

THE PIEDMONT ADVANTAGE

STUDENT HANDBOOK



Our vision is that students will be able to demonstrate constructive and innovative thinking;
recognize and celebrate their individual strengths, interests, challenges and opportunities;
respectfully communicate and work well within a diverse, global society; lead healthy lives; be
ethical, caring and productive citizens and be goal-driven and responsible for their own lifelong
learning and behavior.

Name _____
Address _____
City / Town _____
Zip Code _____
Phone _____
Student Number _____
Home Room _____

PIEDMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENT HANDBOOK
2015 – 2016

2816 Sikes Mill Road
Monroe, NC 28110
Telephone: (704) 296.6350
Fax: (704) 753.2846
Web Page: <http://pdms.ucps.k12.nc.us>

Dr. Anne Marie Radke, Principal

“Education is learning what you didn’t even know you didn’t know.”

D.J. Boorstin, Historian

Michael Josephson (<http://charactercounts.org/>) shares a parable about a mother who discovered a butterfly struggling mightily to escape its cocoon through a tiny opening at the top. She became concerned when the creature seemed to give up after making no progress. Certain that the butterfly wouldn’t make it out without help, she enlarged the hole.

On its next try, the butterfly wriggled out easily. But the young woman’s joy turned to horror when she saw its wings were shriveled and useless. Her well-intentioned intervention had interrupted a natural process. Forcing the butterfly to squeeze through a small opening is nature’s way of assuring that blood from the creature’s body is pushed into the wings. By making it easier, she deprived the butterfly of strong wings.

Childhood, too, is a sort of cocoon. If a healthy adult is to emerge, parents must allow, even encourage their children to struggle, make mistakes, learn from them, and receive appropriate consequences for bad judgments and conduct.

Of course, good parents should protect their children from serious harm, but being overprotective can itself inflict damage. Adversity is not always the enemy. Teaching can help a young person develop wings strengthened by self-confidence and self-reliance.

At Piedmont Middle, we strive to provide experiences that stimulate your child’s learning and development and encourage you to “let your butterfly struggle” for stronger wings! Middle school is a time when they learn “who they are” by socializing with friends and peers and making mistakes. Some of the interactions are difficult, but they are *necessary*! Stay in touch and work with us as we move your child towards high school and a successful future!

Yours truly,

Dr. Anne Marie Radke, Principal



The “Pass” Page

At Piedmont, we expect you to be in class. Period. If you absolutely have to leave class for any reason, you need to record it here and have your teacher initial it.

[illegible]

THE PIEDMONT ADVANTAGE
SCHOOL WIDE PANTHER PRIDE!

ACADEMIC GRADING SCALE

Grades on our report cards are assigned by numerical equivalents rather than letter grades. The UCPS grading scale has been changed for the 2015-2016 and following school years. The following scale can be used in comparing numerical grades to the letter equivalents:

Superior	90 – 100	A
Above Average	80 – 89	B
Average	70 – 79	C
Below Average	60 – 69	D
Failing	<u>Below</u> 60	F

CONDUCT GRADING SCALE

Conduct grades are as follows:

Outstanding (O)
Satisfactory (S)
Needs to Improve (N)
Unsatisfactory (U)

ATTENDANCE

Piedmont Middle School will adhere to the Union County Attendance Policy.
It can be found on line at <http://msct.ucps.k12.nc.us/php/handbooks.php>

Check in Policy

A student must check in before 11:30 to be counted present for the day.

Check out Policy

A student checked out prior to 11:30 will be counted absent for the day. Anyone checking a student out will need to present a valid I.D. to the receptionist. We have to see an I.D. before we can call a student to the office. Students will not be called to the office until we have verified your identification. Students cannot be checked out after 2:45.

OUR SCHOOL DAY STARTS AT 8:15 A.M. AND ENDS AT 3:15 P.M.

Students need to be here no later than 8:10 so they can go to their lockers, organize, prepare, and be in class ready to go at 8:15.

If you need to check your student out early, please plan on checking them out no later than 2:45. Students will not be released after 2:45.

Arrival / Dismissal: When you arrive at school, report to homeroom. If you arrive before 8:05 a.m., 6th graders should report directly to the cafeteria, and 7th and 8th graders should report to the gym. _____

Our doors will be unlocked at 7:30. Please do not let your child out of your car before the doors are unlocked and we are ready to supervise them.

Our official start time is 8:15. If you are late, please report to the main office, check in, and get a tardy slip. Lawful tardies include late buses, medical appointments and illness. You need to bring a note if you are tardy due to a medical appointment or if you are sick.

Early Check Out: When you need to check out early, you need to bring a note from your parent / guardian that tells us who will be picking you up and includes a phone number for your parent / guardian. Leave these notes in the main office when you get to school. **Anyone checking a student out will need to present a valid I.D. to the receptionist.** We have to see your I.D. before we can call a student to the office. Please don't call ahead and ask us to call them up ahead of time. **YOU MAY NOT CHECK OUT A STUDENT AFTER 2:45.** _____

(The) Cafeteria (704.296.3151): The school cafeteria is maintained as a vital part of the health program of our school. To encourage good nutrition, a well-balanced lunch is offered at a reasonable price. Breakfast will be served each morning from 7:45 until 8:15 a.m. The cafeteria staff appreciates your cooperation with the following: _____

1. You can prepay for lunch, breakfast, and snacks. To use the online prepay system, simply visit the website at www.LunchPrepay.com and set up an account. The only information needed to set up an account is your child's student I.D. number and name. When the child reaches the low limit you have established, you will receive notification via email that your child needs more money. You will also be able to monitor the account activity to see how your lunch money is being spent. Of course a student can also pay for lunch on site. If you send a check, make sure your student's name, telephone number and lunch number is on the check. If your child pays in cash, no change will be given. The balance will be credited to the child's account.
2. Students are responsible for letting their parents know when his / her lunch account runs out. They will be asked and allowed to call home if they do not have money in the account. There is no school fund to pay for lost lunches or overdrawn accounts.
3. Middle school students can charge a basic lunch for only 5 days. (5 x \$2.40 = \$12.00) Breakfast, snacks, or "extras" cannot be charged at any school. **When your student reaches this limit, s/he will not be allowed to charge further.**
4. Cafeteria account balances, either positive or negative, will carry over to the following school year.
5. We expect our students to treat our cafeteria kindly. They are expected to put all of their trash in the trashcan, plastic bottles or aluminum cans in the recycle bin, and leave the tables and floor clean.
6. Students who bring breakfast to school are expected to be here in time to eat and get to his / her first class on time. Our cafeteria is not a place to sit and socialize.
7. We do not recommend coffee, huge soft drinks or energy drinks for students. It is difficult for a child to sit still, concentrate and learn if they are full of caffeine.
8. We offer a "nut free zone" to those students who have a nut allergy.

Food at school: Federal and state regulations mandate that food cannot be brought into school for our students until the last lunch is served at school. This means that any celebration that involves food cannot be scheduled in lieu of lunch. Teachers, PTO / PTA, booster clubs, and outside food vendors should not be serving food to students until after lunch. **Any food that is served at school must be prepared in a commercial kitchen.** Homemade food is not allowed. Health Department regulations state that "all foods shall be obtained from sources that comply with all laws relating to food." **A significant number of our students suffer from food allergies such as peanut allergies. Any food that is served at school has to list the ingredients.** _____

Carpool Pick up and drop off

The safety of every student is our goal when we create these protocols for car pool. Please work with us and abide by these procedures, which apply to everyone.

Every child should be dropped off and picked up from the car pool line. No one should be dropped off from the gravel drive off Love Mill Road, from the far side of the parking lot or the cafeteria parking area / driveway next to the bus lot. Students cannot walk across the parking lot to get into a car.

No one can be checked out after 2:45.

Change of Address / Phone Number / Verification of Residence

If your address changes, you must provide proof of residence by providing two of the following:

1. Purchase, lease, or rental agreement with a street address and your name and approving signature.
2. Phone bill with your name and address on it.
3. Electric bill with your name and address on it.
4. Driver's license with your current address.

If your phone number changes, please let us know. It adds stress to the situation to have a child in crisis and not be able to contact a parent or guardian.

(The) Chromebooks

Again, this year, UCPS Technology Services will deploy over 22,500 Chromebooks to every middle and high school student. The new Chromebooks will be issued after a \$25 rental fee is paid. Students are expected to provide their own padded, computer bag.

If a student is responsible, directly or indirectly, for lost, damaged or stolen chromebooks, he or she is also responsible for the resulting charges

Dress Code

Our dress code helps prepare our students for the future work world and clothes should never be a distraction or disrupt the learning environment. We work very hard to make Piedmont Middle School a great learning environment. To that end, we reserve the right to address new fashions as they come to us.

1. Shorts, skirts, dresses, or capris **must reach your knee** when you are standing up.
2. Shorts, skirts, dresses, or capris worn with leggings still **must reach your knee** when you are standing up.
3. Pants / jeans cannot have any holes in them above the knee even if they are patched.
4. Students are expected to wear appropriate work out wear (shorts, sweat pants, yoga pants t-shirts) in P.E. class. These clothes are not to have any slogans or words on the rear end. The dress code for Physical Education class is on page 18.
5. Sleeveless shirts are not permitted. This includes but is not limited to tank tops, spaghetti straps, and shirts without an inseam on the sleeve. (Fashion hint: A lacy or sheer shirt over a sleeveless shirt, combining #5 + #6, does not meet dress code.)
6. Bare midriffs, excessive cleavage, halter tops, short shirts that cannot be tucked in, plunging necklines or open backs that show skin, skin tight clothing, muscle shirts, mesh shirts, tank tops, lace, crochet, or any other type of see through shirts, bicycle shorts, yoga pants, exercise wear, bathing suits, pajama bottoms, bedroom shoes, etc. are not acceptable in the classroom.
7. Pants need to be kept at waist level. No sagging is permitted. If your underpants are visible, it is not O.K.
8. Hanging chains are not allowed on wallets or other non-jewelry items. Spikes on your jewelry or shoes are also not appropriate.
9. Shirts that advertise drugs, alcohol, tobacco, guns / firearms or that have any type of questionable slogan on them are not to be worn to school.
10. Bandannas, bonnets, hats, masks, hose, or any other type of head covering cannot be worn without approval from administration.
11. Sunglasses and hats are not to be worn on campus except at outdoor events or on designated spirit days.

If you have any doubts about the appropriateness of your outfit, **you should bring a change of clothes to school**. Any student wearing inappropriate clothing will be asked to change or will be asked to call a parent to bring appropriate clothes for him / her. This may cause them to miss valuable instructional time. Chronic offenders will be assigned disciplinary consequences. He / she may also lose dance and field trip privileges. The school dress policy applies to our field trips, basketball games and dances.

Extra Help and Academic Support

We have a variety of ways to get extra, academic help.

1. Teachers keep office hours. They are there for you. It is a good time for quick questions or some individual attention. Ask your teacher about it or check the teacher class page for more information.
2. We run an After School Attention Program on most Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 – 4:30. Ask your teacher about it.
3. We also run a Saturday Academy on most Saturdays from 8:00 – 11:00. This is an ideal time to get additional help. Ask your teacher about it.

I am sure you noticed the repetitive phrase, “Ask your teacher about it.” Communication and scheduling are key to making these learning opportunities successful for everyone.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. & 1232g; 34 CRR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. If you would like further information about FERPA, please go to the following UCPS website:

https://boe.ucps.k12.nc.us/policy_manual/policy_show.php?policy_id=121

Generally Helpful Hints / Lost and Found / Lockers / Locker rooms

Students who find lost articles are to take them to the office. They will be put on the lost and found rack on the back hall. Lost articles which are not reclaimed within a reasonable period of time will be donated to a charitable organization. Please be sure that all valuables are clearly marked with your name. This includes clothes and shoes.

Students, please check your desk before you leave your classroom and make sure you have your books, purses, wallets and other personal items. **Never, ever leave your purse, phone, computer, wallet, book bag, or any other personal item unattended. Keep it with you or lock it up. We are not responsible for lost or stolen items.**

You will be assigned a locker and you must keep a school lock on it. You must purchase a lock from school – a new one costs \$5. (Students with visual or motor skill needs will be loaned an appropriate lock.) You can use your lock year after year. Once you buy it, it is yours. **Never give your locker combination to anyone else.** Keep your locker clean and locked. Do not ever open someone else’s locker. Lockers are a privilege and not an entitlement. The privilege may be revoked.

School lockers are school property and can be inspected or searched by administration at any time. We will empty every locker the day after school is out. Please plan accordingly.

Do not bring excessive amounts of money or valuables to school. Do not ever leave anything unsecured in the locker room, dressing room or classroom. This includes wallets, purses, jewelry, cell phones, etc.... We are not responsible for lost or stolen items. You are welcome to keep a personal lock in your gym bag and secure your belongings in a P.E. locker while you are P.E. class.

Book bags are not allowed in a classroom without specific permission. String / P.E. bags should be used for P.E. clothes, not books.

Grievance Policy: (When a problem occurs, questions arise or if you have a concern)

Students: If you have a problem talk to a staff member, ideally, your teacher. If a resolution or solution cannot be reached or if the problem continues, go talk to your House Principal.

Parents: **Contact a teacher directly with any concerns or questions.** If a resolution or solution cannot be reached, contact the House Principal by grade level, and then the Principal. Should a grievance need to be moved beyond the Principal, the Principal will advise the parent on whom to contact at the central services level.

Everyone: Go directly to an administrator if you hear of, know of or see anyone with tobacco, drugs, weapons, or alcohol at school. These things have never been an issue at Piedmont Middle School and with your help, we intend to keep it that way.

Guidance

The purpose of our guidance program is to help each student be the best they can be mentally, emotionally and socially. We work towards this end in the following ways:

1. Helping the new student feel at home at Piedmont with our orientation programs and tours for new students.
2. Conferencing with students and / or families.
3. Implementing the North Carolina testing program in a way that ensures a student has the best opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned.
4. Welcoming the opportunity to talk things over with any student, parent or teacher.
5. Teaching classroom lessons in the areas of personal/social development, academic performance and career development.

Insurance

The school maintains a group accident insurance policy. This insurance is available to all members of the student body and is sold shortly after school starts in the fall. The Board of Education policy requires that all students who plan to participate in school sponsored athletics or cheerleading purchase school insurance, or that parents sign a waiver form verifying adequate insurance coverage for the student.

Leaving Campus / Early Dismissal

Students are not to leave the school campus without permission. Students who need to check out of school early must be signed out in the office and be accompanied by a parent or guardian. **YOU MAY NOT CHECK OUT A STUDENT AFTER 2:45.** If you need to check your student out of school, please come to the office and sign him / her out. **Be prepared to show picture identification.** (This is the 3rd time we've mentioned this. It's about the safety and security of all our students.) If you need someone other than a parent, guardian or emergency contact to check your student out of school, please send a note stating who will be picking up your student and include a phone number so we can contact you to verify the information. These notes should be turned in to the office no later than 8:20.

To that end, make sure the demographic information we have on file is current. This includes emergency contacts, phone numbers, etc....

Our Media Center (Visit the media center webpage for more information and resources.)

Our Media Center has books, magazines, computers and many other resources for assigned study and recreational reading. It is open from 7:30 to 3:30 every school day with afternoon hours available. Students are able to visit the media center during the school day, with his or her teacher's permission. Our English / Language Arts teachers schedule class visits on a regular basis.

Books will be checked out for a two week period and can be renewed for another two weeks. In some cases, students may not check out materials if they owe a fine or have overdue books.

Our students are responsible for getting a library book back to the library by the due date. Overdue book lists are distributed on a regular basis to homeroom teachers. In other words, students are notified of any library fines they owe well ahead of the time that these fines are due.

If a student is responsible, directly or indirectly, for lost, damaged or stolen books or calculators, he or she is responsible for the resulting charges. Misuse of the library can result in disciplinary action.

Make up Work

When a student is absent it is the student's responsibility to talk to his / her teachers about making up any missed assignments. The following guidelines will be used:

1. Check your teachers' class pages for homework information. You can find this resource on our web page. <http://pdms.ucps.k12.nc.us>
2. Students should keep a phone list with at least two contacts per class in order to check on their daily assignments.
3. After three consecutive, excused absences, you may call the school and work will be collected for your child. Please allow our faculty 24 hours to collect the work. You can pick it up in the main office.
4. Students who have been suspended and students with unexcused / unlawful absences and tardies are encouraged to make up all their missed work but are only allowed to make up major tests or projects (i.e. term papers) for credit. Teachers have the right to record zeros for daily work when a student is suspended when the entire class is required to do a graded assignment.
5. If an assignment is given prior to a student's absence, the assignment is due when the student returns to school.
6. Students will be given two days to make up work missed for each day absent. When arrangements are not made to make up work or if the makeup work is not completed on time, the student will not receive any credit for that work.
7. Students will not be counted absent when they are participating in a school sponsored activity.

Medication

The Union County Public School Student Handbook is very clear and precise about medication at school. In order for a student to have or receive **any type** of medication at school, those procedures must be followed. Every type of medication requires a Medical Consent Form. These are available in the office and on the nurse's website under Piedmont Middle School. No medication can be taken or given at school except under the following conditions:

Daily Medication

1. We have to have a completed Medication Consent Form signed by the physician and the parent.
2. A supply of medication in the original container that has an expiration date that will remain current the duration of the medication.
3. Any change in medication, dosage, or administration time requires a new Medication Consent Form.
4. Medical information must be included on your bus rider form for your student's safety.

As Needed Medication used to treat chronic condition such as asthma or diabetes

1. We have to have a completed Medication Consent Form signed by the physician and the parent.
2. A supply of medication in the original container that has an expiration date that will remain current the duration of the medication.
3. If your child needs to carry such medications, be sure to have a completed Self-Medication Form signed by the physician, the parent, and the student.

Short Term Medication that may be needed infrequently

1. We can no longer accept or support parent permission notes for any type of over the counter medication or prescription drugs.
2. We have to have a completed Medication Consent Form signed by the physician and the parent.
3. A supply of medication in the original container that has an expiration date that will remain current the duration of the medication.

The school will not be responsible for students who self-medicate. Students who are in possession or use any type of unauthorized medication may face disciplinary action according to Union County Public Schools Policy.

The Parent Portal

The Parent Portal is the online tool for Parents/Legal Guardians to obtain 24/7 access to their student's information. A web browser allows parents to view:

1. Detailed attendance information
2. Detailed grade information from each teacher's grade book
3. Summary grade information (Report Card view)
4. Credits Earned to Date (High School)
5. Standardized Testing Information
6. Personal Demographic Information
7. Emergency Contact Information

The receptionist at Piedmont can only issue your user I.D. and password in person, when you show a valid, picture identification.

Plagiarism, Sharing your Homework, Cheating and Other Issues of Academic Ethics

Plagiarism is a big word for a common problem. It can mean copying texts or images without giving credit or putting your name on someone else's work. Technology has made it much easier to steal other people's work. Students today have a responsibility to learn how to do research and complete assignments without breaking the rules of academic integrity or the school honor code.

Plagiarism, cheating and other types of unethical, academic behaviors include but is not limited to:

1. Cutting and pasting information from any source without citing the source or giving credit.
2. Rewording or paraphrasing someone else's work without giving credit.
3. Asking or allowing someone else to do the work for you.
4. Copying a classmate's home or class work. It is equally as wrong to give someone your work to copy.
5. Signing your name to a group project without doing your share of the work.

~ Excerpted from "Plagiarism", a publication from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Shakespeare advised us, "Neither a borrower nor a lender be." It is absolutely true when it comes to schoolwork. Consequences of unethical academic behavior or a breach of the honor code can range from a zero on the assignment to redoing the work and accepting a late grade penalty.

Promotion and Accountability Standards

Union County Public Schools believes that required standards and accountability for student promotion are optimum in student success. In general, students in grades 6-8 must score at or above grade level on the End of Grade Reading and Math tests in order to be promoted to the next grade level. Locally, students must pass English/Language Arts and Mathematics. In addition, to passing English/Language Arts and Mathematics, the student must also pass two (2) of these three subjects: Science, Social Studies, and Health/Physical Education.

Remediation will be offered throughout the school year based upon student performance on benchmark assessments and End of Grade tests. Summer School will not be provided for remediation at the conclusion of the academic year. Academic recovery may be offered using online learning modules at the discretion of the school.

Union County Board of Education Policy 5-12, regarding student promotion and retention, can be reviewed in its entirety at www.ucps.k12.nc.us. If you have any questions regarding the progress of your child, you are encouraged to speak with his / her teachers, school counselor, or principal.

School Closing / Inclement Weather

Occasionally it is necessary to close school because of bad weather. In order to make this process as safe and efficient as possible we need you to do the following:

1. If your child is not a bus rider, make plans about how he / she is to get home when schools close early. Make sure your child knows what to do. Write this down in the front of the agenda.
2. Send us a note if your child is to ride home with a high school student. Put your child's name in the note and the name of who he / she will be riding home with.

3. Remember, we need to keep the phone lines open when we have to close Piedmont early. If all your arrangements are already in place, you can relax and let us do our work. School closings are posted on the TV, radio and the UCPS web site at <http://ucps.k12.nc.us>.

School Organizations Membership in any school sponsored organization is a privilege. Additional information about our activities can be found on the Piedmont Middle School home page.

Battle of the Books: The Battle of the Books team consists of up to 12 students who read from a list of books selected by a state committee. The team competes with other teams in the county. The winning team competes regionally and then at the state level. A qualifying exam is offered in November and the competition is in early March. Practices are after school. The team is open to all grade levels.

Junior Beta Club: The purpose of the Junior Beta Club is to recognize students with high academic achievement, outstanding character, and leadership. Membership is limited to students in the 8th grade.

A student must have a 92.0 cumulative average or better in Math, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies Physical Education and Health to be eligible for the Junior Beta Club. Inductions are based on 7th grade averages. Students will receive induction letters in early fall. Members must continue to exhibit a 92.0 cumulative average, good conduct, and 10 hours of community service during the school year or membership will be revoked.

Student Council: The Student Council is a service organization at Piedmont Middle School, open to 7th and 8th grade students. We are responsible for basketball game concessions, adopting a family from the Angel Tree, and contributing to Piedmont being a Global school (helping with The Great Race and raising awareness for House of Hope through New Global Citizens). Students also complete 10 hours of community service. Student council representatives must be “ambassadors” for Piedmont Middle at all times by exhibiting good behavior and high standards.

WPDM News Broadcast:

WPDM is the Piedmont Middle School Broadcast Team. Students are responsible for live morning announcements, afternoon dismissal and various multi-media projects throughout the year.

Basketball: Basketball practice will begin in October for 7th and 8th graders only. Practice will be after school in the Piedmont Middle School gym. Tryouts will be held, and the team will be selected from those students. **Everyone must present North Carolina Association completed physical form, a notarized insurance form and a concussion form before they can begin tryouts.** All these forms can be found on our web site under “Athletics.” The teams will play other middle schools in this county. Individuals trying out for the basketball team must pass one less than the number of core classes that they are taking during the semester and have conduct grades of satisfactory or above. If a student has an unsatisfactory conduct grade or more conduct grades that reflect a need to improve than outstanding or satisfactory conduct grades, the student is not eligible to try out.

Cheerleaders: Cheerleaders help promote school spirit and Piedmont Pride by providing leadership at our basketball games and pep rallies. They try out and are selected during the fall. **Everyone must present evidence of a physical examination and insurance before they can begin tryouts.** All these forms can be found on our web site under “Athletics.” 7th and 8th graders are eligible to try out. Individuals trying out for the cheerleading team must pass one less than the number of core classes that they are taking during the semester and have conduct grades of satisfactory or above. If a student has an unsatisfactory conduct grade or more conduct grades that reflect a need to improve than outstanding or satisfactory conduct grades, the student is not eligible to try out.

There are some additional protocols that apply for these athletic teams regarding absences, attendance, game day tardies, etc.... If you have any questions, you can ask our Athletic Director.

Yearbook Staff: The Yearbook Staff assists in the planning, production, and distribution of the Piedmont Yearbook. Members are selected in the spring and start working early in the next school year.

Band: Piedmont Middle School teaches a 6th grade, 7th grade and 8th grade band class. A student must have a year of band class to be eligible for 7th grade band and two years prior experience to be eligible for the 8th grade class.

Telephones / Messages / Deliveries

The school telephone is for office use and emergency situations. Students are not to use a cell phone at all during the instructional day per Union County Public Schools Policy. Cell phones are to be turned off and out of sight. Cell phones, especially text messaging disrupts the learning environment and is a very tempting distraction for students. Parents, please do not text message or call your child during school on their cell phone.

Unfortunately, family emergencies do happen. We want to support your child in a crisis. Rather than calling your child directly, please call a counselor or administrator so we can be there for you and your student.

Students will not be allowed to call home on the day of a field trip for permission to go on the trip. **Students will not be allowed to call home on the day of a basketball game or dance to make transportation arrangements.** Help us with this issue by making all arrangements with your child concerning afternoon activities, transportation, etc. before he / she comes to school. After three changes to your student's arrangements after school, you will no longer be able to make changes via telephone.

We do not accept deliveries of any kind for our students; valentines, birthday, etc. under any circumstance.

Visitors

All visitors must sign in at the office and wear a visitor's pass while they are on campus. Parents are encouraged, invited and always welcome to visit Piedmont. We ask that you make an appointment to meet with a teacher or administrator and encourage you to visit your student's classrooms with prior notice.

Yearbooks

In order to reserve a yearbook, you must preorder one. You will have the option of having your name stamped on the yearbook. The yearbook staff will collect orders in the media center. The number of yearbooks ordered is based on our preorders. Any extra yearbooks will be sold after all of the preordered yearbooks have been delivered. Parents are encouraged to write a check for the yearbook, save the receipt and note on the check that it is for a yearbook.

OUR PIEDMONT PRIDE **THE STUDENT BEHAVIOR CODE**

In General

All of the adults at Piedmont Middle School have certain responsibilities to the school. In order to carry out these responsibilities to the school they have the authority to correct students when the need arises. If any student is corrected by any adult employee whether a teacher, staff member, custodian, cafeteria employee or substitute teacher, the student is expected to respond and abide with the request.

All students will be subject to the regulation and disciplinary procedures outlined in the Union County Public Schools Board of Education Student Discipline Policy. <http://msct.ucps.k12.nc.us/php/handbooks.php> Teachers and administrators will determine the consequences of inappropriate behavior according to the student behavior code of Union County and Piedmont Middle School. The expectations for Piedmont Middle School are outlined below but are not limited to the following:

1. Students are expected to comply with adult expectations and procedures.
2. Students are expected to respect their peers.
3. Running, pushing, shoving, picking and general rowdiness are not appropriate.
4. Name calling will not be tolerated. Hate speech is a suspendable offense.
5. Students are expected to take care of our school including the furniture, equipment, materials and facilities. Computers, lockers, textbooks and any other school properties are to be used with respect and care.

6. Students are expected to use their school Chromebooks for instructional purposes only. These are learning tools, not personal computers. You are responsible for care, breakage and loss.
7. Piedmont High School is off limits. Students walking to the high school to meet a parent, teacher or sibling must have a note to do that.
8. Students are never to leave campus without permission.
9. Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class.
10. You must have an appropriate pass to be out of class at any time. If you need to stay over in a class, the sending and receiving teacher must make those arrangements.
11. Students and parents are expected to get permission from administration before putting up any type of poster or flyer.
12. Students are not to bring anything to campus that does not have to do with the teaching and learning process. This includes: toys, stuffed animals, skateboards, weapons, bigger than life pencils, laser pointers, hornet shooters, bullets, pills, lighters, etc... If a student gets to school with anything of this nature, he / she is expected to turn it in to the nearest adult immediately.
13. Threatening, harassing or intimidating anyone on campus is not tolerated.
14. Public displays of affection (PDAs) are prohibited. Hugging, kissing, and handholding are private matters and are not part of our teaching and learning environment.
15. Misbehavior in assemblies, dances or ballgames will not be tolerated and anyone doing this will most likely be removed from the event and not be allowed to attend similar events later.
16. Students are not allowed to buy or sell anything at school except for our school sponsored fund raisers.
17. Every student is expected to conduct him / herself in accordance with decent, polite, honorable and honest standards.

In the Classroom

1. Students are expected to be in their seat, prepared and ready to go when the teacher starts class.
2. Prepared means books, paper, sharpened pencil, homework, fully charged computers, etc.
3. Students will stay in class until the teacher dismisses them.
4. All assigned work will be completed properly and on time.
5. In order to be excused from a class, you need to have prior approval from all teachers involved.
6. Horseplay, running, pushing, shoving, picking or general rowdiness is not appropriate.
7. Projectiles are dangerous. Do not throw or shoot anything at anybody.
8. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.
9. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated.
10. Students are not allowed to have gum or candy in class. Water bottles may be allowed. This is at the discretion of the teacher.

In the Hall

1. Students are expected to go directly from class to class. As needed locker breaks and appropriate bathroom breaks are scheduled and planned for by our teaching teams.
2. Our halls are small and traffic control is an important part of keeping Piedmont orderly and safe. You are expected to walk on the right side of the hall.
3. Do not run, loiter, or group together in the halls. This is dangerous and impedes traffic.
4. If you are in the hall during class time, you must have a pass.
5. Horseplay, running, pushing, shoving, picking or general rowdiness is not appropriate.
6. When you are traveling with your class, you are expected to stay with your class.
7. Most of the time, when you are changing classes, there are other students still in class. You are expected to stay quiet and orderly.

On the Bus

Riding a school bus is a privilege, not an entitlement. Safety is our primary concern. Union County Public Schools has a very clear policy. We will abide by that policy. Students who ride the bus are expected to and will be held accountable for appropriate behavior. Students are expected to abide by the following:

Stand at your assigned stop (10 minutes early).

Turn left and right. Look both ways before crossing.

Observe the stop sign and flashing red lights.

Proceed only when all cars have stopped.

1. Use appropriate language and keep all of your body parts to yourself when you are on the bus.
2. Respect the driver and other students while on the bus.
3. Remain seated and facing the front of the bus at all times during your ride.
4. Eating or drinking (except bottled water) is not permitted on the bus.
5. Profanity or fighting is not permitted on the school bus.
6. Bullying is not permitted on the bus or other vehicle as part of any school activity or while waiting at the bus stop.
7. Possession or use of weapons is not allowed.
8. Possession of tobacco products or any illegal drugs or alcohol while on the bus or at the bus stop are not allowed.
9. Please do not vandalize the bus by marking, tearing seats, etc....
10. Possession or use of nuisance items is not allowed on the bus.
11. Objects should not be thrown on the bus or out of the bus. Students/parents may be responsible for damage to vehicles which may be damaged from objects thrown from bus.
12. Animals, oversized projects, plants etc. are not permitted while riding the bus.

The school-based administration reserves the right to discipline students for other acts that disrupt the safe operation of the bus but are not specifically mentioned above.

At the Dance

You are expected to behave at dances according to the rules and expectations normally in place during the school day. The dress code applies. Only Piedmont Middle School students may attend our dances.

Kissing, hugging, suggestive dancing, head-banging, mosh-pitting or any other behavior not in good taste is not permitted. You will receive a warning about this and if you persist, you will be asked to call someone to come pick you up and you will wait in the office for them.

Dances are for dancing and socializing. Please leave the gym equipment alone (rock wall, chin up bars, etc...)

Everyone is expected to stay in the building until everyone is dismissed. Pick up will be supervised just like our regular car pool line. If you want to leave early, your parent(s) need to come inside and meet you.

Please remember to make your transportation arrangements before dance day. You will not be allowed to use the telephone on Friday to do that.

Our dances end at 5:30. Parents, please pick your child up on time. Anyone still waiting for a ride at 6:00 may lose the privilege to attend our after school events.

Our dance schedule will be posted on the web page and we will announce it prior to the event.

Basketball Games

Again, you are expected to behave appropriately according to the rules and expectations at Piedmont Middle School.

If you are attending without your parent(s), you need to stay until the end of the game when everyone is dismissed, unless your parent(s) come inside to get you. Remember to make transportation arrangements before the day of the game. You will not be allowed to use the phone during the school day to do that.

Most ballgames are over at 6:15. Parents, please pick your child up on time. Anyone still waiting for a ride at 6:30 may lose the privilege to attend our after school events.

We abide by the Union County Public Schools Student Handbook.

GO PANTHERS!



Notice of Right to Withhold Consent Concerning Reproductive Health Issues 2015 – 2016

The Union County Board of Education recognizes the critical role of parent(s) / guardian(s) or legal custodian(s) in the health and education of their children. Parent(s) / guardian(s) or legal custodian(s) may withhold consent for the following:

A student's obtaining information and/or individual counseling concerning the subject of contraception or contraceptives from school board employees or school health nurses. School nurses may refer students to a private physician or to the health department for information concerning contraception or contraceptives, as authorized by state law.

School board employees and school health nurses do not provide contraceptives. School personnel and school healthcare nurses do not provide counseling, information, services of any kind, or referrals on the subject of abortion.

Parental notification or parental permission is not required for large group sessions or initial consultation intended to identify the student's needs. Parental notification and/or permission are not required when child abuse or neglect is suspected.

My signature below and the return of this form indicates that I do not consent to my child receiving individual counseling and/or information concerning contraception or contraceptives from school board employees or school health nurses. If this form is not returned, this child may be counseled and / or given information on contraception and contraceptives.

Parent / Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Child's Name (Please Print)

Homeroom Teacher (Please Print)

Please read and sign below. Your child needs to turn this page into his or her homeroom teacher by Friday, September 4, 2015.

We sincerely appreciate that you took the time to go over your student's agenda. We will be glad to talk to you and answer any questions you have about this information. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

The UCPS Student Handbook is available on line at <http://msct.ucps.k12.nc.us/php/handbooks.php>

My child and I have read, discussed and understand the following:

- ☐ **UCPS Student Handbook - <http://msct.ucps.k12.nc.us/php/handbooks.php>**
- ☐ **Piedmont Middle School Student Agenda**

Student Name (Please Print)

Parent Name (Please Print)

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Homeroom Teacher



Piedmont Middle School Physical Education Guidelines 2015-2016

http://pdms.ucps.k12.nc.us/php/health_PE.php

All of our Piedmont Panthers will have Physical Education (P.E.) class every day. We will also teach the required Health Education curriculum during P.E.

ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO DRESS-OUT FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

"Dressing out" means changing into your P.E. clothes before Physical Education class and changing back into school clothes after P.E. class.

Required Dress:

- **Athletic shoes** – You have to wear shoes that cover your entire foot and they must be appropriately tied. Feet are important; shoes are important. We will be working hard. Wear shoes you do not mind getting dirty. You can not wear boat shoes or any other casual shoes (ex. Sperry's).
- **Crew-Neck Tee Shirt** – No scoop necks.
- **Athletic Shorts/Capris/Yoga pants** – If you wear shorts they are to be no more than 2" above your knee. Denim shorts, cargo shorts and pajama pants are not allowed. Yoga pants work well. We will be working hard in P.E. class. Slogans or writing of any type on the seat of your pants is also not acceptable.

Cold Weather

Yes, we will go outside sometimes when it is cool. Students may need and can wear warm-ups, sweatshirts, sweatpants, etc. Please help your child think this through and prepare for those cool weather days.

The Locker Room

Do not bring any valuables to Physical Education class! Secure all your valuables in your hall locker before coming to class. There are lockers in the dressing room for that you can use during PE class. (You can bring your own lock if you want to use one in the dressing room.) **We will not be responsible for your valuables.** No cameras, phones or food are allowed in the locker room at any time. Bring roll-on deodorant. **Aerosols, perfume, cologne, hair spray, etc... are not allowed because so many people are so allergic to those products.**

ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE EVERY DAY!

The exceptions are: Doctor's notes, parent notes (good for 2 days), or your Physical Education teacher's consent. Non-participation for extended medical reasons will require a doctor's note to resume participation.

General Policies and Procedures

- You will have 5 minutes after the tardy bell rings to change clothes and be on the floor ready to go! You will have 5 minutes at the end of class to change and be ready to go to your next class.
- You will be considered tardy if you are not dressed out in your squad with your shoes tied when we take attendance. When sitting in your squad you are to sit quietly, pay attention and face forward.
- You can never use any of the P.E. equipment unless you have been given permission by an instructor.
- When you hear a whistle you need to stop, look at, and listen to your instructor.
- If you do not do the warm ups exercises properly or do not participate fully in the requisite activities, you may end up with an alternate assignment for the remainder of class. Physical Education is important!
- You **MUST** report any boo boo or injury to the instructor before you leave class.
- PLEASE, wash your PE clothes at least once a week.

GRADING:

25%	Prompt and Prepared	On time and properly dressed out
65%	Productive, Positive, and Polite	Demonstrates good effort, safety, and sportsmanship
10%	Performance	Skill/Fitness/Knowledge

I have read and discussed the PDMS Physical Education guidelines with my child.

Please print your student's name

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Parent contact information:

Email (OPTIONAL): _____

Best phone number: _____

Is there anything special that you would like us to know about your child?

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE TO YOUR STUDENT'S PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER