and will connect families with appropriate and available services/agencies if necessary.

### **Tier Three (Continued Accumulation of Unexcused Absences 5+; Non Compliance with Tiers 1 & 2 Mandates)**

- The school-based Attendance Team will check student progress, review effectiveness of current interventions, and determine appropriate next steps, which could include filing a petition with juvenile court if previous connections with the student and parent have failed.

## **Child Abuse and Neglect**

School personnel are required by state law to watch for signs of child abuse and neglect. They are also required by law to report any information or suspicions to the proper authorities.

Child abuse is defined as any wound, injury, disability, or physical or mental condition in which the abuse is of such nature as to reasonably indicate that it has been caused by brutality, abuse or neglect or which on the basis of available information reasonably appears to have been caused by such. Staff members having knowledge or suspicion of any child who is suffering from abuse or neglect will report such harm immediately. The report will be made to the judge having juvenile jurisdiction or to the county office of the Department of Children Services or to the office of the child law-enforcement where the child resides. Again, school personnel are required by state law to watch for signs of child abuse and neglect. They are also required by law to report any information or suspicions to the proper authorities.

The report will include the name, age, and address of the child, the name and address of the parent or person having custody of the child, the nature and extent of the abuse or neglect, and any evidence to the cause or any other information that may relate to cause or extent of the abuse or neglect.

### **Suicide Prevention**

Sevier County Schools is committed to protecting the health and well-being of all students and understands that physical, behavioral, and emotional health are integral components of student achievement. Students are strongly encouraged to report if they, or a friend, are feeling suicidal or in need of help. Students will be provided and information will be posted regarding The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255 (TALK) and other available resources.

### **Student Code of Conduct**

As stated in Board Policy 608 (Student Conduct), the staff is authorized to take reasonable measures to establish appropriate school behavior. Any professional employee will have the authority to control the conduct of any student while under the supervision of the school system. This authority will extend to all activities of the school, including all games and public performances of athletic teams and other school groups, trips, excursions, and all other activities under school sponsorship and direction. For more information, refer to Board Policy 608 which can be found at [www.sevier.org](http://www.sevier.org).

### **Student Discrimination/Harassment/Bullying/Intimidation**

The Sevier County School System has determined that a safe, civil, and supportive environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. In order to maintain that environment, acts of bullying, cyberbullying, discrimination, harassment, hazing, or any other victimization of students, based on any actual or perceived traits or characteristics, are prohibited.

Board Policy 648 clearly states that Sevier County students will be provided a learning environment free from sexual, racial, ethnic, gender, national origin or religious based discrimination, intimidation, harassment, bullying or cyberbullying. It will be a violation of this policy for any employee, volunteer, parent or student to discriminate, harass, bully or cyberbully a student for any reason (complaints of disability discrimination, harassment, bullying, cyberbullying and/or retaliation remain governed by Board Policy 016). All school system employees and volunteers are required to report alleged violations of this policy to a building level administrator or the Director of Student Services.

Any parent or student may complain of harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyberbullying to a teacher, counselor, administrator, or directly to the Director of Student Services. A student's parent(s) or legal guardian will be informed immediately if their student is involved in an act of intimidation, harassment, bullying or cyberbullying. The student's parent or legal guardian will be informed of the availability of counseling and support services necessary for the student. Any complaint or report will be fully investigated by either a building level administrator or someone designated by the Director of Student Services within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving any complaint or report. Please refer to Board Policy 648 which can be found at [www.sevier.org](http://www.sevier.org) for more detailed information.

### **Safe School Choice**

Every public school shall annually notify parents that if their child is a victim of a violent crime at school, the child has the right to attend another grade-appropriate school in the district.

Students will be provided a learning environment free from sexual, racial, ethnic, and/or religious discrimination/ harassment. Student discrimination/harassment will not be tolerated. Contact Wendy Patterson, school principal, at (865) 366-9100 to report an incident. (BP 648)

### **Zero Tolerance Offenses**

In order to ensure a safe and secure learning environment, the following offenses will not be tolerated:

- Students will not possess, handle, transmit, use or attempt to use any dangerous weapon in school buildings or on school grounds at any time, or in school vehicles and/or buses or off the school grounds at a school-sponsored activity, function, or event. Dangerous weapons shall include, but are not limited to any firearm, explosive device, explosive weapon, bowie knife, hawk bill knife, ice pick, dagger, slingshot, switch-blade knife, blackjack, or brass (metal) knuckles. Violators will be subject to suspension and/or expulsion from school for periods up to one calendar year.
- In accordance with law (18 USC 921), any student who brings or possesses a firearm on school property shall be expelled for a period of not less than one (1) calendar year. The Superintendent of Schools has the authority to modify this expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis (TCA 49-6-4018).

- In accordance with state law, any student who unlawfully possesses any drug including any controlled substance or legend drug will be expelled for a period of not less than one (1) calendar year. The Superintendent of Schools has the authority to modify this expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis (TCA 49-6-4018).
- In accordance with state law, any student who commits battery upon any teacher, principal, administrator, any other employee of the school system or school resource officer will be expelled for a period of not less than one (1) calendar year. The Superintendent of Schools has the authority to modify this expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis (TCA 49-6-4018).
- When it is determined that a student has violated this policy, the principal of the school will notify the student's parent or guardian and the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system as required by law.

The Superintendent of Schools has the authority to modify the punishment for these offenses on a case-by-case basis.

### **Tip Line for Reporting Theft, Weapons, Bullying, Drugs, and Other Suspicious Activity**

A partnership between the Sevier County School System and the Sevier County Sheriff's Department provides a tip line where callers can remain anonymous. The phone number is 865-453-0312. Students are also encouraged to contact the principal, school counselor, or other trusted adult with issues around bullying, cyberbullying, threats of violence, or other social or emotional issues.

### **Drug-Free Schools**

Students shall not consume, possess, use, sell, distribute, or be under the influence of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages in school buildings, on school grounds, in school vehicles or buses, or at any school-sponsored activity, function, or event, whether on or off school grounds.

Disciplinary sanctions shall be imposed on students who violate this standard of conduct. Such sanctions shall be consistent with local, state, and federal laws up to and including suspension/expulsion as well as referral for prosecution. Completion of an appropriate rehabilitation program may also be recommended.

Information about drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation programs shall be made available through the school office.

### **Hazing**

The school system defines "hazing" to mean any intentional or reckless act, on or off Sevier County Board of Education property, by one (1) student acting alone or with others, that is directed against any other student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of that student or that induces or coerces a student to endanger that student's mental or physical health or safety. This policy focuses on those actions taken and situations created in connection with initiation into or affiliation with any school-sponsored or school-affiliated group/team. "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions.

The Sevier County Board of Education expressly prohibits "hazing" as it is defined above. The school system shall distribute or make available this policy to each student at the beginning of each school year. During the first month of each new school year, time shall also be set aside to specifically discuss the policy and its ramifications as a criminal offense and the penalties that may be imposed by the school system. Any students found to have violated this policy will face disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension or expulsion. Any employees found to have violated this policy will also face disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, reprimand, suspension or dismissal.

### **Interrogation and Searches**

Board Policy 607 (Interrogation and Searches) outlines procedures for the questioning and searching of students. Students may be questioned by teachers or principals about any matter pertaining to the operation of a school and/or the enforcement of its rules. Questioning should be conducted discreetly and under circumstances which will avoid unnecessary embarrassment to the student being questioned. Any student answering falsely, evasively or refusing to answer a proper question may be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension.

Any principal (or his/her designee) having reasonable cause for a search may search any student, place, or thing (including student lockers or cars) on school property or in the actual or constructive possession of any student during any organized school activity off campus, including buses, if the principal receives information which would cause a reasonable suspicion that the search would lead to the discovery of:

- Evidence of any violation of the law;
- Evidence of any violation of school rules or regulations or proper standards of student conduct;
- Any object or substance which, because of its presence, presents an immediate danger of harm or illness to any person.



For more information, refer to Board Policy 607 at [www.sevier.org](http://www.sevier.org).

### **Disciplinary Hearing Authority**

A Disciplinary Hearing Authority (DHA) shall conduct appeals for students who have been suspended for more than ten (10) school days. Upon receiving notification of the request to appeal the suspension decision, the DHA shall provide written notification to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student, the student, and any other appropriate person of the time, place, and date of the hearing. The hearing must be held no later than ten (10) days after the beginning of the suspension. Within five (5) days of the DHA rendering a decision, the student, principal, principal-teacher, or assistant principal may request a review by the Board, and the Board shall review the record.

### **Video Surveillance**

The Sevier County Board of Education authorizes the use of external video surveillance equipment on SCBE property as part of a multifaceted approach to protecting the safety and security of students, staff and property. Video surveillance shall be used only to promote the order, safety and security of students, staff and property. The SCBE shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws related to video recordings when such recordings are considered and relied upon as part of the student's behavioral record as determined by school administrators.

Video cameras will be utilized on property of the SCBE as approved by the Superintendent. The SCBE shall notify students, staff, and the public that video surveillance may occur on school property. Such notifications will occur through incorporation in the school parent/student handbook and through the SCBE's website.

No concealed cameras will be installed. Equipment will not monitor areas where the public and employees have a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as locker rooms and adult and student restrooms. Video recording equipment may be in operation 24 hours per day, but this is not guaranteed.

The use of video surveillance equipment on school grounds shall be supervised and controlled by the building principal or his/her designee. Audio shall not be a part of the video recordings made, reviewed, or stored by staff of the SCBE.

Further, in-school audio or video recordings (including surveillance or live feeds) initiated by an individual student, parent, staff or community member are strictly prohibited. The SCBE takes the protection of its students and their confidentiality seriously, thus it takes steps to ensure students are not recorded or in any way monitored by third-parties while under the supervision of Sevier County Schools.

Staff and students are prohibited from unauthorized use, tampering with or otherwise interfering with video recordings and/or video camera equipment and will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action shall be consistent with standards of the SCBE and may include, but is not limited to written reprimand, suspension, demotion or expulsion depending upon the nature and severity of the situation.

### **Canine Unit Training**

As part of the school system's ongoing efforts to work collaboratively with local and regional law enforcement agencies, the Sevier County Sheriff's Department, and our local police departments will be conducting a series of trainings in our local schools. Officers working with canine units will be training on our campuses and in our buildings. These units will periodically patrol our school hallways and our parking lots. These trainings are designed to increase the efficiency of these units and to help ensure the safety of our students and communities.

### **Students with Disabilities**

The Sevier County School System, in keeping with the mandate from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), aims to provide the least restrictive environment for all students. We recognize and encourage parent participation as an essential and vital element of the total education process.

As noted in Board Policy 510, the Sevier County Board of Education will identify, locate, and provide a free appropriate public education to all disabled children ages 3-21, inclusive, residing within the jurisdiction of this school system. The plan for implementation of appropriate instruction and services will be in accordance with the current Rules, Regulations, and Minimum Standards of the State Board of Education, as well as state and federal law.

The Board will develop and periodically update a local plan for providing special education services for all disabled students. Specifically, the Board assures that:

1. All disabled children living within the school system have available to them a free, appropriate public education which emphasizes special education and related services to meet their unique needs provided in

- the least restricted environment;
2. Educational services will comply with state and federal law to ensure the rights of disabled children and their parents are protected.

A plan developed pursuant to the IDEA, 34 C.F.R. § 300.324 will aim toward meeting the following objectives:

1. To develop and conduct a comprehensive screening and assessment plan emphasizing the early identification and evaluation of disabled students that are administered in accordance with the requirements and parameters of the IDEA.

A parent may seek an independent educational evaluation (IEE) if the parent disagrees with all or part of the assessment completed by the System; such an IEE may be paid for by the System if the IEE meets the System's criteria; however, the System may, at its option, initiate a due process hearing to show the System's evaluation was appropriate; if the System prevails in the hearing, the parent still may obtain an IEE but not at System expense;

2. To use the individualized education program (IEP) team for reviewing assessment, formulating programming, and determining placement for every disabled student;
3. To ensure that placements are made which educate disabled children in the least restrictive environment;
4. To provide each disabled child with an individual educational program (IEP) specifically designed to meet his/her needs, including class sizes that are in compliance with the required BEP formula (such class sizes will be monitored periodically.);
5. To ensure that procedural safeguards required by state and federal laws are adhered to; and
6. To involve parents of disabled children in a meaningful, ongoing dialogue.

A plan developed pursuant to Section 504 will aim toward meeting the following objectives:

1. To develop effective 504 teams to assist in providing accommodations to students with physical or mental impairment(s) that substantially limit one or more major life activity.
2. To use the 504 team to evaluate students by reviewing information from a variety of sources, such as teacher observations, standardized test scores, report cards, and information from parents and medical providers;
3. 504 teams will reevaluate students every three years, before any significant changes in placement, or at the request of the parents or school personnel;
4. To ensure that procedural safeguards required by state and federal laws are adhered to; and
5. To involve parents of disabled children in a meaningful, ongoing dialogue.

### **Free and Appropriate Public Education**

The provisions for a free appropriate public education and the requirements under state law and IDEA are met following the listed criteria:

1. Make educational placement decisions for all students, including students with disabilities, based on the instructional needs of the students
2. Provide joint staff development and training of general education and special education teachers (models, strategies and interventions) for maintaining an inclusive classroom
3. Facilitate interactive planning session with general education and special education teachers as well as paraprofessionals regarding each disabled student's IEP
4. Train general education teachers on modifications and accommodations to the IEP
5. Provide the technical assistance needed to general education teachers in order to address the needs of individual students
6. Training for paraprofessionals is provided to ensure that they acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to assist students in the general education classroom
7. Provide all students in the general education classroom access to the standard textbooks and instructional materials used in the class with alternative and supplemental materials provided as necessary
8. Integrate qualified handicapped students into the general education classroom and/or extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the handicapped student
9. Provide resources and support such as supplemental aids and materials for students to progress in the general curriculum and be successful in the general education classroom (e.g. assistive technology devices and services paraprofessional support, adaptations in the classroom)

### **Child Advocacy Group**

Child advocacy group contact information is accessible on the Special Education page of the district's website at [www.sevier.org](http://www.sevier.org). Organizations available to help with information, training, and advocacy are noted. Links are also provided as a service to individuals seeking additional avenues for help and information. The Sevier County School System does not intend this as an endorsement or recommendation for any individual, organization, or service represented on the pages.

## **Sevier County School System Section 504 Annual Notice to Parents**

In compliance with state and federal law, the Sevier County School System will provide to each protected student with a disability without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. In order to qualify as a protected student with a disability, the student must be of school age with a physical or mental disability, which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program. These services and protections for "protected students who are disabled" are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional students enrolled (or seeking enrollment) in special education programs.

Complaints alleging non-compliance with the laws or alleging any actions that would be prohibited by the Acts should be referred to Mr. Tony Ogle at 865-453-4671 or by email to [tonyogle@sevier.org](mailto:tonyogle@sevier.org).

For further information on the evaluation procedures and provision of services to protected disabled students, contact:

School Section 504 Coordinator  
Pigeon Forge Intermediate School  
(865) 366-9100

### **Student Discipline**

Disciplinary Exclusion of Student with a Disability

1. A disciplinary exclusion of a student with a disability from school is a significant change in placement if
  - a) the exclusion is for more than 10 consecutive school days; or
  - b) a series of exclusions that are each of 10 days or less in duration creates a pattern of exclusion
    - i. Factors that should be considered in determining whether a series of exclusions creates a pattern of exclusion include, but are not limited to:
      1. the length of each exclusion
      2. the proximity in time of the exclusions to one another
      3. the total amount of time the student is excluded from school
      4. and similarities of one behavior to another which resulted in the disciplinary actions
2. Before implementing a disciplinary action that constitutes a significant change in placement under Section 1, the District will convene and conduct a manifestation determination meeting with a multi-disciplinary team of individuals knowledgeable about the student, the student's evaluation data, and the placement options, in accordance with the requirements of 34 C.F.R. § 104.35. The multi-disciplinary team will conduct the manifestation meeting as follows:
  - a) Make a determination as to whether the student's misconduct is a manifestation of the student's disability
  - b) Make a determination as to whether the student's misconduct is due to inappropriate placement
  - c) Make a placement decision
    - i. If the student's misconduct is either a manifestation of the student's disability or is due to an inappropriate placement, the multi-disciplinary team must determine what, if any, modifications to the student's educational placement are necessary and the student may not be disciplined
    - ii. If the student's misconduct is not a manifestation of the student's disability or is not due to an inappropriate placement, the student may be disciplined in the same manner as similarly situated students without disabilities would be disciplined
  - d) Provide the student's parents or guardian notice of both the manifestation determination and the placement decision in a prompt manner. The student's parents or guardian also must be provided with a copy of their procedural safeguards and rights related to the disciplinary action in a prompt manner.

### **Network and Internet Policy**

#### **General Purpose**

The Sevier County Board of Education ("Board") remains committed to providing staff members and students with access to both a system-wide network and the Internet. However, use of the Board's network is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, any and all network users are responsible for knowing, understanding, and abiding by this Network & Internet Use Policy.

#### **Authorized Users**

Only current staff members employed by and students enrolled in the Sevier County School System may access and utilize the Board's network and Internet service. However, students may only access the network and Internet service while under the direct supervision of a staff member(s).

**Internet Access**

The Board's Internet service should only be used for educational purposes or other school-related activities. As such, prohibited activities include but are not limited to:

- (A) Uploading and/or downloading files without permission from an administrator;
- (B) Accessing pornographic and/or offensive material;
- (C) Utilizing the Internet for personal or commercial financial gain or fraud;
- (D) Participating in any form of harassment; and
- (E) Introducing or attempting to introduce viruses to the network.

The Board retains full ownership and control of its computers. As such, using those computers to access the Internet should be accomplished with the full knowledge that said access is not private. In fact, Internet access to school computers remains subject to monitoring and review.

**Internet Filtering**

Access to the Internet via the Sevier County School System's network shall be filtered to block access to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, inappropriate for students, or harmful to minors, as defined by the Federal Children's Internet Protection Act.

**Internet Safety Instruction**

Students will be given appropriate instruction in Internet safety annually as part of curriculum and instruction either through guidance counselors, school resource officers, and/or other designated staff. This instruction will include education of students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response. School system personnel will be given appropriate professional development opportunities during the school year. Parents, students, caregivers, and community stakeholders will be provided with material to raise awareness of the dangers posted on the Internet and ways in which the Internet may be used safely.

**Network Use**

The Board's network should be used only for educational purposes or other school-related activities. As such, prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following:

- (A) Accessing staff members/students' private information for personal use;
- (B) Utilizing the network for personal or commercial financial gain or fraud;
- (C) Destroying network data without permission; and
- (D) Introducing or attempting to introduce viruses to the network.

The Board retains full ownership and control of its network. As such, using the network should be accomplished with the full knowledge that said usage is not private. In fact, network usage remains subject to monitoring and review.

**Email Management**

Electronic mail ("email") addresses shall be provided to the Board's current staff members. Email addresses may also be issued to designated students. However, staff members and students should only use their school email addresses for educational purposes or other school-related purposes.

Please understand that emails are records. Therefore, school email addresses should be used professionally and with the full knowledge that said emails are not private communications. In fact, messages sent and received from school email addresses remain subject to monitoring and review.

**Available Penalties**

Any violation of this Policy may result in the termination of network, Internet, and/or email privileges. Penalties may also include but are not limited to:

- (A) School disciplinary action;
- (B) Restitution by a parent, guardian, or staff member; and
- (C) Appropriate legal action.

**System Warranties**

The Board makes no warranties of any kind regarding network, Internet and e-mail services. As such, the Board is not responsible for any damages, including but not limited to, the loss of data. Further, the Board is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of any information obtained by staff members or students via the Internet.

**COPPA-Required Notification**

The Sevier County School System is committed to the safety of our learners, especially when it comes to the use of online resources. Technology is a critical part of today's classroom. We believe there is great potential for the use of online apps/tools to improve teaching and learning. The ever-increasing availability of online teaching and learning resources comes with inherent risks and concerns regarding student data, privacy, and student work. We as a district have a responsibility to ensure that student's data and privacy is adequately protected while using online digital resources for school work.

SCSS safeguards a wide range of information about its students. SCSS manages each student's personally identifiable information in accordance with Tennessee and Federal privacy laws, including FERPA and COPPA. SCSS will not share personally identifiable information with third-party providers unless there is a "legitimate educational interest" for the student(s).

In efforts to continue protecting student information, SCSS has adopted a set of standards for the use of new online resources in the classroom. These standards include the use of a vetting process to evaluate new apps/online tools for potential adoption. Only online apps/tools that are appropriate to meet instructional goals, that are well designed, and that meet the legal requirements to protect student privacy/data will be approved for use by students.

### **Google Apps For Education Account Users**

Some classrooms will be using Google Apps for Education (GAFE). In GAFE-based classrooms, a student may be issued an account which allows access to email and cloud storage under the district's closed domain. If your child is enrolled in a GAFE classroom, the teacher will communicate about this process in greater detail. All users of the Sevier County School System's network, Google accounts, and equipment must comply at all times with the district's Acceptable Use Policy (Board Policy 519) and all school, district, local, state, and federal laws.

All accounts are the property of the Sevier County School System. The Sevier County School System reserves the right to suspend or revoke student account access at any time. All files stored on Sevier County School System equipment, the network, or cloud services are property of the district and may be subject to review and monitoring. Students and families must follow all guidelines set forth in this document and by the Sevier County School System staff.

All rules and guidelines outlined in this document are in effect before, during, and after school hours for all Sevier County School System accounts. Students who identify or know about a security problem are expected to convey the details to a staff member without discussing it with other students. Students are expected to notify a staff member immediately if they come across information, images, or messages that are inappropriate, dangerous, threatening, or make them feel uncomfortable.

Students should have no expectation of privacy while using, accessing, or storing content in an assigned domain. The district will provide a digital citizenship curriculum to educate students in using technology tools appropriately; however, parents/guardians are still responsible for supervising and monitoring student use online outside of the school.

Remember that at the beginning of the school year and/or at the time of enrollment, all students and their parents or legal guardians shall be given clear and prominent written notice of the fee waiver process. Schools may request, but no students may be required to pay a fee for activities and supplies required to participate in all courses covered for credit or grade. Only those fees authorized by the Sevier County Board of Education may be requested, and payment of school fees may not be a condition to attending the public school or using its equipment. In addition, students cannot be charged fees for field trips or special activities and events that occur during part or all of a school day. School fees do not include costs for extracurricular activities occurring outside the regular school day including sports, optional trips, clubs, or social events.