



Summertown Middle School
Student Handbook
2026-2027

Summertown Middle School
411 West College St.
Summertown, TN 38483
931-964-3539
931-964-2268
Fax 931-964-3302

Summertown Middle School Cafeteria
931-964-2267

Summertown Middle School's Mission

Mission Statement: To inspire and empower our students to achieve academic excellence, embrace diversity, and cultivate lifelong learning in a nurturing and inclusive environment.

Mascot: The Eagles

This mission statement reflects a commitment to both academic achievement and personal growth, while the mascot "The Eagles" embodies qualities such as strength, determination, and a soaring spirit, symbolizing the aspirations and potential of the students.

Summertown Middle School's Vision:

Guiding our students toward a future where knowledge unlocks limitless opportunities, empathy builds strong communities, and courage fuels independence.

SMS Shared Beliefs:

1. Inclusive Community: We believe in fostering an inclusive environment where every student, regardless of background or ability, feels valued and supported.
2. Excellence in Education: We believe in promoting academic rigor and providing opportunities for every student to achieve their highest potential.
3. Respect and Responsibility: We believe in cultivating respect for oneself and others, and in teaching the importance of personal responsibility and integrity.
4. Lifelong Learning: We believe in instilling a love for learning and curiosity that extends beyond the classroom, preparing students for continual growth and adaptability.
5. Collaboration and Communication: We believe in the power of collaboration among students, staff, families, and the community and in fostering effective communication skills essential for success.
6. Safe and Supportive Environment: We believe in creating a safe and supportive learning environment that promotes physical and emotional well-being.
7. Embracing Diversity: We believe in celebrating diversity and promoting cultural understanding, recognizing that diversity enriches our school community.

These shared beliefs guide our efforts in providing a nurturing and enriching middle school experience that prepares students for future challenges and successes.

School – Parent Communication

Push Notifications from Remind

We also invite you to participate in remind messages from Summertown Middle School and classroom teachers. It's free and easy to use.

Parental/Student Access to Student Grades via Skyward

To continuously communicate student performance more effectively, the Lawrence County School System provides parents with an internet-based system for parents and students to check student progress at any time. The Skyward STUDENT PARENT PORTAL will allow parents to log in and view their child's course assignments, attendance, daily grades, and cumulative average. SHS encourages all parents and students to access this feature and eventually "Go Green" (no printed report cards and progress reports). Please contact the school secretary to receive your username and password for the system.

Social Media

We also encourage you to follow us on social media. You can find us on Facebook – Summertown Middle School

Academic Information

Summertown Middle School is a seventh through eighth-grade middle school with about 200 students and approximately 20 faculty and staff members. Each grade will have the same team of academic teachers.

Courses Offered

Students will take a combination of ELA, Math, Social Studies, and Science along with the state-mandated RTI time and an activity rotation throughout the week. The activity rotation will be in Career Exploration & Computer Science and P.E. In addition, any student interested in band will have the option to have instrumental music instead of the activity rotation.

Parental Academic Assistance--Things Parents Can Do to Encourage Achievement

Encouraging student achievement in middle school involves a combination of support, guidance, and fostering a positive learning environment. Here are some things parents can do to support their child's success:

1. **Establish a Routine:** Help your child establish a consistent daily routine that includes dedicated time for homework, study, and extracurricular activities.
2. **Communicate with Teachers:** Maintain open lines of communication with your child's teachers. Attend parent-teacher conferences, ask about your child's progress, and discuss any concerns or areas where your child may need additional support.
3. **Create a Supportive Study Environment:** Designate a quiet and organized space at home for studying. Minimize distractions and ensure your child has access to necessary school supplies.
4. **Set Realistic Expectations:** Encourage your child to set achievable academic goals. Celebrate accomplishments and provide encouragement during challenging times.
5. **Encourage Reading:** Foster a love for reading by providing access to a variety of books and encouraging your child to read regularly. Discuss books together to enhance comprehension and critical thinking skills.
6. **Promote Time Management Skills:** Teach your child effective time management skills, such as prioritizing tasks, setting deadlines, and breaking down larger assignments into manageable parts.
7. **Encourage Active Learning:** Support your child in exploring their interests and participating in extracurricular activities, clubs, or sports that promote teamwork and leadership skills.
8. **Monitor Screen Time:** Limit excessive screen time on devices that are not related to academic or educational purposes. Encourage a healthy balance between screen time and other activities.
9. **Provide Emotional Support:** Middle school can be a challenging time emotionally. Listen to your child's concerns, offer encouragement, and provide guidance in handling stress or social issues.
10. **Promote a Growth Mindset:** Encourage a positive attitude towards learning and resilience in the face of setbacks. Teach your child that effort and persistence lead to improvement and success.

By implementing these strategies, parents can create a supportive environment that fosters their child's academic success and overall well-being during the middle school years.

Make-Up Policy

It is the student's responsibility to make up all subject matter covered during the absence(s). When a student returns following **any** absence, it is the responsibility of the student to bring all doctor/parent notes to the office and check with all of his/her teachers to obtain missed assignments. The student will have **2** days to make arrangements with his/her teachers to complete the work missed. Students who have been suspended will have a maximum of **2** days after returning from suspension to complete all missed tests.

Students who must be absent from classes to represent the school in approved extra-curricular activities will not be penalized for those absences; these students will be considered in attendance. However, these students will be responsible for completing all classroom work that they missed on the day they return to class.

Class, Club field trips, Conventions, Workshops

Students must have a **C** average in each class, not have excessive absences for any reason, and have no in-school/out-of-school or school bus suspensions to attend any club or class-sponsored activity that requires missing any classes.

Arriving Late

When students arrive on campus late they must report to the office and officially sign in. Then they are to report immediately to their assigned class. Once on campus, a student may not leave without permission and without going through the regular check-out procedure. Signing out without proper parental and administrative permission is not allowed. Three tardies are equivalent to one absence.

Student Attendance / Truancy / Excessive Absences

Parents of any student who meets the state of Tennessee's definition of excessively absent will be required to meet with school officials to develop an action plan to correct the attendance issues. Failure to meet or correct the problem could result in the parent being petitioned to court for educational neglect. In addition, any student who acquires more than 5 unexcused absences could be petitioned to court for truancy under state laws. See the LCSS board policy for more details.

Arrival at School

All students arriving before 7:40 a.m. must report to the cafeteria or gym. ***Students are not to be dropped off behind the cafeteria.*** Students who drive or ride in a vehicle **must** enter the building immediately upon arrival. Students are **not** allowed to sit in vehicles in the parking lot before or after school.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Visitors to Summertown Middle School are welcome during business hours which are from 7:30 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. Monday through Friday when school is in session. All visitors must receive permission from the school administration and submit a valid picture ID upon arrival in the main office. Our campus is a "CLOSED CAMPUS." All visitors must report to the Main SHS/SMS Office immediately upon arriving on campus and before entering any other building including the high school building, tech building, and cafeteria.

What if a visitor wants to talk to a teacher?

Anyone who would like to meet with a teacher may do so by making an appointment during business hours. To make an appointment with any school official please call 964-3539.

What if a visitor wants to talk to a student?

No one is allowed to talk with a student except his or her parents or legal guardian. Visitors should not come to the school to see a student. Visitors who are on campus for this reason will be asked to leave. Students, parents, or visitors who have questions concerning Summertown Middle School are encouraged to come to the office or call the school anytime during business hours.

Students Leaving School Early

A parent/guardian or other designated person may come to the school and check out the student. The person picking up the student must submit the proper ID to school personnel. The ID will be scanned through the Raptor system (See Board policy). If anyone other than the parent/guardian is picking up the student or the student drives to school, the parent must send a note to the school the morning of the impending check-out. The note should state the person slated to pick up the child and a daytime phone where the parent can be reached. School personnel will call the parent to verify the information in the note and that the student can leave.

Notes or phone calls alone are not acceptable for dismissal. The parent must send the note to the school on the day of the checkout. Students must turn the note into the office by 9:30 a.m. to give school personnel time to verify the information by phone with the parent. Students will not be allowed to check out for lunch and return to school.

Textbooks

Textbooks must be returned in good condition before grades will be issued. Fines will be assessed to cover damage. Students will be charged for books they lose. Failure to return textbooks will be considered an adequate reason not to issue new textbooks. New textbooks will only be issued to students with a zero balance.

Chromebooks

All students enrolled at Summertown Middle School will have access to a Chromebook computer (provided they are in good financial standing with the school and system). The student and parent will be required to sign appropriate documents accepting all responsibility for the device. Those documents will be sent home and the parents will be asked to agree before the device will be sent home.

Personal Property

Jewelry (including watches), any electronic devices, or other personal property should not be brought to school. Any personal property brought to school is the sole responsibility of the student. The school or school system will not be held responsible for lost or stolen items. No valuables should be left in lockers or P.E. dressing rooms. See board policy for any updates.

SOCIAL MEDIA

In the rapidly changing field of technology, advances are being made almost daily that enhance student and teacher performance. However, with these advances come many dangers and pitfalls that can result in students and parents finding themselves in trouble with the school system and law enforcement. Parents and students are advised to avoid posting information on any social media outlet, such as Facebook, MySpace, Instagram, and Twitter and any other form of social media that may be deemed offensive, derogatory, defaming, threatening, harassing toward fellow students, faculty, staff, and the school community in general.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

To maintain the integrity of the learning environment, students may use any of the following before 8:00 A.M., during class changes, and during the lunch period. Students may **NOT** have any of the following in use during instructional time unless permission is granted by the teacher: cell phones, iPods, iPads, Personal Digital Assistants (PDA) earphones, cameras, video cameras, and other devices that may become popular during an academic year. Such are unacceptable during instructional time and will be confiscated from the student and held for a minimum of three (3) academic days for the first offense and up to ten (10) academic for subsequent offenses. Once a device is in possession of the administrative team, it will remain with them during and after school hours for the specified confiscation time.

School Property

School property is made available for the benefit of students. To ensure its longevity, students will be charged for the repair and replacement of any school property they damage whether accidental or intentional. School records or transcripts will be withheld until the student's balance is zero. Outstanding balances on textbooks will be considered adequate reasons not to issue new textbooks. New textbooks will only be issued to students with a zero balance.

Medication

No type of medication will be given to students (including aspirin) without proper authorization. If a child must take medicine at school, the parents must bring the medication bottle with the following information on the bottle: child's name, name of the medication, name of a physician, dosage, time to be administered and a printout sheet from the pharmacy on side effects, proper mode of giving medicine and contraindications. A full-time school nurse is on staff to administer any medications brought to school. Also, parents must fill out medication forms when presenting the medication.

Athletic Policy

To participate, a student must meet the standards of the Tennessee Secondary Athletic Association and must abide by the rules that are established for team conduct. All regularly scheduled athletic events will be after school. No student will be dismissed from class for any reason without prior approval of the administration. Please see TSSAA policy or Board Policy for more details.

SCHOOL BUS EXPECTATIONS & POLICY

Student conduct is of utmost importance to the transportation system. A student shall not exhibit behavior(s) that interferes with the rights of another student or the driver, or exhibit behavior that endangers the lives of others in transport. Riding a school bus is a privilege. That privilege may be taken away when a student demonstrates unacceptable behavior. Students who have been suspended from the bus cannot ride the bus that evening unless authorized by the presiding principal. Suspension from the bus means all bus services. Any criminal activity committed by a student or adult will result in a court petition.

BUS EXPECTATIONS

The following shall be observed at all times:

1. Be on time at the bus stop.
2. Practice safety to, on, and from the school bus each day.
3. Share a seat with any other students.
4. Bus seats are to sit on and not for reclining.
5. Face the front.
6. Keep books and other articles off the aisle floor.
7. The rear door is for emergencies only. Use the front door to enter and leave the bus.
8. Respect the rights of your fellow students.
9. Talk to the driver as little as possible.
10. The bus driver is in command; respect and obey the driver.
11. Enjoy your ride. Be reasonably quiet.
12. You will be considered in school if you are riding the bus.
13. A student shall become ineligible for public school transportation after refusing to follow state and local rules and regulations pertaining to pupil transportation.
15. Any student disrespectful to the driver is subject to school and bus suspension and or expulsion.
16. Students will not be allowed to exit the bus anywhere other than home or the original pickup point unless by a note signed by a parent and school official.
17. Students are not allowed to exit the bus to walk or enter a vehicle unless by permission of the school official. A violation will be reported to the school official.
18. Student projects, etc. may be allowed provided the student can keep them in their possession. No glass items will be allowed. Animals, pets, etc., are prohibited.

SCHOOL BUS GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS

1. Take your seat and remain there. No moving around.
2. Refrain from throwing any object on the floor or at others.
3. Throwing objects out of the window is not allowed.
4. Violations of safety procedures such as opening emergency doors or windows, pushing while exiting, etc., are strictly prohibited.
5. Possession and use of tobacco is illegal.
6. No drinks, eating, or chewing gum will be allowed on the bus.
7. Anything considered a weapon or used as a weapon will not be allowed on the bus.
8. Leaning out of windows is prohibited (arms, hands, legs, etc.).
9. Gestures or shouting at pedestrians or vehicles is prohibited.
10. A continuous violation of the expectations will result in an office conference, parent contact, and suspension from riding the bus.

In all matters pertaining to this handbook, the administration of the school will be the final determinant. All effort is made to make sure the information contained in this handbook is accurate. Due to printing deadlines, the administration reserves the right to amend the information contained herein. All updated board policies can be found at www.lcss.us.

Dr. Haley Hallmark

Summertown Middle School Principal

haley.hallmark@lcss.us