

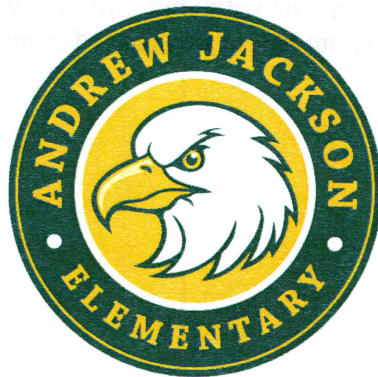


METRO
NASHVILLE
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

Andrew Jackson Elementary Student-Family Handbook 2026-2027

Dr. Kate Finn, Executive Principal

Dr. Mica Crayton Jones, Assistant Principal



The mission of Andrew Jackson Elementary is to provide effective instruction for our students to attain individual learning goals in a safe and healthy environment.

Welcome to Andrew Jackson Elementary

Dear Andrew Jackson Elementary Families,

On behalf of our faculty and staff, welcome to Andrew Jackson Elementary! We are honored that you have chosen to be part of our school community. We look forward to partnering with you to provide every student with a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment where they can grow academically, socially, emotionally, and personally.

We believe that a strong partnership between home and school is essential to student success. By working together, we can create positive learning experiences that encourage curiosity, responsibility, respect, and a lifelong love of learning.

This Parent and Student Handbook is designed to provide families with important information regarding school expectations, policies, procedures, and daily operations at Andrew Jackson Elementary. We encourage you to read it carefully and refer to it throughout the school year. While this handbook addresses many of our school's practices, it is not intended to include every Metro Nashville Public Schools policy. Additional district policies, procedures, and resources are available through Metro Nashville Public Schools.

Please note that the administration reserves the right to revise or update the policies and procedures contained in this handbook as needed. When significant changes are made, families will be notified. In the event of any differences between printed and online versions, the most current version and applicable Metro Nashville Public Schools policies will govern.

Thank you for your partnership and for entrusting us with your child's education. Together, we will foster a caring school community where every student is encouraged to learn, grow, achieve, and thrive.

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to Andrew Jackson Elementary School, Home of the Eagles! I am honored to serve as the Executive Principal and share how excited I am to serve our incredible students, staff, and community. As an instructional leader, I am committed to fostering a culture of academic excellence, strong relationships, and student-centered learning.

It is a true privilege to work alongside our team of highly qualified, experienced, and passionate educators. They are eager and ready to support your scholar's growth, learning, and well-being.

As we move forward in the 2026–2027 school year, I look forward to strengthening our school-home partnership. Together, we can create the conditions our students need to thrive. I encourage you to join our PTO, attend school events, and stay engaged with your child's learning. Your involvement plays a vital role in your scholar's success.

Please take time to review the student handbook, which will serve as a helpful reference and resource throughout the school year.

Our school is deeply committed to providing high-quality instruction in both literacy and mathematics, while also valuing and nurturing the social and emotional development of every student. With your continued support and trust, we are confident this will be an amazing year.

Thank you for being a valued part of our school family and for entrusting us with your scholar. Your support is truly invaluable.

Warm regards,
Dr. Kate Finn
Executive Principal

Andrew Jackson School
110 Shute Lane
Old Hickory, TN 37138
<https://andrewjackson.mnps.org>

INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

District Vision Statement

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools will be the fastest-improving urban school system in America, ensuring that every student becomes a life-long learner prepared for success in college, career, and life.

District Website: www.mnps.org

Andrew Jackson Elementary Website:

<https://andrewjackson.mnps.org>

Andrew Jackson's School's Belief

- We believe all children can learn when provided with research-based, high quality, differentiated instruction.
- We believe in high expectations for all students and believe all students can learn all standards taught to their full potential to become contributing members of society.
- We believe our children should have a safe, engaging, organized, stable environment with consistent expectations.
- We believe instructional interactions should be positive, meaningful and meant to meet the diverse needs of each child.
- We believe assessments should be data driven and be used to improve, individualize and guide instruction.
- We believe we need to support our students by providing a safe environment with before, during and after school resources to strengthen the needs of all students.
- We believe in effective communication and collaboration with all stakeholders to build a sense of trust and a climate where people want to be involved.
- We believe decisions should be made with knowledge of a problem, how it relates to our policies and procedures, and then align our plan of action with our mission, beliefs and vision.

School Motto

S.O.A.R.

Safe

On Task

Act Responsibly

Show **R**espect

Not because someone is watching, but because it is the right thing to do.

Andrew Jackson School History and Information

School Background

Year school Built	1928
Addition/Renovation	1995
Square Footage	61,840
Number of Students	490
Grades Served	Pre K – 5
School Hours	8:10- 3:10
Cluster	McGavock
School Mascot	Eagle

School Colors	Green, White, Gold
Principal:	Dr. Kate Finn Kathryn.finn@mnps.org
Assistant Principal:	Dr. Mica Crayton Jones Mica.crayton@mnps.org
Social Media	Andrew Jackson Facebook
School Website	https://andrewjackson.mnps.org
Parent Teacher Organization Contact:	PTO President, Shawna Metoyer AndrewJacksonPTO@gmail.com

Our School Community

Andrew Jackson Elementary School is situated on property adjoining Andrew Jackson's Hermitage: Home of the People's President. The school was built in 1924, on three acres of land purchased by Mr. John Donelson. The school opened on Monday following Thanksgiving with an approximate enrollment of 150 students in grades one through eight under the leadership of Mrs. I.P. Wright.

In 1941, an addition was built on the lower end of the building which housed classrooms and the cafeteria. A new cafeteria was built in 1955, and in 1962 the old cafeteria was converted into a library and two classrooms. In 1970, an open-space facility was built adjacent to the existing school which contained two pod areas divided by a teacher workroom. Andrew Jackson School absorbed the student body of Stateland School and at that time the Stateland School was closed. In 1988, the Stateland School was reopened as Andrew Jackson Annex and was occupied by fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students. In January 1995, the second through sixth grades were moved to the old Donelson High School building and the kindergarten and first grades were moved to the Andrew Jackson Annex building.

In 1996, many of the podded buildings were demolished leaving the original Andrew Jackson School entrance to be the entrance to our library. The original Andrew Jackson School building at our present site was demolished and a new facility was built. The new building incorporated the open space pod into the new structure, providing adequate space for about 600 students. Andrew Jackson Elementary School serves as a link between the rich history and heritage of Tennessee and the surrounding progressive community which is led by Dr. Kate Finn, Executive Principal of Andrew Jackson Elementary School.

Educational Philosophy

At Andrew Jackson Elementary, we believe every child has the ability to learn, grow, and soar. Our mission is to provide a safe, inclusive, and engaging learning environment where students are challenged academically, supported emotionally, and encouraged to discover their unique strengths.

Like an eagle preparing for flight, our students build the knowledge, confidence, character, and resilience needed to reach new heights. Through high-quality instruction, meaningful relationships, and strong partnerships with families, we empower every Young Eagle to embrace challenges, persevere through obstacles, and strive for excellence.

We are committed to developing lifelong learners, compassionate leaders, and responsible citizens who are prepared to soar with confidence toward a bright future.

Expected Student Outcomes

At Andrew Jackson Elementary, we are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and engaging learning environment where every student is empowered to achieve academic success, develop strong character, and become a positive contributor to their school and community.

Our goal is to prepare students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to be successful in school, in their relationships, and in life. We believe every child can learn, grow, and thrive when provided with high expectations, meaningful opportunities, and a supportive school community.

Andrew Jackson Elementary students will:

- Demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies, technology, and the arts.
- Think critically, solve problems creatively, and apply their learning to real-world situations.
- Communicate effectively through listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- Develop a love of learning and the skills necessary to become lifelong learners.
- Show responsibility, perseverance, and a strong work ethic in their academic and personal endeavors.
- Demonstrate respect, kindness, empathy, and integrity in their interactions with others.
- Value diversity and contribute to an inclusive school community where everyone feels welcomed, respected, and supported.
- Work collaboratively with peers while demonstrating leadership, cooperation, and accountability.
- Set personal and academic goals, monitor their progress, and celebrate growth and achievement.
- Practice responsible digital citizenship and use technology safely and effectively to support learning.
- Develop healthy habits that support their physical, social, and emotional well-being.
- Discover and develop their unique talents, interests, and strengths through academic, artistic, athletic, and extracurricular opportunities.
- Demonstrate good citizenship by making responsible decisions, serving others, and contributing positively to their school and community.
- Leave Andrew Jackson Elementary prepared for continued success in middle school and beyond as confident, compassionate, and responsible learners.

These expected outcomes reflect our commitment to educating the whole child and ensuring that every Andrew Jackson Elementary student is equipped with the academic foundation, character, and confidence needed to succeed in an ever-changing world.

Opportunities for our Students

- A Rigorous academic environment
- A MNPS approved curriculum in all subject areas
- A warm nurturing place where children are shown respect and expected to be respectful to others in return, A school that utilizes quality literature to enhance student learning in all subjects.
- A School Counselor and guidance classes
- Literacy, Numeracy, and Data Coaches
- Advocacy Center
- Classes for blended Pre-K through 5th grade
- All our teaching staff practice using differentiated instructional strategies to challenge our students.
- Students participate in Morning Meeting at the start of each day & Closing Circle at the end of each day.
- Restorative Practice School
- Positive behavior supports.
- GATE services for enrichment learning for qualified students.
- Related Arts: Art, Music, STEAM and Physical Education classes
- An active school volunteer program
- An environment that is encouraging, structured, and loving
- Itinerant staff to address special needs of students.
- An active PTO that collaborates with the school administration and staff
- Opportunities to become involved in AJS's PTO
- Technology Supportive Instruction
- 1-1 computers for all students
- Three large playgrounds
- STARS Counseling
- Character Education
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Family Nights and Events
- 4th and 5th grade Student Ambassadors serving as the school's Safety Patrol for students demonstrating leadership qualities with grades, behavior, and exemplary attendance
- A school administration and staff with high expectations.
- Awards Celebrations (Academic and Character Awards)
- Extra-curricular activities at various grade levels:
 - Collaborative partnerships between grade levels
 - Soccer Team
 - Cross Country Team
 - Basketball Team
 - Green Team
 - Eagle Run
 - Field Day
 - Honor's Choir
 - Music and Art Show

PARENT AND TEACHER INFORMATION

Expectations

Student success is a shared responsibility. Our school community thrives when families and educators work together to support high expectations, academic growth, and personal responsibility. Parents and caregivers play an essential role in helping students develop strong learning habits, positive behaviors, and the confidence needed to reach their full potential. To support a culture of excellence, our school has the following expectations of parents and caregivers:

- **Partner with the school in supporting student success.** Families are encouraged to maintain open communication with teachers and staff, attend conferences and school events, and work collaboratively to support their child's academic, social, and emotional growth.
- **Support high expectations for learning and behavior.** Parents and caregivers should encourage students to do their best, complete assignments, take responsibility for their learning, demonstrate respect, and follow school expectations.
- **Promote regular attendance and preparedness.** Families should ensure students attend school consistently, arrive on time, and come prepared to engage in learning each day.
- **Communicate respectfully and proactively.** Families should share important information that may impact their child's ability to learn or participate fully in school. Questions and concerns should be addressed directly with appropriate school personnel.
- **Stay informed and engaged.** Parents and caregivers should become familiar with school policies, programs, curriculum, and opportunities for involvement while keeping contact information current.

Parents and caregivers can expect our school to:

- **Provide a safe, welcoming, and supportive learning environment** where every student is valued and encouraged to succeed.
- **Maintain high academic expectations** by providing quality instruction, meaningful learning experiences, and support to help students grow.
- **Build strong partnerships with families** through communication, collaboration, and a shared commitment to student achievement.
- **Support the development of the whole child** by encouraging responsibility, confidence, respect, and lifelong learning

Parent Communication

Family Portal

If you would like to see your child's class grades, test scores, class schedules and attendance records, all that information is available on the Family Portal. Create an account online or download the app and sign up in four simple steps:

- Visit [Campus Parent](#) and click on the link that says if you have been assigned a portal activation key click here.
- Enter your personal code (this comes from the front office)
- Create a new username and password for your account.

Communication with Teachers

- Open and respectful communication between families and teachers is an important part of supporting student success. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to communicate with teachers through approved school communication methods, including email and ParentSquare. Teachers value strong family partnerships and welcome questions, updates, and conversations that support each student's learning and growth.

To ensure meaningful and productive communication, families should schedule appointments in advance when a conference or extended conversation is needed. This allows teachers the opportunity to give their full attention to the discussion and provide the best possible support for each student. Families are encouraged to maintain ongoing communication with teachers throughout the school year to celebrate successes, address questions or concerns, and work together to support student achievement.

Parent Square

- Effective communication between families and the school is essential to student success. Our school uses ParentSquare as the primary communication platform to keep families informed, connected, and engaged throughout the school year. ParentSquare allows families to receive important school updates, classroom announcements, reminders, event information, emergency notifications, and messages from teachers and school staff in one convenient location.

Families can receive communications through the ParentSquare app, email, or text messages based on their preferences. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to regularly check ParentSquare, ensure their contact information is accurate, and use the platform to stay connected with their child's education. Families may also use ParentSquare to communicate with teachers, ask questions, and receive important information that supports student learning and school involvement. Maintaining accurate contact information and staying connected through ParentSquare helps ensure that families receive timely updates and have the information needed to support their child's success.

Parental Involvement in the School

- **At Andrew Jackson, we welcome parents to join us in educating students.** Parents are welcome to participate in school activities that are educationally related. The school and your child's teacher will provide communication on opportunities and events where families may volunteer during the day. All opportunities during the school day will have an educational focus so that we may keep our focus on growth and learning

Parent Teacher Organization

- Our school's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) helps build a strong partnership between families, staff, and the school community. The PTO supports students by sponsoring special events, programs, and activities that create meaningful experiences and strengthen connections throughout our school. All parents and caregivers are encouraged to get involved by attending meetings, volunteering, and participating in school activities. A monthly PTO newsletter will provide updates about upcoming events and opportunities to support our school community. Questions or suggestions may be shared with the PTO at info@ajspto.org.

GENERAL INFORMATION



Andrew Jackson Elementary Office Policies and Procedures

Section I: Regular Student Attendance

Emergency Information

Please ensure the most up to date information is in the camps portal. Accurate contact information — including phone numbers, cell phones, work numbers, email addresses, and emergency contacts — is essential in case of illness or emergency. If any of this information changes during the school year, notify the school office right away so we can keep our records up to date.

School Attendance (Reference MNPS Policy #SP 6.113)

School Hours: 8:10 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

Absences

A note is required every time your child returns to school after being absent. To have an absence excused, we must receive **either a parent note/email or a doctor's note**. Please note:

- We will accept up to **5 parent notes** during the **first semester**.
- And up to **5 parent notes** during the **second semester**

Excused Absences

The conditions under which a child's absence from school shall be excused are:

- Student's personal illness
- Family member's illness that requires the student's temporary help
- Death in the family (up to three days)
- Deployment of a parent or guardian serving in the military (one day for deployment, one day for return and up to 10 days when the service member is on temporary leave at home)
- Head lice (up to three days per infestation)
- Recognized religious holidays regularly observed by people of the child's faith.
- Court appearance or legally mandated meetings
- Documented college visitations (up to three days per year for juniors and seniors)
- A principal may allow the following circumstances to be considered an excused absence if the parent or guardian submits a written request:
 - Unexpected emergencies such as car problems
 - Job interview or conference

- Doctor or dental appointments
- Other circumstances requested in writing by the parent or guardian that the principal considers.
when approving a child's absence

All absences other than those outlined above shall be considered **UNEXCUSED**. A written explanation from the parent/guardian is required before an absence is excused. The principal makes the final determination to classify an absence or absences as excused or unexcused. Parents should ask the doctor for a note if children have an extended absence. A doctor's note does not erase an absence but is considered when making promotion/retention judgments about students who have been excessively absent.

- **Vacations are unexcused.** Teachers are not required to give make-up work.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES FOR LATE ARRIVALS AND EARLY DISMISSALS?

All instructional time is important. Arriving to school on time and staying in school all day allows students to receive all available instruction, engage in social and emotional experiences, hear important announcements, and develop positive lifelong habits. Alternately, students who arrive late or leave early miss valuable instruction time, disrupt the flow of class, distract students, and impede learning. Students arriving after this time frame will report to the front office to sign in and receive a tardy slip. The information below outlines the consequences for excessive late arrivals and/or early dismissal. These consequences will not result in further loss of instruction such as in-school-suspension or out-of-school suspension and are designed to encourage on time arrival and dismissal.

In addition, parents/guardians may be requested to attend a conference with school personnel to develop actions to alleviate excessive tardiness or early dismissals.

HOW DO WE CELEBRATE POSITIVE ATTENDANCE?

This year, Andrew Jackson is making a special effort to ensure that all students fully benefit from their education by attending school regularly and on time. We celebrate school attendance in a variety of ways: the whole school, grade level, classroom and individual. The following reward program will be implemented this year to encourage regular daily attendance. Students who meet these individual attendance goals will be recognized each quarter.

Recognition	Criteria	Reward
Perfect Attendance	Zero absences, tardies, early dismissals for the entire year	Perfect Attendance pencils, Special incentives to encourage attendance Attendance pencils, Eddie the Eagle Weekly Classroom Incentive, Perfect attendance recognition at Awards Day Perfect attendance at Awards Day
Satisfactory Attendance	Attending school 95% or more of the available school days in the quarter	Grade Level Rewards each 9 weeks

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Prepare for school the night before, finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required immunizations.

- Don't let your students stay home unless they are truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomachache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- Avoid appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Keep track of your student's attendance through the ***Campus Parent Portal***.
- Talk to your student about the importance of attendance.
- Talk to your students' teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.

Regular attendance is extremely important! Please make every effort to have your child at school each day. If a student has five or more unexcused absences, a referral will be made to the Metro Schools Attendance Office or to the Attendance Review Board, an arm of the Metropolitan Nashville/Davidson County Juvenile Court.

Compulsory Attendance Law

- The State of Tennessee Compulsory Attendance Law requires that students be in school. Parents or guardians are responsible, **by state law**, for the child's attendance at school and are held accountable.
- The school is required to report cases of excessive absences, tardiness and early dismissals since these patterns may be found by the courts to be "Educational Neglect".
- When a student has 5 or more absences and/or excessive tardies and/or excessive early dismissals, a warning notice will be sent to the parent/guardian.
- **Excessive tardiness or absences are reported electronically to the Metro Schools Attendance**

Parents should ask the doctor for a note if children have an extended absence. A doctor's note does not erase an absence but is considered when making promotion/retention judgments about students who have been excessively absent.

- **Vacations are unexcused.** Teachers are not required to give make-up work. **Department through the District's Student Management Database. The MNPS Attendance Office also shares this information with Juvenile Court and/or State Department of Student Services when absences, tardiness, and early dismissals are excessive.**

Make-Up Work

Students with an **EXCUSED** absence shall be provided with the opportunity to receive assignments missed during the absence and to make up the work upon their return for the full grade. **Make up work must be requested by the student or parent no later than three days after returning to school.** The work should be turned in at a mutually agreed time frame between the teacher and the student. The attendance record is not changed when the missed work is completed. At the K-12 level, students with **UNEXCUSED** absences will be provided the opportunity to make up the work at the discretion of the classroom teacher or building administrator. A suspension is an unexcused absence.

NOTE ABOUT STUDENTS ARRIVING EARLY OR PICKED UP LATE:

- **Students may not arrive at school any earlier than 7:55 a.m. School personnel are not available to supervise students before this time. Parents must make appropriate arrangements for students to arrive at the correct time.** Students enter the building at 7:40 a.m. will be in the

cafeteria until dismissed at 7:55. These students must enter the building through the exterior cafeteria doors only.

- **Dismissal begins at 3:10 p.m. School personnel are not available to supervise students after 3:25 p.m.** Faculty/staff members work negotiated contract hours, including the time of their arrival and release from school each day. **It is essential for the safety of your child that you adhere to arrival and dismissal policies.** Failure to pick up your child on time can have severe emotional consequences for the child. Students who are not picked up on time are acutely aware that their other classmates have been picked up and for whatever reason they have not been picked up. This is detrimental to the self-esteem of a young child.
- Faculty/staff members are required to document dates and times when students are picked up late from school. If students are repeatedly picked up late a warning letter will be issued to the parents. If daycare vans are responsible for repeated late pick up, the parents of those students will be notified and asked to have the day care vans arrive on time. **Parents MUST drop off and pick up students on time and make emergency arrangements in advance when this cannot be accomplished.**
- **The chronic late pick up of a child is viewed by Metro Nashville Courts as "... child neglect". This includes students left at school for which no parent or guardian can be reached for assistance. School personnel are required to contact the Department of Human Services when all other efforts to solve a chronically late pick-up problem have failed.**
- Unless a student has registered and paid tuition to enroll in the *YMCA Fun Company* (615-259-3418) he/she **MUST** leave the building and premises before **3:20 p.m.**

Day Care Providers

- La Petite 615-754-4047
- Hermitage Dance Academy 615-231-7100
- Fun Company (Site Cell) 615-566-1628 and the office 615-259-3418
- Magnitude 10.0 615-883-5166

Early Dismissals

- Teachers use every minute of the instructional day, and early releases create a disruption for students.
We ask that you make every effort to protect your child's instructional time. Therefore, please make every effort to schedule medical, dental, and other appointments for your child after school hours.
- Our school cares about the safety of your children. Therefore, children will not be dismissed from their classrooms. All parents and visitors must come to the office to sign a student out of school. Office personnel will then call the appropriate classroom, and have the child dismissed at the office. *Students will only be dismissed to adults listed on the student profile form.* **Anyone picking up a child must show identification.** If you need to change your child's information card at any time, please come to the school office. We do not accept changes in a child's transportation over the phone. You must send a note to the office by 2:30. The office will notify the teacher of any dismissal changes.
- **After 2:40 p.m., students will not be dismissed early. They will be dismissed at 3:10 p.m. with all the other students. This is intended to prevent distraction, congestion, and confusion during a time when school personnel must concentrate on student safety. *If you should have a need to pick up your child early from school, please arrive before 2:40 p.m.***

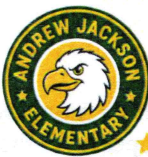
Tardiness

- MNPS and AJS expectations state that students must be in their classroom by 8:10 a.m. to not be considered tardy. Due to this expectation, the tardy sign will flip at 7:58 a.m. to ensure students are marked present and on time.
- Students who arrive after the official start of the school day are considered tardy. For the safety and security of all students, any student arriving late must be accompanied into the school and signed in at the front office by a parent, guardian, or other authorized adult before reporting to class. Arriving at school on time helps students begin the day ready to learn and minimizes disruptions to classroom instruction. We appreciate our families' partnership in ensuring students arrive promptly each day
- **If a student is late, he/she must report to the office upon arrival and be signed into school by the parent or adult designated by the parent.** Older siblings may not sign in or sign out an Andrew Jackson student without prior approval from the principal. Parents must submit this request in writing to the principal. A student who arrives late must also obtain a tardy slip from the office to enter class.
- Frequent tardiness disrupts a student's educational progress and interferes with a class already in progress. **Students who are tardy often feel frustrated for the remainder of the day** because it is difficult to make up missed assignments.
- Every minute of instruction matters! Students who arrive late miss valuable learning opportunities, classroom routines, and important instruction that helps them begin the day successfully. Morning time is often used for reviewing skills, introducing new concepts, and providing important information for the day. A student who arrives just 5 minutes late each day misses approximately 25 minutes of instructional time each week, which can add up significantly over the school year. All tardies are documented. Excessive tardiness or frequent early dismissals may result in communication from the school administration and may require additional support from school personnel. Excessive tardies may also impact eligibility for perfect attendance recognition, student incentives, leadership opportunities, or other special programs. Thank you for partnering with us to ensure every Young Eagle arrives on time, ready to learn, and prepared to soar!

Inclement Weather/Early Dismissal

- Please listen to your radio or television for news media announcements about school closings on days of developing inclement weather such as ice or snow. Information regarding closings can also be found on the Metro Schools' website at <http://www.mnps.org/> Many media stations also post closings on their websites.
- **Tornado or Severe Thunderstorms:** During tornado watches, tornado warnings or other dangerous weather or environmental activity, the principal reserves the right to keep students at school rather than releasing students to day care vans or other vehicles.
- **Snow Days:** When it is necessary to dismiss early or close schools, local radio and television stations will notify the community. Please do not call the school office and tie up the phone lines. These should be kept open for emergencies. We encourage you to go over emergency plans for your child in the event of an early dismissal. Teachers need a record of your plan, as classes cannot be disturbed during 8:10-3:10.

Section II. Dress Code


ANDREW JACKSON ELEMENTARY
EAGLES


> EVERY DAY, EVERY EAGLE. EVERY CHOICE. <

✓ DRESSED AND READY TO SOAR	✗ NOT ALLOWED
 ✓ SHIRTS Shirts must fully cover the chest, back, and stomach.	 ✗ SLEEPWEAR Pajamas, blankets, and slippers.
 ✓ PANTS & SHORTS Pants and shorts should fit appropriately and stay at the waist.	 ✗ UNSAFE FOOTWEAR Flip-flops, slides, bedroom slippers, or other unsafe footwear.
 ✓ SKIRTS & DRESSES Must be fingertip length or longer.	 ✗ INAPPROPRIATE TOPS Shirts that expose the midriff, chest, or back.
 ✓ SHOES Closed-toe, secure-back shoes are best for learning and playground safety.	 ✗ SHORT CLOTHING Shorts, skirts, or dresses shorter than fingertip length.
 ✓ HOODIES & SWEATSHIRTS Allowed, but hoods stay down inside the building.	 ✗ LEGGINGS, BIKE SHORTS, OR YOGA PANTS Tight-fitting bottoms not meant to be worn as outerwear.
 ✓ SCHOOL SPIRIT Andrew Jackson Elementary colors and Eagle spirit wear are encouraged!	 ✗ PANTS WITH RIPS, HOLES, OR FRAYED DETAILS Distressed or torn pants are not permitted.
	 ✗ HEAD COVERINGS Hats, bandanas, and hoods inside the building (unless approved for religious or medical reasons).
	 ✗ ELECTRONICS Headphones and earbuds during the school day unless directed by a teacher.

★ SOAR HIGH, EAGLES! ★

SAFE • ON TASK • ACT RESPONSIBLY • SHOW RESPECT

Dress Code Expectations

Andrew Jackson Elementary students are expected to follow the school's dress code each day. The dress code helps create a safe, respectful, and distraction-free learning environment where all students can focus on learning.

If a student does not adhere to the dress code, they will be asked to change into alternate clothing provided by the school, if available, or a parent/guardian may be contacted to bring appropriate clothing. In addition, the student will receive an office referral for the dress code violation.

Please note that students who receive an office referral for a dress code violation may not be eligible to participate in the monthly student incentive day. We appreciate the partnership of our families in helping students come to school dressed appropriately and ready to learn each day.

Section III. General Procedures

Entrances

All doors will remain locked during the school day. The exterior doors can be monitored via camera. The camera monitored entrances are on an electronic key which can only be opened in the school office. Before allowing an unknown person in the building, office personnel will ask anyone who is unknown the intent of their visit.

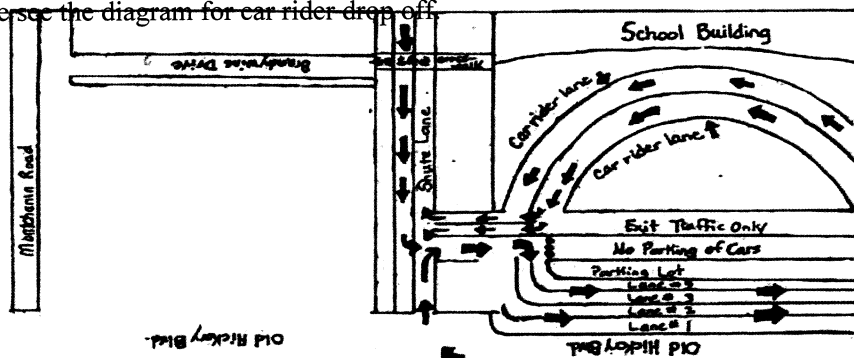
- **Students, parents, and visitors must enter through the main (front) entrance after 8:10 a.m. In order to protect our students, visitors and staff, all visitors will be required to show a valid government-issued ID.** ALL entrances will be locked during the day. Other entry doors will be unlocked for student entry during arrival times.
- **Exception:** An electronic entrance is available on the left side or at the front of the building for visitors who are disabled or are in wheelchairs. Office personnel will meet visitors at this entrance and escort them to the office. Walkways and gradual slopes are provided at these entrances. **All other visitors/parents are expected to use the front entrance.**
- Only school personnel are allowed to open exterior doors for visitors. Students are not permitted to open exterior doors for any adult known or unknown to the student.
- **Please do not hold the door open for someone.** We need all visitors to ring the doorbell and be permitted in by office staff.

Arrival

School begins at 8:10 a.m. School cafeteria doors open at 7:40 a.m., please do not drop off your child any earlier due to lack of supervision. Main doors are opened at 7:55 a.m. and students are allowed to go to classrooms at 7:55 a.m. Students must be seated and ready to begin the instructional day when announcements begin at **8:10 a.m.** Students arriving after **8:10 a.m.** are tardy and must be signed in by an adult in the office.

Arrival – Car Riders

- For the safety of our students, **only walkers** that live in Brandywine will be allowed to use the crosswalk. **Parents of car riders may not park across Shute Lane or Brandywine and cross the street to drop off their child. You are liable for any occurred tickets and/or fees associated with parking illegally.**
- Volunteers will be available to assist with parking on the first day of school.
- Please see the diagram for car rider drop-off.



- Car rider overflow will be used when both lanes in the car rider circle are filled.
- Car rider overflow will be directed to lanes 3 and 4.
- Please do not leave your vehicle unattended while in the car rider line.

Arrival and Dismissal by Buses

Please check the MNPS website to see what time the bus arrives and drops off at your location. **Students must be at the bus stop 10 minutes prior to the bus's arrival.** Bus drivers will not drop off kindergarten students

if a parent is not present at the bus stop. If a parent is not present at the bus stop, the bus driver will return the child to the school, and it will be the parents' responsibility to pick the child up at the school.

Bus rules:

- **Obey the bus drivers' instructions.**
- **Remain in your seat on the bus.**
- **Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.**
- **Talk quietly.**
- **Students who live at least 1.25 miles from school may ride the bus.**
- **Bus drivers must approve any requests for additional passengers-this must occur a day in advance.**

A bus driver's job is an **EXTREMELY** challenging task. The school makes every effort to support them in their efforts to be effective, responsible, and safe. Bus discipline is handled using progressive discipline. Students will be given an assigned seat if bus expectations are not being met. Should a driver bring a child into the office and file a formal complaint, the student is given a warning. Additional trips to the office will result in a gradual loss of bus privileges, in some cases; students may lose the privilege of bus transportation for the remainder of the school year. Please be sure to read MNPS rules for riding the bus with your child.

Track Your Student's Bus

- Download the Versatrans MyStop app in the Google Play Store or the Apple App store.
- Select Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (Tennessee)
- Enter the Username (Student ID) and your student's date of birth as the password (MMDDYYYY)

Cell Phones

Please check the MNPS website to see the Use of Personal Communication and Electronic Devices, MNPS Procedure 6.312.1p

Students may not use personal technology during instructional periods except when used as an approved aid to instruction, at the discretion of the classroom teacher and building administrator. At AJS we request for all student personal devices be off and stored in their backpack within classroom lockers or cubbies. Headphones must be used for individualized class work with permission from their teacher. A student who brings his/her device to school does so at his/her own risk. No searches or investigations will be conducted for lost or stolen devices. Personal technology includes, but is not limited to:

- cellular phones
- wireless earpieces
- iPods
- iPads
- other mp3 players
- calculators
- portable gaming devices

A student in possession of personal technology in violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary action.

Dismissal

Dismissal will begin at 3:10 p.m. Individual students will not be dismissed after 2:40 p.m. **Written notification is required each time your child's means of transportation changes Any changes must be submitted to the office by 2:30.** This includes a note giving permission from both sets of parents if a

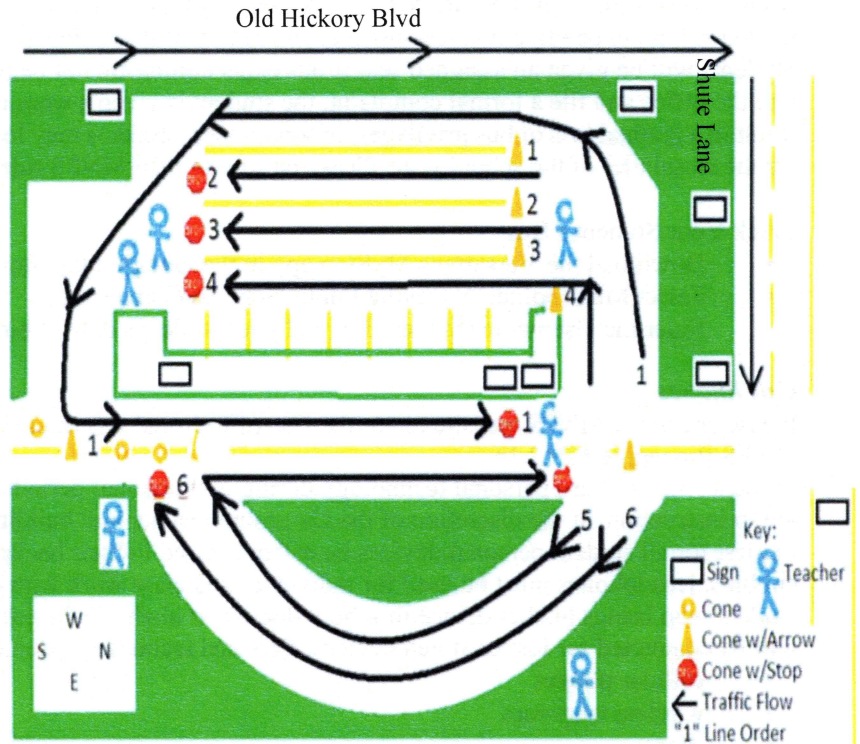
student is going home with another student. These arrangements need to be made before your child arrives at school, thus avoiding daily phone calls home. All students must be picked up by 3:25 p.m. Please follow this policy and call the office if you are running late.

Dismissal-Car Riders

- Cars will only be allowed to enter the parking lot off Old Hickory Blvd. and there will be no left turn into the lot off Shute Lane.
- Car riders will need to have the car rider tags in their car windows at dismissal. If the car rider tag is not visible in your window, you will be asked to park and show identification in the office to pick up your child. Our school cares about the safety of your children and the safety of every child at AJS.
- **The car rider lanes are cell phone free - Tennessee State Law TCA Title 55, Chapter 8.** Please refrain from the use of cell phones while picking up or dropping off your child(ren). Help us to help keep all children safe.
- Cars will only be permitted to turn right to exit the campus, no right turns will be allowed.

Please see the diagram for car rider pick up.

- Fill the lanes in order 1-6.
- We will dismiss lanes in order 1-6, starting with the volunteer lane.
- Please see map.
- Once lanes 1-4 are full, the overflow lines 5-6 will be used and those lanes will be dismissed last.
- We need everyone to pull up and fill the lot. We want to get everyone out as fast as we can. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.
- The overflow line will now start on Shute Lane coming down Old Hickory Blvd. from the direction of the golf course will be allowed to enter the line.



Early Dismissal

Teachers use every minute of the instructional day, and early releases create a disruption for students. **No students will be dismissed after 2:40.** Exclusions to this policy include religious training, doctor/dentist visits, guidance sessions, or other activities approved by the principal. **We do not accept changes in a child's transportation over the phone. You must send a note to the office. The office will notify the teacher with any change of dismissal.**

Our school cares about the safety of your children. Therefore, children will not be dismissed from their classrooms. All parents and visitors must come to the office to sign a student out of school. Office personnel will then call the appropriate classroom, and have the child dismissed to the office. Students will only be dismissed to adults listed on the student sign in/sign out card. Anyone picking up a child must show a photo ID.

- Access to the classrooms after school hours requires administrative approval.
- If you have any questions, please feel free to call the main office at (615) 847-7317 or look us up on the web <https://andrewjackson.mnps.org>

Dismissal – Walkers

- Students that live a short distance from school are eligible to walk home. All walkers will be identified with a tag on their backpack indicating that walkers will be dismissed through the front doors accompanied by school personnel. They will walk down the sidewalk and meet the crossing guard who will direct them across the street. **For the safety of our students, parents of car riders may not park across Shute Lane and cross the street to get their child. You are liable for any occurred tickets and/or fees associated with parking illegally.**

Section IV. General Policies

Conferences

The faculty is ready to discuss any concerns you might have about your child and his/her experiences at Andrew Jackson Elementary. **Arrival, dismissal, and school events times are not good times to discuss concerns**, as teachers and staff are not able to give you their undivided attention during these times. To protect the instructional time of our students, please call or email and arrange a convenient time to meet with your child's teacher via virtual meetings.

Custody

Custodial parents are encouraged to provide the school with all current and relevant legal documentation showing any restrictions to a natural parent's visitation. If this is not provided, a parent proving legitimate connection to a student has parental rights under the non-custodial legal provisions of access. This includes all student records and could involve the release of the student if we have not received documents proving otherwise.

Liability for Laptops and Textbooks

- The school principal is responsible for protecting school properties including laptops and textbooks. The principal or principals' designee may apply any or all the following sanctions against students who refuse or fail to pay for lost or damaged materials at the replacement cost:
- Refuse to issue any additional textbooks or laptops until restitution is made. Withhold report card in all subjects, diplomas, certificates of progress, or transcripts until restitution is made.

Media Permission

Throughout the school year, television, radio and print reporters may cover activities at our school. Students may only be taped, interviewed, or photographed with parental permission. ***So that we may abide by your wishes, please complete the media permission located in the Student-Parent Handbook.***

Students will also be given the opportunity to visit educational websites. Students will only be able to participate in these activities with your written permission. ***This permission is included on the Online Permission Form page of the Student-Parent Handbook.***

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Medication (Reference MNPS Policy # SP 6.129)

A student may not take medication at school without MNPS/MNHD MEDICATION FORM COMPLETED FROM THE PARENT AND A DOCTOR. Please note nonprescription medicine does not require a doctor's signature. Permission slips are available in the office. **Should your child need to take or have medication at school, the following is required:**

- A medication form needs to be filled out completely and signed—A new form is required each school year.
- A complete pharmacy label listing the correct medication, dosage and strength and the current school year date needs to be on the ORIGINAL medication container.
- A separate medication permission slip must be filled out completely for each medication that your child takes while at school.
- **ALL** medication must be brought to the school and picked up by a parent or designated adult and counted and signed in.

We discourage bringing antibiotics to school. Most can be given conveniently before a child comes to school and then immediately after getting home in the afternoon.

Student Illness (at School)

- Your child's health is extremely important to us, and we need your help in maintaining a healthy environment for all our children. Please be protective of your child and other children by not sending your child to school if he/she exhibits any of the following signs of illness: fever above 100 degrees, diarrhea, vomiting. Any child with these symptoms must be kept at home **a full 24 hours without symptoms** before returning to school.
- **Head Lice** – If your child should become infested with head lice, it is the policy of the district that he/she may not return to school until they have been properly treated and there are no live bugs. A student's absence will only be excused for three days following being sent home for infestations.
- **Strep Throat** – Students should not return to school until at least 24 hours after beginning antibiotic therapy and being fever free.
- **Communicable Disease** – If a child develops chickenpox, mumps, measles, strep throat, or "pink eye", your child must have a doctor's statement stating the child is not contagious and may return to school.

Fees

Parents may be asked to pay for field trips, donate items used for special activities, or class snacks. If you feel that you cannot pay the requested amount, please send a note to the classroom teacher.

Field Trips

Students may be given the opportunity to go on field trips throughout the year. Our expectation is for SOARING behavior to continue offsite. Field trips are at the discretion of the grade level or teacher.

Parents may not be able to attend due to occupancy or guidelines from the offsite location. Teachers will communicate information on parent attendance to a field trip.

Please note that students **may not leave directly from the field trip site**. If a parent wishes for their child to be dismissed early, they must return to school and sign them out in the front office.

Grades

MNPS assists students and parents in monitoring student academic progress by:

- Sending student TCAP results home annually (3rd, 4th & 5th grade students)
- Sending Fastbridge Testing Reports Quarterly
- Sending Report Cards after each grading period
- Sending Progress Reports home in the middle of each grading period
- Sending Notices of Concern
- Making *Infinite Campus* accessible to parents for daily monitoring academic progress
- Posting grades weekly in Schoology.

The most current dates are indicated on the MNPS District Calendar which can be located on the MNPS website, www.mnps.org. Students and parents are encouraged to contact the appropriate school staff should they have any questions or concerns about individual student needs.

Homework Guidelines

Homework is one of many learning activities in which students engage; its purpose is to:

- extend learning.
- provide opportunities for independent work.
- provide opportunities for enrichment.
- provide opportunities to check for understanding and for possible instructional follow-up when students struggle to complete their homework assignments or have misconceptions.

All classes will have homework assigned two to four nights each week. Research suggests that all daily homework combined should take about as long to complete as 10 minutes multiplied by the student's grade level: (K – up to 10 minutes, 1st – 10 minutes, 2nd – 20 minutes, 3rd – 30 minutes, 4th – 40 minutes, 5th – 50 minutes). *Additional time should be added appropriately for daily at-home reading for enjoyment.

Lost and Found

Lost and Found is located in the front lobby of the school building. Items that remain unclaimed will be collected quarterly and donated. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Toys

Toys, games, trading cards (of any kind), music players, game players, headphones, and other like items, should not be brought to school unless requested by a teacher **IN WRITING** for special purposes. If an item of this nature is brought without the teacher's permission, the item will be held at school until picked up by a parent. At the end of the school year, all unclaimed items will be discarded. **The school is not responsible for any toys that are lost or stolen.**

To maintain a safe and secure learning environment, **toy guns and all toy weapons are strictly prohibited on school campus at all times**. This includes, but is not limited to, toy guns, water guns, airsoft guns, gel blasters, Nerf-style blasters, replica firearms, and any item designed to resemble a weapon.

These items are not permitted for students, staff, visitors, or volunteers unless they are specifically authorized by school administration for an approved educational program or school-sponsored activity.

The safety of our school community is our highest priority, and all members of our school community are expected to comply with this expectation.

Money

Please do not allow your child to bring money to school for anything other than lunch, supplies, field trips, or school-sponsored fundraisers. When sending money to school, please secure it in a sealed envelope with the following information on the outside on the envelope:

- Child's name
- Teacher's name
- Amount enclosed.
- Purpose of sending the money

SchoolCash Online:

Andrew Jackson Elementary is pleased to announce that we accept online payments for school fees such as field trips, supply/workbook fees, yearbooks, and donations through SchoolCash. Parents can create an account by visiting our district's SchoolCash Online page. Parents can then attach their student(s) to their profile.

When this process is complete, and parents have selected email notifications, parents who have attached a student to their profile receive an automated notification when any item becomes available for their child. This will help reduce the amount of overdue and forgotten payments and make payments easy to track.

<https://mnps.schoolcashionline.com/>

Student Verification Form

The Student Verification Form is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT**. Please return it as soon as possible. Telephone numbers, cell phones, work phones, pagers, and emergency contacts are especially important in the event of illness or emergency. Should these numbers change during the school year, please notify the school office immediately, so that we may update our records.

Office Routines

- Come into the office quietly without disturbing others and their work.
- Come with written permission or an office pass.
- Wait for someone to assist you if you need medication.
- Ask permission from your teacher and the secretary before you use the telephone.

Section V. Cafeteria Procedures and Policies

Serving Healthy Choices & Convenient Food Options

Our Metro Schools Nutrition Services team. is proud to be a reliable source of healthy meals for thousands of students each day.

- Families who qualify for Free & Reduced meals must submit paperwork (we encourage all families to fill out an application because the program also helps connect families to things such as:
 - discounts for fees associated with college application processes
 - scholarships and fee discounts for SAT, ACT and AP tests
 - benefits such as SNAP and Families First.
- Student lunches may be purchased through the cafeteria manager. *Please make checks payable to the AJS Cafeteria. If sending money with your child, please place all money and checks in a sealed envelope with the child's name, teacher's name, and the purpose of the money on the*

outside of the envelope. Should a check be returned to the school, your family will forfeit this privilege and only cash will be accepted.

- There is an online option to create an account and add money to your child's account with a debit/credit card. This website is **myschoolbucks.com**.
- **For safety reasons, please do not send any glass bottles/containers with your child's lunch.**
- Parents are strongly encouraged to send juices or bottled water rather than sodas that are high in sugar and caffeine.

Healthy Snack Policy (Reference MNPS Policy # IM 4.170)

Andrew Jackson will follow the *Nutrition Standards for Foods in Schools*, as a guide for the nutritional content and availability of competitive foods (IM 4.170). Opportunities for *competitive foods* (foods brought in from outside the school cafeteria) should be limited; and if competitive foods are available, they should consist primarily of nutritious fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and nonfat or low-fat dairy products. Please be mindful of allergies and MNPS Healthy Snack Policy when choosing to bring in class wide snacks.

Food Deliveries

To support school safety, minimize classroom disruptions, and ensure efficient office operations, food deliveries from third-party delivery services are not permitted for students. The school office will not accept deliveries from DoorDash, Uber Eats, Grubhub, or any other food delivery service on behalf of students.

Parents and guardians are welcome to:

- Bring outside food when joining their child for lunch in accordance with school visitor procedures.
- Drop off a lunch for their child in the school office during the school day.

Families are encouraged to make lunch arrangements before the school day begins whenever possible. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and orderly learning environment.

Breakfast

All students will receive **free breakfast and lunch** each school day. Breakfast will be served in the classroom each morning, and students will also have the opportunity to participate in **brunch service** according to the school schedule. We encourage all students to take advantage of these meals to support their health, learning, and success throughout the school day.

Birthday Parties (Reference MNPS Policy # IM 4.146 (Appendix A))

- Birthday parties are not allowed during school hours.
- Please be mindful of the District Healthy Snack policy (see Health and Wellness District Policy at www.mnps.org) to be eaten during lunchtime in the cafeteria.
- Birthday party invitations may not be given out at school unless the student brings an invitation for every child in the classroom.
- **Snacks MUST be prepackaged (unopened) items.**
- Teachers will inform parents if their class is a "Nut Free" classroom. If your child is in a "Nut Free" classroom, please ensure that the snack says, "Nut Free." Front office staff must confirm that the unopened items do not contain nuts.
- We enjoy celebrating our students and recognizing their special days. Parents or guardians who wish to celebrate their student's birthday at school may do so during the student's scheduled lunch time in the cafeteria. Birthday celebrations may not take place during instructional time, as protecting classroom learning and minimizing disruptions is a priority for all students.
- To maintain a focused learning environment and ensure adequate space in classrooms and the main office, flowers, balloons, stuffed animals, and other gift items may not be sent or delivered to students at school for birthdays, Valentine's Day, or other special occasions. We appreciate families helping us keep the school environment organized and focused on student learning.

Section VI. Discipline

STUDENT BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

Andrew Jackson Progressive Discipline Plan

Children thrive when parents and educators work together to provide firm, consistent, and positive expectations while offering the encouragement and support needed to develop appropriate behaviors. Students benefit from knowing exactly what is expected of them and having opportunities to learn, practice, and demonstrate positive choices in a supportive environment. In alignment with the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Strategic Plan, which emphasizes maintaining a safe, orderly, and supportive learning environment, Andrew Jackson Elementary implements a schoolwide behavior and discipline plan. Our approach focuses on teaching, reinforcing, and recognizing positive behaviors while helping students develop self-discipline, responsibility, and respect for others. When students do not meet behavioral expectations, staff will respond in a fair, consistent, and developmentally appropriate manner. Whenever possible, disciplinary practices will focus on teaching expected behaviors, restoring relationships, and helping students learn from their choices. Families are valued partners in this process and are encouraged to work collaboratively with the school to support student success. Our goal is to create a positive school culture where every student feels safe, respected, and empowered to learn.

<u>School Rules - S.O.A.R.</u> Andrew Jackson Elementary rules for faculty, students, and visitors: Safe On Task Act Responsibly Show Respect <i>Not because someone is watching, but because it is the right thing to do.</i>		
<u>General Classroom Rules</u> Each class will be responsible for creating their own classroom rules.	<u>Cafeteria Expectations</u> Today I will S.O.A.R. in the cafeteria. I will: • Sit down safely and not share food. • Eat food appropriately. • Clean up after myself.	<u>Restroom Expectations</u> Today I will S.O.A.R. in the restrooms. I will: • Go into a stall one at a time. • Take care of my business and leave. • Wait my turn and use resources responsibly. • Respect the privacy of others.
<u>Hallway Expectations</u> Today I will S.O.A.R. in the hallways. I will: • Use walking feet • Stay in line • Keep my hands to myself and give others walking space. • Stay quiet so I do not disturb others.	<u>Playground Expectations</u> Today I will S.O.A.R. on the playground. I will: • Keep hands, feet, and objects to myself. • Speak and act kindly • Take turns.	<u>Playground Expectations</u> Today I will S.O.A.R. at Arrival/Dismissal. I will: • Walk safely and stay with my teacher. • Pay attention for my transportation. • Stay quiet and control my body. • Listen to staff for instructions.

Positive Reinforcement

Each grade and classrooms will use a positive reward system to reinforce and reward students for following school expectations. These Positive Behavior Supports will be communicated to you by each grade level at the beginning of the school year.

AVID

This school year, our fifth-grade students will begin participating in **AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)**, a nationally recognized college and career readiness program. AVID equips students with the academic, organizational, and leadership skills they need to be successful in middle school, high school, college, and beyond.

Through AVID, students will develop skills in organization, note-taking, goal setting, critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and self-advocacy. The program also encourages students to build confidence, take ownership of their learning, and set high expectations for themselves.

We are excited to launch AVID with our fifth-grade students and look forward to partnering with families as we prepare our Eagles for future success.

Bullying Reference MNPS policy # SP.6.110

The Administration of MNPS is committed to providing all students with a learning environment free from bullying and/or discrimination, including sexual and other harassment. The district expects all students to treat each other with civility and respect and not to engage in behavior that is disruptive or violent. The district will not tolerate acts of bullying, discrimination, or harassment toward students or staff, by other students, staff, or third parties.

“This policy addresses conduct that takes place off school grounds, at any school sponsored activity, on school-sponsored transportation, at any official school bus stop immediately before boarding and immediately after leaving school transportation of any kind. Additionally, a student may be disciplined under this policy for off-campus bullying, harassment, and/or cyber bullying the same as if the improper conduct occurred on school grounds, when the actions of the accused student interfere with school activities, cause disruption at school, interfere with the rights of students, or deny, limit, or interfere with the ability of the student victim to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by a school. Incidents that occur in an after-school program. will be referred to the afterschool program. provider for discipline.”

Students who break school rules may receive the following consequences for their behavior:

- A visual reminder to maintain behavior.
- Time out in the classroom or in a different teacher’s classroom
- A letter sent home for parent signature.
- Phone call to parent.
- A call or note from the principal.
- A day or part of a day spent in another classroom/office.
- Parent conferences
- In-school suspensions: A child may be given in-school suspension for serious offenses or habitually not following rules.
- Out of school suspension

(For a complete list of the rules and regulations, refer to the MNPS Student-Parent Handbook)

Section VII. Gifted and Talented Education

Gifted and Talented Education

GATE Services are Provided For Students in Grades K-8

Metro Nashville Public Schools strives to ensure appropriate academic services are available to students who are academically gifted and talented. Students who are academically gifted and talented perform or have the capability to perform at higher academic levels compared to others of the same age.

Academically Gifted and Talented students require sufficient access to appropriate learning opportunities to realize their full potential. The Office of Gifted and Talented Education along with MNPS Gifted & Talented Teachers work in collaboration with school leaders, teachers, parents, and other stakeholders to ensure academically gifted and talented students are afforded opportunities to participate in engaging and rigorous differentiated classes that are designed to encourage academic achievement and growth.

Gifted and Talented Curriculum

GATE classes provide opportunities for gifted and talented students in grades kindergarten to 8 to participate in classes designed specifically for academically gifted and talented learners.

The curriculum is hands-on, interactive, and problem-based with a focus on developing students' critical and creative thinking abilities.

The GATE curriculum is interdisciplinary, supports Tennessee content standards, and is differentiated from curriculum taught in the general education classroom.

Mission and Vision of GATE

The MNPS Gifted and Talented program is committed to enriching the educational journey of academically gifted and talented students. Our mission is to deliver equitable and tailored instruction that challenges, cultivates, and nurtures the unique potential of each gifted and talented student within MNPS.

The vision of the MNPS Gifted and Talented Program is to excel in advanced academics by offering outstanding critical and creative learning opportunities that address and enhance the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students.

If you have questions about the GATE program, please email GATEQUESTIONS@mnps.org.

Section VIII. Family Engagement

Family Engagement Nights

Our Family Engagement Nights are designed to strengthen the partnership between home and school while supporting student success. Throughout the year, families will have opportunities to participate in interactive sessions focused on understanding student learning, academic progress, and social-emotional development. Family Engagement Nights will include Student Data Dives, where families can learn how to read and understand their child's academic data, celebrate growth, identify areas for improvement, and discuss ways to support learning at home. Sessions will also include activities and resources focused on social-emotional learning (SEL), helping families build skills that support students' emotional well-being, positive relationships, and success both in and out of the classroom.

We encourage all families to attend these valuable events and partner with us in helping every student reach their full potential.

Eagle Run

The Eagle Run is one of our school's cherished annual traditions that celebrates health, wellness, and school spirit. This exciting event encourages students to stay active, set personal goals, and develop lifelong healthy habits through physical activity.

The Eagle Run also brings together students, families, staff, and the community in support of wellness and school pride. We encourage all families to cheer on our students and participate in making this fun-filled event a memorable experience for everyone.

Metropolitan Nashville Board of Public Education

Robert Taylor, District 1
Rachael Anne Elrod, District 2
Zach Young, District 3
Dr. Berthena Nabaa-McKinney, District 4
TK Fayne, District 5
Cheryl Mayes, District 6
Freda Player, District 7
Erin O'Hara Block, District 8
Abigail Tylor, District 9

Director of Schools

Dr. Adrienne Battle

Executive Director

Dr. David Kovach, Elementary Northeast

www.mnps.org



1. Request for alternate format

To request this information in an alternate format, please contact your building principal or department head.



2. Request for auxiliary aids at a school building statement

Individuals who need auxiliary aids and services are to make their request known to the building principal or department head prior to the date it is needed. (Interpreters for the deaf or hard of hearing must be requested forty-eight [48] hours prior to the event.)

The Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, creed, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, color, age, and/or disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities. Las escuelas Públicas Metropolitanas de Nashville (MNPS, por sus siglas en inglés) no discriminan por la raza, religión, credo, género, identidad de género, orientación sexual, origen nacional, color, edad y/o discapacidad en la admisión, acceso u operación de sus programas, servicios o actividades.

APPENDIX:





METRO NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2026 - 2027 District Calendar

July 2026 - June 2027 (Updated 2/09/2026)

July 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Key Dates

FALL SEMESTER

July 3: Independence Day observed (District closed)
July 14: Assistant principals report
July 31: Teacher In-Service Day (Students do not report)
Aug. 3-5: Teacher In-Service Day (Students do not report)
Aug. 6-7: Stockpiled PD Day (Students do not report)
Aug. 10: Stockpiled PD Day (Students do not report)
Aug. 11-12: Full day for grades 1-12; Half day for Pre-K and K
Sept. 7: Labor Day observed (District closed)
Sept. 10: Progress reports issued
Oct. 8: First quarter ends
Oct. 9: Stockpiled PD Day (Students do not report)
Oct. 12-16: Fall Break
Oct. 19: Second quarter begins
Oct. 22: Report cards issued
Nov. 3: Parent conference day (Students do not report)
Nov. 11: Veterans Day observed (District closed)
Nov. 12: Progress reports issued
Nov. 23-27: Thanksgiving holiday (District closed Nov. 26-27)
Dec. 15-17: Half day for exams grades 9-12; Full day for Pre-K-8
Dec. 18: Half day for all students; Exams grades 9-12; Second quarter ends
Dec. 21-Dec 31: Winter break holiday (District closed Dec. 23-25)
Jan. 1: New Year Day holiday (District closed)

SPRING SEMESTER

Jan. 4: Stockpiled PD Day (Students do not report)
Jan. 5: Third quarter begins
Jan. 14: Report cards issued
Jan. 18: MLK holiday observed (District closed)
Feb. 4: Progress reports issued
Feb. 15: Stockpiled PD Day (Students do not report)
March 5: Third quarter ends
March 8: Fourth quarter begins
March 18: Report cards issued
March 19: Half day all students
March 22-25: Spring Break
March 26: Spring Holiday (District closed)
April 15: Progress reports issued
May 20-21: Half day for exams grades 9-12; Full day for PreK-8
May 24: Half day for exams grades 9-12; Full day for PreK-8
May 25: Half day for all students; Exams grades 9-12; End of school year; Report cards issued (elementary and middle schools)
May 26: Teacher In-Service Day; Last day for teachers
May 31: Memorial Day observed (District closed)
June 4: Last day for assistant principals
June 18: Juneteenth observed (District closed)

Potential snow make-up days:
 Feb 15, May 28, June 1, 2, 3, 4, 7

6 Stockpiled PD days
 7 Stockpiled inclement weather days

Calendar Key

- Students in school
- Students out of school
- Students out of school; District closed
- Teacher In-Service Day (Students do not report)
- Stockpiled professional development (PD) day (Students do not report)
- Half day for all students
- Half day for exams (grades 9-12 only); Half virtual day