

Statement of Philosophy

Our purpose is to educate all students to the best of their ability, regardless of race, religion, ethnic origin or socio-economic status. We are dedicated to the total education of all students. We believe that every student is individual and valuable. Their needs cannot be met with only textbooks but by various methods that address the many different ways students process information.

We, the faculty and staff at Algood Middle School, believe that every student is an untapped resource with varying potentials, characteristics, needs, and interests.

We believe that the future of our community and society depends on the young minds that we are educating today.

Mission Statement

The mission of Algood School, hand-in-hand with our community is to provide a quality education through diverse and clearly focused educational programs that instill in all students intellectual, moral, physical, emotional and social values; produces citizens competent in basic skills, possessing the ability to think critically and solve problems; promotes a positive attitude toward learning; and prepares all students to succeed in this every-changing world.

Backpacks, Book Bags, Tote Bags

All backpacks, book bags/tote bags, purses, etc. are subject to search by school officials. They may be of any type, solid or mesh, except those that have wheels.

Student Appearance

Students are expected to keep themselves well groomed and neatly dressed at all times. Student appearance and grooming should reflect a positive attitude toward learning and not be distracting or disruptive.

Dress Code

Parent and Student Responsibility

The parents and students shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with all aspects of the dress code at any time the student is on school premises or attending a school sponsored function.

Dress Code Guidelines

1. No person shall wear clothing or apparel that contains pictures and/or writing referring to sexual references, profanity, illegal drugs, the promotion of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products, or suggestive offensive themes. No themes of death including skulls and/or skeletons.
2. No hats, caps, knit caps, or bandannas are allowed. They will be confiscated.
3. All tops, shirts, blouses, etc. must have sleeves. No midriff showing when standing or sitting.
4. Pants, shorts, skirts, etc. must be appropriate and will be worn at waistline and be of length that is modest while standing or sitting.
5. Athletic uniforms are not to be worn at school
6. Clothing should have no holes or frayed/jagged edges.
7. Coats/jackets are not to be worn to class without permission.
8. Tattoos and body piercing with the exception of the ears are not deemed appropriate.
9. Shoes and/or sandals must have enclosed heels or heel straps. They must have permanent heel straps. Any strap that has been self attached (string, yarn, or rope) is unacceptable. If student(s) wear back-less shoes they will call home and someone will have to bring an appropriate pair of shoes to school. This guideline provides for safety on stairs and the playground.

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for promotion and success in school as well as any vocation chosen in life. When an absence is necessary it is the responsibility of the student to see that work is made up in the time specified by the teacher.

The following are the only legal excuses for absences:

1. Personal illness – doctor’s statement may be required*
2. Death in the immediate family.
3. Observance of a religious holiday.
4. Failure of a bus run.
5. A medical or dental appointment – these should be scheduled after school whenever possible.

*A doctor’s statement will be required after the 5th absence.

School begins promptly at 8:00 AM. Students who are tardy miss valuable instruction time and disturb the class by arriving late. Students who are habitually tardy will be considered truant. Parent will need to sign-in students in the office who arrive later than 8:00 AM.

Students with **5 absences excused or unexcused** will be reported to the county attendance supervisor.

Perfect Attendance is defined as “attending every class, every day, for the full period.”

Leaving School

If it is necessary for a student to leave school he/she must be signed out by a parent or guardian in the school office before leaving the building. Leaving early is the same as reporting late. Excessive early sign-outs will be reported to the county attendance supervisor.

Telephone

The office telephone is for school business and it may be used by students only with the permission of the principal or secretary. Messages and deliveries from home should be left in the office. Students will not be called out of class for messages unless it is an emergency. The school phone number is 537-6141.

Class Trips

Field trips are an extension of the learning process as well as a privilege. Students are expected to represent Algood Middle School in the best possible. School rules apply. A student who has been a consistent discipline problem may be excluded from any trip.

Psychologist

A psychologist is on staff. The psychologist is available as a special counselor to students and also provides the teaching staff with different kinds of evaluation tools. The psychologist is also available to parents who have special concerns about their children.

Vandalism and Property Damage

Our school building and equipment cost the taxpayers to construct, purchase and maintain. Students who destroy or vandalize school property will be required to pay the cost of repair or replacement. If students willfully destroy school property, suspension and subsequent expulsion may be necessary. If you should happen to damage something by accident report it to your teacher or the office immediately.

Discipline

One of the most important lessons education should teach is self-discipline. Discipline is the training that develops self-control, character, orderliness, and efficiency. It is the key to good conduct and proper consideration for other people.

We believe in helping students develop self-discipline and self-restraint which will make them a better person and the school a more effective place of learning.

The Assertive Discipline concept is utilized school-wide. This is a program which rewards good behavior and provides established consequences for violations of rules. The rules are posted in each classroom and reviewed with the students by the teacher.

Physical Education

The purpose of Physical Education is to help students understand and demonstrate the responsibilities they have as individuals, family members, and citizens to act in ways that enhance health for themselves and others.

All students are required to participate in P.E. classes unless we receive a written excuse from a doctor.

Hallways/Stairs

Students should be in the hallways/stairs ONLY at the beginning and close of school and while moving from one class to another unless they have special permission or special duties that require them to be there. Students are asked to be courteous at all times and to keep to the right when moving in the hallway/stairs. Students must always walk quietly.

Medication

Students taking prescription medication or other medication must follow the attached school board policy regarding medication.

Cafeteria

Students' behavior in the lunchroom should be based on courtesy and cleanliness. Please help make the lunch period pleasant for everyone by keeping the tables and floors clean and noise to a minimum.

Lunches may be paid on MONDAY mornings or online (<http://www.pcsstn.com/departments/foodservice/index.html>) anytime. Students may pay daily as they go through the line but that tends to hold up the line. If you wish to manage your students lunch account online you may call April Banker at the central office (526-9777) or e-mail (bankera@k12tn.net) to set up the account. The set-up will only have to be done once and will grant you 24 hour access to your child's lunch account.

Charging is not allowed in the cafeteria. If your child has no money and a zero account balance, he/she will be given a basic lunch normally consisting of peanut butter and jelly.

Toys

Toys, games, trading cards, radios, CD's/players, video games, etc. are NOT to be brought to school. They will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school year.

PTSO

The Algood PTSO (Parent-Teacher-Student Organization) has been highly involved in improving our school. All parents are urged to become members and to actively participate. Meetings are scheduled three times during the year and are announced several weeks in advance.

Each year the PTSO sponsors money making projects. With the help of all parents, these projects can be very successful. They allow the PTSO to fund many important activities at the school.

Visitors

All persons, including former students, or students from other schools visiting Algood School are to obtain permission from the principal. **ALL** visitors are to sign in at the office and obtain a visitor's pass.

Parent Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences will be scheduled as needed at the end of the first nine week and third nine week grading periods. Parents are welcome to make appointments with teachers, counselors or the principal at any time by telephoning the school office or sending a note.

Textbooks

Students are responsible for all textbooks and library books issued or checked out to them. Parents will be required to reimburse the school for any lost or damaged books or equipment.

Zero Tolerance

In order to ensure a safe and secure learning environment free of drugs, violence and dangerous weapons, any student who engages in the following behaviors will be subject to suspension for a period of not less than one (1) calendar year. The Director shall have the authority to modify this suspension requirement on a case-by-case basis. Zero-tolerance acts are as follows:

1. Students who bring or possess a drug or a dangerous weapon on school property or to school event or activity, even if that event or activity is not on school property.
2. Any student who assaults a teacher or other employee of the school system.

Bus Conduct

The following rules have been established in order to ensure the safety of all student who ride school buses:

1. Use only the bus and bus stop assigned.
2. Orderly behavior is required at the bus stop.
3. Remain seated, facing front, when the bus is in motion.
4. Do not talk to the bus driver unless it is necessary.
5. Keep head and arms inside the bus
6. Do not litter inside the bus or throw anything out the window.
7. Be quiet when the bus is crossing railroad tracks.
8. Talk quietly and make no unnecessary noise.

Infractions of the above rules will be brought to the attention of parents. Continual abuse of bus privileges will result in the denial of bus privileges.

Traffic Control

Parents with children attending both Elementary and Middle School will drop off and pick up at the Elementary School. The Elementary School entrance is on Dry Valley Road. Parents exiting the Elementary School will do so thru the Bus entrance onto Old Walton Road. The Middle School's entrance is on Old Walton Road, the same as previous years with the exit onto Dry Valley Road. Please be patient at the beginning of the year as it always takes a week or two for everyone to become accustomed to the traffic routes.

Cell Phones

See [school board policy \(6.312\)](#) regarding cell phones, personal communication devices and electronic devices.

Head Lice

See [school board policy \(6.4031\)](#).

Ideas for Helping Your Child

Parents can do their part to improve homework when they:

1. Cooperate with the school to make homework effective.
2. Provide your children with suitable study conditions.
3. Reserve a time for homework and TURN OFF THE TELEVISION.
4. Encourage your children but avoid undue pressure.
5. Show interest in what your children are doing but (DO NOT do the work).
6. Understand that the school expects homework to be completed and returned.