



First Grade
2024-2025
Curriculum Night



HOME 



***“Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so
much.”***

—Helen Keller



HOME



TABLE OF CONTENTS



01

Academic Overview

03

Specialty Areas

02

Grading Overview

04

School and
Classroom

Highlights

HOME



ACADEMIC

OVERVIEW



← HOME →

ELA Highlights

Alabama Course of Study English Language Arts



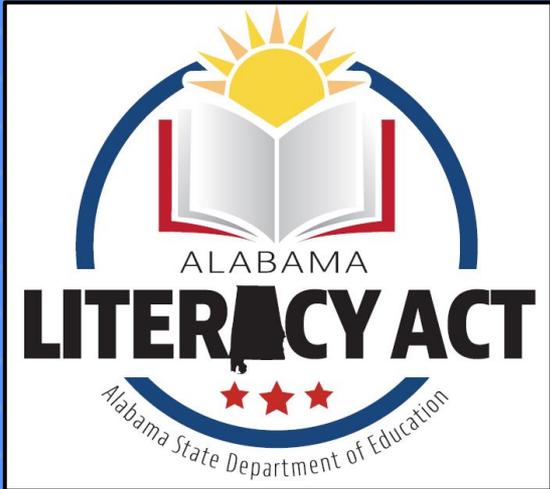
2021 Alabama Course of Study: English Language Arts

STANDARDS

The Alabama Course of Study: English Language Arts is composed of learning standards that define what learners should know and be able to do at the end of each grade level.

← HOME →

Alabama Literacy Act



The Alabama legislature passed the Alabama Literacy Act in 2019. The Alabama Literacy Act was established to ensure students are able to read at or above grade level by the end of the 3rd grade. The Alabama Literacy Act outlines steps to improve the reading proficiency of each student in Kindergarten through Grade 3. The law states that all 3rd grade students shall demonstrate sufficient reading skills for promotion to 4th grade.

The Alabama Literacy Act ensures scientifically-based reading instruction and multisensory language instruction in the following areas:

- Oral language development
- Phonological awareness
- Phonics
- Fluency
- Writing
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension

← HOME →

Layers of Support

There are many layers of support provided to students who are struggling to meet grade level expectations.



ELA Highlights-Curriculum

95 Percent Phonics Program



Assessments

- Weekly spelling and dictation assessments that measure application of the phonics skill taught
- Summative assessments are given on review weeks. The summative assessment is used to determine if students have mastered the critical skills within the unit lessons.

The 95 Percent Phonics program will be used to teach phonics and word study in K-5. 95 Percent Phonics is evidence-based phonics instruction grounded in the science of reading. 95 Percent phonics builds critical phonics skills through explicit instruction to develop strong readers, K-5. 95 Percent is an approved supplemental program.

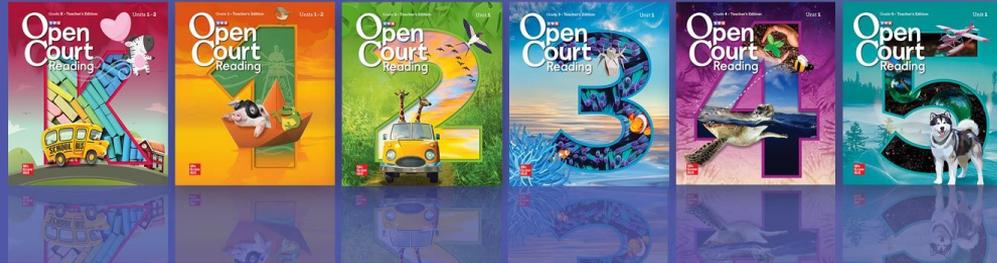
← HOME →



ELA Highlights-Curriculum

Open Court Reading

Grades K-5



Open Court Reading is an approved comprehensive reading program that teaches critical comprehension strategies and integrates close reading strategies into learning so that students can apply them to new text. Vocabulary practice throughout each lesson provides opportunities for students to discuss definitions and better understand the meanings of new words. In addition to learning composition skills—prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing—students learn skills like handwriting, sentence construction, grammar, usage, and mechanics.

Assessments

- Regularly scheduled assessments are given to assess the focus standards taught throughout each unit.

HOME

ELA Highlights

INDEPENDENT READING PLAN

K-5 is committed to a set aside independent reading time where students are actively reading each day. Teachers are conferencing with students in order to gauge comprehension and gain insight into student interests and reading abilities. Each grade level has a system in place for student engagement in reading.

Reading Logs

Starting after BOY Assessments, students will have a Wildly Important Goal that will include a Reading Goal each Nine Weeks. After a student has read a book either with support or independently, they will write down those books on their Reading Log to be tracked each week toward their overall goal. Students that read at least 2 books each week will enjoy our Fun Friday time on Friday afternoons.

← HOME →



MATH HIGHLIGHTS

Standards

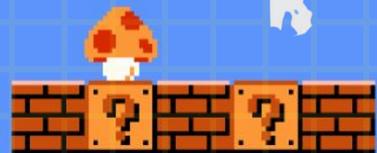
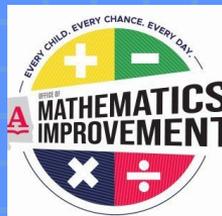
Each content standard in the 2019 Alabama Mathematics Course of Study contains the minimum required content and defines what students should know and be able to do at the conclusion of a course or grade. The course of study does not dictate curriculum, teaching methods or sequence.



Alabama Numeracy Act



The 2022 Alabama Numeracy Act is the state's comprehensive plan to improve mathematics proficiency of public school students in grades K-5 and ensure that those students are proficient in mathematics by the end of the fifth grade and to support for all students and teachers.



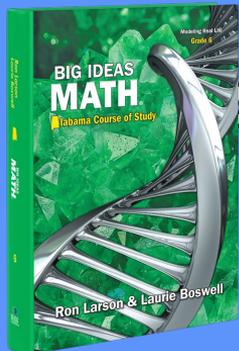
HOME





MATH HIGHLIGHTS

State Approved
Big Ideas Curriculum



Math Workshop
Model for Instruction

balance of whole group &
small group instruction and
teacher directed & student
centered learning



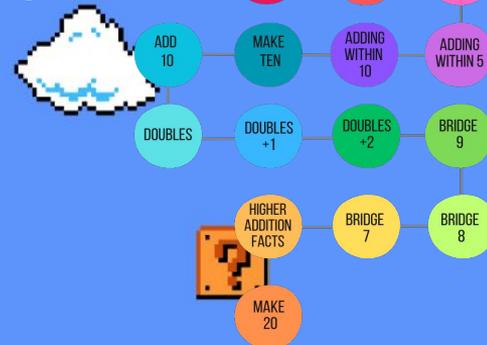
Assessment

A variety of weekly,
chapter, and unit
assessments are given to
monitor student progress
as well as guide instruction
for each concept.

Fluency Workstations



Fluency Progressions



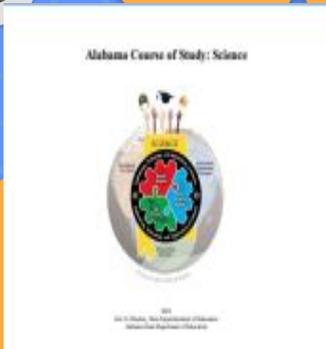
Running Records



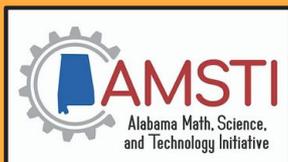
HOME

STANDARDS

SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS



The 2023 Alabama Course of Study: Science provides foundational knowledge and learning progressions that are coherent, vertically aligned, and increasingly rigorous. The standards are designed to prepare scientifically literate citizens who can evaluate the quality of science information, appreciate science as a way of knowing about the world, and make sound, evidence-based decisions.



AMSTI Science units will be paired with the adopted StemScopes resources to provide Science instruction and hands-on learning experiences across all grade level.

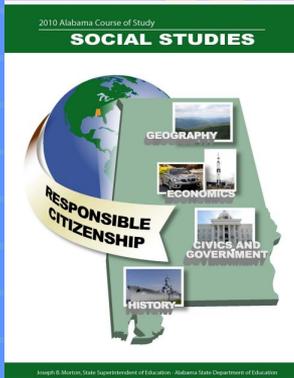


Students learn by doing and experience science concepts using STEMscopes resources. STEMscopes is an approved textbook.

← HOME →

SOCIAL STUDIES HIGHLIGHTS

STANDARDS



The Social Studies standards describe the required knowledge and skills of economics, geography, history, and civics and government that students are expected to know and be able to do at a particular grade level. All strands are included in every grade; however, one strand may be given more emphasis at one or more grade levels.

Oftentimes, social studies topics are integrated in other subject-area discussions, especially in grades K-3.

INTEGRATED

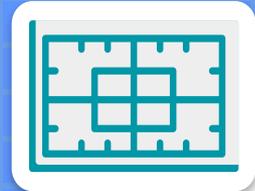


Studies Weekly is a state-approved resource used by teachers to implement the Social Studies Course of Study into the daily instructional program.

← HOME →



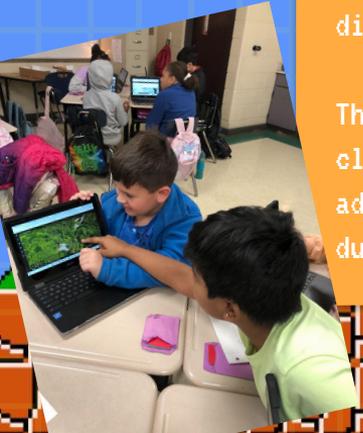
DIGITAL LITERACY / COMPUTER SCIENCE



What?

All students in grades K-5 receive instruction focused on computational thinking, computer science, and digital literacy.

These lessons are embedded into the classroom curriculum, and also addressed in the media center and during STEM class.



How?

Build Strong Digital Citizens

Why?

We live in a digital world. [Click here to find out more!](#)



Tips for Families

[Media Balance](#)
[Privacy and Security](#)
[Digital Footprint](#)



Click this image for tips to build responsible digital citizens at home, or visit bit.ly/mcsdigitalparents



DIGITAL ACCESS AT HOME

Helpful Resources

Clever Dashboard

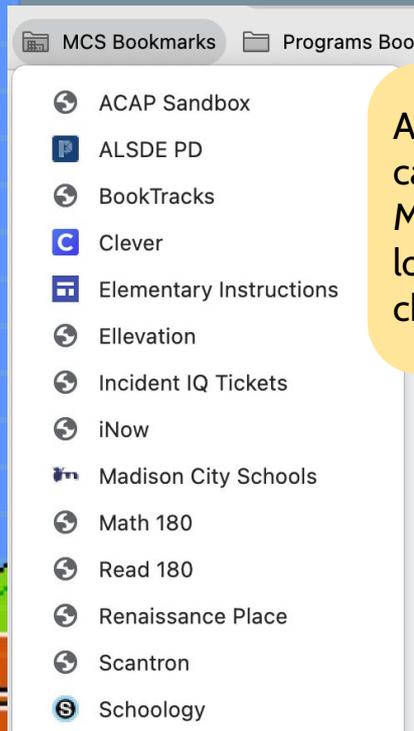
- Students can access and sign into their district platforms
- Access links shared by classroom teacher
- Access additional resources from the district such as coding activities and the virtual math library at any time

Problem with your device?

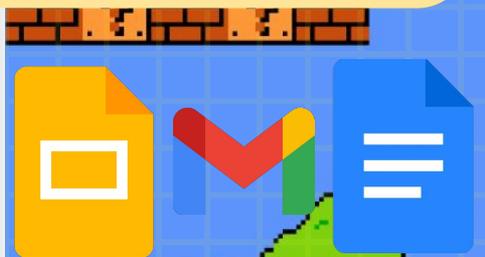
- Complete a help desk ticket by selecting Incident IQ from MCS Bookmarks

Elementary Parent Site

You can find helpful tutorials for all of our tech resources and platforms as well as suggestions for great online learning activities on our Elementary Parent Site.



All of the helpful resources can be found in your child's MCS Bookmarks, which is located at the top left of their chrome browser window.



We are a Google School District!
Students have access to all Google tools!



CLEVER

Clever offers one, secure place for elementary students to access all textbooks and other resources. Parents can review all apps included in the Madison City Schools Clever platform when the student is logged in to the Madison City issued 1 to 1 device.



LEARNING PLATFORMS

Your child's teacher will utilize one of the following learning platforms :

- Seesaw
- Google Classroom
- Schoolology



Find out how you can connect to your child's learning platform to build a line of communication between school and home and be better prepared for e-learning days.





What?

This is a screen sharing platform that allows our teachers to monitor students' screens at school.

Through GoGuardian, teachers can provide instant access to resources, communicate and connect easily with students, and assist students in maintaining focus on their activity.



At Home?

Teachers are unable to provide any type of monitoring of student devices outside of school hours.

We all know that our students need time to socialize and participate in off-screen activities daily. We suggest setting a household guideline and turning off/charging devices at a given time each night.





E-Learning Days



MCS occasionally plans for e-learning days. These are sometimes planned (Graduation Day) and also can be due to inclement weather.

In 1st grade since we do not send home Chromebooks every day, we usually will send home a paper packet to be completed during the virtual day. This will include review lessons that students should be able to complete independently with optional online activities. Any assigned work will be due the day we return to school.





ASSESSMENT

01

iREADY

Measures reading & math progress compared to grade level standards

- Administered 3 times a year
- Personalized practice to follow assessment

02

mCLASS

Measures foundational reading progress in grades K-3 using various subtests

- Administered 3 times a year
- Progress monitoring follows assessment as appropriate

03

ACAP

Measures progress towards grade level standards in reading and math in grades 2-5 as well as science in grade 4

- Administered during the 4th Nine Weeks
- 3rd grade reading assessment - ALA

04

FORMATIVE

Observation, written, discussion...

- Ongoing
- Teacher discretion
- Specific examples mentioned on previous slides

← HOME →

HOMEWORK

- Monthly Menu of Review Activities will begin in September
- Complete at least 15 activities each month
- Read 20 minutes every night
- Teachers may also send home additional practice as needed.



HOME



02



GRADING

OVERVIEW



← HOME →



Report Cards



K-2 Report cards are sent home following each of the four grading periods.

Report cards share information about student progress towards grade level standards.



K-2 Standards Based Rubric

- 4 - Demonstrates an understanding of the standard independently
- 3 - Demonstrates an understanding of the standard with minimum supports
- 2 - Demonstrates an understanding of the standard with continuous supports
- 1 - Does not demonstrate an understanding of the standards

Dates to Expect Report Cards

- 10/10/2024
- 1/9/2025
- 3/19/2025
- 5/21/2025



HOME





Progress Reports

K-2 Progress Reports are sent home after 4 ½ weeks of instruction within the given nine weeks.

Progress Reports highlight areas of focus to assist your child in meeting grade level expectations.

Dates to Expect Progress Reports

- 9/11/2024
- 11/13/2024
- 2/12/2025
- 4/23/2025

Parent guides are available to assist you with helping your child at home.



HOME

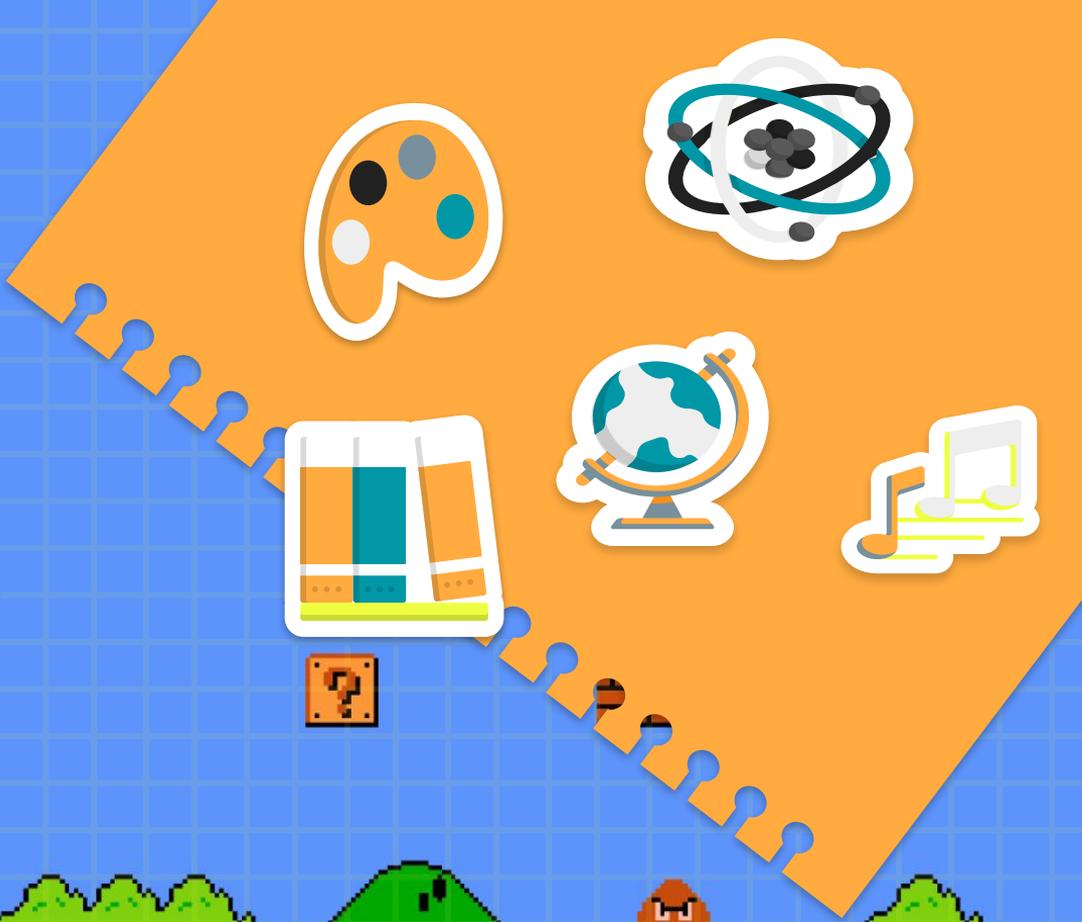


03



SPECIALTY

AREAS



← HOME →



COUNSELING PROGRAM

School Counselor(s): *Mrs. Hargis and Mrs. Ratcliffe*

- School Counselors help support academic, personal, and career development in all students
- Provide classroom lessons twice monthly to all students K-5
- Counseling for students in individual or small groups if needed (with parent permission)
- Parents can contact the School Counselor to make a referral for their child or discuss any concerns

o School Counselor Email:





LIBRARY MEDIA



The library media center (LMC) is a place where individuals and groups of students use information to extend classroom studies and to further personal interests.



Students have open, flexible access to library media resources and services.



Library media resources are available to support the curriculum, encourage research, engage students in pleasure reading, and address individual needs and interests.



Resources are organized by a recognized method and are available in an automated format via Atrium.



Please help our child learn his/her lunch number as this is the number utilized to check out books when visiting the media center for that purpose.



Parents can access the OPAC link (Online Access Catalog) from the media center page to view book offerings.





Our mission is to prepare students for global communication and innovation through visual literacy.



ART



- Students participate in art class once a week for 30 minutes.



- The art teachers follow a scope and sequence aligned to the Alabama Course of Study for Arts Education.





The goal of the program is to assist students in developing knowledge, understanding, and skills required to participate authentically in the discipline of music. Musically literate individuals can independently carry out the Artistic Processes of Creating, Performing, Responding, and Connecting.

T

- Students receive music instruction once a week for 30 minutes.
- The music teachers follow a scope and sequence aligned to the Alabama Course of Study for Arts Education.
- Music teachers use instruments as a hand-on approach to teaching music as well as Quaver, a program aligned to the general music standards also providing an interactive experience and application of the skills being taught.





Physical Education

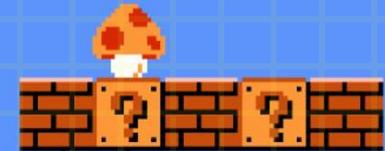


PE Teacher(s): Coach Carter and Coach Morris

PE Highlights:



- Provide students with 30 minutes of physical activity every day of the week.
- The goal of the program is to develop students physical competence and knowledge of movement and safety.
- Provides team building opportunities among the students and allows them to develop communication skills between their peers.



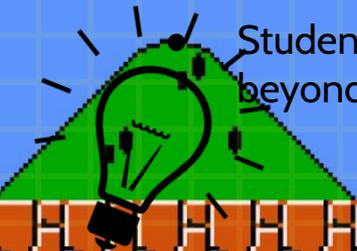
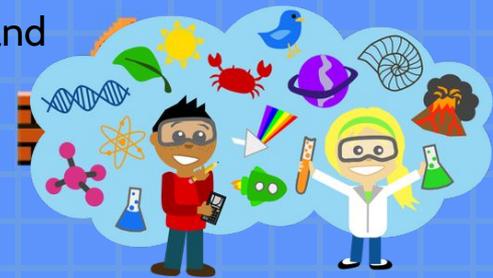


MCS Elementary STEM Program

- The goal of the elementary (PreK-5) STEM program is to develop 21st century skills and a foundational knowledge base important to STEM fields and global citizenship. This program is also designed to prepare students for middle school STEM opportunities and create awareness of STEM career pathways.
- Students will have STEM classes once a week for 30 minutes for grades PreK-5th.
- Students can expect hands on explorations with various technologies and they will design “out of the box” projects based on student learning.

Students will experience STEM at a level that is above and beyond what is done in their regular classroom.

STEM





Intellectually gifted children and youth are those who perform or who have demonstrated the potential to perform at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment. These children and youth require services not ordinarily provided by the regular school program.



- **Second Grade Child Find** - Second-grade teachers and gifted specialists will observe the students and note any gifted behaviors. Teachers use a state department required indicators list and the Gifted Specialist presents a series of lessons designed to elicit work samples for potential referrals.
- **Standard Referrals** - Students in grades 3rd-5th may be referred for gifted services by teachers, counselors, administrators, parents or guardians, peers, self, and other individuals with knowledge of the student's abilities. Standard referral processes have a timeline of 90 days and consist of several assessments, work samples, and behavior scales completed by a Gifted Referral Screening Team.

Provided Services Include...

- Pull out services for 3rd-5th grade students (3 hours a week)
- Consultative services for K-2nd grade teachers & students
- Collaborative services for 3rd-5th grade teachers

GIFTED PROGRAM





04



SCHOOL

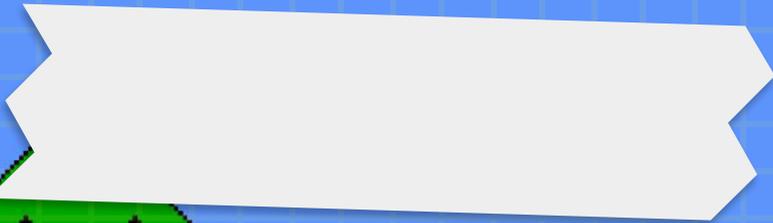
HIGHLIGHTS



← HOME →



Leader in Me Lighthouse School



HOME



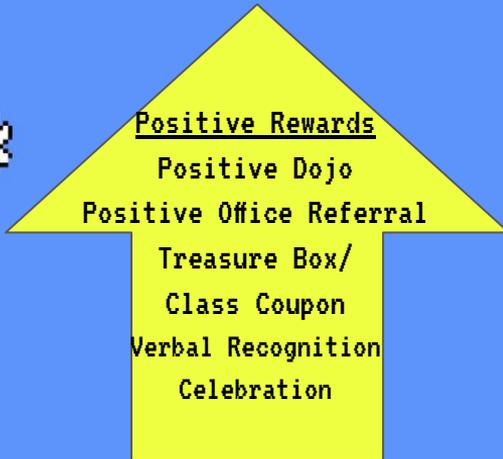


Grade Level Behavior Plan

Classroom Rules



- Follow Directions Quickly
- Raise your hand for permission to leave your seat
- Raise your hand for permission to speak
- Make Smart Choices



Class Management Plan

- Verbal reprimand with the loss of a dojo
- Conference with student with parent contact and a loss of a dojo
- Withdrawal of privilege(s) with parent contact and a loss of a dojo
- Other consequences determined to be reasonable and appropriate by the school administration.

***Some behavioral infractions may result in an immediate office referral to school administration.

Cell Phones

Cell phones and earbuds/headphones will not be allowed to be used during classroom instruction time. Phones and earbuds/headphones will be put away in a location designated by the teacher and placed in silent mode. Failure to follow these procedures will result in a disciplinary referral to the office.



Stay Informed!!

→ Thursday Folders



- ◆ Check each week
- ◆ Sign and return important papers

→ Weekly Newsletters/Emails

- ◆ Standards we are working on
- ◆ Important Events/Acti
- ◆ Reminders

→ Parent Conferences

- ◆ In Fall after 1st Report Card
- ◆ Other times during the year when requested (by parent or teacher)





PLEASE HELP YOUR CHILD REMEMBER THESE THINGS EACH DAY



Backpack
To include daily binder, change of clothes, shoes for PE (if wearing others)



Water Bottle
Only water, please



Snack
All students have a snack time daily



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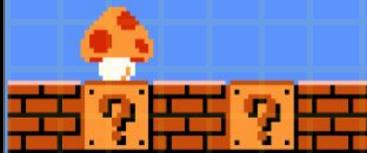


ATTENDANCE

DAILY ATTENDANCE IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR ACADEMIC GROWTH TO OCCUR AT AN ADEQUATE PACE.

- Should your child have to miss school due to illness or an unforeseen event, please email a note to hrtgattendance@madisoncity.k12.al.us within 3 days of the absence.
- After 3 unexcused absences, parents will be notified via a letter to caution you of possible truancy concerns
- After 5 unexcused absences, the parent will receive a second letter to notify you of a meeting with a school administrator to discuss school attendance concerns.
- After 7 unexcused absences, the parent will receive a third letter to notify you of a meeting with the district attendance officer.
- After 10 unexcused absences, a truancy court referral will be made based upon attendance concerns.

HOME





GRADE LEVEL FIELD TRIPS



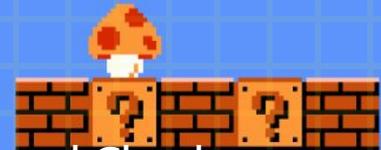
Proposed Field Trips: Nashville Zoo (Fall) and Play (Spring)



While no trips are overnight, we do go out of the state to visit the Zoo. Please go ahead and fill out the “Out of County Form” and have the permission form Notarized (Mrs. Lipski can do this in the office during Curriculum Nights or from 3:00-3:30 most days)



If you plan to attend ANY Field Trip - or help out at school (activities, lunch, volunteer, celebrations, etc) you will be required to have a BIB card from a Background Check. Any parent without a valid BIB card (good for 1 year) will not be allowed to attend our field trips.



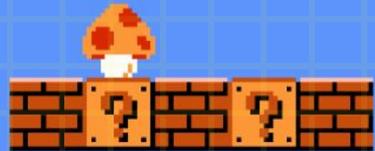
← HOME →



Join the Heritage PTA



- PTA Meetings 5-6 times per year.
- Opportunities to serve and volunteer





Heritage Transportation



- You must use School Dismissal Manager (SDM) to make any transportation changes. Welcome emails were sent to the primary contact last week.
- Car line is open for arrival from 7:10 to 7:35. After 7:35 the car line closes, please park and walk your student in to the office and check them in. It opens for dismissal from 2:40 until 3:00.
- Emails will be sent as soon as possible with any bus changes.

← HOME →



Lunchroom

- We welcome parents to each lunch with their child - 4 times per semester.
- See Sign Up Genius to register prior to attending lunch.
- You may purchase ice cream in the cafeteria for class for birthday celebrations. However, no outside food may be brought in for other students.
- Free and Reduced applications are online
- We eat from 10:51-11:21



← HOME →



Classroom Celebrations



- We have two parties/celebrations per year - once first semester and once second semester.
- Winter Celebration (Dec.)
- Spring Celebration (May)



slang

← HOME →



Expanded Day

- Offered every full school day from 2:40 - 6:00pm
- Registration is online and based on availability
- Student must be registered and deposit made prior to attending
- Directors: Mrs. Patterson and Ms. Steele



← HOME →



Sept. 9
6-8pm



Heritage

Parent

University



HOME